

The connection between folk dance troupes and the general public is a mutually enriching asset.

This section aims to renew and deepen this connection. Each issue will focus on a different dance company.



**Dance Company  
in Focus**



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## Holit Dance Center, Be'er Sheva

**Holit Dance Center:** A Network of Dance Schools in Southern Israel

**Supervisory Bodies:** Be'er Sheva Municipality, Eshkol Regional Council, Ramat Ha'Negev Regional Council, and the Kohl Movement and Dance Association.

**Artistic Director and Choreographer:** Liran Michaeli. Liran Michaeli is married to Batel Michaeli and resides in Be'er Sheva with their children: Omer (10), Gaya (9), Itay (7), and Mika (3).

Holds a B.A. in Dance from The Kibbutzim College; chairperson of the Dance Creators' Award Committee at the Ministry of Culture and Sports; choreographer for "Kamea" Dance Company; dramaturgy work for the Czech National Ballet in Prague for Eyal Dadon's creation; artistic director and founder of the Smilansky Dance Arena, Smilansky Cultural Festival, and the International Fringe Festival; dance entrepreneur and director of the Ashdodance Festival's amphitheater performances (2016-2024).

**Director of the Youth Division and Junior Representative Dance Troupes:** Batel Michaeli

Holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Early Childhood Education from Kaye College • Creator and researcher in early childhood dance education • Graduate of the Folk Dance Instructor Training Studio • Senior early childhood educator with unique programs to promote dance from early childhood to elementary school • Creator in the fields of Israeli, modern, and compositional dance.

Choreography Awards:

2022 – U-Talent Dance Competition, Tel Aviv – 1st Place.

2022 – U-Talent Dance Competition, Tel Aviv – 2nd Place.

2024 – Rising Star Dance Competition – Grand Prix Winner (all categories).

**Director of the Senior Division and Senior Representative Dance Troupes:** Navit Azulay

Holds a B.A. in Physical Education • Graduate of Holit Dance Center and an active dancer in the professional dance scene • Graduate of the "Mehola" Teacher Training Program in collaboration with Wingate College • Instructor of modern dance, creator in contemporary dance, lyrical dance, and modern Israeli dance.

Choreography Awards:

2012 – Eurograde Festival, Sofia, Bulgaria – 1st Place Duet.

2015 – Swiss Keren Hayesod Encouragement Award for Creative Work.

2023 – Raising Star Dance Competition – 1st Place (Group Category).

2025 – U-Talent Solo Dance Competition – 1st Place Solo Work.



Liran Michaeli



Batel Michaeli



Navit Azulay

## Key Achievements and Performances

### National Festivals

- 2015 – Karmiel Festival - 2nd Place in Contemporary Dance Competition (Jazz) for "Rock Opera".
- 2015 – "Orot HaMachol" Festival in Dimona – 1st Place for "Debka to Omer".
- 2016 – Karmiel Festival: 2nd Place for "Half the Glass".
- 2016 – Karmiel Festival: 3rd Place for "Prayer to the Cypress".
- 2016 – Karmiel Festival: 3rd Place in Contemporary Dance Competition for "Red Lines".
- 2018 – Ashdod Festival: 1st Place in Choreography Competition for Folk Dance – "Hora Shoham".
- 2019 – Ashdodance Festival: 1st Place in Choreography for "Tashlich".
- 2019 – Ashdodance Festival: 1st Place in Folk Dance Competition – "Hora Gaya".
- 2020 – Karmiel Festival: 2nd Place in Stage Choreography for "From Georgia to Israel".
- 2022 – Karmiel Festival: 2nd Place in Stage Choreography for "Return Home".
- 2023 – Karmiel Festival: Audience Favorite Award for "You Came to Me Suddenly".



### International Festivals

#### Eurograde Festival, Bulgaria 2012:

- 1st Place – Solo, "Dadon".
- 3rd Place – Duet, "Alice".
- 1st Place – Group Folklore, "Half the Glass".
- 3rd Place – Solo, "A Leaf Carried by the Wind".
- 1st Place – "From Israel with Love".
- 2nd Place – Overall Festival Ranking.

#### Budapest, Hungary 2010 – Europe Dance Festival:

- 3rd Place – Folk Dance, "Hora Mamtera".
- 1st Place – Duet, "Alice in Wonderland".
- 3rd Place – Overall Festival Ranking.





## Major Productions and Performances

The dance company has participated in large-scale productions, including:

Performances with top Israeli artists (Omer Adam, Moshe Peretz, Rotem Cohen, Noa Kirel, etc.).

2009 – Central Independence Day Ceremony on Mount Herzl, choreographed by Shlomo Maman.

### International Representation

The company has represented Israel in international dance festivals, securing top three positions:

Spain Dance – 2009 • Budapest, Hungary – 2010

• Eurograde, Bulgaria – 2012 • Berlin Dance Congress – 2013.

### Original Productions

Since 2007, the company has produced one original production annually, premiered at the representative troupes' showcase.

Choreographers' Evenings – Composition nights where dancers create, conceptualize, design sets, lighting, and produce a new 5-minute work, showcased in a full 65-minute performance.

### Representative Dance Troupes

"Nitzanim" (Grades 3-4) – 32 dancers.

"Alumim" (Grades 5-6) – 32 dancers.

"Atuda" (Grade 7) – 28 dancers.

"Chativa" (Grades 8-9) – 28 dancers.

"Neurim" (Grades 10-12) – 28 dancers.

"Bogeret" (Ages 18+) – 24 dancers.

### Dance School Programs

#### Preparatory Groups – Early Childhood

"Class" Levels 1-8: Classical ballet, modern, repertoire, composition, improvisation, contemporary dance, and folklore.



"Academy A" (Grades 5-8, based on auditions).

"Academy B" (Grades 2-4, based on auditions).

### Holit Dance Community

**Open Dance Classes** – A schedule featuring guest choreographers, diverse styles, and conceptual events from beginner to advanced levels (ages 18+).

**Street Dance Program (Hip-Hop):** • "Juniors" – Grades 2-4  
• "H1" – Grades 5-6 • "H2" – Grade 7 • "H3" – Grades 8-12.

### Contact Information

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Facebook: [Holit Dance Company](#).

Instagram: [@holitdancecompany](#) 













