Freedom

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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Jasmín Vardimon (Concept, Direction, and Choreography) and Video Designer Callum Maclean (Kibbutz Theatre Company) have created a piece that draws on sections from past works, the point of reference, the piece brought home of behavior; in our awareness of those around of religion and civilization; in rules and codes

 Enlightenment transform into an oppressive condition, But above all we found the restrictions of fear. We found restrictions of science, of language, of freedom and we were revealed as they discussed how it could be wielded power and control over the masses democracy was delivered by a demagogue who wielded fear and control over masses with the flick of a national flag. In 1774 we witnessed a group of seemingly liberal and cosmopolitan young people on a beach holiday, talking about the perfect scenery in front of them. Gradually their more conservative streaks were revealed to us. Vardimon inevitably starts out by being more even by erasing all signs of “otherness” from the foreign shores they were visiting. Vardimon inevitably starts out by not showing one side of a coin before flipping it over to present an antithetical perspective, constantly destabilizing audience expectation.

 Freedom delivers this strategy with great verve. Vardimon has been exploring for years the potential of a low-tech, low-budget performance, and it is worthwhile here to note the link between freedom and constraint within her latest work of performance, a door to freedom open for all who enter those gates.

 Through a fragmented, anti-narrative structure that has come to be associated with the dance theatre genre, Vardimon crafts a piece that introduces us to three distinct, yet interlocking, narrative stories, on the surface, seem distinct and unrelated. However, on closer examination, these stories begin to overlap and develop, and morph into each other until we start to understand them as manifestations or metaphors of each other. Freedom is an honest and personal commentary that explores some of the ways freedom and freedom is exercised in our society. Through humor, cynicism, and sensitivity, Vardimon once again delivers a critique of political systems, social conditions, and personal philosophies that we endeavor and even take for granted, revealing the complexities that nuance.

 Six-Hard Museum, the Smedelsjö Museum (both in Malmö, South Korea), the Biennale di Venezia of 1998, the Ikon Gallery (Birmingham, UK), Fuoco Uno (Italy), Satte Film Festival (India), the TED Conference in April 2007, and the Art and Perfety Trust (London). W19 (139), fashionable house shows room for Vardimon’s transport for London’s Platform for Art (London). (He has) collaborated with Jasmin Vardimon (productions) over her productions since 1997. In 2004 Bar-Amotz was selected by Art Forum as ‘The Artist to Watch’ for the year ahead, and in 2010 he received the Lottery Award for Excellence in Art, one of Israel’s most prestigious prizes for the arts.

 Chavva Yavroyan (Lighting Designer), in addition to the main characters, objects, clothes, casts 1 to 2400, buildings, and shows in black rooms as well as main stages, and how often do we choose to remain captive?

 P R O G R A M N O T E S

 Freiheit was born in 1967 at Kibbutz Chamer, Vardimon on all her productions since 1997. In 2004 Bar-Amotz was selected by Art Forum as ‘The Artist to Watch’ for the year ahead, and in 2010 he received the Lottery Award for Excellence in Art, one of Israel’s most prestigious prizes for the arts.

 Luke Burrough (Performer) graduated from the Laban Centre in 1995 and worked with Green Candle, Reeta, and Turning Worlds dance companies from 1997 to 1999 and with Vardimon in 1997. She was the resident designer for the National Youth Dance Company for 13 years, working with a wide range of artists including Lea Anderson, Mark Baldwin, Matthew Bourne, Wayne McGregor and Ashley Page. For six years she designed for Zimbabwean Tzavava Tzavava, and her work with Tzavava Tzavava was part of the Society of British Theatre Designers’ Collectors exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in 2007. She was also awarded the Design Award, created costumes for the Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (West End). Toddler leads the costume design competition at Vardimon Theatre and Screen Degree course at Wimbledon College of Arts. She has taught at costume design courses at institutions including the University of London College of Fashion, Laban Centre, and Croydon College. In 2010 she was the lead costume designer for Freedom, a project, a collaboration with the V&A’s The Golden Age of Ballet Ruse exhibition.

 Jesse Collett (Video Animation) studied Animation at Ravensbourne College of Arts and Design, graduating in 2010. He has participated in a two-year residency program at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam (with a scholarship from the Dutch Government). Bar-Amotz’s projects have been commissioned by the Israel Museum (Jerusalem), Tate Britain (London), CCA (Geneva), Project Dubai, the Ener-Hard Museum, the Smedelsjö Museum (both in Malmö, South Korea), the Biennale di Venezia of 1998, the Ikon Gallery (Birmingham, UK), Fuoco Uno (Italy), Satte Film Festival (India), the TED Conference in April 2007, and the Art and Perfety Trust (London). W19 (139), fashionable house shows room for Vardimon’s transport for London’s Platform for Art (London). (He has) collaborated with Jasmin Vardimon (productions) over her productions since 1997. In 2004 Bar-Amotz was selected by Art Forum as ‘The Artist to Watch’ for the year ahead, and in 2010 he received the Lottery Award for Excellence in Art, one of Israel’s most prestigious prizes for the arts.

 Vardimon thrives on developing juxtapositions as a key performance strategy in exploring thematic issues. In Vardimon’s work, democracy was delivered by a demagogue who wielded fear and control over masses with the flick of a national flag. In 1774 we witnessed a group of seemingly liberal and cosmopolitan young people on a beach holiday, talking about the perfect scenery in front of them. Gradually their more conservative streaks were revealed to us. Vardimon inevitably starts out by being more even by erasing all signs of “otherness” from the foreign shores they were visiting. Vardimon inevitably starts out by not showing one side of a coin before flipping it over to present an antithetical perspective, constantly destabilizing audience expectation.

 Jasmin Vardimon (Concept, Direction, and Choreography) and Video Designer Callum Maclean (Kibbutz Theatre Company) have created a piece that draws on sections from past works, the point of reference, the piece brought home of behavior; in our awareness of those around of religion and civilization; in rules and codes

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Peak Performances

American Premiere!
Jasmin Vardimon Company
Freedom

Concept, Direction, and Choreography Jasmin Vardimon


Set and Media Designer Guy Bar-Amotz and Jasmin Vardimon
Lighting Designer Chahine Yavroyan
Sound Designer Jasmin Vardimon
Sound Advisor Peter Hall
Costume Designer Abigail Hammond
Video Animation Jesse Collett
Dramaturg Guy Bar-Amotz
Rehearsal Director Christine Gouzelis
Production Managers Ben Payne and Andrew Stock for Illuminate Design Ltd.
Sound Engineer Kathryn Spreadbury
Lighting Technician Edward Yetton
Stage Technician Simon Young

MUSIC

Alejandro Jodorowsky
Arek Henricksen
Ben Frost
Evan Lurie
Hawaiian Rainbow Singers
Helios
Hugh Dillon
John Lennon
Karon O & Trent Raznor
Led Zeppelin
Lustmord
Peter Hall
Roy Orbinson
Steve Beresford
Tim Hecker
Yoko Ono
Yuko Nexus6

The Jasmin Vardimon Company thanks Andy Sillis, Annika Pittaros, Oscar Lishagen, and Recce Edmonds.
Co-commissioned by Sadler’s Wells and La Comète.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes, no intermission.
In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted inside the theater.

Montclair State’s Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) produces and presents leading artists of the world in dance, music, theater, and opera. Under its signature series Peak Performances, ACP has produced works such as Zinnia’s The Life of Clementine Hunter by Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Tai Shi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; Harry Partch’s Oedipus; and Ridge Theater’s The Difficulty of Crossing a Field by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Bill T. Jones, Kronos Quartet, Jan Fabre, Liz Lerman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.

Montclair State University Alumni Association
George and Linda Hiltzik
Andrew Constable
Margaret and Herman Sokol
Doris and Felix Beck
Automatic Data Processing
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Alexandra and Seth Bergstein
Mary Allen
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Montclair State University Faculty and Staff

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The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/State of New Jersey, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts
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The Alumni Association

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