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FAME

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PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lee Sher (Choreographer/Creating Performer) began her acting career at age 7, performing on Israeli television. At age 15, she was accepted to the High School of Arts in Tel Aviv. Sher joined the Israeli Army at 18 and served in the parachuters unit. Following her Army service, she studied at the three-year Nisan Native acting studio in Tel Aviv. She received scholarships for excellence from the American-Israeli Foundation between 1998 and 2000.

In 2000 Sher established LeeSaar The Company with Saar Harari. The Company received a scholarship from the Mosman Art Gallery in Sydney, Australia, where Sher wrote and directed the play *Ester*. The play was selected to open the spring season of the City Hall Theater of Tel Aviv and was performed there for two years. Sher moved to New York City with LeeSaar The Company and received an American green card for extraordinary achievement in the performing arts. Sher worked as physical director on the 2010 Broadway revival of *The Miracle Worker*. She is a NYFA fellow in choreography.

Saar Harari (Choreographer/Creating Performer) was born on a farm in Israel to an artistic family and danced until age 18, when he joined the Israeli Army and served in the special forces for six years. At age 24, he left the Army and returned to the dance world, dancing with several Israeli choreographers. After two years, he created his first work as an independent choreographer for a dance festival at the Suzanne Dellal Centre in Tel Aviv.

In 2000 Harari established LeeSaar The Company with Lee Sher. In February 2004, he moved to New York City with LeeSaar The Company and received an American green card for extraordinary achievement in the art of dance. Harari is a Six Point Fellow (2007–09), a Guggenheim Fellow (2008), and a NYFA Fellow (2008).

Jye-Hwei Lin (Creating Performer) was born in the year of the pig in Taiwan. Her parents sent her to dance classes at a doctor's suggestion as a way to correct "the hyperextension of her knees." Dancing was always done for pleasure and was never considered as a career until Lin enrolled in the dance division in Tsoying High School at age 15. During her time in Tsoying, she received professional training in various dance courses and was able to work with different choreographers from around the world.

After high school, Lin moved to the United States and pursued a bachelor's degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she was awarded a scholarship for four years. She danced in the works of world-renowned artists such as Mark Morris, Lar Lubovitch, Chamecki-Lerner, and Merce Cunningham. The diversity of courses in the department challenged and inspired Lin's way of moving and thinking. She also presented a solo work, *Come to Nothing*, and her thesis, *One Step Back; Two Steps Forward*, at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. After graduation, she moved to New York in 2006. Lin studied and performed with the Stephen Petronio Company in New York and California. In April 2007 she joined LeeSaar The Company. In 2008 she presented her own work *Jula* with Hsin-Yi Hsiang at Judson Memorial Church in New York. She is also a company teacher. Lin received her O-I visa for extraordinary ability in the arts in June 2008.

Hsin-Yi Hsiang (Creating Performer), from Kaohsiung, Taiwan, began her extensive dance training and received her diploma from Tsoying High School. Soon after, she relocated to the United States, where she received her bachelor of fine arts in Dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2007 on full scholarship. During her time at UIUC, she performed in works created by Merce Cunningham, Mark Morris, David Parker and The Bang Group, Sara Hook, Cynthia Oliver, Renée Wadleigh, Linda Lehovc, and Rebecca Netti-Fiol.

Since moving to New York City in 2007, she has performed with Paul Singh and Kimberly Young and was selected to perform with the Mark Morris Dance Group in their 2007 season in *The Hard Nut*. Hsiang joined LeeSaar The Company in fall 2007. She is also a company teacher. She received her O-I visa for extraordinary ability in the arts in September 2008.

Hyerin Lee (Creating Performer) was born and raised in Seoul, Korea. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Dance from the Korea National University of Arts. In 2007 she joined the Laboratory Dance Project, with whom she toured internationally. In 2008 she did a project with Gilles Jobin in Switzerland and then joined LeeSaar The Company and moved to New York City. Lee received her O-I visa for extraordinary ability in the arts in June 2010.

Candice Schnurr (Creating Performer) grew up in Houston and received her early training from the Houston Ballet Academy and Priscilla Nathan-Murphy. She attended the High School for Performing and Visual Arts and was the recipient of the Musicfest Scholarship. Schnurr graduated *cum laude* from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College, where she performed in the works of Kyle Abraham, Kayvon Pourazar, Megan Williams, and Kevin Wynn. She danced with Natalie Green, Miriam Wolfe, Leah Morrison, Daniel Charon, and Andrea Haenggi. She was a member of Wil Swanson/Danceworks from 2003 to 2005 and had the unique opportunity to perform in the Brooklyn Academy of Music's production of *Lost Objects*, an oratorio written by Bang on a Can and staged by François Girard. From 2005 to 2007, Schnurr worked with Ellis Wood Dance, touring nationally and internationally, teaching, and setting work on university students. She was selected for The Yard dance company and collaborated in the creation of two original works with Sharon Moore (Toronto) and Howard Katz (Berlin) at the 2008 summer residency. She was honored to join LeeSaar The Company in fall 2008.

Her own work *Solo* was selected for the Brooklyn Arts Exchange's 2009 inaugural season of the Upstart Festival, and she collaborated on *The Soft Light Signature*, a video and movement study with STOMP alumnus and video artist Patrick Lovejoy. Schnurr is also a company teacher.

Amy Dressendorfer (Creating Performer) was born and raised in Edmonton, Canada, and grew up dancing with Shelley's Dance Company, Cecchetti Dance Theatre, and Sally Ogden. After graduating from Victoria School of the Arts, she moved to San Francisco to further her training at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. While in San Francisco, she joined Christian Burns's new company, burns-work, and was involved in projects with Alex Ketley's company, The Foundry. Dressendorfer joined LeeSaar The Company and moved to New York City in summer 2011.

Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi) (Lighting and Stage Design) began his career as a lighting designer for rock concerts. He has designed shows for international stars including Nina Simone, Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and Chick Corea. In the 1980s, Bambi moved to London, where he worked for the Pink Floyd lighting company and Britannia Row Productions. He also did lighting design for Meat Loaf and toured Europe with popular artists including The Cure, The Commodores, and the Thompson Twins.

Upon his return to Israel, Bambi began designing for the theater. He worked with prestigious repertory theaters such as the Cameri Theatre and the Habima National Theatre as well as fringe and experimental theater productions. Bambi currently serves as the resident lighting designer for the Geshen Theatre and the avant-garde Itim Theatre Ensemble. He has been widely acclaimed for his impact on the field of theatrical lighting design and has been honored with numerous awards, including the 1995 Moshe Halevi Tel Aviv Prize for transforming lighting design into an art form.

In 1992 Bambi began designing for dance. At Batsheva Dance Company, where he is resident lighting designer, he has lit productions for such renowned dance companies as the Cullberg Ballet, Carte Blanche, Nederlands Dans Theater, Paris Opera Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Bambi's lighting has also illuminated numerous operas, musicals, stadium productions, television productions, museum installations, and architectural projects. He is in the process of developing his Tel Aviv studio for creating lighting installations.

Carolyn Wong (Production Manager) is a lighting designer whose recent NY productions include *Lichtung* (Barishnikov Arts Center, Liz Gerring), *Charity* (NYU, Tasha Gordon-Solomon), *Yessified* (PS122, Sally Silvers), and *Meg's New Friend* (Manhattan Theater Source, Mark Armstrong). Her work history includes touring with Shen Wei Dance Arts, the Parsons Dance Company, Roxane Butterfly, and the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular and assisting on the Broadway productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Oleanna*, and *Promises, Promises*. She designs frequently for the Twin Cities-based company TU Dance. She is an alumna of Oberlin College and a native of San Francisco. Wong was Bambi's assistant in the design of *FAME*.

Naomi Luppescu (Costumes) is a costume designer and dancer based in New York City. She received her BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase in 2004. She studied fashion design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and at the Danish Design School in Copenhagen and has since started her costume design company, NaLu Designs (www.naludesigns.net). Luppescu has worked with companies such as Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Lucinda Childs Dance, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Nina Winthrop and Dancers, Murray Spalding/Mandalas, and Jessica Morgan, among others.

Nung-Hsin Hu (Props) was born in 1981 in Taiwan. In 2006 she moved to New York to pursue her MFA in Fine Arts at Long Island University. Since earning her MFA in 2009, Hu primarily has been working in sculpture, installation, and video and has exhibited in the US and abroad. In 2008 Hu was honored with the award Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture from the International Sculpture Center. In 2010 she received the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning's Van Lier Fellowship, Taipei Artist Village's Boundary-Break-Through Project Grant, and fellowships from the I-Park Residency in Connecticut as well as the Casa das Caldeiras residency in São Paulo, Brazil.

Dance

Dance

Dance

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
 Dr. Geoffrey W. Newman, Dean, College of the Arts
 Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Peak Performances presents:

World Premiere!

LeeSaar The Company

FAME

Choreography **Lee Sher** and **Saar Harari**

Creating Performers **Jye-Hwei Lin, Hsin-Yi Hsiang, Hyerin Lee, Candice Schnurr, Amy Dressendorfer, Lee Sher, Saar Harari**

Lighting and Stage Design **Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi)**
 Production Manager **Carolyn Wong**
 Sound Design and Editing **saar**
 Costumes **Naomi Luppescu**
 Props **Nung-Hsin Hu**

MUSIC

- Patrick O'Hearn**, *Glaciation*, "The Approaching Ice"
- AGF**, *Language Is the Most*, "White Flip Flops"
- Colleen**, "The Golden Morning Breaks"
- DJ Shadow**, *The Private Press*, "Fixed Income"
- Dana Adini**, *Big Girls*, "Listen to Your Heart"
- Tujiko Noriko**, "Call My Name"
- Aoki Takamasa**, Untitled
- Rita**, *Yamey Haatom*, "Living from Day to Day"
- AGF**, *Westernization Completed*, "ambientTRUST"
- AGF**, *Westernization Completed*, "pipeDREAMvoices"
- Parov Stelar**, *The Paris Swing Box*, "Baska Brother"
- AGF**, *Words Are Missing*, "Head Inside Cloud"
- Tim Hecker**, *Radio Amor*, "Shipyards of La Ceiba"
- Vincent Gallo**, "Brown Storm Poem"
- Ratatat**, *LP4*, "Neckbrace"

Commissioned by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ) and the Fusebox Festival and testperformancetest (Austin, TX).

Developed in residence at the Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State University.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Funded in part by the National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts. NDP is supported by lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, with additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation, and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust. Additional funding by The Greenwall Foundation; the Asian Culture Council; the MAP Fund, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation; and the Trust for Mutual Understanding.

LeeSaar The Company is artist in residence at Congregation Beth Elohim, Park Slope, Brooklyn.

Duration: 1 hour, 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.

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DANCEWORKS 2012

April 11-15, 2012

Alexander Kasser Theater

PENANCE: THE GHOST OF DON JUAN

April 19-29, 2012

L. Howard Fox Theatre

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The 2011/12 season is made possible in part by funds from:

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Peak Performances

SEASON
 11/12



Credit: Mark Garvin

World Premiere!
LeeSaar The Company

FAME

March 29-April 1, 2012

Alexander Kasser Theater

Montclair State University