



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday 10 August 2016**

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS**  
**The Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company**  
Artistic Director Rami Be'er **In Conversation** with Caroline Baum +  
**Dance for Parkinson's** workshop  
September 2

Leading Israeli choreographer **Rami Be'er** talks about the rich heritage and contemporary influences that inspire his work 'in conversation' with ABC broadcaster **Caroline Baum**.

The free event will be held in the Drama Theatre on 2 September as part of the premiere Opera House season of the **Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company's** new work, *Horses in the Sky*.

Founded in 1973, the year the Opera House opened, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company was created by Israel Prize laureate and Auschwitz survivor Yehudit Arnon, who dedicated her life to dance as a result of her experiences in the camp.

Rami Be'er was - in his words - 'born into' Arnon's studio on the Kibbutz Ga'aton in Western Galilee, where the company is based and which his family helped found. A multi-talented artist, who not only choreographs, but designs costumes, lighting and soundscapes, Be'er has evolved Arnon's legacy and the company's repertoire since succeeding her as artistic director in 1996.

At home, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company work with the community using dance as a medium for social cohesion. While in Sydney, KCDC will provide a free **Dance for Parkinson's** workshop on September 2 that is open to anyone with Parkinson's, their families, friends and carers.

This is the second class in the Sydney Opera House Access Program's groundbreaking **Dancing Connections** series that is delivered in conjunction with Dance for Parkinson's Australia and in partnership with Mark Morris Dance Group's Dance for PD program. The first class was held in April with The Australian Ballet as part of their season of *Swan Lake*.

The class is a collaboration between dancers from Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and Dance for Parkinson's instructors that will translate the themes and movements of its Opera House performance *Horses in the Sky*.

**Sydney Opera House Accessibility Manager Jenny Spinak** says: "KCDC are well-known for their outreach work, using dance to engage and uplift the community. We are thrilled to work with this renowned company to give people with Parkinson's and their families the opportunity to engage in art at the highest level as part of the Sydney Opera House's Access program."

Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company will perform *Horses in the Sky* from August 31 – September 3. Hailed as one of Be'er's best works, it is gritty, exuberant dance, melded into fast-flowing visions of unusual beauty, featuring 16 exceptional dancers accompanied by a driving, eclectic soundtrack that includes Björk, Olafur Arnalds and Tim Hecker. **Watch** the trailer

Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company Supporters

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Sydney Opera House thanks its donors who have made gifts in support of the Opera House's presentation of the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company.

## KEY INFORMATION

**WHAT:** Rami Be'er In Conversation with Caroline Baum

**WHEN:** 6pm Friday 2 September

**WHERE:** Drama Theatre

**TICKETS:** **FREE – Register now ([insert link](#))**

**WHAT:** **Dance for Parkinson's workshop**

*Presented by Sydney Opera House' Access Program together with Dance for Parkinson's Australia, in partnership with Mark Morris Dance Group's Dance for PD program*

**Dancing Connections 2: Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company**

**WHEN:** 11am – 12.30pm Friday 2 September

**TICKETS:** <http://danceforparkinsons.org/find-a-class/classes-and-events/dance-for-pd-class-calendar/dancing-connections>

**WHERE:** Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House

**WHO:** Anyone with Parkinson's, their families, friends and care partners. No prior dance experience is required.

**WHAT:** **Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company**

***Horses in the Sky***

**WHEN:** August 31 – September 3

**WHERE:** Drama Theatre

**TICKETS:** A Reserve \$55.00

B Reserve \$45.00

**MORE INFO:** [http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kibbutz\\_contemporary\\_dance\\_company.aspx](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kibbutz_contemporary_dance_company.aspx)

**MEDIA IMAGES:** Download [here](#)

### ABOUT KIBBUTZ CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company (KCDC), led by choreographer Rami Be'er, is one of Israel's foremost modern dance companies.

KCDC was founded on a kibbutz by Yehudit Arnon, an Auschwitz survivor who established the company in 1973 and developed a Dance Village which continues as the company's home base. Artistic Director Rami Be'er, who was born in Kibbutz Ga'aton, has led the company since 1996.

### ABOUT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR RAMI BE'ER

Rami Be'er, the Artistic Director of Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, was born to a family of musicians in Kibbutz Ga'aton, Israel. He began playing the cello at an early age and later undertook dance studies with Yehudit Arnon.

Be'er joined KCDC as a dancer and choreographer in 1980 and took over the company's artistic direction in 1996. Since then, he has choreographed more than 50 works for the company and has credited both the company and himself with an impressive list of original creations, as well as popular children's works. His creations have become internationally acclaimed and Be'er has been commissioned by numerous international companies and awarded prizes both in Israel and abroad.

Amongst the companies for which Be'er has created original works are Gratz Opera Ballet (Austria), Batsheva Dance Company (Israel), Hungarian National Ballet, New Danish Dance Theatre (Denmark), Staatsballett Berlin (Germany), Croatian National Ballet Theatre, Reykjavik National Ballet

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(Iceland), Tanzcompagnie Oldenburg (Germany), Ballett Basel (Switzerland), Poznan Opera House Ballet (Poland), National Theatre Ballet Brno (Czech Republic) and more.

Be'er designs the sets, the lighting and at times the costumes for his works, creating unity across all aspects of the performance.

Be'er's work invites viewers to participate in a journey through which they can connect to themselves. Through his work, Be'er offers an reflections of the world, but audiences remain free to accord it their own interpretation and meaning through their personal experience.

### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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