



Disappearing Act, photograph by Victor Frankowski

Hofesh Shechter Project

A project for Collezione Maramotti and I Teatri of Reggio Emilia in an exclusive Italian première

Hofesh Shechter / Shechter Junior

from 3 to 8 November 2015

Collezione Maramotti and Teatro Cavallerizza

The Hofesh Shechter project, in the calendar of events of the Aperto Festival 2015, comes from a collaboration between Collezione Maramotti, Max Mara, and Fondazione I Teatri for an exclusive experience of a site specific performance in the Collezione's spaces (from 3 to 5 November – four performances) and the Italian première of *deGeneration* at the Teatro Cavallerizza (7-8 November). The synergy between these three organisations began in 2009 with the involvement of the Trisha Brown Dance Company, and has consolidated over the years with biannual events, featuring Shen Wei Dance Arts in 2011 and Wayne McGregor | Random Dance in 2013, with the aim to create a dialogue between the world of dance and the visual arts.

The spaces of Collezione Maramotti will host an original site specific performance created by Shechter, in dialogue with the works of art and the architecture that houses them. It is a unique experience for Collezione Maramotti – the last time the company worked in this way was during a presentation of extracts of *Political Mother* adapted for the spaces of the Saatchi Gallery in London. The four performances at the Collezione premises will be a fantastic opportunity to view performances in an intimate setting, using the space to inspire the work. Performing alongside Shechter Junior dancers, at the special request of Hofesh will be Sita Ostheimer, former company dancer and Shechter Junior Rehearsal Director.

deGeneration will be presented at the Teatro Cavallerizza in an exclusive Italian première. It is composed of three parts: two of Shechter's rarely seen first works, *Cult* (2004) and *Fragments* (2003), alongside the award-winning *Disappearing Act* (2015).

The main themes of *Cult* (2004) are the games of power in society and the struggles they produce, bringing in a recurring dynamic in the choreographer's work: the individual with or against the group, the attempt to join together to give meaning to life and achieve personal and social harmony. *Fragments* (2003) is a duet exploring the intimate relationship between a man and a woman, alternating seriousness and humor, games of power and seduction, pragmatism and sensuality. *Disappearing Act* (2015) picks up the motifs of the two previous pieces in a more choral or ensemble format, based on a 2012 creation and especially adapted for and inspired by the young performers of the new Shechter Junior line-up.

Hofesh Shechter is often defined as an "Israeli choreographer" even though he has lived in London for more than fifteen years. The style that made his name draws inspiration from Middle Eastern and Northern European folk dance, recast in a contemporary key by way of vigorous group choreographies and solo counterpoints permeated by an intense and driving rhythm. The spectacular choreographies that he brings to the stage are performed by dancers "inhabited" by an electric energy, an almost untamed physicality, and are accompanied by powerful music, often composed by Shechter himself. *"Music for me is sort of emotional fuel. It acts as structure and provides atmosphere, rules, and thoughts. It is as important as the dance and is the big connecting thing. Being able to look at the piece as a whole – visual and sound, means the work is more total in its fulfilment of the energy it brings. Music is the reason I do dance."* (H. Shechter) Shechter's intense work, traversed by the tensions and anxieties that pervade the contemporary world, investigates the obscure aspects of human action on the psychological, social, and anthropological planes. His compositions often evoke a need for protection and shelter of the individual who, in the face of the hostility of the world and of his own emotional insecurity, tends to retreat into himself. As a strong response to the limited opportunities offered to young people in the world of dance, in 2015 Hofesh Shechter created Shechter Junior, a company of international dancers between the ages of 18 and 25, selected from more than a thousand, for which he is the guide. Established to provide professional training to the most talented young dancers, the project represents for Shechter a formidable instrument for channelling the youthful vitality of the dancers and the mutual exchange of energy between the two companies, the Hofesh Shechter Company and Shechter Junior. The latter will be the protagonist of both events on the calendar in Reggio Emilia, by the precise choice of the choreographer.

Hofesh Shechter Project

A collaboration between Collezione Maramotti, Max Mara, Fondazione I Teatri - Aperto Festival

3-5 November 2015 (Aperto Festival 2015)

Collezione Maramotti

A Site Specific Performance

world première

Tuesday 3 November, 8.30pm

Wednesday 4 November, 4.30 and 8.30pm

Thursday 5 November, 8.30pm

choreography Hofesh Shechter

performed by Shechter Junior

7-8 November 2015 (Aperto Festival 2015)

Teatro Cavallerizza

deGeneration

Exclusive Italian première

Saturday 7 November, 8.30pm

Sunday 8 November, 6.00pm

choreography and music Hofesh Shechter

performed by Shechter Junior

Tickets on sale from Thursday 2 July at the website www.iteatri.re.it and at the ticket office of the Teatro Municipale Valli (days and hours of operation on the website www.iteatri.re.it)

Biography

Hofesh Shechter

Choreography and music

Hofesh Shechter is recognized as one of the most exciting artists working today, renowned for composing atmospheric musical scores to compliment the unique physicality of his movement. He is Artistic Director of the UK-based Hofesh Shechter Company (<http://www.hofesh.co.uk>) and Shechter Junior (<http://www.hofesh.co.uk/news/presenting-shechter-junior>).

Following his choreographic debut, *Fragments*, in 2003, Shechter was commissioned by The Place Prize in 2004 to create *Cult*, winning the Audience Choice Award. This was followed in 2006 by *Uprising*, a work for seven men that has since been staged on companies around the world and is currently being performed in five different countries. In 2007 The Place, Southbank Centre and Sadler's Wells Theatre commissioned Shechter to create *In your rooms*, which earned him the Critics' Circle Award for Best Choreography (Modern).

In 2008, Shechter formed Hofesh Shechter Company, which has rapidly established an international reputation. Sadler's Wells subsequently commissioned him to create *Uprising/In your rooms: The Choreographer's Cut* (2009), which was performed at London's iconic Roundhouse. That same year Shechter was commissioned by Brighton Festival to create *The Art of Not Looking Back* for six female dancers. His first full-length work *Political Mother* – commissioned by venues in Paris, Lyon, Rome, London and Barcelona – also had its premiere at Brighton Festival in 2010, and a year later he re-visited the work to create *Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut*, which toured rock venues in Berlin, Montpellier, Paris and Hong Kong. Shechter collaborated with Antony Gormley in 2012 to create *Survivor* for the Barbican Centre. His 2013 work *Sun* continues to tour extensively after opening at Melbourne Festival.

He has also worked as a choreographer in theatre, television and opera notably at The Royal Court Theatre for *Motortown* by Simon Stephens (2006), *The Arsonists* (2007), and for the National Theatre's award winning production of *Saint Joan* (2007). In television Hofesh choreographed the hit dance sequence 'Maxxie's Dance' for the opening of the second series of Channel 4's popular drama *Skins*.

In 2013 Shechter created the choreography for Nico Mulhy's opera *Two Boys* at the Metropolitan Opera, New York. He was Guest Director of Brighton Festival in 2014 and is currently an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells. He has recently created a new work *Untouchable* for the Royal Ballet, at the Royal Opera House performed to a score co-composed by Hofesh and long-time collaborator, Nell Catchpole. Plans include touring for *barbarians* for Hofesh Shechter Company, which had its premiere in July 2015 at the Festspielhaus, Berlin, and new work for Netherlands Dance Theatre 1, which will have its premiere in April 2016.

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collezione **m**aramotti

A place to be lived as an open space for research and knowledge: this is the philosophy behind the **Collezione Maramotti**, brainchild of Achille Maramotti – entrepreneur, founder of Max Mara and passionate art collector. Opened in late 2007 in the old company headquarters in Reggio Emilia, the permanent collection hosts more than two hundred works of art – by about one hundred international artists from 1950 up to today, including Acconci, Bacon, Basquiat, Burri, Clemente, Cragg, Fischl, Fontana, Gallagher, Manders, Manzoni, Merz, Ontani, Paladino, Sachs, Schifano, Schnabel, Twombly and Viola – and can be visited free of charge with an appointment.

Temporary exhibitions are also organised with projects made to measure for the Collection by young Italian and international artists.

www.collezionemaramotti.org

MaxMara

The **Max Mara Group**, founded by Achille Maramotti in 1951 and currently run by his heirs, is one of the most important international fashion houses and the largest Italian clothing company, with 2,300 stores around the world and 22 different collections sold in 105 countries.

www.maxmara.com

I TEATRI

REGGIO EMILIA

Fondazione I Teatri Reggio Emilia's activities cover just about every area of live performance. In order to perform its activities ranging from dance to drama, concerts to opera, kids' theatre and musicals to operetta, the foundation uses a theatre system which is unique in Italy – three theatres gathered around a square in the heart of the city, each unique both architecturally and in its schedule.

www.iteatri.re.it

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