

EMANUEL GAT

Artistic Director and Choreographer

Emanuel Gat was born in Israel in 1969. His first encounter with dance was at the age of 23 during a workshop led by Israeli choreographer Nir Ben Gal. Few months later, he joined the Liat Dror Nir Ben Gal Company with whom he created two works and toured internationally. He started working as an independent choreographer in 1994.

During the following ten years, Gat has developed a unique and personal approach to choreography and dance making, through numerous projects, collaborations and creation processes, setting the foundations for his artistic vision and laying the groundwork for his future body of work.

He founded his company, Emanuel Gat Dance, in 2004 and has since created a diverse repertoire of works. His first pieces for the company were created that same year: "Winter Voyage" to the music of Franz Schubert and "The Rite of Spring", his original take on Stravinski's masterpiece, which received a Bessy Award for best choreography for their presentation at Lincoln Center Festival in New York in 2006. He then created "K626" (2006) and "3for2007" (2007), before choosing to settle in France.

"Silent Ballet" (2008) was the first piece created in France, followed by "Winter Variations" in 2009 and "Brilliant Corners" in 2011 for which Gat also composed the music score. By that time, Emanuel Gat Dance has gained international recognition for its unique voice and has toured regularly to the four corners of the world to great critical acclaim.

In 2013, Emanuel Gat was named associated artist to the Montpellier Danse Festival, where he created "The Goldlandbergs" and "Corner Etudes", and presented a photographic installation that was his debut work as a photographer. In 2014, he created "Plage Romantique" and "SUNNY" in 2016, a collaboration with musician Awir Leon.

In 2017, Gat developed a unique collaboration with the Ballet de l'Opera de Lyon for the creation of "TENWORKS", a program of ten short pieces mixing dancers from both companies; and "DUOS", a series of site specific duets presented in several Museums and at different public locations.

In 2018, Gat was named associated artist to the National Theater of Chaillot in Paris, and during that same year he collaborated with the prestigious Ensemble Modern from Frankfurt and created "Story Water" at the Cour d'Honneur at the Palais des Papes, one of the most iconic stages in the world during the Festival d'Avignon, gathering 12 dancers and 13 musicians, with music by Pierre Boulez, Rebecca Saunders and Gat himself. Gat's work was presented in most of the leading venues and festivals for dance all around the world for the past 25 years, danced by a strong and diverse group of long term collaborators. Parallel to his choreographic work, Gat designs the lighting to all of his works, making it an integral component of his creative process.

In recent years, Gat developed a photographic practice and has presented elaborate photographic installations alongside his stage work, through a series of photographs, dedicated to and inspired by specific pieces from his repertoire.

In 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, Gat created “LOVETRAIN2020”, a work for 14 dancers to the music of Tears For Fears. The work has seen its premiere between two lockdowns early October, and received overwhelming response from audiences and critics alike.

Gat was associated artist to l'Arsenal - Cité Musicale, Metz from 2019 to 2023 where he created a work to Puccini's opera “Tosca”: “Act II & III or The Unexpected Return of Heaven and Earth”.

The next creation, “Traüme”, was premiered at the Salzburg Easter Festival in april 2023. His last work, “Freedom Sonata”, to Kanye West's album “The life of Pablo” and the second movement of the last L.V. Beethoven's piano sonata n°32, premiered at the Festival de Marseille in June 2024.

Gat is regularly invited by companies and dance institutions for which he creates or transmits pieces: in France, he has collaborated with Paris Opera Ballet, Ballet du Rhin, Ballet National de Marseille, Ballet de Lorraine and Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon. He is also guest choreographer of prestigious international companies: Sydney Dance Company, Tanztheater Bremen, Candoco Dance Company, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, LA Dance Project, Czech National Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, Polish National Ballet, Cedar Lake (NY), Vancouver Ballet British Columbia, Scottish Dance Theater, Inbal Dance Theater, Zfin Malta, Aura Dance Co, Staatsballett Berlin, the Landestheater Linz among others. In 2025 Emanuel Gat is invited to create new works for Lodz Ballet and Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company.

During his entire career, Gat has developed a rich methodological set of tools and an original pedagogical approach to dance making. He is regularly invited to teach and collaborate with the world's leading dance schools and institutions, and in parallel, offers through Emanuel Gat Dance regular options for young dancers and makers to immerse themselves in his practice, through internships, workshops and master classes.