



HOFESH SHECHTER
COMPANY



PRESS RELEASE

EAST WALL

A major dance and music production to be performed in the Tower of London moat during LIFT 2018

A unique partnership between **East London Dance, Hofesh Shechter Company, Historic Royal Palaces and LIFT** has announced *East Wall*, a long-term talent development project which will culminate in a celebration of community and artistic excellence through an unforgettable experience of dance and live music at the Tower of London as part of LIFT 2018.

East Wall will see a large cast of dancers and musicians perform in the moat of the Tower of London. Hofesh Shechter will create the score and direct a production that will explore diversity, cultural identity and history. Shechter will work in collaboration with up-and-coming choreographers from London drawn from East London Dance's network. He will develop their skills and celebrate their different artistic styles in the production and draw on the unique heritage of Tower Hamlets and the Tower of London.

Alongside nurturing emerging talent, the partners will work in the boroughs of East London to find a large community cast of young, talented individuals. Dancers and musicians will be selected to perform in *East Wall*, shining a spotlight on East London's creative energy and cultural identity. A living, moving and monumental embodiment of the area's spirit through live performance, *East Wall* will offer a diverse local, national and international audience the chance to experience a large-scale spectacle for free from Tower Hill.

East Wall will further fulfil Historic Royal Palaces' ambition to create artistic commissions for the Tower of London moat since the success of the poppies project: *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*. It is also part of LIFT's commitment to commissioning bold new work from world-class artists and is the first project announced for the next bi-annual festival. Together all four partners will celebrate existing partnerships as well as forging new artistic relationships.

Hofesh Shechter, Artistic Director, Hofesh Shechter Company says *'From my first encounter with East London Dance's group, The Fi.ELD, I was hooked. These young artists were not only impressive and determined in their drive to make work but they were incredibly inspiring to me as role models. Not just for other young people but for artists at all stages of their careers including myself. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can make together.'*

Polly Risbridger, Director, East London Dance says *'This ambitious new project grew out of demand from the young artists we work with at East London Dance who unanimously identified Hofesh Shechter as a choreographer they wanted to learn from. We feel very proud to be enabling our East London community to engage with such an incredible company over such a sustained period of time, and to be working so closely with Historic Royal Palaces and LIFT.'*

Deborah Shaw, Head of Creative Programming for Historic Royal Palaces, says *'Through creative partnerships like East Wall, Historic Royal Palaces is able to explore new and exciting ways to tell the stories of the Tower and reach a wider audience. Building on the success and impact of the poppies in 2014, we wanted to establish the moat at the Tower of London as a new outdoor performance site for London. East Wall will be a major part of establishing this reputation over the next few years and we*



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



HOFESH SHECHTER
COMPANY



look forward to collaborating with Hofesh Shechter Company, East London Dance and LIFT to produce a visually stunning and site-specific performance in 2018.'

Mark Ball, Artistic Director, LIFT says '*Hofesh Shechter's East Wall provides a platform for a group of extraordinarily talented young artists from East London and promises to be a highlight of our 2018 LIFT festival. We are thrilled to be working with Hofesh again and forging new partnerships with Historic Royal Palaces and East London Dance.'*

Henny Finch, Executive Producer, Hofesh Shechter Company says '*Hofesh Shechter Company and the partners' commitment to developing young and diverse talent is at the heart of this brilliant project, and it's also a great opportunity to make work in a new type of space, one that is in the heart of East London and open to all, and it's this type of inclusivity that excites me the most. We'll be blending high art and accessibility, music and dance performance, tradition and a very modern, diverse sensibility.'*

eastwall.org | #eastwall

ENDS

For more information, images or interviews please contact SUTTON on +44 (0) 20 7183 3577
Rebecca Storey, rebecca@suttonpr.com
Charlotte Sluter, charlottes@suttonpr.com

Notes of Editors:

About East London Dance

Enriched by 28 years of experience, East London Dance is the leading producer of creative dance experiences for the people of East London and beyond. We produce inspirational projects and events to engage our diverse local communities in dance, and nurture the next generation of artists and professionals. We champion enterprise, collaboration and innovation in order to create dance of exceptional quality that is seen regionally, nationally and internationally. We specialise in a tailored and responsive approach that places our communities and their needs, interests and ambitions at the centre of our work. In the last three years we have attracted diverse live audiences of over 88,000, of which over 50% are least likely to attend the arts. We have engaged and inspired over 11,000 people to participate in dance activities and launched the careers of many successful artists, choreographers and companies.

East London Dance is based at Stratford Circus Arts Centre in the vibrant borough of Newham, and predominantly works across the London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, City of London, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. www.eastlondondance.org

About Hofesh Shechter Company

Hofesh Shechter Company is the internationally acclaimed UK-based company of choreographer Hofesh Shechter. Formed in 2008 following the success of his award-winning production *Uprising/In your rooms*, the company went on to tour and perform worldwide with works which include; *The Art of Not Looking Back* (2009), *Political Mother* (2010), *Sun* (2013) and *barbarians* (2015). In autumn 2015, #HOFEST, a 4 week long season celebrated Shechter's work across four of London's most iconic venues, the Royal Opera House, where he co-directed *Orphée et Eurydice* with John Fulljames, Sadler's Wells, Stratford Circus and O2 Academy Brixton ("*Political Mother: The Choreographer's Cut*") - reaching audiences of 30,000 people across the season. Hofesh Shechter recently received a Tony Award nomination for his choreography of *Fiddler on the Roof* on Broadway. Hofesh Shechter Company is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and a resident company of Brighton Dome. Hofesh Shechter is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells. www.hofesh.co.uk



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



HOFESH SHECHTER
COMPANY



About Historic Royal Palaces

Historic Royal Palaces is an independent charity that looks after the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and Hillsborough Castle. Their aim is to help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

Each of the six royal palaces in their care has survived for hundreds of years. They have witnessed peace and prosperity and splendid periods of building and expansion, but they also share stories of more turbulent times, of war and domestic strife, politics and revolution. www.hrp.org.uk

About LIFT

LIFT is a festival of international theatre and performance that connects the World with London and London with the World. For LIFT 2016 Artistic Director Mark Ball has travelled the world to curate a very special playlist of performances, politics and pop-culture for London, turning the city into a stage on which artists with radical imaginations conjure visions of other lands, entralling us with stories born in the worlds from which they come. For 35 years LIFT has presented extraordinary global stories and intense visual and personal experiences from dynamic new international voices, linking Londoners with artists around the world in events and productions that take place across the breadth of the city. From 1 June to 2 July 2016.

liftfestival.com | #LIFT2016



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**