

IRIS LANA

Archiving Dance by the State: The Politics and the Practices – confirmed

The lecture presents a dance archiving process exemplified by the Batsheva Dance Company Archive Project, presenting its complexity and describing how its intention to rebuild an undocumented volume of dance history became a crossroad of tensions and interests.

This project was the trigger to an archiving enterprise at a national scale of the dance field in Israel – a cooperation between several institutions orchestrated by The Israel National Library. The actions of this project raise further practical issues of archiving dance, as well as essential challenges to redefining the Israeli dance field canon, and coping with the overarching question of who is in charge of a collective memory and what ideologies are involved.



Bio: Researcher, lecturer, director of archive projects, member of public committees in the dance field, entrepreneur.

Iris Lana has been an independent choreographer and theatre movement designer for nearly 20 years (1997-2015). During those years, she taught movement for actors and was the Head of the Movement Department in Beit-Zvi School of Theatre (1998-2011). Together with Prof. Rina Gluck, she co-founded and directed (2009-2012) the Oral History Project, documenting Israeli Dance from its early days. This project holds 86 online interviews that provide a database for researchers and students.

In 2012, Iris was a co-Artistic Director of 'Machol Chadash' (New Dance) Festival) in Hazira, Jerusalem and was also nominated as Director of Batsheva Dance Company's archive project (till 2015). The project gathered archival material of the company and uploaded parts of it online.

Between 2012 and 2018, she was a member of the scientific committee of translating dance books (co-directors: Gabi Aldor and Ran Brown).

Nowadays, she is a lecturer of courses in dance theory: 'Dance in Israel: Ideology, culture and Body', 'Readings in Contemporary European Dance', 'History of Theatrical Dance' (2012-) and 'Dance in Israel' (online course in Rutgers University (2016-). Iris also holds a talk show platform ('Points for Thought') on contemporary dance discourse at the Kibbutzim College (2015-), is editing a catalog of dance archival collections in Israel, and is drawing-up plans for a podcast about the contemporary Israeli dance scene.

She is the Director of the Dance field in 'The National Digital Collection: Architecture, Dance, Design and Theater', a National Library of Israel project that maps, catalogs and digitizes various Israeli dance archival collections in collaboration with the Judaica division at the Harvard University Library (2016-) and the Head of the Performing Arts Committee in the Culture and Art council at the State of Israel's Lottery (the 'Pais') (2011-2017). She is also a member of the 'International Exposure of the Israeli Dance' committee in Suzanne Dellal center in Tel Aviv.

She holds a B. Mus from the Jerusalem Academy for Dance, earned her M.A. from the Interdisciplinary Arts Program at Tel Aviv University and is currently working on her Ph.D. dissertation at Tel Aviv