

# Keshet Chaim

DANCE  
ENSEMBLE



POWERFUL  
& POLISHED

LA SPLASH MAGAZINE, FORD THEATRE

ENTERTAINING &  
INFORMATIVE

LEAH BASS BAYLISS, PRINCIPAL, LAUSD

AMAZING  
CHOREOGRAPHY

NOAM HAREL, ISRAEL EMMISARY, CA

INFECTIOUS!

HOLLYWOOD BOWL SUMMER SOUNDS

[www.kcdancers.org](http://www.kcdancers.org)

(818) 784-0344

[info@kcdancers.org](mailto:info@kcdancers.org)

# BIOGRAPHY

Keshet Chaim (Hebrew for Rainbow of Life) is an American-Israeli contemporary dance company, dedicated to celebrating the inclusive spirit of Israeli culture and Judaism throughout the world. Founded in 1983 by **Artistic Director Eytan Avisar**, Keshet Chaim creates, develops and presents original choreography which fuses contemporary Israeli dance with Jewish folk dance traditions from across the Diaspora. Influenced by the multi-ethnic roots of the Jewish movement, music, art, poetry and culture, Keshet Chaim combats prejudice and anti-Semitism through entertainment, community outreach, children's workshops, and dance education. Keshet Chaim "*forges a unique identity...one of the few touring American dance groups committed exclusively to Israeli culture and dance,*" according to the LA DAILY NEWS. Keshet Chaim has become a pioneer in the development of Jewish dance and seeks to focus its mission by teaching the richness of the cultures within the community to Jews and non-Jews alike. ..."*As powerful and polished as River Dance, Stomp, Celtic Ladies or any of the other professional dance touring companies..*" , LA SPLASH



Travels include, Israel, Russia, Mexico, Canada and throughout the US. They are available for full-evening concerts, events, residencies, collaborations and educational programs. The last two years, Keshet has produced LA Israeli Dance Month I and II to teach about Israel through dance to thousands of students in Los Angeles.

Keshet Chaim is designated as an Arts Partner with the Los Angeles Unified School District and is listed in the Los Angeles County Arts Resource Directory. The company has been honored by support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the LA County Arts Commission, the LA Department of Cultural Affairs, the Irvine Foundation, the S. MarkTaper Foundation, the Skirball Foundation, Elliot and Robin

Broidy Foundation, Jonathan Mitchell Foundation, Stanley and Ilene Gold Foundation, Milken Foundation, Jewish Federation, University of Judaism, Skirball Cultural Center, the Barak Raviv Foundation, the IAC and the Consul General of Israel in addition to many individuals.

“THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS DIDN'T STOP CHEERING”

Moked, Israel

# DEMO



“THE INTERWEAVING OF CULTURES, COSTUMES, DANCES  
WITH STORYLINES, WITH A REBELLION AGAINST GRAVITY”  
Jewish Journal, Los Angeles

# REPERTOIRE

1. **TISHMOR AL HA'OLAM YELED** – (5 minutes) A memorial and a lullaby to the soldiers that watch over the world. “Guard over the world child, there are things forbidden to see, The hero of the world child, only you will continue to wonder...”
2. **STRENGTH WITHIN** – (4 minutes) “Trust yourself again, believe in your own way The strength and power is within us When you face the sadness in front of you You will know what the heart needs to beat again”
3. **ADON OLAM** – (5 minutes) One of the most well-known pieces of Jewish liturgy is “Adon Olam,” a 10 verse poem recited before the morning prayers every day, and in some congregations following Friday night services. AdonOlam literally means “Master of the universe.” Rabbi Yishayah Horwitz wrote that the two words Adon Olam equal Ein Sof, literally “the Infinite.” For completion’s sake let us mention that the two words “Adon Olam” also equal the Hebrew word for “light” (or), hinting at the Kabbalistic notion that light is related to the infinite, usually called “light of the infinite”:
4. **JERUSALEM OF GOLD** – (3 minutes) “Jerusalem of Gold” is a popular Israeli song written by Naomi Shemer in 1967. The original song described the Jewish people's 2000-year longing to return to Jerusalem. Shemer added a final verse after the Six Day War to celebrate Jerusalem's unification under Jewish control. In this united city, we hear church bells, the sound of the Arab muezzin’s Islamic call to prayer and the Jews praying at the Western Wall. These sounds reminds us that the City is Holy to all the major religions in the world.

## “OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE” Eilat News

5. **SHEDEMATI** – (7 minutes) “Shedemati” is a very earthy dance that is about the cultivation of the fields, so they will be fruitful. It links this working of the land to our connection with God. The piece can be performed with live drummers, adding to the strength and excitement.
6. **ANACHNU** - We Are Believers – (6 minutes) “Anachnu” is a powerful dance that shows our strength as a people. We are believers, children of believers, and we have none (else) to rely on, but on our father, our father in heaven.



7. **SPIRIT OF ISRAEL** - (6 minutes) The Hebrew greeting shalom means more than hello or good-bye; it also means peace. Spirit of Israel is an upbeat work based on Israeli folk dance, combining the emotions, energy, and rhythms of modern Israel into a message of shalom.

8. **SABABA BA MIDBAR**- Celebration in the Desert - (8 ½ minutes) After 40 years of learning to survive in the desert only with the gifts and miracles from God, the Jews gained strength and spiritual connection. They expressed their joy and celebrated life even under the most difficult conditions.

9. **DESERT SUNRISE** - (51/2 minutes) As the sun rises on the barren desert, people danced to assure their belief in God, allowing heaven's gates to open. Celebrate the culture of the Yemenite people in this contemporary rendition.



10. **EVENING OF THE ROSE** - Erev Shel Shoshanim – (3 minutes) This beautiful duet brings life to the poetic hebrew love song which has come to be played at so many Jewish weddings.

11. **SAND** – (3.5 minutes) Keshet Chaim's first aerial piece expresses the emotions of a dream of soaring through the clouds and over the desert. It can be performed as an aerial piece with ropes or as a contemporary dance.

“ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE  
AT THE CENTER TO DATE”

The Performing Arts Center, CSUN

12. **CHASSIDS NEXT GEN** – (6 minutes) Keshet Chaim premiered their new piece about the Chassids, as they are known, who were originally from Eastern Europe. The audience will be taken to the lower east side of New York where the young boys are supposed to be studying in their school. When their teachers leave, the mischief begins.

13. **NOTZA BARUACH** - Feather in the wind – (3 minutes) This duet describes the memories of a past love as the echo of the voice comes and goes like a feather in the wind.

14. **MATANOT K'TANOT** - Small Gifts – (3.5 minutes) This piece talks about the small gifts and pleasures that come to us each week with the Shabbat.

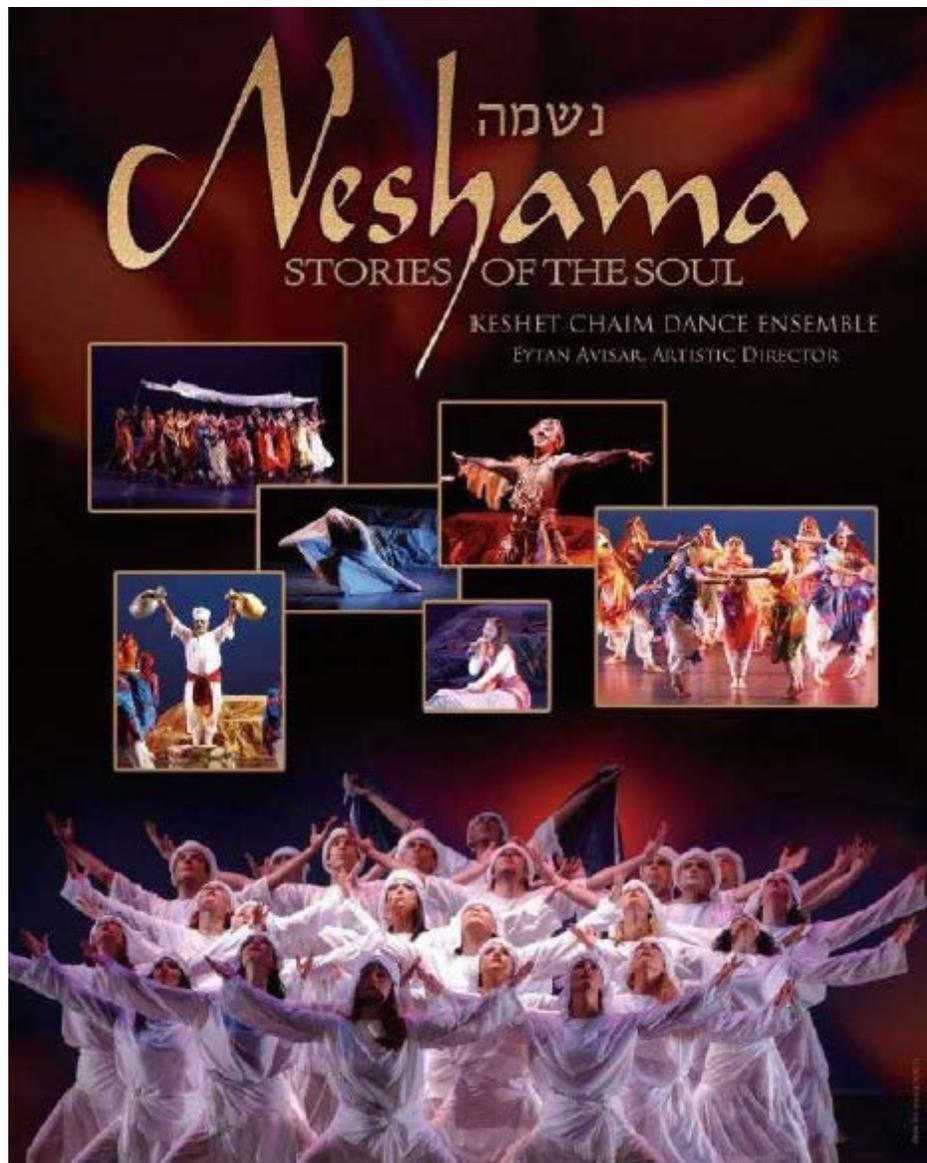
Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble is available for concert work with a chamber ensemble of twelve dancers to a full company of twenty dancers. They are available for concerts, residencies, workshops, festivals and parties.

\*\* For a full list of Keshet Chaim's Repertoire visit: [www.kcdancers.org](http://www.kcdancers.org)

Full Evening Concert

# NESHAMA

Neshama, Stories of the Soul is a love story about the city of Jerusalem, using dance and music to tell her rich history. This full-length full-evening multimedia performance uses traditional folk dances as well as Keshet Chaim's signature contemporary style, with original vocal and instrumental music, projections and more than 300 hand-painted silk costumes by Nili Glazer. With text from biblical sources, legend and poetry narrated by Frank Sinatra Jr., Neshama is an intensely personal work by Artistic Director Eytan Avisar with Israeli guest choreographers Ilana Cohen, Tsion Marciano and Kobi Rozenfeld, intended to share their vision of Jerusalem with American audiences.



*Special lighting, video projection required. Props can be shipped or flown on plane. Specific Tech rider will be supplied by the company.*

Full Evening Concert

# COLORS OF ISRAEL

Colors of Israel is a full evening's performance by Keshet Chaim dancers, with dance, music and vocal content personally selected from the company's extensive repertoire and tailored to the needs of your audience.

Keshet Chaim uses contemporary dance inspired by folk traditions to weave a colorful tapestry of movement and sound, rejoicing in the rainbow of cultures that make up Israel and the Diaspora. You can choose a program that emphasizes biblical history, dance traditions from around the world, stories from the Diaspora, calls for peace, or any combination from our repertoire.

Colors of Israel runs two hours, with 16-24 dancers. Selections from the repertoire can be adapted for smaller venues, with a chamber ensemble of 12 dancers available.

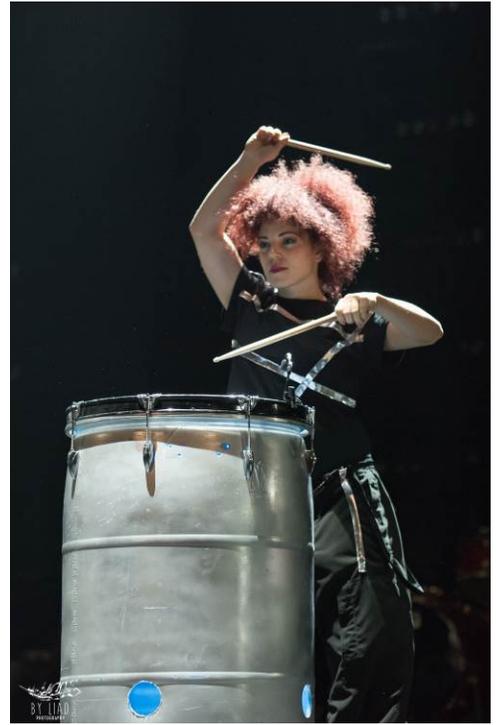
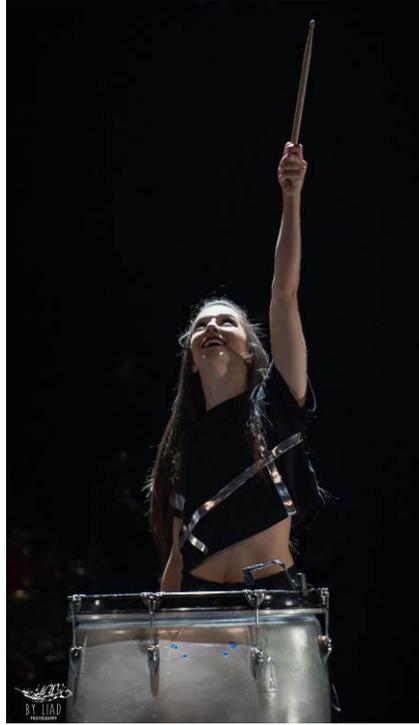


“AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE ...  
A NEW WAY OF BRINGING FOLK DANCE TO THE STAGE.”

Israel Shelanu, Los Angeles

# KC DRUMMERS

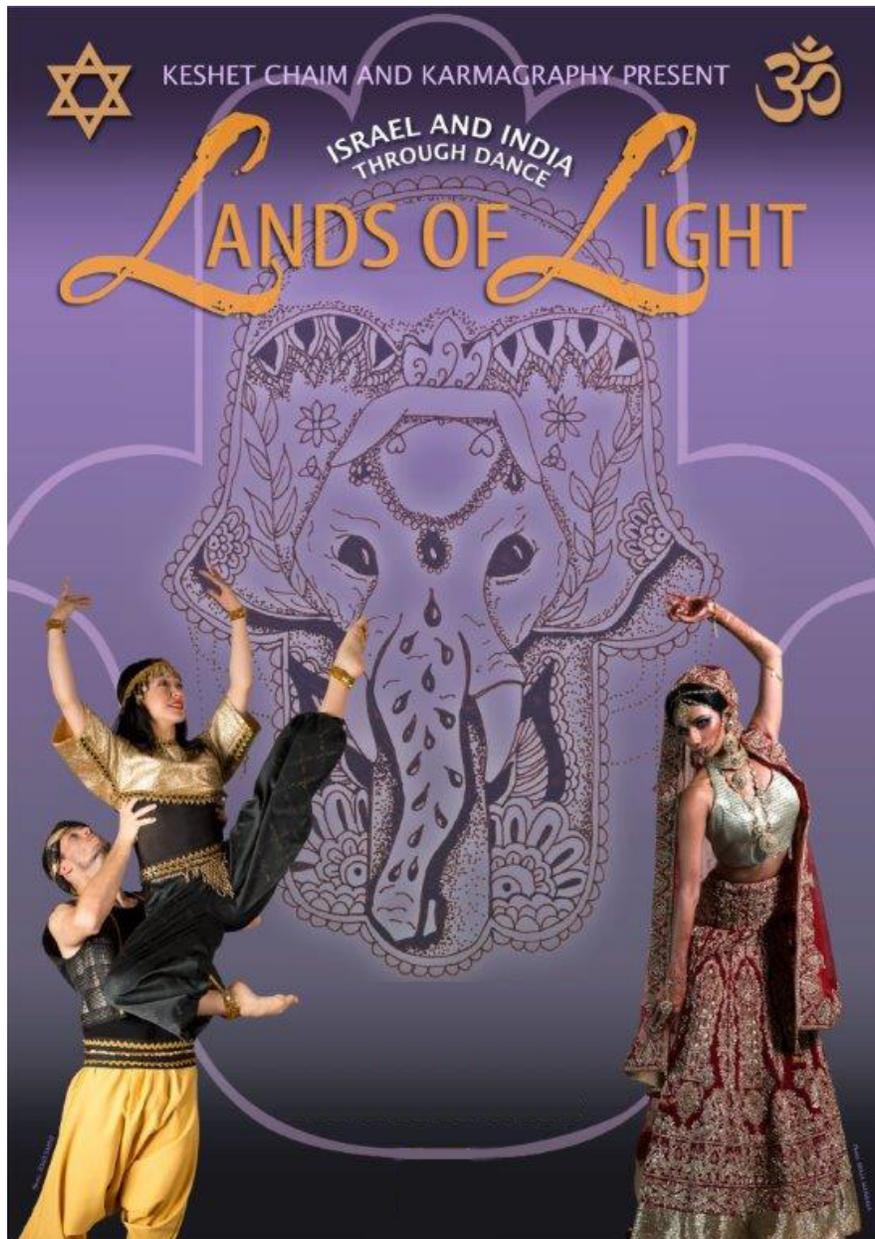
Dance • Body Percussion • Drumming • Rhythm



Full Evening Concert

# LANDS OF LIGHT

There has been a steady strengthening of India's collaboration with Israel ever since the two established full diplomatic relations in 1992. Israel and India are creating their bond through culture, defense, diplomacy, agriculture, water management and trade. The Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble and Karmagraphy are excited to continue this cooperation through dance. They will share the stage and create together to expand their knowledge, language and movement. Contemporary Israeli dance meets Bollywood!



# EDUCATIONAL

Since 1995, Keshet Chaim has been using art to teach children in the Los Angeles public school community about the rich and multifaceted culture of Israel. Our goal to breakdown ethnic barriers, and deliver the message of tolerance is targeted to underserved communities in LA County. The programs are built for each classes needs and including residencies, student workshops and performances.



“ENTERTAINING AND EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE ...  
FAR BEYOND THE CONFINES OF A PERFORMANCE.”

Leah Bass-Baylis Dance Advisor,  
Los Angeles Unified School District

“SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS  
LEARNING, SHARING AND DANCING WITH NO INHIBITIONS!”

Margie Reese, Cultural Affairs Department, City of Los Angeles

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



## EYTAN AVISAR

Eytan Avisar, Artistic Director and Choreographer, began his dancing career on an Israeli kibbutz where he was influenced and inspired by the holiday festivals. After graduating from the Academy of Dance in Beersheba, Eytan began his world travels with various Israeli folk dance ensembles. In 1968, Eytan toured with Jonathan Karmon's *Grand Music Hall of Israel*, which was Israel's official representative of Israeli folk dance throughout the world. Eytan performed with the *Grand Music Hall* in Europe and the United States. From 1969 through 1973, Eytan was choreographer and lead dancer for *Hatzabarim* Dance Group, traveling throughout Europe, South Africa, Iceland, Canada and the United States.

Eytan founded the Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble in 1983. He has led audiences through doorways to other cultures within Israel and throughout the Jewish Diaspora. His in-depth study of Jewish roots has led him to explore the spiritual meaning of life and has established the path for the creation of emotional and spiritually-fulfilling choreography. Through his creative vision and interpretation of traditional concepts, he has raised Israeli folk dance to new levels. Mr. Avisar is a great believer in education through art and entertainment. Keshet Chaim has provided for him a means of expressing the multi-faceted characteristics of the Jewish people.. His vision is for Keshet Chaim to become an institution that will continue to disseminate Jewish culture and perpetuate his love of dance for generations to come.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## GENIE BENSON

Genie Benson, Executive Director, joined Keshet Chaim as a dancer in 1987 and in 1988 became the company's administrator. She is primarily responsible for the company's development as a professional non-profit organization.

As Keshet Chaim's administrator, Genie's accomplishments include creating financial systems, developing promotional materials, creating new relationships with the concert dance community, utilizing consultants for artistic and marketing projects, and maintaining an ongoing relationship with the press. Genie is responsible for company bookings and for developing varied programming to keep the company viable and active. She is also in charge of grant writing and fundraising as well as researching, hiring and coordinating artistic staff on all projects. Genie served on the Dance Resource Center Board of Directors and was the editor for "The Zine, their bi-monthly newsletter for three years. She served as a member of the Tel Aviv Los Angeles Partnership Committee which is part of the Jewish Federation. Genie has expanded her love for production through her work as the Executive Director of TEEV Events. The company brings artists from Israel and tours them around the United States. Teev has offered Keshet opportunities to perform at several of their events also.

# CHOREOGRAPHER



## KOBI ROZENFELD

Kobi Rozenfeld's professional reputation and heightened demand in the dance industry has led him to work with some of the best entertainers and most notable celebrities in Hollywood such as Beyonce, Britney Spears, Natasha Bedingfield, and Macy Gray. His most recent choreography credits include this summer's national commercial featuring the new "Wonder Woman" - Gal Gadot. Also, last spring, Kobi was responsible for the choreography of the reunion of 90's boyband "Hi Five" in Israel. Kobi's credentials also include directing and choreographing the world tour of "Barbie Live"- The Musical, produced by "Mattel" and EMS. In addition,

Kobi has choreographed for the British singer and songwriter, Natasha Bedingfield, at the "LifeBall" concert in Vienna and Macy Gray with her hit "Beauty in the World". Topping this list, is Kobi's work with Britney Spears during her 2009 comeback and choreography for the incredible pop sensation, Beyonce, in her 2009-2010 I Am... World Tour. Kobi also choreographed for Israel's "So You Think You Can Dance" and for the musical show in California's Legoland Amusement Park. In January of 2010, he performed alongside Beyonce as one of the dancers at the Grammy Awards.

Kobi was born in Israel and has been dancing and choreographing from a very early age. His early credits include performances in the successful productions of Fun Tazi, Caberet, and Peter Pan. Kobi worked with and choreographed for some of the top Israeli pop artists in their music videos as well as national and international tours. He choreographed for "The Little Mermaid" national tour and won numerous choreography awards. In summer 2006, Kobi began working with Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble upon his arrival in the United States. He choreographed new pieces for the company and gained great critical acclaim through the group's performances at the Disney Concert Hall, Paramount Studios, The Kodak Theatre, and for a special on PBS.

L.A.'s top working dancers presented Kobi's choreographic work at the prestigious "Carnival – Choreographer's Ball" in Hollywood. As a choreographer, Kobi is represented by Go2Talent one of the top choreography and dance agency's in the industry. Kobi travels the world as a free-lance choreographer. He has taught master classes at the Broadway Dance Center in New York and has instructed workshops in Guam, Germany, Austria, The Netherlands, France, Slovakia, Spain, Croatia, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, Bulgaria, and the United Kingdom. Kobi is passionate about sharing his love for dance with all those he comes into contact with, motivating and inspiring his students, and leaving them with a thirst for more!

# TECHNICAL RIDER

## **PRESENTER agrees to provide the following:**

- a) Suitable and appropriate venue for the performance of the ARTIST; rooms, hallways and stage shall be cleaned to the satisfaction of the ARTIST representative
- b) Technical staff necessary for set-ups, strikes (including light and stage arrangements), and run of show as specified in technical requirements
- c) Access to performance space(s) and crew the day of performance, plus adequate rehearsal time preceding performance in the same space and with the same crew, plus a full technical rehearsal prior to the performance; load-in costumes and lighting the day before the show
- d) A meal after sound check on the day of performance for ARTIST; juices, soda, sparkling water, coffee and decaf coffee and tea available in dressing rooms; also, bottled water for each artist during performance
- e) All travel, hotels and per diem including transportation to and from rehearsals, performance and airport; transporting of extra luggage
- f) All press clippings and reviews relating to the performance

## **ARTIST agrees to provide the following:**

- a) Press kits including photographs, articles, reviews, and biographies as requested
- b) Availability for newspaper, magazine, radio and television interviews as desired by PRESENTER, if logistically feasible
- c) ARTIST will provide program copy

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS** (to be furnished by PRESENTER):

- a) **STAGE:** Keshet Chaim requests a crossover of at least 3 feet in width behind the upstage backdrop or cyclorama. The stage size should be a minimum of 40ft x 30ft.
- b) **FLOOR:** Keshet Chaim requires the use of a safe dance floor as the dancers perform with bare feet; Marley is preferable. Floor should be free of splinters, holes and other surface defects; cement is not acceptable. Floor should be swept thoroughly and damp mopped prior to each rehearsal and performance and additionally as requested by the technical director
- c) **LIGHTING:** Keshet Chaim makes every effort to work within an existing house light plot. A performance light plan will be determined based on the technical capabilities of the facility and will be sent to the Technical Representative of the facility six weeks prior to performance; all lighting units must be pre-hung, circuited and tested prior to the day of performance
- d) **DRAPERIES:**  
4 - 5 sets of black masking legs pre-hung to form a minimum of three 7' wing openings  
4 - 5 black borders to provide overhead masking  
Full stage white cyclorama
- e) **SOUND:** The dance music is all recorded on CD OR LAPTOP; the singer requires a high end cordless mic appropriate monitors.
- f) **PROPS AND COSTUMES:** Clear backstage area for quick costume changes with lighting and mirrors with 4 eight foot prop tables - two stage left/two stage right
- g) **DRESSING ROOMS:** Dressing Rooms should have ample tables, mirrors, make-up lights, clean restroom facilities and be equipped with two ironing boards, two steam irons and at least four large costume racks
- h) **REHEARSAL SPACE:** Stage must be available for sound check and rehearsal five (5) hours prior to show time
- i) **VIDEO PROJECTOR:** Some productions require projections onto a white cyc completely upstage or video screen

## **HOSPITALITY:**

Drinking water must be available in the backstage area for all rehearsals and performances. Bottled water for 25 persons should be available at all performance spaces.

If there are no food facilities near the venue, coffee, juice, fruit and snacks would be appreciated when time between rehearsal and performance is short. If all local food sources close prior to the end of show, the company requests a light meal such as sandwiches and soft drinks after the performance. Please provide vegetarian/kosher meals as requested.

## **LABOR:**

- a) Keshet Chaim travels with an Artistic Director, a Technical/Sound Director, a Costume Mistress and a Company Manager
- b) Set-up crew necessary for a given venue should be determined in advance by the Keshet Chaim Executive Director and the facility representative
- c) The company requires load-in assistance and prefers to set-up costumes and props themselves
- d) A typical running crew of consists of:
  - One light board operator
  - One sound board operator
  - Minimum one deck hand for curtain and mic adjustment