


**REUT SHEMESH  
CHOREOGRAPHY  
—  
TOURING & UPCOMING  
WORKS  
2020**



# **TOURING WORKS**

## **2016-2019**

A close-up, profile view of three people (two women and one man) looking towards the right. Their mouths are wide open in an 'O' shape, suggesting surprise or awe. The person in the foreground is a woman with dark hair, wearing a shiny, metallic silver jacket. The person in the middle is a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark blue or black top. The person in the background is a man with short dark hair, wearing a white shirt. The background is a dark, textured wall.

2019 / PERFORMANCE, PHOTOGRAPHY

**ATARA**

—

**FOR YOU,  
WHO HAS  
NOT YET  
FOUND THE  
ONE**





In “ATARA”, choreographer Reut Shemesh directs her gaze onto the world-view shared by women who live according to the rules set forth by Jewish orthodoxy and those who live by secular norms. Together, they ask what femininity, female sexuality and their places in society could be. How do they find their destiny, or how do they fail in doing so?


By means of re-enacting events from her own surroundings – Shemesh grew up in a family that is both secular and orthodox – and through photography, text and movement, an oscillating dialogue between different perspectives arises. In this way, clichés, prejudice and one’s own lifestyle come into question, in equal measure.

»A highly concentrated piece that revolves around the reality of Orthodox Jewish women's, but at the same time around breaking out from conventions (...)  
Represents a study of the soul that poetically mirrors it in a touchingly minimalist choreography.«

CHRISTIAN OSCAR GAZSI LAKI, WESTDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, MAY 2019

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY, TEXT, PHOTOGRAPHY: Reut Shemesh CREATION & PERFORMANCE: Hella Immler, Tzipora Nir, Florian Patschovsky COMPOSITION, SOUNDDESIGN: Simon Bauer DRAMATURGY: Matthias Quabbe MENTORING: Anne Kersting VIDEO, STAGE, LIGHT, PHOTOGRAPHY: Ronni Shendar PHOTOGRAPHY: Öncü Gültekin COSTUMES: Marie Siekmann FINANCIAL DRAMATURGY: Béla Bisom PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT: Sabina Stücker ATARA IS A PRODUCTION OF Reut Shemesh, K3 | Tanzplan Hamburg CO PRODUCED BY tanzhaus nrw FINANCED BY: Kulturrat der Stadt Köln, Hamburgische Kulturstiftung, Kunststiftung NRW, Stiftung Zurückgeben, Step Up / KunstSalon Stiftung, RheinEnergieStiftung Kultur SUPPORTED BY: tanzfaktor Köln, iDAS NRW, Machol Shalem Jerusalem.





2017 / PERFORMANCE

**GOLA**  
—  
**A CEREMONY  
ON BEHALF  
OF A  
MISSING  
AFFINITY**

# GOLA is a performance which utilizes the form, rhythm, and dogma of national ceremonies.

To a large extent, national ceremonies function as a public theater to transmit notions of collectivity, grief, victory, and above all, pride in the nation. GOLA plays on the misuse of these ideologies to provoke a certain visceral reaction.

Throughout the work, recurring elements and movements from national ceremonies, such as flag-waving, marching, standing formations, speeches and a hymn, are adapted into a modular, performative language. These elements, which are largely synchronized, emphasize the meticulous and exhausting nature of collective action. The performers stomp, shuffle, jump, and march, compulsively repeating these movements until they produce a thundering and deafening sound. Endurance becomes a standard which is decided by the group; the performers push themselves until they can no longer. Who drops first is the 'weak one', while the more powerful carries the other.

The dancers' abilities and performative displays vacillate between strength and unregulated aggression, weakness and despair. GOLA is a metaphor for the individual who is unable to cope with certain powers dictated by the collective, and in society at large.







## »GOLA is an anti war manifesto (...) this choreographer has always something to say«

BETTINA TROUWBORST, "TANZ", OCTOBER 2017

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY: Reut Shemesh CREATION & PERFORMANCE:  
Mathilda Cimera, Freddy Houndekindo, Petr Hastik,  
Reut Shemesh, Karoline Strys SECOND CAST: Ayberk Esen,  
Kelvin Burkard, Elia Kraus, Petr Hastik, Reut Shemesh  
DRAMATURGY: Daniel Rademacher, Simon Bauer VIDEO, STAGE, LIGHT:  
Ronni Shendar COMPOSITION, SOUNDDESIGN: Simon Bauer PHOTOGRAPHY:  
Mona Kakanj COSTUMES: Andres Santiago Alvarez Rodriguez  
GRAPHICS, LAYOUT: Florian Egermann ILLUSTRATION: Shany Shemesh  
FINANCIAL DRAMATURGY: Béla Bisom PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT: Sabina  
Stücker

GOLA IS A PRODUCTION OF Reut Shemesh CO-PRODUCED BY ASPHALT  
Festival Düsseldorf FINANCED BY: Kulturamt der Stadt Köln,  
Kunststiftung NRW, Ministerium für Familie, Kinder,  
Jugend, Kultur und Sport, RheinEnergieStiftung Kultur.  
SUPPORTED BY: TanzFaktur Köln, ehrenfeldstudios E.V,  
iDAS NRW





2015-2016 / PERFORMANCE, SHORT FILM AND ARTIST BOOK

**LEVIAH**

# My very tight uniform has become a symbol; a symbol of lost dreams and sexual confusion

WINNER: KÖLNER TANZ- UND THEATERPREIS, 2017

WINNER: AUDIENCE PRIZE, 638 KILOTANZ, 2016

LEVIAH is a memoir about vulnerability, power, conformity, and loss of agency. Composed of a collection of memories from service in the Israeli military, LEVIAH brings to light a phenomenon that is rarely spoken about: the emotional trauma and despair that female soldiers in junior position endure. In the male-dominated, hierarchical structure of national military service, many women lose control and gain eating disorders. They are forced to adopt a tough exterior yet are subjected to sexual harassment.

Coping mechanisms are common; willful memory erasure, dark humor, drugs, apathy, intermittent eruptions of sexuality. The performers' bodies expose extreme conditions of vulnerability and control, as well as the shift from human to mechanic that one experiences within a charged social and military environment. LEVIAH reenacts the gradual but consistent toll that political groupthink takes on the individual psyche.



**»Leviah is big, dark, brave,  
personal, but not private.  
Reut Shemesh allows dance  
to handle the art of dealing  
with vulnerability without  
portraying the victim as  
small and powerless.«**

MELANIE SUCHY, TANZ, AUGUST 2016

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY, TEXT: Reut Shemesh CREATION & PERFORMANCE:  
Hella Immler, Reut Shemesh COMPOSITION, SOUNDDESIGN: Simon  
Bauer STAGE, LIGHT, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO: Ronni Shendar COSTUMES:  
Dario Mendez Acost DRAMATURGY: Daniel Rademacher PRODUCTION,  
MANAGEMENT: Sandra Jasper PHOTOGRAPHY: Sasa Huzjak  
PHOTOGRAPHY: Simon Bauer

LEVIAH IS A PRODUCTION OF Reut Shemesh FINANCED BY: Kulturamt  
der Stadt Köln, Kunststiftung NRW, Ministerium für  
Familie, Kinder, Jugend, Kultur und Sport,  
Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln SUPPORTED BY iDAS NRW,  
TanzFaktur Köln.





# **UPCOMING WORKS**

A photograph of Taylor Swift dressed as a cheerleader. She is wearing a blue and white outfit with a large white feathered hat. She has blonde braids and is looking off to the side. Other cheerleaders in similar costumes are visible in the background.

2020 / PERFORMANCE, ARTIST BOOK

# COBRA BLONDE

**»Thanks to this brilliant performance a deep and sad core of the carnival is suddenly conjured, which our “school wisdom” had not dreamed off «**

MARTIN KRUMBHOLZ, SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, JUNE 2019

— ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE “WITNESS”, PRESENTED AT THE OPENING OF THE IMPULSE THEATER FESTIVAL 2019

RESEARCH, CONCEPT & PHOTOGRAPHY: Reut Shemesh CHOREOGRAPHY: Reut Shemesh in collaboration with Ulla Gerling DANCE: Hannah Lingnau, Lisa Aydin, Laura Bremicker, Lisa Rogalla, Gabriele Rose-Krosch, Claudia Hinkel, Isabell Seseña Carrasco, Janina Schentek, Sophia Wirth, Franziska Simandi, Constanze Fischer, Katharina Brink COMPOSITION, SOUNDDSIGN: Simon Bauer DRAMATURGY: Matthias Quabbe OUTSIDE EYE: Daniel Rademacher GRAPHICS/LAYOUT, STAGE, LIGHT DESIGN: Ronni Shendar PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT: Sabina Stücker FINANCIAL DRAMATURGY: Bela Bisom COBRA BLONDE IS A PRODUCTION OF Reut Shemesh, CO PRODUCED BY tanzhaus nrw IN COOPERATION WITH the Tanzgarde der Karnevalsfreunde der katholischen Jugend Düsseldorf.







**COBRA BLONDE crosses borders between two distinct worlds of expression that almost never get in contact: Traditional german “Gardetanz” and contemporary dance, and focuses on gender roles in both fields.**

PREMIERE: 26.09. 20:00 & 27.09. 15:00, TANZHAUS NRW

The work examines the representation of female dancers in traditional carnival celebrations and offers a rather contradictory and tragic view of this form of entertainment. The work sets a notion about the tension between the attempt to demonstrate an individual, as mostly expected in contemporary art, and the communal strength of the Tanzgarde group.

2021/2022

## SO YOU MIGHT SEE ME

CO-PRODUCED BY TANZHAUS NRW, MACHOL SHALEM JERUSALEM

During the research of ATARA, Reut Sehmesh collaborated with a group of religious female dancers. Some Orthodox Jewish women may not dance, sing or perform in any form in front of men. Weddings, like many other celebrations, are separated by gender by a partition, such as a curtain. In some cases, these rules lead to conflicts among female dancers and choreographers who want to integrate themselves into the professional dance scene in Israel and abroad, yet feeling excluded from many cultural events and possibilities.

SO YOU MIGHT SEE ME is a project about and with Jewish orthodox women, exploring and questioning empowerment, exposure and discrimination of the performers and the audience.

2022/2023

## BIRTH OF MAN

CO-PRODUCED BY TANZHAUS NRW

BIRTH OF MAN is a study of the movement lexicon used by "Ultra" football fans, a type of fans renowned for fanatical support. Ultras groups have their own choreography, songs and dress code. The majority of the participants are men. Their actions during and after the games are emotionally charged and energetic, and in some cases aggressive and dominating, leading to question the type of masculinity that is performed.

During the research of the project, Reut Shemesh will interview and take portraits of Ultra group members based in Nordrhein-Westfalen. The piece will be created and performed by youngsters between the age of 15 to 21.



## BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in Israel, Reut Shemesh works on the margins of contemporary dance, poetry and experimental film to critically explore elements of her heritage and upbringing. Shemesh received her first degree from the ArtEZ Institute of the Arts in Arnhem (NL), as well as a postgraduate degree from the Kunsthochschule für Medien in Cologne (DE). Amongst others, she has exhibited and performed at tanzhaus nrw, Jewish Museum Berlin, Kampnagel Hamburg, Tanzhaus Zürich, Suzanne Dellal Center Tel-Aviv, Theatre Lab NYC and Korzo Theater Den Haag. Shemesh has taught choreography at several academic institutions, including the Heinrich-Heine Universität Düsseldorf and Universität zu Köln. Her works have been presented at international festivals and have been nominated for numerous awards.

In 2016 she won the Cologne Dance and Theater Prize for her work LEVIAH. Her films have been presented at the Oberhausen Short Film Festival and Art Cologne. In April 2019, Shemesh created the work ATARA during a residency program at K3|Tanzplan Hamburg. The piece has been invited to perform at the Tanzplattform Germany 2020. Her research project WITNESS has opened the Impulse Theatre Festival 2019 – the final work will be presented at tanzhaus nrw, where she is currently the Factory Artist (2020-2022). Shemesh lives in Cologne, Germany.



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2022), RheinEnergieStiftung Kultur (2018-2020), Step Up  
/ KunstSalon Stiftung (2019-2021), tanzhaus nrw  
Düsseldorf (factory artist 2020-2022)

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**TRAILERS**

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