

# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

*Minus 16*  
(1999)

(Ailey Company Premiere - 2012)

*Choreography:* Ohad Naharin

Restaged by Danielle Agami

*Music:* Various Artists

*Costumes:* Ohad Naharin

*Lighting Design:* Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi)

*Celebrating Mari Kajiwara (1951-2001)*

*Ailey company member (1970-1984) and late wife of Ohad Naharin*

This work features a delightfully eclectic score that propels Ohad Naharin's phenomenally inventive piece with sounds ranging from Dean Martin to mambo, techno to traditional Israeli music. Unfolding in sections, this expansive ensemble work is unlike any other in the Ailey repertory in the way it challenges the dancers to improvise and breaks down barriers between audience and performers.

*Minus 16* uses Naharin's acclaimed "Gaga" method to overcome old habits and make room for new movement and new experiences, broadening the possibilities for dancers as interpreters and revealing the humanity and wit of the Ailey Company. Mr. Naharin dedicated the Ailey premiere of the work to the memory of his wife Mari Kajiwara (1951-2001), who was a dancer with the company for many years as well as Mr. Ailey's rehearsal assistant. *Minus 16* is based on excerpts from *Mabul* (1992), *Anaphaza* (1993), *Zachacha* (1998), and *Three* (2005). The duet set to "Nisi Dominus, R.608 – IV. "Cum dederit" (Andante)" by Vivaldi was originally created for Mari Kajiwara.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

"...*Minus 16* not only delights in its own wackiness but also **celebrates the joy of dancing. If ever there was a company uninhibited enough to do it justice, it's Ailey.**"

*San Francisco Chronicle*

"...**unforgettable...It was stunning...**"

*The Financial Times*

"Ohad Naharin's choreography is notable for its movement quality – especially for its smoothness within technical difficulty. But there is also an undercurrent of feeling that makes itself evident at all times."

*The New York Times*

"...Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin. He defies categorization."

*The New York Times*

"If you could hold one of Ohad Naharin's dances in your hand, it would feel smooth. Think of a polished stone, it looks like a piece of sacred sculpture, but hurl it and it becomes a weapon."

*Village Voice*



## **Ohad Naharin**

Ohad Naharin has been hailed as one of the world's preeminent contemporary choreographers. Born in 1952 on Kibbutz Mizra, Mr. Naharin has trained and performed with the Batsheva Dance Company, The School of American Ballet, The Juilliard School, David Howard, Maggie Black, Kazuko Hirabayashi, Gina Buntz, David Gordon, Billy Siegenfeld, Israel's Bat-Dor Dance Company, and Maurice Béjart's Ballet du XXe Siècle in Brussels.

After living in New York from 1978 to 1990, Mr. Naharin was appointed Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company and returned to Israel in 1990. Throughout his tenure with Batsheva, he has choreographed over 20 works exclusively for the company and its junior division, Batsheva Ensemble. Mr. Naharin has also restaged many of those works for companies around the world.

In addition to his work for the stage, Mr. Naharin has pioneered "Gaga," an innovative movement language. "Gaga" emphasizes the exploration of sensation and availability for movement and is now the primary training method for Batsheva's dancers. Mr. Naharin is the recipient of the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government (1998), two New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Awards (for *Virus* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2002 and for *Anaphaza* at the Lincoln Center Festival in 2003), the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement (2009), and a Dance Magazine Award (2009).

Mr. Naharin dedicates the Ailey performances of *Minus 16* to the memory of his late wife, Mari Kajiwara (1951-2001), who was a dancer with the Ailey company from 1970-1984.

## **Minus 16**

Music Credit Information – listed in order as you hear them in ballet

### **Song: It Must Be True**

Performed by: The John Buzon Trio

Written by: Gus Arnheim, Harry Barris and Gordon Clifford

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Song: **Hava Nagila** ©1963, ren. 1991 Surf Beat Music. All rights reserved.

Written and arranged by: Dick Dale under license from Surf Beat Music (ASCAP)

### **Song: Echad Mi Yode'a**

Lyrics and Music: Traditional

Arranged and published by: The Tractor's Revenge (Green, Belleli, Leibovitch)

### **Song: Nisi Dominus, R. 608 – IV. Cum Dederit (Andante)**

Written by: Vivaldi

Performed by: James Bowman, The Academy of Ancient Music and Christopher Hogwood

### **Song: Over The Rainbow**

Written by: E.Y. 'YIP' Harburg and Harold Arlen

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### **Song: Hooray For Hollywood**

Performed by: Don Swan and his orchestra

Written by: John Mercer and Richard Whiting.

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### **Song: Sway**

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