

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**North American English language premiere of MARATHON,
Aharon Israel's dance/theatre work
Feb 4 to 6 at Progress Festival**

"A brilliant show that touches the core of our existence" – Habama

Toronto, ON, January 20, 2015 – The [Koffler Centre of the Arts](#) is delighted to co-present the North American premiere of [Marathon](#), a theatre/dance performance created by Tel Aviv-based choreographer **Aharon Israel**. The performances take place February 4 to 6, 7:30 PM at the Theatre Centre, and are part of the Progress Festival. *Marathon* is performed by **Ilya Domanov, Merav Dagan** and **Gal Shamai**, and will be presented in both its original Hebrew (Feb. 5, with English subtitles), as well as in English (Feb 4 and 6). Premiering at the Acco Fringe Theater Festival 2012, *Marathon* has since been performed in Israel, Poland and Germany. Following the Toronto presentation, *Marathon* will travel to three other Canadian cities: Public Energy (Peterborough), Undercurrents Festival (Ottawa) and the Chutzpah! Festival (Vancouver).

Combining dance, text, theatre and gruelling physicality, *Marathon* uses the performers' own autobiographical stories to reflect a constant state of emergency. *Marathon* demands unwavering commitment and stamina from the performers, who run a total of eight kilometres in this strenuous investigation of contemporary Israeli life. The audience watches their painful journey in real time, and witnesses their struggle to continue as they spiral into the depths of Israeli consciousness. As their journey becomes harder and more painful, their stories break down, revealing the wounds of contemporary Israeli society.

Marathon is presented as part of Progress Festival, a new international festival of performance and ideas produced by the SummerWorks Performance Festival in partnership with The Theatre Centre. "Aharon is one of the most exciting emerging artists in Israel, and this work is without question one of the most exciting and complex pieces about contemporary Israel that I've seen," says Progress Festival Artistic Producer, Michael Rubinfeld.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is also offering two [workshops](#) with Aharon Israel: **Intelligent Body** (February 6 and 7), and **Seeing Through Movement** (February 9 and 10). Both workshops are open to theatre artists and dancers, and will use Israel's intense movement-based practice as entry points for creating new performance. For workshop registration and more information, visit <http://kofflerarts.org/education/adults/workshops/>.

A choreographer and theatre director based in Israel, Aharon has been presenting her work in Israel and abroad since 2003. Her work relates to an intimate research on body and movement, and a strong sensibility to social and political themes. She brings together dance, theatre and text in a form of set material, combined with open movement scores. With a particular interest in interactive multidisciplinary performances, Aharon often makes atypical projects, using non-theatrical spaces, bringing together her understanding of space as an architect, and her skills as a performer. Recently, she completed a residency in Graz with Annika Luschin. Aharon was trained in dance in Israel and Holland. She holds a B.Arch in Architecture from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem.

Marathon is co-presented with the Koffler Centre for the Arts, and generously supported by Spotlight on Israel, the Embassy of Israel, and the Israeli Consulate (Toronto).

Marathon

February 4 – 6, 2015 | 7:30 PM

The Theatre Centre | 1115 Queen Street West

Regular \$30 | Students, Seniors, Arts Workers \$20

Curated and co-presented by SummerWorks Performance Festival

Performed in English and Hebrew

Choreographed/directed by: Aharona Israel

Actors/dancers/vocals by: Ilya Domanov, Merav Dagan, Gal Shamaï

February 4 + 6 performances in English

February 5 performances in Hebrew

Running time: 60 mins

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a contemporary cultural organization that explores ideas and engages dialogue through the arts, at a local, national and international level. We are an independent not-for-profit based in the Jewish culture. The Koffler's administrative offices and the Koffler Gallery are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district. Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Family Foundation, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and members.

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