

# canadianstage

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED CHOREOGRAPHER BRINGS HIS LATEST  
WORK TO TORONTO FOR FIVE SHOWS ONLY  
ONLY NORTH AMERICAN DATE ON THIS TOUR

## Grand Finale

Choreography, Direction & Original Music by Hofesh Shechter  
Performed by Hofesh Shechter Company  
Presented by Canadian Stage

November 14-18, 2018 at the Bluma Appel Theatre

**“Heart-stopping... Hofesh Shechter’s [*Grand Finale*] has arrived with a bang.”  
–Financial Times**

***“The ultimate danse macabre... Hofesh Shechter’s existential anguish and his often beautiful choreography fight to the death.”*** – The Observer

**“A wild waltz for the end of time... [*Grand Finale*] ranks among Shechter’s most sophisticated creations.”**– The Guardian

**“Choreographic fireworks... Set, music, pounding percussion and dancers bodies soaring high, the apocalypse of *Grand Finale* shakes the compass of tribal dance. A must see.”  
– Le Mond**

Toronto, ON – Internationally celebrated choreographer Hofesh Shechter wowed audiences back in 2012 when Canadian Stage brought his must-see raucous spectacle, *Political Mother*, to Toronto. Shechter returns to Canadian Stage with his new bold, thrilling, and ambitious dance-theatre creation, *Grand Finale*, November 14-18, 2018 at the Bluma Appel Theatre.

A driving force in contemporary dance, Schechter is renowned for composing hard, atmospheric rock-like musical scores to compliment the unique physicality of his movement, and *Grand Finale* is no exception. Combining exhilarating choreography with a pulsating score, *Grand Finale* evokes a world at odds with itself, full of anarchic energy and violent comedy.

Part dance, part gig, part theatre and wholly original, *Grand Finale* is at once comic, bleak, and beautiful. Featuring an exceptional ensemble of ten dancers and six live musicians, Shechter creates a vision of a world in freefall.

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“My work speaks the language of the people, of the time. It’s not just for professional eyes. It portrays something raw, real – the essence of the human spirit, its helplessness in the face of self and outer oppression and pressure but its ultimate victory; the ultimate victory of hope; an account of the tensions between the collective and the individual; control and the abandonment of control,” says Hofesh Shechter. “I want audiences to be awakened, to experience my work from the gut. Trusting the gut is to me like trusting nature, or God, or a sense of purpose; a source, a spark. Trusting a higher and better force than our limited oppressed cultured minds.”

“We are thrilled to be welcoming Hofesh Shechter, one of the most exciting contemporary artists working today, back to Canadian Stage, says Canadian Stage Artistic Director, Brendan Healy. “Irreverent and visceral, Hofesh’s work is infused with a vitality that our audiences love. It truly is a gift to be able to share his latest work with Toronto.”

*Grand Finale* was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production and has received a Bessie nomination for Outstanding Production.

*Grand Finale* is on stage at the Bluma Appel Theatre from November 14-18. Performances run Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday at 8 PM, Friday at 7 PM, and Sunday at 2 PM. Tickets range from \$51-\$111 and are available for purchase online, by phone at 416-368-3110, or in person at the Berkeley Street or Bluma Appel Box Office.

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## **MEDIA NIGHT: NOVEMBER 14**

**To receive further information or for an interview request, please contact**

**CATHY PAINE at 416-367-8243 ext. 250**

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### ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage is one of the country’s leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. The company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel Theatre at Civic Theatres Toronto; The Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre. In July 2018, award-winning theatre director Brendan Healy was appointed Artistic Director.

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## ABOUT HOFESH SHECHTER

Hofesh Shechter is recognised as one of the most exciting artists working today. He is the Artistic Director of the UK-based Hofesh Shechter Company, formed in 2008. The company are resident at Brighton Dome and Shechter is an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells.

His recent works for his company include *Uprising*, *In your rooms*, *The Art of Not Looking Back*, *Survivor* (in collaboration with Antony Gormley at the Barbican), *Sun*, *Political Mother*, *barbarians*, and *Grand Finale*.

Shechter has also staged and choreographed works on leading international dance companies including the Metropolitan Opera, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Batsheva Ensemble, Candoco Dance Company, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater 1, Paris Opera Ballet, Royal Ballet and Royal Ballet Flanders, as well as for theatre, television and opera. He is an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells.