פסטיבל הולגאב ה-10
ליצירת ישראלית-אתיופית
מנחה אמנותי: אפי בניה
במעלות תשמ"ב | 24 בדצמבר 2019
Greetings and welcome to Jerusalem,

Hullegeb means multifaceted. Indeed, this captures the essence of the festival, which presents the many and rich facets of Israeli-Ethiopian culture as reflected in the arts.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Israeli-Ethiopian culture that gives it great strength is its faithfulness to Jewish roots, which remained strong during the lengthy exile in Ethiopia.

From this faithfulness springs the totality of its culture and arts, giving it a unique character.

The Hullegeb Festival is of personal importance to me because I see it as correcting an ongoing injustice, giving Israeli-Ethiopian arts their rightful place.

The festival opens with the premier performance of an outstanding contemporary Ethiopian artist, Abby Lakew, who is appearing together with the well-known Ethiopian vocalist Aregahegn Worash and vocalist-saxophonist Abbate Barihun, one of the founders of the Hullegeb Festival.

Other festival guests include promising young artists from all spheres of stage arts, including Tashoma, who is inaugurating her new album; the Ground Heights band, which will host Liron Amram; and more. All hold the promise of a moving and enjoyable festival this year, in which the audience can experience this rich and ancient culture and to become acquainted with Ethiopia's finest artists and performers.

I am proud that my ministry supports this festival, along with a broad variety of other events and initiatives attesting to the artistic activity of Ethiopian immigrants to Israel and their sources of inspiration among contemporary counterparts in Ethiopia. I express my thanks to Mr. Effie Benaya, the festival's artistic director and to the staff of Confederation House for their important contribution to enriching Israeli culture.

Sincerely,

Moshe Lion
Mayor of Jerusalem

Miri Regev
Minister of Culture and Sport
Dear Guests,

The development of Ethiopian arts in Israel is emblematic of the cultural richness of this community and the difficulty and challenge that it faces in finding means of expression. It is taking place in a land that opened its gates while at the same time closing its hearts to the historic and cultural epic of Ethiopian Jewry. In many senses, the State of Israel has still not internalized the deep social significance of the expression of diverse voices, nor the enormous potential in creating a place of pride for multifaceted arts in the process of integration and advancement of ethnic communities in Israel. In this context, the Hullegeb Festival constitutes a focal point for energy that seeks to deepen and expose the cultural wealth and diverse voices in Israeli society. The Beracha Foundation has supported the Hullegeb Festival for many years. This year too, as the festival marks its first decade of activity, we are proud to continue our support.

My thanks to all of the artists for organizing and producing this festival. I wish you all an enjoyable and enriching experience.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tali Yariv-Mashal
Director, Beracha Foundation
Members of the Board of Directors
Chairman and Founder, the late Mr. Kalman Sultanik
Acting Chairman, Mr. Rami Kornblum
Dr. Avraham Avihai
Mr. Kobi Abelman
Mr. Pinchas Ilrargan
Mr. Elad Benbaji
Mrs. Barbara Goldstein
Mr. Daniel Danielli
Mr. Alan Hoffmann
Mr. Yehiel Lekei
Mr. Jesse Sultanik
Mr. Samuel Sultanik
Mrs. Ora Sela
Mr. Yitzhak Kalmanowitz
Mr. Yitzhak Rogow
Mrs. Tzippy Ron

Galic and Shabibi, head of the management department
Eunat Ginig, head of the department of support for festivals

We would like to thank all the supporters and workers:
The tenth Ethiopian-Israeli arts festival 2019.
We are proud of this important project, the flagship of activity to promote Israeli-Ethiopian arts and to present them to a wide audience in Israel.
Over the years the festival has hosted well-known international artists and again this year we follow that tradition: the opening event will be the Israel premiere of Abby Lakew, an outstanding contemporary Ethiopian artist, who will appear together with the very successful vocalist Aregahegn Worash.
We are proud to continue presenting fascinating voices of Israeli Ethiopian artists: Orit Tashoma, who will inaugurate her first album at the festival; the Tesfa ensemble, which will feature a tribute to the golden age of Ethiopian music; the Ethiopian Collective with new Israeli song, and the Ground Heights band, which will host musician Liron Amram. In the realm of theater, we present a moving one-woman play, "The Light of Almaz" by Hava Tizazu and the play "An Unpleasant Girl for a Serious Relationship" by the Hullegeb Theater Ensemble.

Sincerely,
Effie Benaya
Artistic director

Dear Audience,
The Hullegeb Israeli-Ethiopian Arts Festival is marking its tenth anniversary in 2019. We are proud of this important project, the flagship of activity to promote Israeli-Ethiopian arts and to present them to a wide audience in Israel. Over the years the festival has hosted well-known international artists and again this year we follow that tradition: the opening event will be the Israel premiere of Abby Lakew, an outstanding contemporary Ethiopian artist, who will appear together with the very successful vocalist Aregahegn Worash.
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The closing performance creates an encounter between Omri Mor, Shlomo Bar and Abatte Barihun, for a celebration that combines African music with sounds from the Maghreb and Ethiopian jazz. The festival program encompasses the cultural richness and inspiring beauty of both traditional and contemporary Ethiopian arts. I invite you to come and enjoy the festival performances.

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The Hullegeb Festival opens with the Israeli premier of vocalist-songwriter-actress Abby Lakew. An Ethiopian-American, Lakew represents the new wave of Ethiopian artists who rest upon traditional Ethiopian song but continue to discover new musical worlds. Lakew will appear with successful veteran Ethiopian vocalist Aregahegn Worash, a much-loved guest in Israel, who has had a 35-year international career, and vocalist-saxophonist Abatte Barihun, one of the founders of the Israeli-Ethiopian musical scene and the Hullegeb Festival. This is Lakew’s first appearance in Israel. Born in Gondar, she moved to the US at age 13 where, in 2007, she recorded her first album in Amharic and English. Since then she has appeared before Ethiopian communities around the world and in Ethiopia. Worash, a generation older than Lakew, has released 11 albums to date and has collaborated with other great vocalists on four additional albums.
Vocalist and spoken-word artist Orit Tashoma will inaugurate her first album Hashefa Badalutat the festival. Tashoma, who wrote all of the songs and texts in the album, is assisted by the production talents of Eviatar Mintz and David Arbel, who join this performance, and combines elements from the realms of hip-hop, prayers of the keisim—the spiritual leaders of the Beta Israel community, and electronic music. In the album Tashoma performs Sliha ima etiopia, the song for which she became famous, which hosts saxophonist-vocalist Abatte Barihun. In that song she asks for the forgiveness of the Beta Israel community and her Israeli-Ethiopian identity for having neglected to give them a place.
The 1960s and early 70s are regarded as the “golden age” of Ethiopian pop music. It unfortunately came to an end with the rise to power of the military junta. During those years Ethiopian music absorbed a variety of influences from pop, rock and jazz, and local superstars such as Mahmoud Ahmed, Alemayehu Eshete and Aster Aweke created a series of eternal hits that are popular in Ethiopia to this day.

Saxophonist and vocalist Abatte Barihun, the outstanding Israeli-Ethiopian musician, leads the Tesfa band. Tesfa means hope in Amharic. These young musicians present traditional-folk songs and melodies, combined with a tribute to the inspiration of the golden age. The ensemble translates the enthusiasm, the longing and the sense of joy in this music to song and dance that fill the heart and move the feet.
“The Ethiopian Woman In New Israeli Poetry” returns to the Hullegeb Festival for the second consecutive year, after being featured in the Poet’s Festival in Metulla. This collective constitutes a platform for artistic personal expression of male and female members of the Ethiopian community in all areas of stage arts. In the performance Shirat haAfro these male and female artists seek once again seek to deal with topics that, in the painfully political Israeli poetic dialogue, are generally ignored and left outside the agenda. They dare to bring dirty laundry to the poetic arena, in a primal, often unripe, loud and unmediated scream. They challenge our concepts and our art in relation to memories instilled in us related to the experience of immigration to Israel, and the myth concerning our shared fate in a country of new immigrants. The collective presents art that speaks reality, but also offers a new reality — more encompassing, open and merciful.
A one-woman comedy: A woman attempting to begin a new phase in life pokes fun at herself, the Israeli-Ethiopian community and Israel. The play moves between stand-up and a developing plot. The actress speaks candidly and humorously about stigmas and preconceived ideas prevailing in Israeli society, as well as her personal desire for a life partner. The work is performed in the style of physical theater, with unspoken clowning segments.
Ground Heights hosts
Liron Amram-
Ethiopian Groove

23.12.19
Shemesh,בת“ה בכסלו תשפ”, 21:00, התחנה הראשונה
Monday, 21:00, The First Station

Ground Heights is an Israeli-Ethiopian band that combines the Amharic language and traditional rhythms from Ethiopia with new and modern songs that offer the authentic voice and sound of the members of the young generation of Ethiopians in Israel. The Ethiopian rhythms are given a contemporary, modern sound, rendering the bands performances colorful and danceable celebrations. The members of Ground Heights aim to preserve their native culture while morphing it into original statements displaying the richness and power of Ethiopian language and culture. Hosted in the performance is musician Liron Amram, regarded as the harbinger of the new wave of Middle Eastern music, which connects it to rock, pop, disco, electronic music and of course, the Yemenite music of his father, Aharon Amram, the leading vocalist of the Yemenite community.
The Light of Almaz

A moving and funny one-woman show combining past and present, telling the story of a mother and daughter, between Ethiopia and Israel. Almaz’s recollections of the troubling journey from Ethiopia to Sudan remain with her daughter Or, in her fight against the racism in the community center near her home. The play seeks to bring to life the stories of the women, men and children who perished on their way to the Land of Israel but remain alive in the memories of their loved ones, and exposes the difficulties and complexities the community now faces in Israel. The play deals with current questions of Israeli identity, connection to one’s roots, the inter-generational gap, acceptance of the other and the struggle against racism.

Script and performance Hava Tizazu
Direction and dramaturgy Ella Nikolaevsky
Set design Shay Aharon
An Andalusian-Ethiopian performance at last year’s Hullegeb Festival created an encounter between pianist Omri Mor, who created a surprising and refreshing link between jazz and the Andalusian music of the Maghreb, and saxophonist and vocalist Abatte Barihun, the outstanding proponent of Ethio-jazz and Jewish-Ethiopian song in Israeli culture. In the new performance, Mor and Barihun expand the boundaries of African music: together with vocalist and percussionist Shlomo Bar, the Moroccan-born leader and founder of Habreira Hativit (Natural Selection), they connect the West African Andalusian roots of Mor’s work with Bar’s Maghreb folk music and Barihun’s Ethiopian jazz.
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Discounts:
- 20% for pensioners, students, soldiers, disabled persons, journalists, subscribers to the Jerusalem Tourism Card.
- 40% discount for groups coordinated with the festival management.

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 Lara Shashin: Tel 622

www.confederationhouse.org | shivuk@conhouse.org.il 02-6234756: סקפ | 02-5399360: טל |