

**LEADING CHOREOGRAPHER JASMIN VARDIMON  
AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE  
BY ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**



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In what is proving to be a memorable summer for Jasmin Vardimon Company, its artistic director Jasmin Vardimon is to be awarded an honorary doctorate as part of the graduation ceremonies at Royal Holloway, University of London. On Wednesday July 16 she will receive the degree of *Doctor of Literature, Honoris Causa* in recognition of her work in the field of the arts and particularly dance over the last 20 years. This swiftly follows the company picking up three awards in the recent Kent Culture Awards, including the top honour of the Canterbury Award, and receiving an increase in funding along with a successful Capital Funding bid of £3million in the recent Arts Council of England spending review for the redevelopment of its Ashford home.

Honorary doctorates of the University of London are conferred on persons of conspicuous merit, outstanding in their field, or those who have given exceptional service to the University. Jasmin Vardimon fulfils both as a leading UK based choreographer and having developed a Higher Education programme for dancers and actors, led by her company as a postgraduate diploma at Royal Holloway.

In 2013 Jasmin Vardimon received the International Theatre Institute Award for Excellence in Dance in recognition of her outstanding contribution to choreography. A leading force in British dance theatre for nearly twenty years, she has built a reputation for challenging, exciting and visually stunning dance and continues to add to the body of critically acclaimed, artistically respected yet accessible work both for the company she formed in 1997 and for some of the leading dance companies across the world.

Born and raised on a Kibbutz in central Israel, she joined the Kibbutz Dance Company at a young age and in 1995 was awarded the prestigious British Council 'On the Way to London' Choreography Award. This was to take her on a journey that saw her move to the UK permanently in the late nineties. At the same time she founded Jasmin Vardimon Company (previously Zbang) for which she has created some of her most memorable work. An Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells since 2006, Jasmin has also been recognised with the positions of Associate Artist at The Place in 1998 and at Yorkshire Dance as a Partner from 1999 – 2005.

Enjoying sell-out performances across the UK and internationally, her Company's works include: *Freedom* ('*Breathtaking, mesmerizing and frequently thought provoking*' – South Wales Echo), *7734* ('*Theatrical gold. Piercingly powerful*' - Daily Telegraph) *Yesterday* ('*Beautiful. A deft theatrical touch*' - The Observer), *Justitia* ('*Terrific – stylishly designed, vividly played*' - The Guardian), *Park* ('*Extraordinary... sexy and beautiful*'- New Statesman), *Lullaby* ('*Dangerous and beautiful impassioned and remarkable*' - Daily Mail).

*Lullaby* gained Jasmin selection for the BBC documentary Dance Film Academy that charted the development of a film version of the piece in 2005.

Jasmin has also been commissioned to choreograph for the Royal Opera House (*Tannhäuser*, 2010) and for ROH2's OperaShots season with composer Graham Fitkin at the Linbury Studio (*Home*, 2012). Other commissions include Bitef Theatre Belgrade, Hellenic Dance Athens, CandoCo, WID, Bare Bones, Transitions and curating the Dance Ballads Festival at the Oval House.

In 2013, Jasmin took on the role of Guest Artistic Director for the first year of the newly formed National Youth Dance Company (NYDC).

She is the recipient of numerous awards including: the Dimitrije Parlić Award, Serbia's most prestigious award for Choreography (2013), the International Theatre Institute (ITI) Award for Excellence in International Dance (2013); the Jerwood Foundation's 'Changing Stages' Award (2004); the Jerwood Choreography Award (2000); a nomination for Best Female Artist at the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards (2003); The London Arts Board 'New Choreographers' Award (1998); The Colette Littman Scholarship Award (1997); The Havatzeleth Foundation Scholarship (1997 & 1995); and the America-Israel Foundation Choreography Scholarship (1989 & 1991).

Jasmin has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Wolverhampton since September 2011 and in 2012 launched JV2, a full-time certificate course at her company's home base in Ashford.