

## Press Release

### Turner Contemporary and Jasmin Vardimon Company present a new production in 2015

Two of the UK's leading arts organisations, Jasmin Vardimon Company and Turner Contemporary are collaborating to present an immersive new performance experience in April 2015 supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England's Exceptional award programme.

*Maze*, an extraordinary new work bridging dance theatre and the visual arts, will invite audience members to explore a world of surprise, wonder, delight and occasionally, unease, as dancers inhabit an astonishing labyrinth structure.

*Maze* will occupy a self-contained architecture conceived for the performance by designer, artist and architect Ron Arad in collaboration with installation artist Guy Bar Amotz. Inspired by Arad's visit to a foam factory in China, the architectural structure will be made from industrial foam using its tactility and visual qualities to create a unique immersive space. Navigating their way along one of several paths through this architectural labyrinth, visitors will encounter a feast of sights, sounds, smells, textures and actions; some moments will be intimate and moving, others so spectacular as to defy belief.

Victoria Pomery states:

"We are delighted to be working with Jasmin Vardimon Company on one of the most ambitious projects we have supported to date. This unique collaboration allows both organisations to create an exceptional new work which draws together choreography, the visual arts and architecture. Jasmin Vardimon is an extremely talented choreographer and her experimental approach will be inspiring and unsettling."

Jasmin Vardimon states:

"I'm excited to create a project that will allow audiences to experience my work at an extremely close and intimate proximity. This will be an experience that is similar to being on stage with the dancers and face-to-face with the art-work itself. The adventure each visitor will have will be dictated by the individual path they might choose within the architectural structure."

Ron Arad states:

"When Jasmin described this exciting project, I could not help but remember a visit to a foam factory in China, a few years ago. I recall seeing enormous volumes of foam being extruded from a giant gate. I saw the blocks being cut down to smaller sizes, it took my mind to other places: quarries, or ancient walls. This was so exciting, and I couldn't stop imagining what can be done with this material. I always thrive on not knowing how something I haven't started yet will end up. If you're working with someone

who comes from another discipline the chances of being surprised by your own work are definitely far bigger.”

Hedley Swain, Area Director, South East, Arts Council England, said: “We are delighted to be able to support Jasmin Vardimon Company and Turner Contemporary as they create a highly imaginative and engaging site-specific performance piece. Drawing inspiration from the mirror mazes at local landmark Dreamland, *Maze* will provide audiences with a completely new experience of dance - immersing them in the performance as they traverse one of the many paths they could take through the labyrinth. The project represents wonderful collaboration between two excellent and innovative, but very different, National portfolio organisations and cements the importance of arts and culture in the regeneration of East Kent.”

Jasmin Vardimon’s work is visually stunning and thought-provoking, often taking on complex ideas and situations and translating them into mesmerising dramatic productions that ask audiences to question their assumptions about the ideas she tackles and the nature of dance itself. Though an interrogation of points of view and spectators’ perspectives has long been central to her work, *Maze* will be Vardimon’s first venture beyond the proscenium stage, inviting audiences to physically determine their position within the work and to create their own narrative by moving through it.

Additional funding has been awarded by Kent County Council to support the delivery of an education programme associated with *Maze*. Educational activities will explore the making of *Maze* as well as themes, choreography and concepts explored in the work and will engage children and young people to reach their own interpretations and creative responses to the work.

*Maze* will be staged at the Winter Gardens in Margate from 10 until 15 April 2015.

**ENDS**

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#### Notes to Editors

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#### Turner Contemporary

Taking inspiration from JMW Turner, Turner Contemporary is a contemporary arts organisation based in Margate, Kent that aims to enhance the understanding and enjoyment of historical and contemporary art with a dynamic and diverse international programme of exhibitions and events.

- In copy please refer to Turner Contemporary and not ‘The Turner Contemporary’

# Turner Contemporary

Jasmin Vardimon

- Gallery opening times: Mon: Closed, Tue – Sun: 10.00 – 17.00 (admission is free)
- Address: Turner Contemporary, Rendezvous, Margate, CT9 1HG
- Information: +44 (0)1843 233019, [turnercontemporary.org](http://turnercontemporary.org)

## Jasmin Vardimon Company

A leading force in British dance theatre for nearly twenty years, Jasmin Vardimon 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 in Israel, she has been 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, Jasmin Vardimon Company's works include: *Freedom* ('Breath-taking, 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).

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.

## Ron Arad

Born in Tel Aviv in 1951, educated at the Jerusalem Academy of Art and later at the Architectural Association in London, Ron Arad co-founded with Caroline Thorman the design and production studio One Off in 1981 and later, in 1989, Ron Arad Associates architecture and design practice. In 2008 Ron Arad Architects was established alongside Ron Arad Associates, and the two branches of the practice are now referred to as Ron Arad Studio.

Ron Arad's constant experimentation with the possibilities of materials and his radical re-conception of the form and structure has put him at the forefront of contemporary design, architecture and art.

Ron Arad was awarded the Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) in recognition of his 'sustained excellence in aesthetic and efficient design for industry' in 2002 and was awarded the 2011 London Design Week Medal for design excellence.

He was Professor and Head of Design Products at the Royal College of Art in London up until 2009. In 2013 he was elected as a Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Art in London.

# Turner Contemporary

*Jasmin Vardimon*

Ron Arad Studio's prolific work has been shown extensively at retrospectives such as 'No Discipline' at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (2008), MoMA in New York (2009), and 'Restless' at the Barbican Centre in London (2010). Subsequent shows and installations such as 'Curtain Call' and '720' (at the Roundhouse in London and Israel Museum in Jerusalem, respectively), 'In Reverse' at the Design Museum Holon (Israel), Ivorypress Gallery in Madrid, and Pinacoteca Agnelli in Torino (2013), and 'Last Train' at the Venice Biennale (2013) continue to challenge the boundaries of architecture, design and art.

## **Guy Amotz**

Bar Amotz has been active as an artist since his graduation from the Bezallem Academy of Art & Design (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Hons, Distinction), Jerusalem (1994). In 1997 Bar-Amotz graduated from the Master of Fine Arts course at Goldsmith's College, London (supported by a full scholarship from the British Council). During 1998-9 he participated in the Two Year Residency Programme at the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands (with a full scholarship from the Dutch Government).

His projects have been commissioned by art spaces such as The Israel Museum (Jerusalem), Tate Britain (London), CCA (Geneva), Project (Dublin) the Ein-Harod Museum, the Stedelijk Museum's Bureau (Amsterdam), Kwangju Biennale (South Korea), The Biennale of Sydney 1998, The Ikon Gallery (Birmingham UK), Fuori Uso (Italy), Saitama Museum of Modern Art (Japan), The Trade Apartment and the APT (London), W139 (Amsterdam), Fashion House W&LT's Show Room (Antwerp), and Transport for London's 'Platform for Art' (London). Bar Amotz's collaboration with Jasmin Vardimon Company on previous productions includes video, media, set design and dramaturge.

## **Exceptional awards**

The Exceptional award programme was set up so that arts organisations could respond to extraordinary one-off opportunities with projects that are of such ambition that it sits outside of the normal programme of the organisation. Each successful project will make a substantial additional contribution to helping the Arts Council deliver its strategic vision of Great art and culture for everyone, through at least one of its five goals.



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