

**THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
AND  
BARNARD COLLEGE PRESENT:**

The Jewish Theological Seminary and Barnard College continues the celebration on March 7, 2010 during a day long symposium which will include a salute to the 30th Anniversary of the JTS-Barnard Double Degree program. A public address by JTS Chancellor, Professor Arnold M. Eisen and Barnard President, Deborah Spar, will be featured within a rich day of learning.



For more information about upcoming events, please go to:  
[www.jtsa.edu](http://www.jtsa.edu) or [www.barnard.edu/dance](http://www.barnard.edu/dance). And for information about the Teacher's Institute 100th Anniversary, <http://www.jtsa.edu/teachersinstitute.xml>.



**RENANA RAZ  
STUDIO PERFORMANCE AND ARTIST DIALOGUE**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009 AT NOON

THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH SUPPORT FROM:  
THE CHARLES AND LYNN SCHUSTERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ISRAELI CONSULATE.



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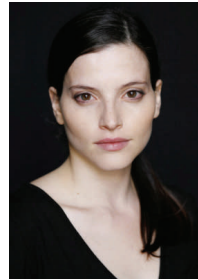
We have here with us today a young Israeli dancer and choreographer, Renana Raz, who will share with us some of her work and hopefully inspire you to seek out this wonderful art form and make it a part of your life. Today's co-presentation by Barnard College and The Jewish Theological Seminary marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Seminary's Teachers Institute which filled its students with love of the arts, Hebrew, and the land of Israel. I am honored to celebrate with you this legacy and to remember the great educators who made dance central to higher education.

Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, who presided over the Teachers Institute from 1909-1931, believed that the arts would perpetuate Jewish life and keep the Jewish tradition alive. He considered the arts an integral part of the Jewish religion. Following this conviction, Kaplan established the arts as part of Jewish education. Professor Jack Wertheimer, (in "Tradition Renewed") mentions the arts as core to the curriculum at the Teachers Institute. "The first arts class to be introduced to the teachers college was in music, historically the most Jewish of the arts" (Kaufman in Wertheimer, 1997, p. 698). Eventually art, drama and dance found their way into the curriculum. Devora Lapson was invited to the school to teach dance, mainly traditional folk dances. Professor Bavli, the great Talmud scholar (in Wertheimer, 1997) comments on the warm friendly atmosphere at the Institute created by the infusion of the arts and the study of dance which he characterized as "the most communal of Jewish arts" (p. 599). This kind of community fostered by the Institute in both curricular and extracurricular activities was highly unique and contributed to the professional and social lives of the students. Devora Lapson underscores (1949) the importance of teaching all art forms to students of education who go on to educate the next generation of children. The art, drama, music, and dance, she claims, should be used as a tool to bring to life the texts which otherwise remain vague and unreal in the minds of the children.

Enjoy the performance and I hope you will look at it with an educator's eye as befitting the event, and take with you some of the energy, beauty, and self discipline that make the dancer and the dance.

Dr. Ofra A. Backenroth  
Associate Dean  
The William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education  
The Jewish Theological Seminary

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Renana Raz is a leading voice among Israeli choreographers. Working independently since 1999, her works have been presented in Israel, Brazil, Germany, Poland, Holland, Lithuania, Japan, Cameroon, and the United States. In 2007, she collaborated with the Israeli Druze Folklore Dance Company and created a work for the Aura Dance Company in Lithuania. Last year, Raz was invited by Israel's leading theater company, Habima National Theater, to create a work for the Israel Festival in Jerusalem; together with Ofer Amram, she created *OV*, a dance theater piece inspired by the classic Yiddish play, *The Dybbuk*.



***Performance solo:***

***Bach, Britney, BIGGER, Banjo part two***, is a glimpse into the "backstage" of the creative process, where all of the ideas, images and sensations blend and mix into a new compound. Raz says about the work, "This specific piece was inspired by the music of Jean-Philippe Rameau, my actual time in Dallas, my fantasy about Texas, longing for my homeland, my dreams about horses, cowboys and the legendary Mrs. Britney Spears". This solo work will be performed by Renana Raz who has just completed a residency at the University of Texas with the generous support of The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

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