

(Lee Vai Leung)



Taking up 'Residance' in Jerusalem

By ORI J. LENKINSKI

When dancers go on tour, they usually follow a specific path: hotel, theater, coffee, theater and perhaps a bite to eat on the way to bed. Tours leave little time for wandering in a new place, meeting new people and soaking up a different culture. For this reason, choreographers Igor Bacovich and Iratxe Ansa are thrilled that their first professional visit to Israel is part of the inaugural "Residance" Jerusalem program. Initiated by the Jerusalem Municipality and in collaboration with the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, this new program invites local and international artists to dig deep into the city's dance community.

As participating artists in Residance, Ansa and Bacovich have set up shop in Jerusalem for several weeks while they work on a new creation.

"It is my first time here but Iratxe has been here before. She was performing in Suzanne Dellal and she was also here with Nacho Duato Company many years ago," says

Bacovich over the phone. Bacovich is out of breath, having popped out of a rehearsal in order to chat. The duo, partners both on stage and in life, are working on a trio in which Bacovich will perform. Titled *Unshakeable*, the work explores how individuals can maintain their personality and movement while functioning in a group.

"It's great being here. They are treating us very well," he says. "The atmosphere here is nice. It's very interesting to live in Jerusalem. It's such an interesting city. The project isn't just a workshop or rehearsal space. We have a bunch of fellow choreographers around. It's nice to not be only us alone. We are used to go and make a piece but in this case we are in an institution that invited other choreographers to create at the same time and we can exchange thoughts. We have open-air showings for the public in different areas of the city as well."

Bacovich, 37, was born in Torino, Italy, and grew up in Rome. "I left Italy very early," he explains. "I went to study in the Netherlands at Codarts (Rotterdam University of the Arts)