

BLACK BOX

Little Black Book Of **RED**



APAP showcase event
January 6-7, 2017
14th Street Y Theatre
NYC

Tickets: \$20
available at
www.14street.org/blackbox

BLACK BOX: Little Black Book Of RED is an enigmatic performance/installation featuring a solo performer **Shamel Pitts**, a former company member of Israel's iconic **Batsheva Dance**. Buoyed by his trademark expressive movement, Pitts employs spoken word, evocative lighting and video to construct a personal, poetic narrative about search for identity and striving for survival amidst impermanence. Performed in a confined space in nearly pitch-black darkness, the work features recordings of Pitts' ruminations jotted down during his travels with Batsheva. Obliquely referencing the flight data recorder, BLACK BOX transcends traditional travel journal format, becoming instead a record of a life - in a nod to Nina Simone - as a "young, gifted and Black" artist, thriving in constant motion.

"Very impressive... a portrait of a gifted dancer and a man of words, emotions and versatile ways of expression, which without a doubt will lead this creator forward in the future."
– Ora Brafman, *Dance Talk Israel*

World Premiere:
Batsheva Hosts, Nov 2016 / Suzanne Dellal Center, Israel
(curated by Ohad Naharin)
Running time: **45 minutes**

Conceived, written, and performed by **Shamel Pitts**
in collaboration with
Art Direction and Light Design: **Tom Love**
Music Arrangement: **Stella Goldstein / Auerbach Records**
Costume Design: **Galit Reich**
Original Logo Design: **Zohar Shemesh**
Graphic Design: **Idan Epstein / Uber Designs**
Photography: **Alex Apt**



trailer



photo: Alex Apt

CONTACT AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

For bookings and more information:
info@shamelpitts.com

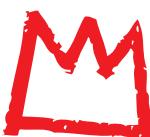
-  Instagram
-  Facebook
-  YouTube

ABOUT THE ARTIST

"Shamel Pitts commands attention. When performing with the Batsheva Dance Company, Israel's premier contemporary dance troupe, he projects magnetic focus and pounces with ferocious abandon."
– Brian Schaefer, *The New York Times*

Shamel Pitts is a Brooklyn-born dancer, performance and spoken word artist, and a teacher. He graduated from the Juilliard School and danced with BJM Dance in Montreal, Mikhail Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance, and Sidra Bell Dance in New York. Shamel began his professional training at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High of the Performing Arts (formerly known as the Fame School,) and simultaneously studied at The Ailey School. Having moved to Israel in 2009, he was a company member of Batsheva Dance Company from 2009 to 2016 and has performed in many of their recent productions, including such critically-acclaimed shows as MAX (BAM NextWave 2009), and SADEH21 (BAM NextWave 2014).

With a passion for dance as well as other forms of artistic expression, Pitts has been collaborating with visual, film and performance artists on variety of projects, including the photography series 4SEASONS by Alex Apt, and a dance film Arrowed (dir. Celia Rowlson-Hall; a part of the ongoing project by the fellow Batsheva alumna and longtime collaborator Bobbi Jene Smith.) Shamel is also an accredited teacher of Gaga, the movement language created by Ohad Naharin, and has been leading workshops in Israel, USA, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands, and many other countries, and has been on faculty at SUNY Purchase, The Juilliard School, and the Nederlands Dans Theater Summer Intensive. Currently based in Tel Aviv, Pitts is an active member of the city's nightlife scene as a performer and producer.



<https://www.shamelpitts.com>