

GagaLab in Tel Aviv, Israel Over Winter Break

Zohar Ziff, Miller Arts Scholar

Gaga is a movement language developed by Batsheva Dance Company and its artistic director Ohad Naharin. Rather than use mirrors to direct dance through shape, Gaga encourages students to improvise based on imagery and somatic experiences while following an instructor. I have taken Gaga classes and workshops before. In 2016 I attended a Batsheva Dance Company summer intensive, and more recently took frequent Gaga classes while studying contemporary dance in Israel during my gap year. This past summer I participated in a Gaga workshop with Michal Sayfan, a former Batsheva company member.

This winter, GagaPeople – the entity that organizes Gaga workshops and classes – is offering an [8-day GagaLab intensive in Tel Aviv](#) from December 24 - December 31, where I would take Gaga classes and additional courses to delve deeper into Gaga methodologies and techniques. That technique would then be applied while learning Batsheva Dance Company repertoire. Attending this intensive would not only be an exercise in rekindling my familiarity with Gaga, but will teach me how to approach researching movement, sensation, and improvisation that I will continue to explore as a performer and creative artist in the dance minor. The unique choreography I would practice will broaden the range of ideas I will implement in my own compositions both during the dance composition course offered in the spring and for the bi-annual dance concerts.

I am requesting the full \$500 mini grant funding amount to help fund the intensive, and personal funds will cover the remaining \$605. While personal funds will cover lodging and the remaining amount of the GagaLab, receiving a mini grant to fund the majority of the intensive would substantially decrease personal financial burden. My travel has already been arranged to Tel Aviv because I will be visiting extended family there over the winter break. I am an Israeli citizen, so I do not need a visa to travel to this country.

List of expenses

<i>Item</i>	<i>Price</i>
GagaLab Tel Aviv Intensive	2800 Israeli shekels = \$790
<i>Additional out-of-pocket costs</i>	
Attend performance by Vertigo Dance Company	150 Israeli shekels = \$45
Lodging in Abraham Hostel for 9 nights	\$270
Total	\$1105

Timeline

December 2019 - January 2020	Complete GagaLab and outcome report.
January - May 2020	Enroll in dance composition; continue to develop skills in choreography by combining what I learned in the intensive with composition coursework; choreograph for the spring or fall 2020 dance concert.
Summer 2020	Continue Gaga education by completing the Batsheva Summer Intensive in Tel Aviv or a Gaga workshop in Europe.