

## LOS ANGELES CHOREOGRAPHERS & DANCERS/ LOUISE REICHLIN & DANCERS

**LA C&D presents soulful, imaginative dance works that take audience members on their own journey of self-discovery.**

You may be more familiar with our company with "**The Tennis Dances**" reviewed as one of the best works ever created in Los Angeles, "**The Patchwork Girl of Oz**", a joyous work for families based on the wonderful book by L. Frank Baum, creator of "The Wizard of Oz", or "**Tap-Dance Widows Club**", reviewed as "a transformational work, both hilarious and moving".

Now comes another intriguing story that EMPOWERS and ENTERTAINS.

"**A Jewish Child's Story**" is an autobiographical dance multimedia work of early dreams from a granddaughter of Jewish immigrants. It has archetypal and personal characters from the 40's, including Wonder Woman, K'ton ton, and a ballerina, and biblical figures from my own and other cultures including Rebekah at the Well, and Miriam with her cradle holding Moses. It is particularly relevant today with the immigration focus. Part II, "Yellow Star", deals with research on the Holocaust about relatives never known. The work, created and written by Louise Reichlin, is winner of the Bruce Geller Memorial Prize.

The work as a whole was first performed at the Madrid Theater in Los Angeles through a special grant from the LA Theater Advance. The audience feedback that night focused on the power of "Yellow Star". Then we performed Part I at local schools, and were amazed that young children were drawn into the story, since all children dream whether from privileged or immigrant families. Their parents were pulled in by the music that had Spanish words. When we finally performed the work as a whole for general audiences, many wept at seeing their own life experiences and the winding of reality and lyricism the dance theatre multimedia work portrays. Limited performances to date also include Las Vegas, Culver City, and Santa Barbara. It is ready to come to your venue.





**Additional Notes on the Part I: The Roses on my Wallpaper- A Dream** – music by Luvi Torres and by Michelle Green Willner. Narration is by Louise Reichlin. To music with both Spanish and Hebrew words, this autobiographical work explores why I am comfortable using pieces in languages I may not understand, and the characters represent children's heroines and heroes from my own Jewish culture and others. When I was a child, I would wake up after an adventure and see the pink roses on my bedside table lamp, and the pink roses on the wallpaper, and wonder if this was really awake, or was this asleep, marking the day-time and waiting to go back to a much more exciting world. It also explores the idea that my grandparents were immigrants, and what it means to the first, and then 2nd, and then subsequent generations in our country.



**Notes on Part II: Yellow Star.** Yellow Star, was originally part of Reichlin's early multi-media work The E-Mail Dances, first shown in 1997. Michael Masucci was media collaborator. A review described: *"Yellow Star" grew out of Ms Reichlin's search, by geographical internet databases, for her Jewish roots. Her grand-parents, who came to the United States from Europe, never talked about the rest of their family who stayed behind. "Symbol of the Polish ghetto, the Yellow Star reflects Ms Reichlin's search by Internet genealogical databases for her Jewish roots. Seven dancers holding long wide strips of yellow-gold fabric, interpret stylized moves a la Fiddler on the Roof. Weaving and intertwining, they end the piece by sequentially placing the strips on the floor to form the six-sided star. At the same time, an overhead shot of the same dance is being projected on the rear screen. The combination of elements vividly evoked memories of the once vibrant culture and it's devastating demise. (Dance! 90210).*

Yellow Star was reworked and shown again in 2003- At a certain point, the image of the star begins to deconstruct (a previous shoot running backwards and worked on with a computer). In the original version, the piece ends with an empty stage, symbolizing the destruction of so much of the Jewish culture in Eastern Europe during the 2nd world war. In that new version, the dancers reappear and begin

dancing again as Reichlin looks around the stage, a more hopeful viewpoint with the memory kept alive. A review of that version: "*Memory also enriched Louise Reichlin's and Michael Masucci's ...intense Yellow Star, which asked projected imagery to provide a conceptual overview – literally the larger picture of what the live dancers evoked: the horrifying history of Polish Jews in the 20th century.*" (**The Los Angeles Times**)



"Yellow Star" was revised as part of a Bruce Geller Memorial Prize in 2016 and was added to the new Part I.

The web link to the current version edited from the Madrid Theater in Los Angeles, the Clark County Library Main Theatre in Las Vegas, and the Center Theater in Santa Barbara is: <https://vimeo.com/285921533>. The link to the 2 1/5 minute demo is: <https://vimeo.com/285900988>.

See more about the work, and the company at [www.LAChoreographersAndDancers.org](http://www.LAChoreographersAndDancers.org).  
Contact us at [louisehr@LAChoreographersAndDancers.org](mailto:louisehr@LAChoreographersAndDancers.org).  
213-385-1171 (o) or 213-458-3066 (c)

(Photos by George Simian)