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KESHET CHAIM DANCE ENSEMBLE OF LA

By Genie Benson

Keshet Chaim (Khayim), (Rainbow of Life), is a contemporary Israeli dance troupe based in Los Angeles, CA. Their dances express the spirit of Judaism and Israeli culture throughout the world. The repertoire of the group covers the Jewish influence in many lands, through a great span of history; from the time of Solomon and Sheba to the present. They transcend generations of Jewish thought and emotion through a mosaic of music, dance and color.

Artistic director and choreographer Eytan Avisar began his dancing career on an Israeli kibbutz. He toured the world as a dancer with Yonatan Carmon's Grand Music Hall of Israel and later as choreographer with the Hatzabarim Dance Group. His experience, enthusiasm and great vision have been the driving forces that have kept Keshet Chaim alive since he

founded it with Moshe Cafri in 1983. Oded Mansura, assistant choreographer, brings an extensive background in classical and modern ballet. He trained at the Dance Academy of Jerusalem and Bat-Dor, and performed world-wide with Yonatan Carmon until joining Keshet Chaim.

The ensemble represented Los Angeles at the Karmiel Festival in Israel in 1988 and 1990. They performed at the 1984 Olympics Celebration, the LA Festival, and the National Cantor's convention, as well as Israel Bond dinners and other community and private events.

Recent tours have taken them to Las Vegas and Sonora Bay; a tour is planned May 1992 to Florida.

Each spring, Keshet Chaim produces a show at the University of Judaism to showcase new works. The new Ladino Suite, "From Spain to Jerusalem," celebrates the cultures of the Sephardic and Israeli communities. This year marks the 500-year anniversary of the Jews' expulsion from Sepharad (Spain). The ensemble will also present a new Yemenite Suite, from traditional to modern times. Dancers will be joined by three world-renowned Cantors, Alberto Mizrahi from Chicago, Aaron Bensoussan from New York and Nathan Lam from Los Angeles.

For information contact 213/476-9777.

