

**Roger Waters,
founder of Pink
Floyd, on the
cultural boycott:**

“Where governments refuse to act, people must, with whatever peaceful means are at their disposal. For me this means declaring an intention to stand in solidarity, not only with the people of Palestine but also with the many thousands of Israelis who disagree with their government’s policies, by joining the campaign of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel. This is a plea to my colleagues in the music industry, and also to artists in other disciplines, to join this cultural boycott.”



In November 2010, South African Artists Against Apartheid issued their founding declaration, which stated:

“As artists of conscience we can act to resist the normalization of Israel’s apartheid policies. Some may hide behind the excuse that art is apolitical. However, artists have not been hesitant in taking a position against racism and inequality. As South Africans we benefitted from such a position of conscience.”



**ADALAH-NY:
The New York
Campaign
for the Boycott
of Israel**

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*Cultural Ambassadors
for Israel*



“We will send well-known novelists and writers overseas, theater companies, exhibits... This way you show Israel’s prettier face, so we are not thought of purely in the context of war.” — Arye Mekel, Israel Foreign Ministry Spokesperson

WHY ARE WE PROTESTING BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY AT BAM?

We are New York City-based human rights artists and activists supporting the struggle for justice, human rights, equality and democracy in Israel/Palestine.

As residents of New York City, including Brooklyn, we appreciate the Brooklyn Academy of Music's (BAM) history as a progressive arts institution. We know that BAM supports diversity, equal rights, environmental consciousness and grassroots community action.

However, from November 12-15, BAM is hosting the Batsheva dance company.

BATSHEVA WHITEWASHES ISRAEL'S ETHNIC CLEANSING OF PALESTINE

Batsheva is not an apolitical dance company. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs funds Batsheva and refers to the group as “the best known global ambassador of Israeli culture.”

Batsheva's tour is part of the “Brand Israel” initiative designed to distract from the facts of Israel's ongoing occupation and colonization of Palestinian land, and its denial of rights to Palestinians the world over—whether living under occupation in the West Bank or

Gaza, citizens of Israel, or refugees. It is especially disgraceful that BAM would host this representative of the Israeli state in the aftermath of Israel's assault on Gaza this past summer, which left more than 2,000 people dead, including at least 500 children.

Hana Awwad, who spent years performing with one of the premier Palestinian dance troupes, El Funoun, explained to Adalah-NY:

As a Palestinian dancer based in the West Bank, I am prohibited by the Israeli government from traveling to Gaza for performances. After Israel's 2008 military assault on Gaza, our Ramallah-based dance troupe resorted to performing for our people in Gaza via a satellite link. Some of our dancers are prohibited by the Israeli government from ever accompanying the troupe when it performs in neighboring Palestinian cities and abroad.

In 2005, Palestinian civil society organizations issued a call, modeled on the call for the boycott of apartheid South Africa, for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israeli institutions until Israel ceases its violations of Palestinian rights and respects international law.

It is inappropriate for BAM, with its progressive history, to host Batsheva, a cultural ambassador of Israel's apartheid policies.

That's why we are here tonight to protest Batsheva's performance.

Tell BAM's President, Karen Hopkins, (khopkins@BAM.org) that until Israel complies with international law and respects Palestinian human rights, BAM should not book performances that are part of “Brand Israel”.

