

Pamela Schwartz – Whakatane 2026

Hi everyone!

I'm incredibly excited and honoured to have been invited to tutor at the 2026 Whakatane Israeli Dance Workshop. I can't wait to reconnect with many familiar faces after so many years, and for those who don't yet know me, here's a little about my journey in Israeli dance.

I was born and raised in Córdoba, Argentina, and began Israeli dancing at the age of five — a passion that has remained with me ever since.

At 17, I was selected to join the prestigious performance troupe "Lehakah," representing the city of Córdoba at numerous community festivals and events. During this time, I also began teaching Israeli dance to children of various age groups and creating choreographies for children's festivals.

In 2003, I moved to Auckland, New Zealand, where I co-led the Maayan Israeli Dance Group alongside Erica Teicher. Together, we taught popular weekly classes, prepared performances, and organised the highly successful 2005 Machol Pacifica workshop, which featured renowned Argentinian tutors Marcelo Marianoff and Paula Pernitchi.

In 2007, I relocated to Melbourne, Australia, where I continued my involvement in Israeli dance, attending multiple classes each week and immersing myself in the vibrant dance community.

Since 2012, I have been part of the teaching staff at the Hora Israeli Dance Group. I continue to attend camps and workshops regularly to stay current with repertoire and to learn from internationally respected choreographers, including Gadi Bitton, Dudu Barzilai, Rafi Ziv, Yaron Ben Simchon, Avi Levi, and many others.

For around four years, I also co-founded and led a children's Israeli dance group called *Bamba Israeli Dancing* alongside a close friend. The group grew successfully and gave us the opportunity to teach at schools and community events. Although the challenges of the COVID period eventually led to the group coming to an end, we are still often invited to prepare 12-year-old girls for their Bat Mitzvah celebrations.

While I continue to be a staff member of the Hora Israeli Dance Group, since 2022 I have also taken on the role of leading the line dance classes each Monday prior to the circle and partner sessions — a challenge I have thoroughly enjoyed. Overall, I dance around four times a week, totalling approximately nine hours.

I've also had the privilege of returning to Aotearoa New Zealand as a guest tutor for Machol Pacifica in 2009, 2011 and 2018, teaching in Wellington, Whangarei and Wanganui.

I'm truly looking forward to another wonderful workshop filled with dancing, learning, connection, and shared experiences together. See you all soon! xx