



# SUNDAY CULTURE in the IDF

Habima National Theatre



Sundays are culture days in the IDF, Israel Defence Forces. Brainchild of the IDF Education Corps, this non-profit initiative ensures that Israeli soldiers are armed with a different kind of knowledge. With the Sunday Culture program, young men and women throughout the IDF are treated to unique cultural experiences across the country before they return to base after weekend leave.

Partnering with leading Israeli cultural institutions, the popular program includes concerts, art exhibits, plays, dance performances, or film screenings that encourage interaction with artists of all kinds.

Through experiential, hands-on encounters, soldiers gain heightened levels of understanding and insight, and discover new models of reflection and self-expression.

Embraces Israel's multicultural society. Elevates values of diversity and pluralism. Strengthens personal and national identity. Builds morale and lasting bonds of unity. Sparks the imagination.



Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company



Israeli Andalusit Orchestra, Ashdod



## The army is the face of the nation

In a country where military service is mandatory, the army experience provides the widest common denominator in a highly diverse population. The responsibility placed on all Israelis at such an early and impressionable age is daunting. Their performance in the ranks, at checkpoints or on the battlefield reflects the lessons and ethos of Israeli society.

Sunday Culture in the IDF provides a unique avenue for personal growth, giving young soldiers a chance to further explore national values and cultural identity, and in the process reinforces a tolerant, more compassionate nation.

As "food for the soul", the program gives more than intellectual and cultural sustenance. Sunday Culture is strengthening the country's moral fiber by giving soldiers a forum to probe and debate a broad range of issues. Helping soldiers navigate the challenges and dilemmas they encounter in the army, and as citizens upon release, Sunday Culture in the IDF is empowering the nation's greatest natural resource, its youth.

Brought together in an informal, nonmilitary setting, soldiers and officers are inspired to greater cooperation and cohesiveness, leading to higher group morale.



**"Life as a soldier at a checkpoint is particularly difficult. The shifts are long and the routine becomes grey. Endless streams of people trying to cross - it isn't simple to contend with both the human and security elements. You need food for creative and positive thought, and Sunday Culture in the IDF gives it to you. Amid the chaos, it makes me feel connected to civilization."**

— Yair, IDF soldier



Israel Museum

## Breathing life into Israeli culture

For many, Sunday Culture may be their first contact with Israel's vibrant performing and arts tradition. This program ensures that all soldiers, regardless of economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds, whether from development towns, kibbutzim or Israel's urban centers, benefit from enriching experiences.

Sunday Culture in the IDF guarantees a regular consumer base for Israel's cultural institutions, particularly in the periphery. Through a hands-on introduction to Israel's lively arts scene, the IDF is helping to create a sustainable commitment to the arts, building the next generation of enthusiasts, from the traditional to the alternative.

- Every soldier participates in Sunday Culture at least once a year.
- Combat soldiers, who are on the frontlines of the conflict, are a priority, participating up to three times a year.
- Some 30,000 soldiers take part in the program each year.

Beit Lessin Theater



## Participating cultural institutions include:

- Batsheva Dance Company
- Beersheva Theater
- Beit Lessin Theater
- The Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv
- Habima National Theatre
- Israel Museum
- Israel Philharmonic Orchestra
- Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company
- Tel Aviv Museum of Art
- Fringe and alternative groups



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in the **IDF**

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