

Eshebo

(Israel)

Eshebo (eh-SHAY-boh) was choreographed by Beber Shushan in 1991. The music is an Algerian folk song sung by Etti Ankri. Eshebo is a girl's name and means "beautiful," deriving from the French "est-ce beau." This dance was presented by Erica Goldman at the 2022 Stockton Folk Dance Camp and by Loui Tucker at the 2003 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Music: 2/4 Meter Music: Erica's Flash Drive from 2022 SFDC, or contact your local Israeli dance specialist.

Video: 2022 SFDC Downloads or the 2003 SFDC DVD.
 A search for "Eshebo dance" on YouTube will also yield a selection of videos.

Formation: Open circle of dancers, hands joined in V-pos, facing CCW.

Steps & Styling: Yemenite: Step R to R, bending R knee (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R across L (ct 2).
 Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Back Yemenite: Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk.

Debka Kick: Touch R heel fwd (ct 1); step R fwd (ct &). Can be done with L.

Cha-Cha: Step R fwd (ct 1); step on ball of L next to R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2). Can be done in any direction beginning with either foot.

Meas	PATTERN
8 cts.	INTRODUCTION. Wait through instrumental and vocal "ahs." Begin after the second descending scale, before the word "Eshebo" (8 cts).
I.	KICK-BALL-CHANGE. Face CCW, hands joined in V-pos.
1	Kick R across body twd ctr (ct 1); step R in place (ct &); step L slightly fwd (ct 2).
2	Repeat meas 1.
3	Step R fwd (ct 1); kick L fwd (ct 2).
4	Back Yemenite with L.
5-8	Repeat meas 1-4, and face ctr.
II.	CHA-CHAS TWD CTR. Facing ctr, hands joined in W-pos.
1-2	Beg R, two cha-chas moving fwd twd ctr (cts 1-2, 1-2).
3	Yemenite R (cts 1-2).
4	Step L in place (ct 1); stamp R beside L (ct 2).
5-6	Repeat meas 1-2 moving bkwd away from ctr.
7-8	Repeat meas 3-4.
III-A.	TWD CTR AND BACKING OUT (Short). Facing ctr, hands joined in W-pos. This figure is done only the first time through the dance; all other times use Figure III-B.
1-2	Yemenite R; Yemenite L. (cts 1-2, 1-2).
3	Step R twd ctr diag R (ct 1); touch L toes next to R (ct 2).

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- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk, moving fwd.
5 Step R bkwd diag R (ct 1); touch L toes beside R and clap hands to R (ct 2).
6 Beg L, two steps to turn L (cts 1-2).
7 L Yemenite facing ctr (cts 1-2). Face CCW to repeat from Figure I.
- III-B. TWD CTR AND BACKING OUT (Long). Facing ctr, hands joined in W-pos.
This figure is done EXCEPT for the first time through the dance.
- 1-5 Repeat Fig III-A meas 1-5.
6 Step L bkwd diag L (ct 1); clap hands to L (ct 2)
7-8 Beg R, three steps to turn R (cts 1-2, 1); step L next to R (ct 2).
- IV. DRUM SOLO. Facing ctr, hands joined in V-pos.
- 1 Hop on L, kicking R fwd and in front of L (ct 1); fall onto R, kicking L fwd and in front of R (ct 2).
2 Yemenite L.
3 Step R (ct 1); hop on R, raising L in arc to L and behind R (ct 2).
4 Step L behind R (ct 1); step R to R (ct &); step L in front of R (ct 2).
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
9 Facing CCW, beg R, two Debka kicks moving fwd (cts 1, &, 2, &).
10 Repeat meas 9.
11 Facing CCW, jump fwd onto both, knees bent and R slightly ahead of L (ct 1); bounce twice with ft tog and use the bounces to face ctr (ct 2, &).
12 Repeat meas 11 with jump slightly diag R and bounces slightly diag L. End facing ctr and take wt onto L.
13-14 Repeat meas 9-10 (debka kicks) fwd twd ctr.
15 Repeat meas 11 facing ctr.
16 Repeat meas 12.
17 Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); stamp R next to L (ct 2).
18 Repeat meas 17.
19-20 Beg R, four steps bkwd (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).
21-40 Repeat meas 1-20.

Sequence:

Fig I, Fig II, Fig III-A,
Fig I, Fig II, Fig III-B, Fig IV twice,
Fig III-B, Fig II, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III-B.
End facing ctr with Yemenite R, and point L to L side.

Lyrics (partial)

Eshebo, Eshebo, Eshebo bint bladi
Eshebo, Eshebo, Eshebo bint duwari

Eshebo, young girl of my town
Eshebo, young girl of my neighborhood