



BODYTRAFFIC

ABOUT BODYTRAFFIC

This Los Angeles-based repertory company uniquely reflects the diverse landscape of its city with its warm energy, athleticism, and eye toward aesthetic innovation. Since it was founded by Lillian Barbeito and Tina Finkelman Berkett in 2007, the company has surged to the forefront of the concert dance world and has been instrumental in establishing Los Angeles as a major center for contemporary dance. BODYTRAFFIC's ever-growing repertory represents many distinctive choreographic voices; it is versatile and accessible but also inspiring and challenging.

WORKSHOPS & OUTREACH

BODYTRAFFIC's outreach programs are led by the company's outstanding teachers, who offer guidance in technique, improvisation, composition, site-specific creations, and repertory. Aspiring dancers and participants of all ages, levels, and demographics gain an understanding of how their bodies move and how to communicate through dance. The company also has a special commitment to working with mixed ability populations. Through movement, touch, and music, mixed ability classes and workshops cultivate a common ground for creative expression for all people. In addition to enriching the lives of its participants, BODYTRAFFIC's mixed ability educational experiences also enhance open-mindedness about diversity in the field of dance and in society.

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

LILLIAN BARBEITO has a BFA from Juilliard, where she studied on a four-year, full-tuition scholarship awarded by Tomorrow's Leaders of America for work on dancing beyond ability. She has had an extensive performance career that has taken her to Europe, New York, and finally to Los Angeles, where she founded BODYTRAFFIC with Tina Berkett. She has taught dance internationally and is one of the 15 teachers in the world certified to teach Anouk van Dijk's groundbreaking Countertechnique method. Barbeito has choreographed over 50 works for high schools, universities, competitions, regional ballet companies, and professional modern dance companies throughout the US and Canada. She is currently a visiting assistant professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She has also worked for over 20 years with mixed ability populations, beginning in Sante Fe, New Mexico where she taught creative dance to youth with Down Syndrome

and conducted an all-ages, mixed ability contact improvisation class. In New York she was a GLUK Community Service Fellow, dancing for and with hospital residents, and in Los Angeles she has worked with the United Cerebral Palsy of Culver City.

TINA FINKELMAN BERKETT grew up in New York City and trained and learned to love dance under the tutelage of Michele Cuccaro Cain. She is a graduate of Barnard College and performed with Azure Barton & Artists throughout the US, including at Jacob's Pillow and Spoleto Festivals. She became Azure Barton's assistant and taught alongside Barton both in the US and abroad. Berkett also had the incredible honor of being a founding member of Mikhail Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance. In 2007, she moved to Los Angeles and founded BODYTRAFFIC with Lillian Barbeito.

PRESS

"...wonderfully precise dancers..." —*The New York Times*

"...one of the most talked-about young companies, not just in L.A. but nationwide" —*The Los Angeles Times*

"Vigorous. Powerful." —*artsJournal*

"BODYTRAFFIC suggests invention, attitude, and urban edge." —*The Boston Globe*

VIDEO

[BODYTRAFFIC Outreach Programs](#)

[In rehearsal – Richard Siegal's *O2Joy*](#)

[In rehearsal – Kyle Abraham's *Kollide*](#)

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