

SPOTLIGHT ON "Body Traffic"

COMING APRIL 12
TO THE SHARON

Tina Finkelman Berkett, the modern dance troupe's co-founder, stepped offstage to chat with *The Villages Magazine* about "Body Traffic."



What was your inspiration for founding "Body Traffic" in 2007?

Lillian Barbeito and I were both transplants from New York. I had just moved to Los Angeles and was taking a professional ballet class and Lillian was in there. We just dove in and started making this bucket list of choreographers to work with. I'm still dancing with the company. Lillian retired about two years ago from dancing.

Tell us about the dancers in "Body Traffic."

We're 10 at the current moment. The ones who've been with me the longest — five years — are California Institute of the Arts graduates. One dancer had an extensive career in Europe. Two danced for Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, and two dancers were with Cedar Lake Dance in New York and came to us after it closed... All of our dancers had careers before they came to Body Traffic, and we really value the experience and professionalism that come with seasoned artists.

The company recently had a special opportunity abroad. What was that like?

In January 2015, I got a phone call letting me know that "Body Traffic" was chosen by President Obama to be ambassadors of the United States for DanceMotion USA. It was among the best phone calls I could have ever wished for. We were gone for almost two months in Israel and Jordan, mostly doing outreach and education with children of different abilities and different communities. It was incredible, life-changing and an honor for our company.

What can we look forward to about your upcoming show in The Villages?

Body Traffic is really at this moment giving a proper sampling of what's happening in contemporary dance today. It's amazing to see a company as versatile and diverse as we are. It's a show that really presents the company. You get three distinct pieces, each so different from the next. We kind of give a high-class dinner menu of dance — an appetizer, dinner and dessert.

- The first piece, "And At Midnight, The Green Bride Floated Through The Villages Square....," and the last work, "O2Joy," premiered at the Joyce Theater on June 2012 in New York City. They're really our signature works. We do them almost everywhere we go for the first time.
- "Once Again, Before You Go," which premiered May 2014, is by Victor Quijada based on his Rubberband method. It's really specific and very special and an amazing way for the dancers to grow.

What are you most looking forward to about coming to The Villages?

We love Florida. We were in Palm Beach last year. I grew up in New York, but I spent a lot of time in Florida. We're happy to be in a place kind of similar to our own. People who enjoy their lives really get the opportunity to enjoy our work. They feel open and available to take in what we are a part of.

See "Body Traffic" at 7 p.m.
April 12 at The Sharon.
Tickets are \$15-40 through
The Villages Box Office
or at thesharon.com.

