



Presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Media Contact

Rebecca Goering
Associate Director of Marketing & Communications
rgoering@ac.upenn.edu
215.898.6683

Dance Affiliates- Community Outreach

Anne-Marie Mulgrew
Director, Education & Special Projects
annemarie@danceaffiliates.org
215.636.9000 ext.110

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Hi-res images available at AnnenbergCenter.org/press or by request.

Los Angeles-based BODYTRAFFIC debuts on the Dance Celebration Series with three Philadelphia premieres

(Philadelphia, March 13, 2014) — Known for commissioning repertory from the most acclaimed contemporary choreographers, BODYTRAFFIC's Philadelphia debut will feature works by Barak Marshall, Richard Siegal and Kyle Abraham, a 2013 MacArthur Fellow. Founded in 2007 by Tina Finkelman Berkett and Lillian Rose Barbeito, BODYTRAFFIC is dedicated to defying the notion that Hollywood only produces commercial dance. Presented by Dance Affiliates and the Annenberg Center, performances will take place on **Thursday, April 3 at 7:30 PM, Friday, April 4 at 8 PM and Saturday, April 5 at 2 PM and 8 PM**. Tickets are \$20-\$55 (prices are subject to change). For tickets or for more information, please visit **AnnenbergCenter.org** or call **215.898.3900**. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.



Named as one of *Dance Magazine's* Top 25 to Watch in 2013 and the first prize winner of the Los Angeles' A.W.A.R. D Show 2011!, BODYTRAFFIC will kick off its performance with Israeli-American choreographer Barak Marshall's piece *and at midnight the green bride floated through the village square...* (2012). Marshall's hilarious work *Harry* (2012) was seen recently on the Dance Celebration Series, performed by Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal. According to Marshall, the piece, inspired by a real Yemen family, "is a morality tale filled with dark humor." Set to an eclectic score ranging from traditional Yiddish, Ladino and Judeo-Arabic sayings and songs to the Barry Sisters' *Chiribim Chiribom*, *and at midnight* showcases Marshall's innovative aesthetic, recognized for its intense gestural vocabulary and fusion of contemporary movement with physical theatre.

Kollide (2013), MacArthur "genius" Kyle Abraham's first new work since he won the award, combines elements of ballet and hip hop in a fluid, sensual style entirely unique to Abraham that draws on the vocabularies of Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Eadweard Muybridge and Michael Jackson. With a five-panel Japanese-style backdrop and set to a string-dominated score, *Kollide* begins in a tranquil environment of love and desire then moves to the fiery realm of betrayal. The *Los Angeles Times* raves that "...*Kollide* is surely a timeless masterwork...Abraham's structural prowess here is Balanchine-strong."

The program concludes with the cheerful and exuberant *o2Joy* (2012). Choreographed by Munich Dance Award Winner Richard Siegal, *o2Joy* pays adoring tribute to American jazz standards and features music by Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Glenn Miller and The Oscar Peterson Trio. The piece is an expression of sheer joy through music and movement, promising to end BODYTRAFFIC'S Philadelphia debut on a high note.

BODYTRAFFIC is helping establish Los Angeles as a major center for contemporary dance. Founded in 2007 by Co-Artistic Directors Lillian Barbeito and Tina Finkelman Berkett, BODYTRAFFIC has surged to the forefront of the concert dance world. The young company is already internationally recognized for its high quality and vitality. Repertory includes works by Kyle Abraham, Sidra Bell, Stijn Celis, Sarah Elgart, Alex Ketley, Barak Marshall, Andrea Miller, Laura Gorenstein Miller, Zoe Scofield, Hofesh Shechter, Richard Siegal and Guy Weizman & Roni Haver; with an upcoming commission by Victor Quijada. BODYTRAFFIC has performed throughout the United States and in Canada. In June 2012, the company made its Joyce Theater (NYC) debut; in September 2013, BODYTRAFFIC made its Walt Disney Concert Hall debut at the

Los Angeles Philharmonic's Opening Night Gala performance; and this past summer marked BODYTRAFFIC's Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival debut. Most recently, BODYTRAFFIC presented two sold-out programs at Santa Monica's Broad Stage.

INSIGHTS

April 4

Audience members are invited to stay after the performance for a talk back with the company.

BODYTRAFFIC will also conduct two outreach activities — a Student Discovery performance for schools on Friday, April 4 at 10:30 AM and a complimentary master class for the dance community on Friday, April 4 at 2 PM. For information on outreach activities, contact annemarie@danceaffiliates.org or 215.636.9000 ext. 110.

Funding for the 13/14 Dance Celebration season is provided by the Connelly Foundation, Friends of Dance (Affiliates), the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and the Virginia C. Mulconroy Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation. State arts funding support is received through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Dance Celebration

Founded by Artistic Director Randy Swartz, Dance Celebration is the Greater Philadelphia region's major contemporary dance series and is nationally-recognized in its field. The 13/14 program marks Dance Celebration's 31st season. Dance Celebration is a collaboration between Dance Affiliates and Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The annual Dance Celebration series engages a broad range of world-class and emerging dance companies each season. As a major cultural asset to the city and region, the program enhances the quality of life of both residents and visitors.

Supporting Dance Celebration's primary mission of presenting and commissioning is a commitment to the presentation of diverse styles and choreography, cultures and nationalities; the cultivation of broadly-based adult and children's audiences; the enrichment of the school curriculum through quality children's matinees, arts education, and outreach; collaborations with performing arts partners in the field; and service to the local dance community through workshops, master classes, seminars and symposia.

Throughout its illustrious history, Dance Celebration has presented ancillary series including the edgy NextMove Festival (1999-2003), the groundbreaking Monday Night Series (1986-1998), and numerous special events (1987-2011). Nikolais Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Pilobolus Dance Theater and Murray Louis Dance Company launched the inaugural season at Annenberg Center in 1983, followed in subsequent years by modern dance legends Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Alvin Ailey, Bella Lewitsky and José Limón.

Dance Affiliates

Founded in 1979 by artistic director Randy Swartz as American Ballet Competition, the organization later changed its name to Dance Affiliates, reflecting its mission since 1983 as one of the nation's few remaining dance-only presenters. Its annual Dance Celebration program is Philadelphia's acclaimed and longest-running series of world-class contemporary dance. Having presented 200 companies in 1,500 performances, Dance Affiliates provides a wealth of opportunities for the Philadelphia community to interact with visiting dance artists through master classes, residencies, artistic collaborations, symposiums, film screenings, workshops, special student programs and pre- and post- performance curtain talks. Through more than 600 outreach programs, 30,000 students and aspiring dancers have been served. Visit www.danceaffiliates.org.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experience.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 30-year Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States.

Generous support for the 13/14 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The National Endowment for the Arts and The University of Pennsylvania as well as many individual donors. The Sheraton University City is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

For additional press information or to set up interviews, please contact:

Rebecca Goering, Associate Director of Marketing & Communications
215.898.6683 or rgoering@ac.upenn.edu

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