



**US Department of State and Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)
announce fifth season of cultural diplomacy program
*DanceMotion USA*SM**

**Participating companies BODYTRAFFIC, Dance Heginbotham, and
Limón Dance Company to launch international tours in 2015–16**

March 31, 2015/Brooklyn, NY—The US Department of State and Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) announced today the three American dance companies selected to participate in the fifth season of *DanceMotion USA*SM—the dynamic cultural diplomacy program that supports United States foreign policy goals by engaging international audiences through educational opportunities, cultural exchange, and performance. *DanceMotion USA*SM is a people-to-people international exchange initiative of the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, produced by BAM.

Season five features the following companies and world regions:

- BODYTRAFFIC, from Los Angeles, CA, will travel to the Middle East—Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Territories.
- Dance Heginbotham, from New York, NY, will tour to Southeast Asia—Indonesia, Laos, and the Philippines.
- Limón Dance Company, from New York, NY, will tour to Africa—Madagascar, South Africa, and Zambia.

Participating companies will embark on consecutive, four-week-long international performance and exchange tours. *DanceMotion USA*SM offers high-caliber artistic work to global audiences that may not otherwise be exposed to American artists. In connection with the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and building on *DanceMotion USA*SM’s tradition of engaging with disabled groups, this year’s program will further emphasize outreach to people with disabilities and promote disability awareness abroad.

Companies participate in outreach events, workshops, master classes, media interviews, performances, and discussions about arts management and technical production with local artists and audiences in a variety of venues and settings. A US-exchange component to the program is also being planned for one of this season’s participating companies.

To date, *DanceMotion USA*SM has engaged with more than 100,000 participants in 48 countries and has reached more than 40 million people online. It is an integral part of the US State Department’s efforts to connect people—particularly youth and marginalized communities—through cultural exchanges worldwide. The program has also provided rich experiences for the US-based dance companies and choreographers, who have formed resonant collaborative relationships with new artistic colleagues worldwide.



BAM President Karen Brooks Hopkins said, “BAM is honored to have been chosen once again as the US Department of State’s sole grantee and producer of this important cultural initiative.

We are proud to be working with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs on a program that values the worldwide impact of engagement with the arts.”

BAM Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo said, “Deploying the arts to build global cultural bridges is a natural extension of our core mission at BAM. We have witnessed the resonant connections made through *DanceMotion USASM* with communities worldwide; we have also observed the impact on its ambassadors—the US dance companies forging life-changing artistic and personal relationships.”

Season Five *DanceMotion USASM* Companies

BODYTRAFFIC is helping to establish Los Angeles as a major center for contemporary dance. Founded in 2007 by Artistic Directors Lillian Barbeito and Tina Finkelman Berkett, BODYTRAFFIC was named “the company of the future” by the Joyce Theater Foundation, and was included in *Dance Magazine*’s 25 to Watch in 2013 and *The Los Angeles Times*’ Best of Culture. The young company is already internationally recognized for its high quality work, and features repertory by Kyle Abraham, Sidra Bell, Stijn Celis, Alex Ketley, Loni Landon, Barak Marshall, Andrea Miller, Laura Gorenstein Miller, Joshua Peugh, Victor Quijada, Hofesh Shechter, Richard Siegal, and Guy Weizman & Roni Haver.

BODYTRAFFIC has performed at prestigious theaters and festivals throughout North America, including the Joyce Theater, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, New York City Center’s *Fall for Dance*, Chutzpah! Festival in Vancouver, Laguna Dance Festival, The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, Annenberg Center in Philadelphia, and World Music/CRASHarts in Boston. Performance highlights include the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s opening night gala at Walt Disney Concert Hall conducted by Gustavo Dudamel, and a collaboration with choreographer Victor Quijada, sculptor Gustavo Godoy, and composer Jasper Gahunia in a site-specific endeavor for Dance Camera West on Los Angeles’ Music Center Plaza. BODYTRAFFIC provides a wide range of training opportunities for both pre-professional and working dancers through open company classes and workshops. The company’s outreach program provides dance classes and rehearsal access to inner-city schools both at home and on tour.

bodytraffic.com

Founded in 2011, **Dance Heginbotham** (DH) has quickly established itself as one of the most diverse and exciting newcomers to the American contemporary dance scene. Well-known for his 14-year tenure dancing with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Artistic Director John Heginbotham and his young company are celebrated for their vibrant athleticism, humor, and theatricality. DH has enjoyed several critically acclaimed collaborations with artistic icons including musical ensembles Alarm Will Sound and Brooklyn Rider, and is in the process of creating a new work with visual artist Maira Kalman. Since its world premiere at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2012, the company has been presented by prestigious institutions such as BAM, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among others.

The recipient of the 2014 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, Heginbotham has garnered a reputation for engaging dance students of all ages and abilities. He is on faculty at Princeton University, and has set work on academic institutions including Barnard College and Dartmouth College. He has taught master classes across the globe and is a founding teacher of Dance for PD®, an ongoing collaboration between the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Brooklyn Parkinson Group. danceheginbotham.org

Hailed as one of the world's greatest dance companies, the **Limón Dance Company** has been at the vanguard of American modern dance since its inception in 1946. The company is the living legacy of dance-theater developed by José Limón and his mentors Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman—whose innovative works revolutionized American dance. After Limón's death in 1972 the company pioneered the idea that it was possible to survive the death of its founder, setting an example for the entire dance field. Now in its 69th year, Limón Dance Company is renowned for its technical mastery and dramatic expression, and demonstrates both the timelessness of José Limón's works and the humanistic vision that guides the repertory choices.

Founded in 1946 by José Limón and Doris Humphrey, the company is now led by Carla Maxwell, who worked closely with Limón before becoming artistic director in 1978. The company has been committed to producing and presenting programs that balance classic works of American modern dance with commissions and acquisitions from contemporary choreographers, resulting in a repertory of unparalleled breadth. In its first half-century, the company achieved many important milestones: it was the first group to tour under the auspices of the American Cultural Exchange Program (1954)—a progenitor of *DanceMotion USASM*, the first dance troupe to perform at Lincoln Center (1963), and has had the honor of appearing twice at The White House (1967 and 1995). More recently the José Limón Dance Foundation was awarded a 2008 National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence. limon.org

Visit DanceMotionUSA.org

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DanceMotion USASM is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State, produced by Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) to showcase contemporary American dance abroad.

Credits

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