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WELLS
FARGO

**PAST AND PRESENT UNITE WITH MASTERWORKS AND
A WORLD PREMIERE AT DBDT'S CULTURAL AWARENESS SERIES
PRESENTED BY WELLS FARGO**

(February 11, 2015) *Dallas, TX* – Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) celebrates the richness of the African-American experience during Black History Month with its **Cultural Awareness** series February 20-22, at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in the AT&T Performing Arts Center. Two solos, one by **Alvin Ailey** and the other by **Talley Beatty**, connect the audience to past classics, while newer works and a **world premiere** root the audience in the present.

Choreographed by the world renowned **Talley Beatty** in 1947, *Mourner's Bench* features a lone male who both grieves and celebrates the Black experience during the racially-charged 1920s. **Alvin Ailey's** *Reflections in D*, a solo, takes its title from the music accompaniment by **Duke Ellington**. The dance alternates between serene and percussive movements as it paints the iconic jazz score across the stage.

The **world premiere** of *Oremus*, choreographed by company dancer and resident choreographer **Richard A. Freeman, Jr.**, showcases all 12 company dancers. Latin for “prayer,” this stunning new contemporary work draws influence from spiritual references as dancers investigate safety, boundaries, and belonging in the search for hope and answers. “It’s an important work, I believe,” said **DBDT Artistic Director April Berry**. “Richard has something to say every year, and he has ideas that are relevant. He doesn’t look to other choreographic voices. He’s original that way.”

The performances also include two beloved modern works of DBDT’s repertoire: *Lambarena*, choreographed by **Troy Powell**, Artistic Director of Ailey II, and *A Boundless Journey*, choreographed by Guggenheim Fellow **Dianne McIntyre**. Exploring the soaring motions of birds, *Lamberena* juxtaposes Western and African culture through a musical mesh of Bach and African sounds and rhythms, while McIntyre’s ensemble work recapitulates the entire Black experience in America, from slavery to Jim Crow to civil rights.

For the fifth year, **Wells Fargo** returns as a presenting sponsor of the series. “Wells Fargo is committed to supporting organizations and events that make significant contributions to the communities where we do business,” said **Wells Fargo Area President Scott Wallace**. “Cultural programs like this greatly add to the quality of life in our communities, and this is why we are active supporters of this wonderful organization. We are honored to have supported Dallas Black Dance Theatre over the past 10 years and look forward to continuing to partner with them for many years to come.”

Performances open to the general public are **Friday, February 20, at 7:30pm; Saturday, February 21, at 2:30pm and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, February 22, at 2:30 pm**. In addition, two **SOLD OUT Student Matinees** will be held **Thursday, February 19**, for 1,000+ area schoolchildren.

New this series, DBDT will launch **All Access**, a new program of audience engagement activities after the evening performances. The **Friday evening Artist’s Discussion** features resident choreographer **Richard A. Freeman, Jr.** in a conversation moderated by **Artistic Director April Berry**. The **Saturday evening** performance will be followed by a **DBDT Dance Party** with company dancers and a live DJ on the Wyly

(over)

stage (21 years and older welcome). Both events are complimentary with ticket purchase and include a cash bar.

All performances are at the **Wyly Theatre** at **2400 Flora Street** in the **Dallas Arts District**. To purchase tickets, call the **AT&T Performing Arts Center box office** at **(214) 881-0202** or visit www.attpac.org. For **group sales**, call **(214) 871-2390**.

Cultural Awareness is presented by Wells Fargo, with additional support provided by the Barrett Family Foundation Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas.

The Resident Choreographer is generously funded by Andy McCarthy & Samara Kline in honor of Kalita Blessing.

Promotional photos available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9yewh6wkwmxjzkl/AABVGarp6zSdi0b_YxPVIR1Ba?dl=0

Photography by Sharen Bradford – The Dancing Image

Picture of solo dancer is Sean J. Smith. Picture of two dancers are Michelle Hebert and Kimara Wood.

Additional photos available upon request.

About Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Founded in 1976 by Ann Williams, the mission of Dallas Black Dance Theatre is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. With an ever-expanding national and global audience, the company employs a diverse, multi-ethnic troupe of dancers performing for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Located at the eastern end of the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District and under the direction of Artistic Director April Berry, Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is a nationally recognized professional modern dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. Over the course of its history, DBDT has performed worldwide for 3.5 million arts patrons and 2.5 million students, grades K-12, and annually serves more than 95,000 persons in Dallas and the North Texas area, including more than 20,000 youth.

*Dallas Black Dance Theatre's professional company, **DBDT**, consists of 12 full-time professional dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, African and spiritual works by nationally and internationally choreographers. DBDT's second company, **DBDT II**, consists of 8 volunteer artists from around the nation to support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach.*

***Dallas Black Dance Academy- the official school of Dallas Black Dance**, celebrates 41 years of providing dance instruction to the community. Over 475 students participate weekly in over 50 dance classes in the disciplines of ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are offered at the DBDT studios located at 2700 Ann Williams Way in the Dallas Arts District as well as in local schools and community centers.*

38th Season Sponsors (2014-2015)

Dallas Black Dance Theatre appreciates the support provided by the following generous community, corporate and philanthropic organizations for its 38th Season of Dance: Season Sponsors: Downtown Business News, Texas Instruments, Office of Cultural Affairs – City of Dallas. Artistic and Choreography sponsored by: NorthPark Center, Jean Baptiste (Tad) Adoue III Fund of The Dallas Foundation, and the Bowdon Family Foundation. Additional season support provided by: National Endowment for the Arts – cArtWorks, American Airlines, Texas Commission on the Arts, AT&T Performing Arts Center, Lexus, Yellow Cab, Black Business Directory, Elite News, DallasBlack.com, Dallas Examiner, Metroplex Daily, Busca Apps, CBS Channel 11, Dallas Weekly, Post Tribune, WRR and Radio One. DBDT gratefully acknowledges legacy sponsor: Harold Simmons Foundation.