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**DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 | 39<sup>TH</sup> SEASON:  
VISION RENEWED**

TWO COMPANY PREMIERES BY MASTER CHOREOGRAPHERS

SIX WORLD PREMIERES BY RISING CHOREOGRAPHERS,  
INCLUDING FOUR CURRENT AND FORMER DBDT DANCERS

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GUEST ARTISTS

THREE INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

(August 25, 2015) *Dallas, TX* – Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is thrilled to announce its 39<sup>th</sup> season: **Vision Renewed**. This season's theme reflects the company's commitment to honoring its rich history while looking to the future by featuring new works by up-and-coming choreographers.

The season includes two company premieres of masterworks by renowned dance makers **Margo Sappington** and **Bruce Wood®**, as well as world premieres by **Bridget L. Moore** and **Kirven Douthit-Boyd**. Past and current DBDT dancers **Jamal Story**, **Nycole Ray**, **Edmond Giles**, and **Richard A. Freeman, Jr.** will also create new works for the company. Guest artists for the season include Atlanta-based **Giwayen Mata** and the dance ensemble from **Sungkyunkwan University** in South Korea.

"DBDT's 39<sup>th</sup> Season is evocative, innovative, and fresh," said **Associate Artistic Director Melissa M. Young**, who has been with the company for over 20 years. "Above all, it's stellar dance that bridges storytelling, culture, and current events. DBDT continues to evolve while paying homage to its nearly 40-year legacy in Dallas."

The season includes **three performance series** in **November**, **February**, and **May** at DBDT's home theatre, the **Dee and Charles Wily Theatre**. "As a resident company of AT&T Performing Arts Center, we are honored to call the Wily Theatre home for our Dallas season," said **Executive Director Zenetta S. Drew**. "This intimate space creates an inclusive art experience for our patrons."

Other performances include the season opener, **DanceAfrica**, held at Annette Strauss Square and City Performance Hall, and **Dancing Beyond Borders**, Metroplex performances in Richardson and Fort Worth in March. **DBDT II**, the company's highly acclaimed, semi-professional second company, will again showcase its artistry with **Spring Fiesta!** in April at City Performance Hall.

DBDT will present its fifth season of **Masterworks Redefined in New York** in late April at the Ailey Citigroup Theater. The company will also travel to **Maryland** for a weeklong residency that includes masterclasses and performances at the Publick Playhouse in Cheverly, Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C.

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DBDT has also been invited to headline the **Dance X BZ Festival** in **Belize** in November, and DBDT II will tour to **Mexico** in November for the **Festival Internacional de Otoño** and **Chile** in May for the **Fintdaz – International Festival of Theater and Dance**. This season marks the organization's first booking in Chile.

Dallas performances will continue to feature **DBDT All Access**, a program launched last year of audience engagement activities after the evening performances. The **Friday evening Talkback with the Choreographers** lets patrons engage with the choreographers and dancers about the artistic process. An **Onstage Dance Celebration** follows **Saturday evening performances** with company dancers and a live DJ. Both events are complimentary with ticket purchase and include a cash bar.

Subscriptions went on sale **August 19, 2015**, and single tickets go on sale **September 10, 2015**. Flexible subscription packages give patrons a variety of ways to enjoy Dallas' longest continuously operating dance company. Tickets can be purchased by calling the **AT&T Performing Arts Center box office** at (214) 880-0202 or [www.attpac.org](http://www.attpac.org). For **group sales**, call (214) 871-2390.

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## 2015-2016 | 39<sup>th</sup> Season

<b>DanceAfrica</b>	October 2-3, 2015	City Performance Hall
<i>Festival only</i>	October 3, 2015 at 10am-5pm	Annette Strauss Square
Guest Artist Sponsored by <b>NorthPark Center</b>		Supported by <b>Union Bank</b>

DBDT will hold **DanceAfrica** the first weekend of October. This cultural favorite features the only festival devoted to the African diaspora in the downtown Dallas Arts District. The free, outdoor festival features community and professional dance and drum ensembles. The ticketed evening performances feature **all five performing ensembles of DBDT**, festival founder and Director **Dr. Baba Chuck Davis**, Atlanta's all-female powerhouse **Giwayen Mata**, local favorites **Bandan Koro Drum and Dance Ensemble**, and Booker T. Washington's HSPVA's **World Ensemble**.

<b>Director's Choice</b>	November 6-8, 2015	Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre
Presented by <b>Texas Instruments</b>		Choreography Sponsored by <b>NorthPark Center</b>

The company's first performance series in its home theatre, the **Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre**, kicks off November 6-8, 2015, with the music of **Prince**. DBDT will perform the **Company and Dallas premiere** of *Slide*, originally choreographed by the **Tony-nominated Margo Sappington** for the Joffrey Ballet. What the *LA Times* called "bold, artful contrasts in dynamics and emotion," this ballet is set to the musical genius of **Prince** and satirizes male machoism. The company will also revive works from its repertoire, including **Booker T. Alum Christopher Vo's touch(listen)** and **Ailey dancer Hope Boykin's in•ter•pret**.

<b>Black on Black</b>	December 11-12, 2015	DBDT Studios
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This Choreographer's Challenge takes the performance back into the studios. Dancers from both the first and second companies collaborate to create and perform original dance works. In addition to the provocative in-studio performances, attendees will enjoy an after-hours dance party with live DJ and an open bar. Patrons 21 and over are welcome.

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**Cultural Awareness**  
Presented by **Wells Fargo**

February 19-21, 2016

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

February's Wyly performance commemorates **Black History Month**. The Cultural Awareness series continues **SMU alum Jamal Story's** aerial ballet that premiered to standing ovations last season. The ballet suite will feature numerous myths from classic lore. Other **world premieres** include ensemble works from the **2012 Princess Grace Award Recipient Bridget L. Moore** and **former Ailey dancer Kirven Douthit-Boyd**. The company will also revive **Francesca Harper's *Instinct 11.1***.

**Dancing Beyond Borders**

North (Richardson)

March 4, 2016

Eisemann Center

Supported by **Texas Instruments**

West (Fort Worth)

March 10, 2016

W.E. Scott Theatre

Both companies perform for DBDT patrons in their hometowns. The first weekend of March features a performance in **Richardson** at the **Eisemann Center for Performing Arts**, followed the next weekend with a performance in **Fort Worth** at the **W.E. Scott Theatre** in the **Fort Worth Community Arts Center**. Both companies will feature the most acclaimed works of the current season.

**DBDT II – Spring Fiesta!**

April 8-9, 2016

City Performance Hall

Presented by **Macy's**

DBDT II is a semi-professional dance company featuring modern dance's next generation of stars. Their annual concert, Spring Fiesta!, also highlights emerging choreographers. This year, DBDT II will present **two world premieres**, one by **former DBDT dancer Edmond Giles** and one by **current DBDT dancer and resident choreographer Richard A. Freeman, Jr.** The company will also revive **Broadway choreographer Ray Mercer's *Inside the Absence of Fear***. DBDT's premier Academy performing ensemble, **Allegro**, will also perform.

**Masterworks Redefined**

April 22-23, 2016

Ailey Citigroup Theater

DBDT presents its fifth New York Season at the Ailey Citigroup Theater. The company will feature classic works of the modern dance repertoire, as well as works premiering during the current season that have the potential to become classics.

**Spring Celebration**

May 20-22, 2016

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

Presented in partnership with the **Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger Family****SOLUNA International Music & Arts Festival**Choreography Sponsored by **NorthPark Center**

DBDT closes its 39<sup>th</sup> season with the **company premiere** of the late **Bruce Wood's® *RED***. Set to the music of **Philip Glass**, Mr. Wood's iconic work explores American identity and perspective through explosive choreography. **Former DBDT dancer and current DBDT II Director Nycole Ray** will also create a **world premiere** for this performance. DBDT features a guest artist each year at Spring Celebration; this year's guest artist will be the dance ensemble from **Sungkyunkwan University** in South Korea, under the direction of **Bridget L. Moore**.

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**Touring**

<b>Festival Internacional de Otoño</b> DBDT II	November 4-8, 2015	Matamoros, Mexico
<b>Dance X BZ Festival</b> DBDT	November 24-27, 2015	Belize City, Belize
<b>International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference</b> DBDT & DBDT II	January 22-24, 2016	Denver, Colorado
<b>Prairie View A&amp;M University</b> DBDT	February 10-11, 2016	Prairie View, Texas
<b>Fintdaz – International Festival of Theater and Dance</b> DBDT II	May 10-18, 2016	Iquique, Chile

To book, contact Ann M. Williams, Founder, at (214) 871-2376 or a.williams@dbdt.com.

**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 in the downtown Dallas Arts District, Dallas Black Dance Theatre 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 100,000 people, 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 9 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 Theatre, celebrates 42 years of providing dance instruction to the community. Over 475 students participate weekly in 50 dance classes of ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are located at DBDT studios, as well as in local schools and community centers.*

**2015-2016 | 39<sup>th</sup> Season Sponsors**

*Legacy Sponsor: Harold Simmons Foundation*

*Season Sponsors: Office of Cultural Affairs – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, American Airlines, and Downtown Business News.*

*Additional Season Supporters: National Endowment for the Arts, WRR, Texas Commission on the Arts, Yellow Cab, Black Business Directory, NorthPark Center, Lexus, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Weekly, Elite News, AT&T Performing Arts Center, OverSeeMyIT, and The Dallas Post Tribune.*