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**DanceAfrica Moves to East End of Dallas Arts District**  
*Performances to be Held at Booker T. Washington HSPVA*

**[September 8, 2014]** –DALLAS –Dallas Black Dance Theatre begins the 38<sup>th</sup> Season with the community favorite **DanceAfrica** on September 19 and 20 at the **Montgomery Arts Theater at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (BTWHSPVA)**.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is thrilled to feature the **Booker T. Washington HSPVA World Dance Ensemble**, an 18 member dance troupe under the direction of former DBDT dancer, Michelle Hall.

A rich, cultural experience, DanceAfrica celebrates African and African American dance, culture and arts and is modeled after the largest festival of its kind in America (**Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York**) founded by **Chuck Davis, EdD**. Davis, returns for a 9<sup>th</sup> season to lead the celebration. As a highlight, community elders will be performing choreography by Davis.

Davis will also **teach** master classes and perform various outreach activities in the community as a component of DBDT's in-school programming funded in part by the South Dallas Fair Park Trust Fund and AT&T.

Returning for the fifth year will be audience favorite, **Bandan Koro Dance and Drum Ensemble** under the direction of Tony Browne. Bandan Koro, which in the West African language Malinke means "under the tree," is a local performing arts group promoting awareness and respect for West African culture in the DFW area with both education and performance.

As an added bonus, all five of the performing companies of DBDT (**DBDT, DBDTII, Allegro, Senior and Junior Performing Ensembles**) will be participate.

A highlight of *DanceAfrica* is the annual festival and marketplace that will take place on Saturday, September 20. The free event features a main stage with performances by local talent and a marketplace. Local artists representing an eclectic cultural background will show off their talents on the mainstage. Vendors representing several African countries and the African Diaspora will be present with goods and services reflecting their unique region.

In addition, there will be bounce houses and an arts and crafts area designed specifically for children.

**DanceAfrica** is made possible with funding provided by **City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, Texas Commission on the Arts, IBM, Booker T. Washington HSPVA, and Trendy Africa Magazine.**

*DanceAfrica* performances are Friday and Saturday evenings, September 19-20, at 7:30pm at the Montgomery Arts Theater at Booker T. Washington HSPVA, 2501 Flora Street. Tickets can be purchased by calling the ATPAC Box Office at 214.880.0202 or visiting [atpac.org](http://atpac.org).

Group tickets can be purchased by calling the DBDT Ticket Sales office at 214.871.2390.

*DanceAfrica* Festival and Marketplace is Saturday, September 20 from 9:00am – 5:00pm in the 2700 block of Flora Street at the eastern end of the Dallas Arts District in front of the offices of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. For more information, visit [dbdt.com](http://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 ensemble of dancers performing for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.*

*Located at the eastern end of the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, 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 known choreographers. DBDT's second performing company, **DBDT II**, consists of 8 semi-professional 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 Flora Street in the Dallas Arts District as well as in local schools and community centers.*

### **Sponsors for the 38<sup>th</sup> Season of Dance (2014-2015)**

*Dallas Black Dance Theatre appreciates the support provided by the following generous community, corporate and philanthropic organizations for its 38<sup>th</sup> 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 -ArtWorks, American Airlines, Texas Commission on the Arts, AT&T Performing Arts Center, Lexus, Yellow Cab, Southside on Lamar, Black Business Directory, Elite News, DallasBlack.com, Dallas Examiner, Metroplex Daily, Busca Apps, CBS Channel 11, WFAA Channel 8, Dallas Weekly, Post Tribune, WRR and Radio One. DBDT gratefully acknowledges legacy sponsor: Harold Simmons Foundation.*

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