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## A New Director - A New Series Dallas Black Dance Opens Season with Director's Choice

**[October 21, 2014]** –DALLAS – Dallas Black Dance Theatre opens its Wyly Performance Series, Friday, October 31 with world premieres and audience favorites.

The Director's Choice Series marks a return to the AT&T Performing Arts Center Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre for a full season. The first series under the reigns of Artistic Director **April Berry** features a world premiere from **Garfield Lemonius**, former Dallas Black Dance Theatre dancer and current Point Park University faculty. Titled *Memoirs*, Lemonius capitalizes on the strong technique, musicality and physical strength of the Company. The presentation of his new work is made possible through the generous funding of NorthPark Center and the Jean Baptiste (Tad) Adoue III Fund of The Dallas Foundation.

Audience members will especially enjoy the elegance of Dallas Black Dance Theatre's dancers in *Etudes and Elegy* by master choreographer, **Gene Hill Sagan**. Also included in the program is the full length ballet, *Escapades* by another master choreographer, **Alvin Ailey**. Other than the Ailey Company, Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the only professional company with the rights to perform the full length ballet.

For the sixth consecutive year, Texas Instruments returns as a performance sponsor. "Texas Instruments is proud to be a sponsor and partner of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Their performances enrich our community, make it more vibrant and improves the quality of life. We are fortunate that this internationally renowned organization calls Dallas home." said Andy Smith, Texas Instruments director of corporate philanthropy.

Additional funding support for Director's Choice and it accompanying Student Matinee Performance is provided by Union Bank and the Louise W. Kahn Endowment Fund of The Dallas Foundation.

Performances take place October 31 – November 2 with Friday and Saturday evening performances that begin at 7:30pm and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30pm. Tickets may be purchased by contacting the AT&T Performing Arts Center Box Office at 214-880-0202. For groups, contact the DBDT Patron Services Office at 214-871-2390.

A special matinee for students K-12 will be held on Thursday, October 30 at 10:30am. The performance is free for DISD students. Space is still available but requires a reservation. To reserve space for your class, please call the DBDT Academy Office at 214-871-2387.

For further information regarding this performance or any other, visit the DBDT website at 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 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 known choreographers. **DBDT**'s second performing 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.

## Sponsors for the 38th Season of Dance (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 -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.