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DALLAS' Best Dance Company Closes Season With New Works

[MAY 1, 2015]—DALLAS- Dallas Black Dance Theatre, completes their 38th season with classic and innovative works that push boundaries at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre on May 15-17.

Premiering in this series will be one commissioned world premiere and one company premiere by noted choreographers **Daniel Catanach** and **Jamal Story**.

DBDT will present **Bridget L. Moore's** classic work *Southern Recollections: For Romare Bearden*, and *Surface*, by **Daniel Catanach** as part of the inaugural Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemiseger SOLUNA International Music and Arts Festival.

Catanach's work, *Surface*, with original music by composer David Dabbon, will focus on the celebration, struggle, and triumph of young men growing up in urban America. The premiere integrates ballet, urban gesture, and social and modern dance.

The company will also premiere a new striking aerial work by **Jamal Story** entitled, *What to Say? Sketches on Echo and Narcissus*. This dance is based on the myth of Narcissus, one of the most well-known Greek myths centered on the story of Echo and Narcissus. Rich, visually stunning and highly accessible, this slice-of-life pas de deux is unabashed in its message: communication in love is seldom simple.

In addition, the series will feature guest performances from nationally renowned artists. Two principal dancers from **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** will perform a beloved duet from their repertoire, *Pas de Duke*, a work originally performed by Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov. The flirtatious piece bridges ballet and modern dance to music by Duke Ellington and is a perennial crowd favorite across the country. The guest performance will take place on Friday, May 15 only. Choreographer, **Jamal Story**, will also perform as a soloist on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17.

The Spring Celebration series will mark the completion of Dallas Black Dance Theatre' first season with newly appointed Artistic Director, April Berry.

TACA (The Arts of Community Alliance) returns as the presenting sponsor for the series. TACA champions artistic excellence in performing arts organizations. "TACA has had the privilege of providing financial support to Dallas Black Dance Theatre since 1978. To date, TACA has awarded DBDT \$731,000. We value the work that this important company does in our community as well as its role as an international ambassador for our city. DBDT has helped shaped our cultural landscape in many ways," said **Rebecca Young, TACA President & Executive Director**.

TACA is the presenting sponsor for this series and the Guest Artist Sponsor is **Morgan Stanley**.

Surface was commissioned by the **Dallas Symphony Association** in collaboration with the SOLUNA Festival, with additional support provided by **The Hersh Foundation**.

Serving as Honorary Co-Chairs for DBDT's 38th Season Finale Performances are **Harriett & Laura Jeffers-Murray** and **Kwame & Alana Watkins**.

Performance dates and times are Friday, **May 15, 2015 at 7:30 pm**; Saturday, **May 16, 2015 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm**; Sunday, **May 17, 2015 at 2:30 pm**.

Tickets are on sale now and are available by calling the AT&T Performing Arts Center Box Office at (214) 880-0202 for individual tickets; **(214) 871-2390 for groups**; or by visiting www.dbdt.com.

To arrange interviews with DBDT Artistic Director April Berry, please contact: Sonya Spencer (214) 415-1647.

About Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's mission is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence. DBDT fulfills this mission through performances and educational programs - offered for everyone, regardless of race, age or circumstances - that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities.

Founded by Ann Williams in 1976 to inspire minority children to appreciate dance as an art form and express their creativity, DBDT now offers opportunities for the entire population through professional performances, arts-in-education programs, community outreach, and dance training.

Located at the eastern end of the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District at 2700 Ann Williams Way in the renovated historic Moorland YMCA building and performing as a resident company in the AT&T Performing Arts Center's Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, DBDT is a nationally recognized professional dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. Over its 38-year history, DBDT has performed for 3.5 million arts patrons and 2.5 million students, grades K-12, in 30 states, 14 countries, and across 5 continents.

In 2014, DBDT hired internationally acclaimed master teacher, educator and choreographer April Berry as only its second Artistic Director. Born in New York, Ms. Berry was a former principal dancer for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and most recently served as an adjunct faculty dance instructor at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte teaching modern dance and improvisation.

DBDT performs a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally renowned choreographers and consists of a professional company (Dallas Black Dance Theatre), a volunteer company (Dallas Black Dance Theatre II), and three Academy youth ensembles (Allegro Performing Ensemble, ages 14-17; Senior Performing Ensemble, ages 12-15 and Junior Performing Ensemble, ages 9-12). Additionally, the 41-year-old Dallas

Black Dance Theatre Academy is the official dance training school of DBDT and offers year-round classes in ballet, tap, modern, jazz and ethnic dance for ages 4 and up to more than 475 students per week.

DBDT's key initiatives include: professional dance concert performances, arts-in-education programs, community outreach activities, touring and dance training classes. During its 2013 Season, DBDT served 98,575 adults and youth, including 71,211 citizens of Dallas through 8,661 services in Dallas.

Today, DBDT is known as “one of the top five arts organizations of color in the nation”, according to Michael Kaiser, former President of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Mr. Kaiser also endorsed the company by saying, “Dallas Black Dance Theatre serves as the city of Dallas’ chief cultural export.”

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, and 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

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