

# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



*RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE*

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## **Dallas Black Dance Theatre Opens 39th Season with Director's Choice Features Works of International and Texas Grown Masters**

Dallas, TX - The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) opens its' 39th season with its Director's Choice Series that includes a Dallas premiere and works by master choreographers who have set pieces around the world. As a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center, the opening will be held November 6-8,2015 in the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, 2400 Flora St., Dallas, Texas 75201.

The Director's Choice Series features the Dallas premiere of Joffrey Ballet lifetime achievement award recipient **Margo Sappington's** *Step Out of Love*, a hard-hitting piece for five women, set to a commissioned rock music score by Stephen Forsyth. Sappington who grew up in Baytown, Texas says, "I am so excited to be working with the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. From the work I have seen of the company I feel that *Step Out of Love* is a perfect fit for the dynamic women of the company."

Audience members will enjoy works by master choreographers like Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 16-year veteran **Hope Boykin**. Boykin's *in-ter-pret* is a light-hearted dance to a classic Tchaikovsky score. The late **Talley Beatty** is considered a dance industry icon. Beatty's fun and competitive old school throw back - *A Rag, A Bone, and A Hank of Hair* is set to the music of Prince and Earth, Wind and Fire. International choreographer **Christopher L. Huggins'** *Night Run* is a quick-paced ballet that captures the feel of what happens when time is running out at the end of the night. As a master teacher and choreographer, Huggins has worked in Italy, France, Norway, U.K., Switzerland, Slovenia, Austria, Japan, Korea, Jamaica, South Africa, and throughout the United States.

The Friday and Saturday night audiences will get to take part in free premium post-performance activities. Friday there will be a Talkback with Choreographers and Saturday DBDT will host an On-stage Dance Celebration.

"We are excited to bring the artistic brilliance of such dynamic world-class choreographers to Dallas to open our season with the theme Vision Renewed," said Melissa M. Young, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Associate Artistic Director. "The achievements of these choreographers will only add to the excellence of our dancers."

For the seventh consecutive year, the Director's Choice series is presented by Texas Instruments. "Dallas Black Dance Theatre consistently presents engaging, thought-provoking performances that enhance the quality of performing arts for North Texas residents and visitors," said Andy Smith, director of corporate philanthropy at Texas Instruments. "TI is delighted to again sponsor the innovative Director's Choice series."

Additional funding support for Director's Choice is provided by NorthPark Center, Dallas Black Dance Theatre's choreography sponsor.

Director's Choice performances will be held November 6 - 8, 2015 with Friday and Saturday evening performances that begin at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinee starting at 2:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased by contacting the AT&T Performing Arts Center Box Office at 214-880-0202 or visit [www.attpac.org](http://www.attpac.org). For groups, contact the DBDT Patron Services Office at 214-871-2390.

For further information regarding the Dallas Black Dance Theatre visit [www.dbdt.com](http://www.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. The company members hail from across the country from California to Washington D.C. as well as overseas from British Columbia and Trinidad/Tobago. 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 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 | 39th Season Sponsors**

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*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, Elite News, AT&T Performing Arts Center, OverSeeMyIT, and The Dallas Post Tribune.*

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