

# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



*RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE*

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## **Dallas Black Dance Theatre Opens 39th Season with Director's Choice Master Choreographer Hope Boykin Refreshes her Original DBDT Work**

"Hum ha yeah"

There is no music, but choreographer Hope Boykin creates her own sound language.

"Wah huh sah"

Boykin's sounds communicate both beat and movement.

"Then zoom"

The 12 members of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre company move to her beat and follow her dance moves.

This is all part of the creative process that Boykin, a 16-year veteran of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, uses to refresh *in.ter.pret*, the dance she created 9 years ago for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

Boykin watches the dancers closely as they move. "I love to refresh my works and make them original for the members of a specific company," explained Hope Boykin. "I watch the way a dancer moves even while stretching and may see a motion I can incorporate while refreshing the dance.

During the interview Hope is standing, but in constant motion herself. She is swaying, stretching, moving to her own beat, while answering questions. "The fact that Ms. Williams likes this piece so much that she has given me the opportunity to come back and restage it for her Director's Choice program is a huge honor," said Boykin. "I loved the way the company performed it the first time, but now the current dancers can make this piece their own."

Then Hope Boykin turns on the music. It is a classic Tchaikovsky score. The dancers move keeping her sound language in their mind while they dance the *in.ter.pret* moves that now flow to Tchaikovsky.

Hope describes her piece as lighthearted, quick, fun, and whimsical with expansive full-movement. "I use classical music all the time to create new contemporary dance works," explained Boykin. "I love to see my work come alive!"

*in.ter.pret* is part of the Director's Choice series that opens the 39th season for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Director's Choice will be held November 6-8, 2015 in the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre located at 2400 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas 75201. The Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinee starts at 2:30 p.m.

Director's Choice also includes:

- 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.
- International choreographer Christopher L. Huggins' *Night Run*, a quick-paced ballet that captures the feel of what happens when time is running out at night.
- Master choreographer, the late Talley Beatty's fun and competitive old school throw back - *A Rag, A Bone, and A Hank of Hair*, set to the music of Prince and Earth, Wind and Fire.
- **DBDT ALL ACCESS** - After the curtain closes there will be premium post-performance activities - on Friday a Talkback with Choreographers and on Saturday an On-stage Dance Celebration.

For more details and ticket information visit [www.dbtd.com](http://www.dbtd.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.*

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Tribune.

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**Photographs by Ramona Logan**

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Dallas Black Dance Theatre company members follow the motions of international choreographer Hope Boykin.



Dallas Black Dance Theatre company members watch international choreographer Hope Boykin demonstrate a sequence of steps of the dance she created.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre, 2700 Ann Williams Way, Dallas, TX 75201

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