

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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Two November International Tours for Dallas Black Dance Theatre DBDT Performing in Belize and Mexico

Dallas, TX - The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) continues its tradition of sharing its artistic excellence internationally with two tours scheduled in November 2015. DBDT starts off the month performing in the Festival Internacional de Otoño in Matamoros, Mexico November 4-8, 2015. The company closes the month performing in Belize City, Belize November 24-30, 2015 at the Dance X BZ 2015.

The Patronato del Festival Internacional de Otoño invited DBDT II to give a performance as a part of its 25th annual festival that celebrates arts and culture in Matamoros, Mexico. The second company will perform three works on November 7, 2015 in the Teatro de la Reforma. The company will also present a Master class and perform an outreach activity as part of this International Residency. "Dallas Black Dance Theatre is so excited to be returning to the Festival Internacional de Otoño after 19 years, for this wonderful cultural exchange," said Nycole Ray, the Artistic Director for DBDT II.

The Institute of Creative Arts through the National Institute of Culture and History invited dance companies from only six countries to take part in the international Dance X BZ Festival. While in Belize, the DBDT professional company will perform an entertaining and diverse program as well as participate in a second program at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts. Company members will also conduct master classes and workshops throughout the community.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre has formed an ongoing collaboration with the Institute of Creative Arts because former DBDT dancer Jamie Thompson is a native of Belize. "We are thrilled about this exchange. This is an opportunity to continue our mission of bridging cultures and what better way than performing on an international stage," said DBDT Associate Artistic Director Melissa Young.

DBDT II has a second international tour date in the Spring of 2016. The company will take part in the Fintdaz Festival in Iquique, Chile May 6-14, 2016. The official invitation said DBDT II was invited to take part in the festival because of the contribution the company makes to the universal creative knowledge. While in Chile the company will perform three performances as well as provide dance workshops.

During its 39-year history, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has a tradition of sharing its talents with the world starting in 1991 when the company performed in Lima, Peru and did a 10-city performing tour in Italy.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre opens its Dallas season with the Director's Choice series November 6-8, 2015 in the Dee and Charles Wyly 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.
- Alvin Ailey lead dancer Hope Boykin's *in-ter-pret*, a light-hearted dance to a classic Tchaikovsky score.
- 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.

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 national and international 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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Photograph by Brian Guilliaux.



(l-r) DBDT II company members Richard Falls Jr., Sierra Jones, Ricardo Burgess, Lailah Duke, Herman Houston III, Akilah Brooks, Christen Ashley Williams, and Eduardo Castrejon.

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