

RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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Contact: Ramona Logan 214-871-2376 Ext. 411 214-882-2451 r.logan@dbdt.com

## Behind the Scenes with Dallas Black Dance Theatre Free Annual Thanksgiving Holiday Performance

Dallas, TX - It has become an annual Thanksgiving holiday gift from Dallas Black Dance Theatre; a free peek behind the scenes of DBDT's five performing companies. The Behind the Scenes performances will take place the week of Thanksgiving, November 23-25, 2015, at noon in the DBDT studios at 2700 Ann Williams Way in the Dallas Arts District.

The professional dance company hosts the program on Monday, November 23 before it leaves on tour for Belize, Central America to perform in the International Dance X BZ Festival. DBDT dancers will provide a glimpse of their rehearsal process and perform excerpts from their upcoming repertoire.

DBDT II has charge of the program on Tuesday, November 24. They will give a lecture demonstration, sharing the rehearsal process, as well as how they learn choreography. DBDT II will perform excerpts of works from the upcoming season, including an excerpt from the premiere of *Hymnal: deconstructed* created by international choreographer Sidra Bell.

The aspiring performers in the DBDT Academy will show off their talents on Wednesday, November 25. The academy has three performing ensembles - Allegro Performing Ensemble, whose members are the elite 13- to 17-year-olds of the academy; the Senior Performing Ensemble, made up of exceptional academy students between the ages of 12 and 16; and the Junior Performing Ensemble, which is comprised of young, talented academy students who are 9- to 12-year-olds. All three ensembles will perform a piece from their repertoire and will also give a behind-the-scenes look at techniques used in ballet, jazz and modern dance.

"Each day the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions and get to know more about the dancers, our class schedules, and what it takes before stepping on the stage and presenting performances to the public," states DBDT Founder and Artistic Advisor Ms. Ann Williams. "This is an opportunity for the community to sample all of our talented companies from the professional side and the dance academy side."

While the hour-long Behind the Scenes performances are free, there are only 100 seats available in the dance studio, so it is important to RSVP by sending an email to <a href="mailto:info@dbdt.com">info@dbdt.com</a>.

## **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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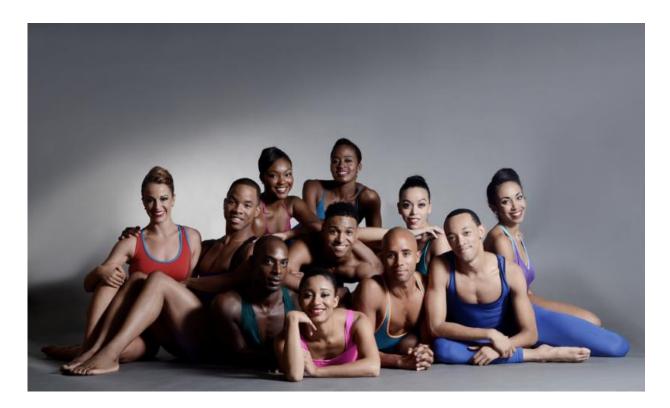
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DBDT company members (I-r back row) Michelle Hebert, Claude Alexander III, Jasmine White-Killins, and Hana Delong; (I-r middle row) Keon K. Nickie, Kimara Wood, and Alyssa Harrington; (I-r front row) McKinley Willis, Sean J. Smith, De'Anthony Vaughan, and Kayah Franklin.



(I-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.

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

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