

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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Dallas Black Dance Theatre Dancers Choreograph Black on Black A Holiday and Dance Experience

Dallas, TX - What happens when dancers at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre professional company and DBDT II use their talents to choreograph dance works for each other to perform? You get the sixth annual *Black on Black* Mingle and Jingle - A Holiday & Dance Experience on December 11-12, 2015. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. each night at the DBDT studios located at 2700 Ann Williams Way in the Dallas Arts District.

Eight dancers from both DBDT, the professional company, and DBDT II have choreographed original works for this performance. "This program will be very diverse, matching many music genres to movement style and context," explained DBDT dancer Sean J. Smith who is coordinating the artistic part of the event. "The pieces range from touching and heartfelt, to athletic, quirky, funny, urban, and some even contain social commentary. We enjoy this opportunity to create for each other."

This opportunity gives DBDT dancers the chance to see the dance experience from the choreographer's viewpoint as well as test their creative ability to develop and produce an artistic work. DBDT dancers who have choreographed works for this performance include Claude Alexander III, Keon K. Nickie, De'Anthony Vaughan, Kayah Franklin, McKinley Willis and Sean J. Smith. DBDT II dancers who have choreographed works include Ricardo Burgess and Christen Ashley Williams.

"*Black on Black* originally started to allow both DBDT and DBDT II a creative voice to collaborate with one another. We wanted to create an outlet to integrate both companies in a fresh, new way. Both companies choreograph one another and perform with each other, hence the name *Black on Black*," explained DBDT Associate Artistic Director Melissa Young. "Each year their choreography reaches new levels of interest and excitement. With the intimate studio setting, the audience can get to know the dancers up close and personal, which in turn develops a deeper connection when they see the dancers perform on the main stage."

Black on Black is an experience that includes more than just a dance performance.

6:00 p.m. MINGLE at the reception with complimentary light bites and cocktails.

7:00 p.m. Enjoy the artistry, creative and innovative works choreographed by DBDT and DBDTII.

8:00 p.m. JINGLE at the After-Party where you will be joined by the dancers to celebrate the

season.

You must be at least 21 years old to attend. Share the holiday spirit and bring an unwrapped gift for a child that will enable you to be entered into a raffle for door prizes.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting the AT&T Performing Arts Center Box Office at 214-880-0202 or visit 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.

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 Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image.**



DBDT dancer Sean J. Smith is coordinating the artistic part of the *Black on Black* Mingle and Jingle-A Holiday & Dance Experience.

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