

DALLAS BLACK
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**Artistic Collaboration between
Dallas Black Dance Theatre and The Dallas Opera in SHOW BOAT
DBDT II Dancers are Featured in the Production**

April 4, 2016 - Dallas, TX - Dallas Black Dance Theatre is proud to join The Dallas Opera in an artistic collaboration on the production of Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II's groundbreaking masterpiece SHOW BOAT. DBDT II dancers will perform throughout the production. SHOW BOAT opens April 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. for the first of six performances in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas, Texas.

When SHOW BOAT (which tells several stories over the course of four decades, including the bittersweet story of an interracial romance) was initially produced in 1927, it was one of the first times black and white performers shared the same stage and equal billing on Broadway.

The DBDT II dancers participating in this production are: Akilah Brooks, Ricardo Burgess, Lailah Duke, Herman Houston III and Christen Ashley Williams. "Dallas Black Dance Theatre is looking forward to this artistic partnership with The Dallas Opera and our DBDT II dancers," said Dallas Black Dance Theatre Founder Ann Williams. "This is a unique adventure of two resident companies of the AT&T Performing Arts Center collaborating with one another to present a high-caliber performance in the Dallas Arts District."

"One of my goals since coming to The Dallas Opera six years ago has been to seek out impactful artistic collaborations with our peers in the Arts District," explains The Dallas Opera's Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO Keith Cerny. "Dallas Black Dance Theatre was one of the arts organizations at the top of that wish list and I am enormously grateful to Ann Williams, Zenetta Drew and Nycole Ray for responding with such enthusiasm to our overtures." The Dallas Opera production of SHOW BOAT is made possible through the generous contributions of Tom and Phyllis McCasland and TACA.

DBDT II dancers have double duty during the month of April preparing for two major productions. In addition to performing in SHOW BOAT, DBDT II will present

its sixteenth season of Spring Fiesta! with performances on April 8-9, 2016 at the Dallas City Performance Hall.

"DBDT II is a powerhouse when it comes to the energy and stamina it takes to rehearse and perform both of these productions at the same time," said DBDT II Artistic Director Nycole Ray. "As a company they work well together and they are very spirited." DBDT II heads to Iquique, Chile in May to take part in the Fintdaz Festival.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre will host the April 15 opening night cast party at DBDT studios in the Dallas Arts District for the SHOW BOAT cast and invited guests. The chairmen of both Dallas Black Dance Theatre and The Dallas Opera will attend, as well as members from both boards.

For the six SHOW BOAT performance dates, April 15 through May 1, 2016, and ticket prices, visit www.dallasopera.org or call 214-443-1000.

The performance on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. will be simulcast live on the big screen at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas as a free community event. Free parking is available in lots 1, 2, 3 and 10.

For more information about 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 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. Dallas Black Dance Theatre's second company, DBDT II, consists of 8 volunteer artists from around the nation to support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach.

About The Dallas Opera

The Dallas Opera is an internationally recognized innovator and leader dedicated to the overall advancement of the operatic art form, support of established and emerging international artists, and the education and development of new opera audiences in North Texas and beyond. These goals are being achieved by commissioning, creating and producing world-class opera as part of a diverse

programming model; through institutes, competitions and topical programs; and by presenting opera in both traditional and non-traditional formats and venues in order to engage and develop patrons of every educational level, ethnicity, age and background-while also serving the cultural needs of the community-at-large. The Dallas Opera is equally committed to responsible stewardship and is managed with accountability, efficiency and the highest possible standards of artistic excellence. For more information about The Dallas Opera, visit www.dallasopera.org.

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

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