

# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



*RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE*

MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON 3 WORLD PREMIERES BY MASTER CHOREOGRAPHERS 2 INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS A SEASON FROM HISTORY TO INNOVATION

**Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** announces its 40th anniversary during the 2016-2017 season, **40 Years Forward**, from history to innovation. The season's theme reflects the trajectory of the company that has maintained its excellence in artistry as it has developed into a world-renowned dance organization. This season includes three world premieres, including a commissioned work that reflects the legacy of the organization and another utilizing technology to create a unique audience experience. New this season, DBDT is offering an innovative initiative, group season subscriptions.

DBDT celebrates its fourth decade with some nostalgic dance themes. **Matthew Rushing**, of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, is choreographing **Tribute**, a dance that chronicles 100 years of Black dance masters. It will be a world premiere during the **Director's Choice** series, November 4-6, 2016, at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre. Mr. Rushing's choreography has been selected as a recipient of a grant from the **TACA Donna Wilhelm Family New Works Fund**.

The 40-year evolution of Dallas Black Dance Theatre unfolds in the world premiere of **Interpretations** by DBDT company member **Sean J. Smith**. **Interpretations** makes its world premiere during the **Cultural Awareness** series, February 17-19, 2017, at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre. **Interpretations** is supported in part by an award from the **Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts**, and foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

"Dallas Black Dance Theatre is rich with history and we are excited to tell the story of our 40-year legacy through dance," said **Ann Williams**, founder of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. "We are grateful to all of our patrons and sponsors over the decades. We could not have reached this milestone without their support." Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the largest minority arts organization in Dallas and the tenth largest in the country.

In addition to historical pieces, DBDT will be using innovation so members of the audience can create their own experience in **Tiffany Rea-Fisher's, The B Side**. Headphones will allow them to select from three original music scores as they view the dance. The world premiere of **The B Side** reinvents the concert dance experience during the **Director's Choice** series.

The season finale during the **Spring Celebration** series at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre includes both choreography and dancers from **Ballet Austin**. Ballet Austin's Artistic Director, **Stephen Mills**, will premiere a contemporary piece in Dallas with DBDT company

members. In addition, the performance will also feature special guest artists from Ballet Austin.

Other performances include the October season opener, **DanceAfrica**, during the tenth annual DanceAfrica festival at the Annette Strauss Square and performances October 7-8, 2016, at the Dallas City Performance Hall. **Dancing Beyond Borders** features both **DBDT** and **DBDT: Encore!** (formerly DBDT II) in Metroplex performances in Richardson and Fort Worth during March 2017. The **Rising Excellence** series showcases DBDT: *Encore!*, the next generation of professional dancers, April 7-8, 2017, at the Dallas City Performance Hall.

The 2016-2017 touring season of Dallas Black Dance Theatre includes international performances in Dance X BZ 2016 in Belize City, Belize in November 2016 and the Fintdaz Festival in Iquique, Chile in May 2017.

### **SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW, INCLUDING INNOVATIVE GROUP SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Dallas Black Dance Theatre has developed an innovative **Group Season Subscription** for the 2016-2017 season. The new process will allow groups of at least 10 people to book multiple performances, through a group season subscription, and receive a 30% discount on performance tickets.

"The group season subscriptions allow educational institutions, universities, and other groups to streamline their requisition and approval process for payment. This will make it easier for them to plan group activities over a year," said **Zenetta Drew**, Dallas Black Dance Theatre Executive Director. "This group subscription has a deep discount, the largest one that we offer."

Both group season and regular season subscriptions are on sale now. Not only are subscription ticket prices less but also do not include convenience fees.

For group season subscriptions and group sales, call (214) 871-2390. Individual subscriber benefits include a 15% discount on ticket prices. To select individual season packages, visit the AT&T Performing Arts Center at [www.attpac.org](http://www.attpac.org).

Single tickets go on sale September 1, 2016, at [www.attpac.org](http://www.attpac.org).

#### **2016-2017 | Season Sponsors**

Legacy Sponsor: Harold Simmons Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Cultural Affairs - City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, NBC 5, Yellow Cab, The Downtown Business News, I Messenger, American Airlines and The Dallas Weekly.

#### **2016 - 2017 | Season Supporters**

Season Supporters: Northpark, Texas Commission on the Arts, Art Works, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, OverseeMyIT, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Post Tribune, Elite News, and AT&T Performing Arts Center.

#### **2016 - 2017 | Performance Sponsors**

**DanceAfrica** presented by AT&T

Co-sponsors: Union Bank, The Dallas Arts District

**Director's Choice** presented by Texas Instruments

Choreography sponsor: TACA

Co-sponsor: Silent Events

**Cultural Awareness** presented by Wells Fargo

Choreography sponsor: Mid-America Arts Alliance

**Dancing Beyond Borders** is supported by Texas Instruments

**Rising Excellence** presented by Macy's

### **Spring Celebration**

Choreography sponsor: Northpark

### **About Dallas Black Dance Theatre**

Founded in 1976 by **Ann Williams**, **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** has become the largest minority arts organization in Dallas and the 10th largest in the nation. 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 and internationally recognized professional modern dance company. DBDT engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African American experience. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the longest-running professional dance company in Dallas.

Over the course of its history, DBDT has performed on five continents, in 15 countries and 31 states for 4 million arts patrons and 2.6 million students, grades K-12, and annually serves more than 100,000 people, including more than 20,000 youth.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five companies and an Academy. 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 from overseas, from British Columbia and Trinidad/Tobago.

**DBDT: *Encore!*** (formerly DBDT II) features eight artists of rising excellence from across the nation that support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach.

For more details visit [www.DBDT.com](http://www.DBDT.com)

**Dallas Black Dance Academy**, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, celebrates 43 years of providing dance instruction to the community. Over 500 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. The academy has three performing ensembles; Allegro, which is DBDT's premier academy ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble.

For more details visit [www.dbdt.com/academy](http://www.dbdt.com/academy)

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DBDT company member Hana Delong in Dallas Arts District. Photograph by The Dallas Dance Project.



DBDT company members Hana Delong and Sean J. Smith on Ron Kirk Bridge. Photograph by The Dallas Dance Project.

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