

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE and AT&T PRESENT 10TH ANNUAL DANCEAFRICA FESTIVAL AND PERFORMANCE

Dallas, Texas - **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) and AT&T** present the 10th Annual **DanceAfrica Festival and Performance** "In Celebration of our Heritage." The festivities include a Saturday parade and marketplace featuring fun for the entire family, with nightly dance performances in the Dallas Arts District, October 7-8, 2016. The performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Forces of Nature Dance Theatre from New York is the special guest and will perform half of the program. Forces of Nature utilizes a unique blend of performing arts with traditional West African dance. The company has performed and toured widely throughout the U.S. and abroad taking part in the First International Black Dance Festival (UK), the International Dance Festival in Aruba, and the 12th Annual Festival for Peace in Moscow. Forces of Nature also led the historical procession for Nelson Mandela during his first appearance in the United States in 1990. Abdel R. Salaam is the Artistic Director of Dance African Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).

All five Dallas Black Dance Theatre performing companies will be on stage for nightly performances on Friday and Saturday, October 7-8, 2016, including **DBDT, DBDT: Encore!, Allegro Performing Ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble. Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts' World Ensemble** will also perform.

The parade kicks off Saturday, October 8, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at Dallas Black Dance Theatre located at 2700 Ann Williams Way, Dallas, Texas 75201. The parade will conclude at the Annette Strauss Square where the marketplace will be held. The parade will be led by the founder of DanceAfrica festivals across the country **Dr. "Baba" Chuck Davis**, followed by drummers, dancers from all five DBDT dance companies, special guest artists, and marketplace participants.

The African marketplace will be filled with vendors, art, food, and children's activities from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free performances of dance, music, spoken word and storytelling will accent the marketplace festival that will take place at the Annette Strauss Square, 2389 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

For DanceAfrica performance ticket information, October 7-8, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., visit www.attpac.

"DanceAfrica is about community, bringing people together, and sharing our African heritage," explained Dr. "Baba" Chuck Davis. "African traditions and language are preserved

through dance. Dance is total celebration!"

Dr. Davis will conduct several African dance master classes the week before the festival. Dallas Black Dance Theatre will host a free class at its studios located at 2700 Ann Williams Way on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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DanceAfrica is presented by **AT&T**. "This festival of week-long activities immerses North Texas residents in the beauty and wonder of African dance and music," said **Angela Ross, AT&T's Vice President of External & Legislative Affairs**. "AT&T has a strong history of embracing the arts, diversity, vibrant culture and educational initiatives in the communities we serve. We are proud to continue our partnership with the city's namesake dance company, Dallas Black Dance Theatre."

Co-sponsors: Union Bank, Texas Commission on the Arts, City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs

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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

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 <https://dbdt.com/academy>

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Forces of Nature Dance Theatre photograph by Erin Baiano.



Dr. "Baba" Chuck Davis photograph by Niesha Lanae Graves - NLG Photography.

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

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