

VOL 6 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

I MESSENGER

DALLAS BLACK
DANCE THEATRE'S
MELISSA M.
YOUNG

ARTISTIC

EXCELLENCE

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Melissa M. Young honored with Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence

The Dance Council of North Texas will honor Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Melissa M. Young with its Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence during Dallas DanceFest in Dallas, Texas September 2-3, 2016. Ms. Young will receive the award during the 39th presentation of Dance Council Honors gala at Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas 75201. A VIP reception will be held both evenings at 7:00 p.m. for Melissa and four other honorees.

The Dance Council is honoring Ms. Young for achieving a solid performance career in contemporary modern dance. Ms. Young has spent 23 years of her career at Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT), first as a dancer, Rehearsal Director, then as Academy Director, and now Associate Artistic Director. She is a graduate of The Ailey School in New York City and trained as an exchange student at Amsterdam School of the Arts in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

"Melissa has been an invaluable part of Dallas Black Dance Theatre," said Dallas Black Dance Theatre Founder Ann Williams. "Her attention to artistic detail has helped DBDT reach 40 years as an organization,

while maintaining our performance excellence."

Her most notable performances include: The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Lincoln Center Out-

ham), Jazz techniques and West African Dance. She teaches master classes both nationally and internationally, specializing in the Dance Technique of Lester Horton.

"I am overwhelmed, but certainly thankful and grateful that my peers have selected me for this wonderful accolade."

Melissa has served as an advisory panelist for City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs Young Audiences of Dallas, Texas Commission on the Arts, Arkansas Arts Council and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, as well serving as a board member for the Dance Council of North Texas from 2010-2013. In 2000, Melissa was presented with the Dancer's Award for her artistic excellence and dedication to Dallas Black Dance Theatre and in 2014 she received an Award of Recognition from the South Dallas Dance Festival for her outstanding service to dance.

Both Dallas Black Dance Theatre's companies will perform in Dallas DanceFest during the nightly 8 p.m. performances. DBDT will perform both Friday and Saturday. DBDT: Encore! will perform on Saturday.

For Dallas DanceFest ticket information visit www.dallasdancefest.org.

Melissa M. Young
Photograph by Brian Guillaux



of-Doors in New York City, and for the U.S. Ambassadors to Ireland and Zimbabwe. She has restaged and rehearsed the diverse repertoire of DBDT, which spans over 70 ballets.

Ms. Young's professional training includes Ballet, Modern (Horton and Gra-

"I am deeply honored to receive this award from the Dance Council of North Texas. Being recognized for my passion and love for dance is not something I would ever imagine that would happen to me," said DBDT Associate Artistic Director Melissa M. Young.