

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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Wells Fargo Supports Dallas Black Dance Theatre Cultural Awareness Series for 7th Season As DBDT Marks its 40th Anniversary

Dallas, TX - **Wells Fargo** celebrates **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** during its 40th anniversary season as presenting sponsor of DBDT's Cultural Awareness Series for the 7th consecutive year. The Cultural Awareness series will be held February 17-19, 2017 at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre in the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

"At Wells Fargo, caring for communities is embedded in our culture," said **Wells Fargo Area President Scott Wallace**. "We strive to create and support positive, lasting impact - socially, economically, and environmentally - through our business practices, philanthropy and community engagement. Cultural programs like this are one more opportunity for us to add to the quality of life in our communities. We are honored to have supported Dallas Black Dance Theatre for more than 10 years and to serve as presenting sponsor for seven years, and look forward to continuing to partner with them for many years to come."

DBDT has commissioned veteran DBDT dancer/choreographer **Sean J. Smith** to create a work that brings the 40-year legacy of Dallas Black Dance Theatre to life on stage. In developing the concept for *Interpretations* Smith interviewed **DBDT Founder Ann Williams**, as well as former dance company members, staff and supporters integral in the formation of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. *Interpretations* is supported in part by an award from **Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts**, and foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

Other works in the Cultural Awareness program include audience favorites by nationally acclaimed choreographers. Fort Worth native **Bruce Wood** choreographed *Smoke* for Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2001. DBDT will re-introduce its 2014 world premiere *Memoirs* by **Garfield Lemonius**, a former principal DBDT dancer and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts faculty member. Also performing Dallas native **Darryl B. Sneed's** ...*And Now Marvin*, set to the tunes of Marvin Gaye. Prior to his death in 1997, Sneed was DBDT's Associate Artistic Director, resident choreographer and principal dancer. In 1932 **Asadata Dafora** choreographed *Awassa Astringe/Ostrich*, the solo dance that imitates the graceful, but powerful movements of the Ostrich. Dafora was one of the first Africans to introduce African drumming music to the United States in the early 1930's.

Cultural Awareness evening performances will be held Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a matinee performance on Sunday, February 19 at 2:30 p.m. For tickets call 214-880-0202 or visit www.ATTPAC.org.

For group ticket sales call 214-871-2390. All performances are at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre located at 2400 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas in the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

The student matinees are on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. These performances are for school groups only. For student matinee ticket sales call 214-871-2376 Ext. 104.

2016-2017 | 40th ANNIVERSARY 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 Center, Texas Commission on the Arts, Art Works, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, OverseeMyIT, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Post Tribune, Elite News, BEHR Group Holdings, KSOC - Boom 94.5 and AT&T Performing Arts Center.

About Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Founded in 1976 by Ann Williams, Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is the 10th largest minority arts organization in America, the fourth largest black dance company in the nation and the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in City of Dallas.

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. DBDT is a resident company of the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre in the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

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 at DBDT studios. The academy has three performing ensembles; Allegro, which is DBDT's premier academy ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble.

DBDT offers community outreach services to some 40,000 people annually through workshops, master classes, lecture/demonstrations, residences, mini-performances and student matinees that are designed level-specific for elementary, middle and high schools as well as college and university students. 20,000 of those reached are students in grades K-12 including 44 Dallas area schools and two Boys and Girls Clubs. The rest are in college,

as well as community, recreation, and social service agencies.
For more details visit www.dbdt.com/academy

Right click to save or copy photograph. Contact us if you need a high resolution photograph.



Smoke by Bruce Wood© as photographed by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image.



Memoirs by Garfield Lemonius as photographed by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image.

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