



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dallas Black Dance Theatre
Taps Hurricane Katrina Survivor
To Choreograph a 2018 Cultural Awareness Work
Featuring Second Line Brass Band

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre’s (DBDT)** taps Hurricane Katrina survivor and choreographer **Michelle N. Gibson** to choreograph a work featuring a New Orleans-style second line brass band in the grand finale. *Displaced, Yet Rebirthed* makes its Dallas premiere during DBDT’s Cultural Awareness Series. Presented by **Wells Fargo**, the Series is showcased Friday - Sunday, Feb. 16 through Feb. 18, at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora, Dallas, TX 75201.

“There is a void of missing home. This piece is snapshots of our experience,” explained Gibson who created *Displaced, Yet Rebirthed* as a proud **New Orleans** resident who had to flee her hometown in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina. Together with her family, she evacuated to Dallas and they have lived here since.

The dance both honors survivors and is a tribute to the more than 1,800 people who tragically lost their lives. Gibson is incorporating a live band in the New Orleans tradition to celebrate the lives lost and rebirth of those who survived. “As New Orleans celebrates its tricentennial this year, I am proud to share the rich authentic culture of our city with Dallas,” said Gibson.

Another aspect of DBDT’s Cultural Awareness Series features a tribute to one of the most iconic leaders of our time. *His Grace* by **Christopher L. Huggins** is dedicated to former **South African President Nelson Mandela**. The work features images of Mandela accompanied by the techno sound of artist, Moby. In 2014, *His Grace* made its world premiere

in Dallas. Huggins is an international choreographer who has worked in Italy, France, Norway, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Slovenia, Austria, Japan, Korea, Jamaica, South Africa, and throughout the United States. Huggins is a former soloist of the renowned **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and **Aterballetto** of Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Wells Fargo has served as a presenting sponsor of the series for eight consecutive years. “At Wells Fargo, caring for communities is embedded in our culture,” said Wells Fargo Region Bank President for Greater Dallas, Scott Wallace. “We strive to create and support positive, lasting impact — socially, economically, and environmentally — through our business practices, philanthropy and community engagement. Supporting the Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers us yet another opportunity to add to the quality of life in our communities.”

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Friday and Saturday evening performances

February 16-17, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street, Dallas, TX.

Sunday matinee

February 18, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street, Dallas, TX.

The Thursday morning student matinees are both sold out. These matinees are made possible by SodexoMAGIC and Hattie Mae Lesley Foundation.

TICKETS

Performance ticket prices range from \$22 - \$58.

For single tickets visit www.attpac.org or call 214-880-0202.

Group tickets are available by calling 214-871-2376 Ext. 413 or email grouptickets@dbdt.com.

For more information visit www.DBDT.com.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

2017-2018 | Presenting Sponsor

Wells Fargo

2017-2018 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Cultural Affairs – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, NBC 5, Clear Vision, *I Messenger*, Yellow Cab, *The Downtown Business News*, TACA, *PaperCity*, American Airlines, The Industry Consultants, *The Dallas Weekly* and DART.

2017 – 2018 | DBDT Season Supporters

Season Supporters: NorthPark Center, Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, OverseeMyIT, *The Dallas Examiner*, KZMJ Majic 94.5, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *Elite News*, AT&T Performing Arts Center and *Arts+Culture*.

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 the 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. In its 41-year history, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, the nationally and internationally recognized modern dance company, has performed on five continents, in 15 countries and 31 states, including two Olympic Cultural events. During that time, more than 4 million arts patrons and 2.6 million students, grades K-12, have experienced the dance company's performances and educational outreach programs.

*Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five performing companies and its training Academy. **DBDT**, consists of 12 full-time salaried dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, African and spiritual works by national and international choreographers. **DBDT: Encore!** features eight artists of rising excellence from across the nation who support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach.*

***Dallas Black Dance Academy**, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, celebrates 44 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. More than 550 students participate weekly in 50 dance classes, which include ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are held at DBDT's studios and are open to children starting at age four and adults. The academy has three performing ensembles: **Allegro**, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, **Senior Performing Ensemble**, and **Junior Performing Ensemble**.*

*Located in a historic facility at the eastern end of the thriving 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.*

For more details visit www.DBDT.com and www.dbdt.com/academy.

Right click to copy or save photographs. If you need a higher resolution photograph please contact Ramona Logan. Contact info above.



Dallas Black Dance Theatre dancer Kayah Franklin in photograph by The Dallas Dance Project.



Choreographer Michelle N. Gibson. Photograph by Omar Ramos.



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