

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE *ENCORE!* DEBUTING TWO NEW WORKS MACY'S PRESENTS RISING EXCELLENCE SERIES

Dallas, TX - **Macy's** is presenting **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's DBDT: *Encore!*** in its Rising Excellence series April 7-8, 2017, at the Dallas City Performance Hall in the Dallas Arts District. The company debuts two new works by former Ailey II dancer **Levi Philip Marsman** and SMU alum **Shauna Davis**.

For the 11th year, Macy's is the presenting sponsor for Rising Excellence, the annual showcase of DBDT: *Encore!* "We are delighted to be counted among the supporters of Dallas Black Dance Theatre," said **Robin Harman**, Manager, Corporate Giving for Macy's. "It is a privilege to be associated with an organization that presents significant multicultural events to the region and the world."

Dance critic **Cheryl Callon** described DBDT: *Encore!* in *Theater Jones*, "Directed by longtime DBDT dancer **Nycole Ray**, the company's increasing maturity and artistry is a testament to the organization's reputation and ability to attract outstanding dancers from around the country." Two of the company members are from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, the remainder are from California to Maryland, even Mexico. DBDT: *Encore!* will present over 45 performances this season, including an upcoming appearance at the Fintdaz Festival in Iquique, Chile May 8 - 14, 2017.

Levi Philip Marsman, a former Ailey II dancer, choreographed *Black Rose*. Marsman says he took his inspiration on a dance about black beauty, from the exquisite beauty of a baccarat rose - a red rose with a black tint. Set to classical music, the contemporary modern dance powerfully conveys that our struggles help to make us beautiful.

Shauna Davis, a Southern Methodist University graduate, created *Weighted*. The thought provoking dance is an expansion of a duet she choreographed at SMU that will now be performed by four DBDT: *Encore!* members. The contemporary dance is set to electronic music.

DBDT: *Encore!* Artistic Director Nycole Ray is restaging her dance *Love Songs* that debuted in 2007. The work depicts the exploratory journey to different paths of love entwined to the music of Roberta Flack and Sarah Vaughn. This marks Ms. Ray's 7th season as the Artistic Director of DBDT: *Encore!* and her 19th year with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

Allegro, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, will perform *Love Brings Change*, a modern dance choreographed by DBDT dancer **Claude Alexander III**. Allegro is comprised of 12 dancers from Dallas, Irving, Cedar Hill, Arlington and Lake Dallas. The Allegro Director is **Katriccia Eaglin**, a former 10-year DBDT veteran dancer and an American Ballet Theatre (ABT) certified instructor, who also teaches classes at Dallas Black Dance Academy. In addition, seven of the Allegro dancers have been invited to perform *Chaos* by **Christopher**

L. Huggins with DBDT: *Encore!* Huggins is a former member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and works across the U.S. and abroad as a dancer, teacher and choreographer.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre branded DBDT II with the new name DBDT: *Encore!* during its 40th Anniversary Season to accentuate the dynamic growth of the company of rising artists. The company has advanced from featuring emerging artists and choreographers, to include commissions and works by nationally and internationally recognized choreographers. Celebrating its 17th season, this talented company comprised of eight, classically trained and highly-skilled dancers has consistently left local, national and international venues asking for "more," hence the new name *Encore!*

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The Rising Excellence performance will be held April 7-8, 2017, at the Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora, Dallas, TX 75201.

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

For more information regarding the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, visit www.DBDT.com.

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.

Texas Cultural Trust named Dallas Black Dance Theatre among **15 Texas Medal of Arts Awards Honorees** for 2017. The event celebrates amazing Texans who have made powerful contributions to the arts in the state and around the world.

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 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. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a resident company member of the AT&T Performing Arts Center - Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre located in Dallas's Art District.

During its 40-year history, Dallas Black Dance Theatre has performed on five continents, in 15 countries and 31 states, including two Olympic Cultural events. Over the years, 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. DBDT serves more than 100,000 people annually, including more than 20,000 youth in grades K-12 in Dallas-Fort Worth area schools. DBDT offers community outreach services through workshops, lecture/demonstrations, master-classes, residences, mini-performances and student matinees that are designed level-specific for elementary, middle, high school and university students. Another 20,000 youth and adults are reached through local, national and international festivals, tours, special performances at universities, social service agencies, professional and corporate organizations, civic events and community venues.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five performing companies and its training 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. 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.

Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, celebrates 43 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. Over 500 students participate weekly in 50 dance classes of ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African at DBDT studios for ages four to adult. The academy has three performing ensembles: Allegro, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble.

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

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



Photograph of DBDT: *Encore!* dancers Richard Falls, Jr. and Sierra Jones by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image.



Photograph of DBDT: *Encore!* dancers Sierra Jones, Eduardo Castrejon, Herman Houston III and Lailah Duke by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image.

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

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