

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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Contact:
Ramona Logan
214-871-2376 Ext. 411
214-882-2451 cell
r.logan@dbdt.com

Dallas Black Dance Theatre continues Dance Tradition at St. Paul United Methodist Church Easter Service

Dallas, TX - Two historical institutions located in the Dallas Arts District will continue a cherished Easter tradition. For more than a decade **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** has performed to the songs of the **St. Paul United Methodist Church Choir** during Easter Morning Celebration. The service will take place 7:00 a.m. Sunday, April 16, 2017 at the church, 1816 Routh Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

All five Dallas Black Dance Theatre performing companies and ensembles will take part in the Easter service. This includes the 12 professional dancers of **DBDT**, the eight dancers of the semiprofessional company **DBDT: *Encore!***, the talented youth dancers in the Dallas Black Dance Academy premier ensemble **Allegro**, as well as the **Senior Performing Ensemble** and **Junior Performing Ensemble**.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is celebrating its 40th Anniversary Season. Its home is in the former Moorland YMCA building that opened in 1930 as the first YMCA for African Americans in the southwest. Until 1970 the Moorland building was the central site for social, spiritual and civil rights events during segregated times for the Black community. Dallas Black Dance Theatre purchased the facility in 1999 and created a new home in the Dallas Arts District in 2008.

Since 1873, St. Paul UMC has been the only church in downtown Dallas rooted in African American traditions of worship.

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 Wyle 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 each year. 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. Annually another 20,000 youth and adults are reached through 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 salaried 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 550 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.dbdt.com/academy.

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Dallas Black Dance Theatre photograph by Richard Rodriguez.

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

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