

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE SELECTS KATRICIA EAGLIN FORMER DBDT DANCER IS NEW ACADEMY DIRECTOR

Dallas, TX - **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** selects **Katricia Eaglin**, a former DBDT dancer, to lead the **Dallas Black Dance Academy**. The Dallas native has a long history with DBDT including her professional dance career at the dance company from 2005-2015. Ms. Eaglin has been the Director of the Academy's premier **Allegro Performing Ensemble** since 2012 and an Academy instructor since 1998. She will continue to direct Allegro. Ms. Eaglin's duties as Academy Director began May 1, 2017.

Eaglin is an **American Ballet Theatre** certified instructor and has taught on tour with the professional dance company. She has also directed DBDT's satellite Summer Enrichment program in San Antonio from 2010-2015. She states, "As an instructor for Dallas Black Dance Academy since 1998 and a former company member of Dallas Black Dance Theatre for 10 years, it is important to me to continue to enrich the students of Dallas Black Dance Academy with the confidence and perspective it takes to pursue and produce dance at its highest level."

While a member of DBDT, Ms. Eaglin performed with the **Dallas Opera's *Porgy and Bess*** in 2008 and Dallas Black Dance Theatre's collaboration with **Dallas Theatre Center** in *The Wiz* in 2011. She also performed for the King of Ghana and Winnie Mandela.

Eaglin received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a minor in Business Foundations from the **University of North Texas**, earned a Master's in Biblical Studies from **Dallas Theological Seminary** and graduated from **Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts**.

She has choreographed dances for both Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Allegro. Eaglin's work, *Testament*, made its Dallas premiere during DBDT's Cultural Awareness series in 2016. *Testament* abstractly depicts five biblical themes, using a blend of modern and contemporary dance set to contemporary classical music. The work enabled Ms. Eaglin to combine both her passions, faith and dance.

Eaglin says she first saw Dallas Black Dance Theatre while on a field trip with the **West Dallas Community Center**. She avowed, "It was my dream to be a part of the company since I was 14 and saw them perform at a dance festival." Katricia Eaglin is now fulfilling her dream.

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. Dallas Black Dance Theatre has been designated as an **"American Masterpiece**

Touring Artist" by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and in 2017 was named **Texas Medal of Arts Awards** recipient for Arts Education.

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 Wyly 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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Katricia Eaglin

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