



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE'S SEASON FINALE SALUTES GRANDMOTHERS IN ICONIC MASTERWORK BY ULYSSES DOVE

Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** closes its 41st season with the Spring Celebration series, featuring the iconic *Vespers* by renowned choreographer **Ulysses Dove**. *Vespers* captures the spirit of Dove's grandmother's soulful worship. Three world premieres including one from 16-year Broadway dance veteran and choreographer **Ray Mercer** are in the series scheduled for May 18-20, 2018, at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in Dallas.

Spring Celebration is made possible by the generous support of **Norma and Don Stone**, longtime DBDT benefactors and arts patrons in Dallas. The **Dallas Tourism and Public Improvement District** is the guest artist sponsor for the performances.

Vespers captures pure athleticism, intensity, drama, and grace at its finest. Dove's choreography flows through six women as vessels of his grandmother's spirit in a small wooden chapel where she and other women propelled themselves through stages of worship. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is only the fourth company to perform what is considered a masterwork for women dancers. Dove originally created the work for the **Dayton Contemporary Dance Company** in 1986. **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre** performed it the following year and the **Pacific Northwest Ballet** premiered the dance in Seattle in 2008. DBDT premiered *Vespers* in Dallas in 2011.

Experience the world premiere of Ray Mercer's *Undeviated Passage*, where art imitates life. Mercer credits DBDT Founder **Ann Williams** with giving him his first professional choreography job 14 years ago, resulting in his dance *Pulse*. "She took a chance by allowing me to create a work for Dallas Black Dance Theatre. It changed the course of my life," Mercer said. Mercer has performed with Disney's Tony Award-winning production, *The Lion King*, for 16 years.

Guest Artist **Dark Circles Contemporary Dance** goes full-blown nostalgia in Artistic Director **Joshua L. Peugh's** new work *Rattletrap*. You will get the feel of Peugh's childhood growing up in small town USA. Peugh and Brandon Carson, who composed the original score, are SMU alumni.

The world premiere of *Face what's facing you!* by **Claude Alexander III** is an honest, soul-stirring exploration of how challenges can make one victorious. Building on an eight-year career at DBDT, Alexander makes his choreographic debut with this work for the full company.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Friday and Saturday evening performances

May 18-19, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street, Dallas, TX.

Sunday matinee

May 20, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street, Dallas, TX.

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.

For more information visit www.DBDT.com.

**SPRING CELEBRATION**
2017-2018 | Guest Artist Sponsor

Dallas Tourism and Public Improvement District

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, Trendy Africa 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.



DBDT dancers in Vespers by choreographer Ulysses Dove. Photograph by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image.

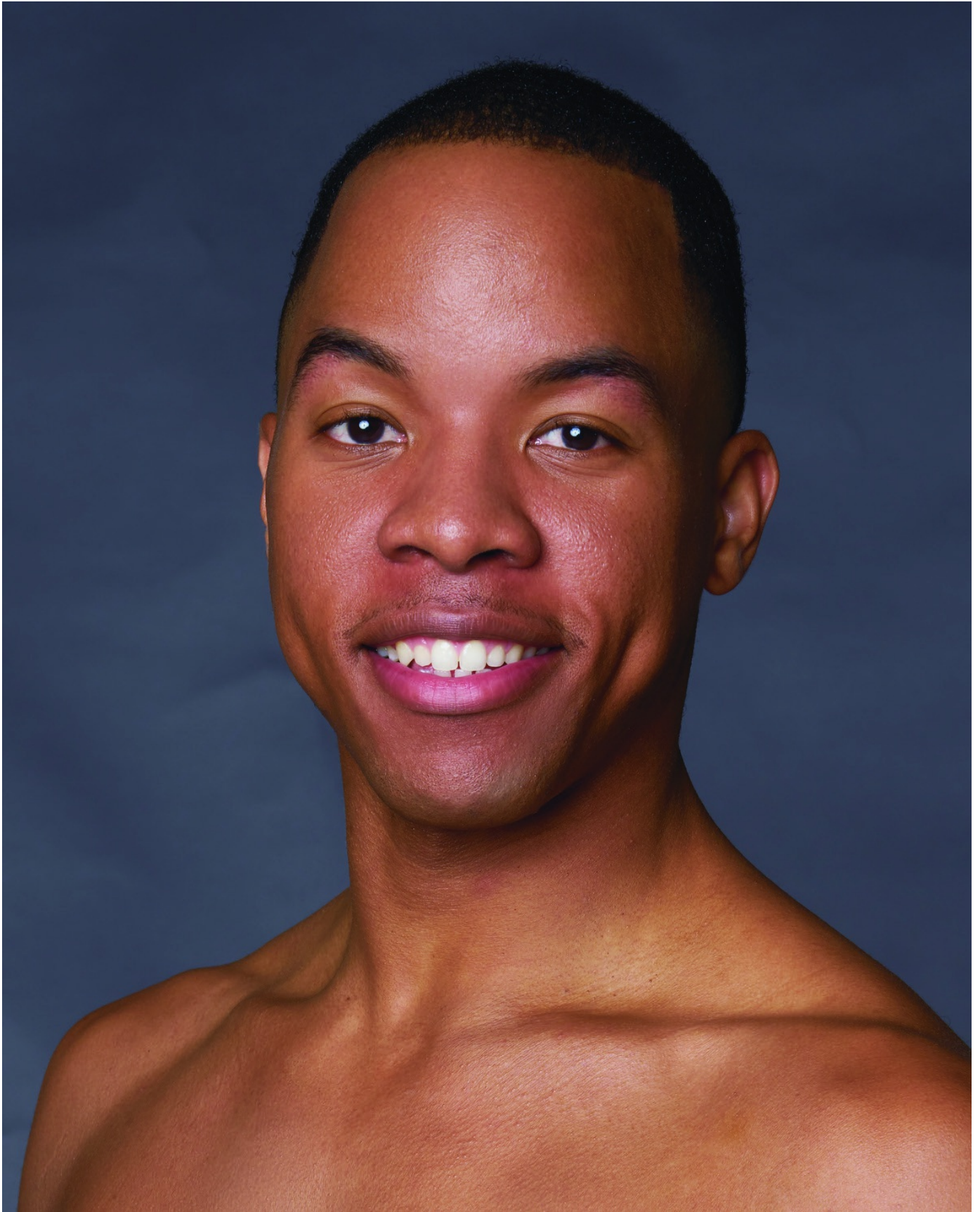




Ray Mercer photograph by Dirty Sugar.



Dark Circles Contemporary Dance Artistic Director Joshua L. Peugh photograph by Brian Guilliaux.



Dallas Black Dance Theatre dancer and choreographer Claude Alexander III. Photograph by The Dallas Dance Project.



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