



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2018

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Dallas Black Dance Theatre Reflects on Historic Times and Cherished Moments

In Director's Choice Series

Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** presents dynamic and powerful works in its Director's Choice series November 2-4, 2018, at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in the Dallas Arts District. Sponsored by **Texas Instruments**, the evening reflects national historic times and personal cherished moments illustrated through dance.

The Dallas premiere of *Bodies as Site of Faith and Protest* by choreographer **Tommie-Waheed Evans** draws on fierce physical language through dance set to iconic speech excerpts by **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** The dance was originally created as a thesis at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. "I reshaped it when I worked with the dancers at Dallas Black Dance Theatre," Evans explained. "We worked on how to transcribe King's 'We Shall Overcome' speech with body movements." The performance takes on added theatrics as dancers sing, with veteran DBDT dancer **Claude Alexander, III**, leading a cappella during the performance.

Bruce Wood Dance Artistic Director Joy Bollinger's *This Time* makes its world premiere during the series. Bollinger was inspired to create the work as a reflection of the fleeting nature of time in her relationships with her children and grandmother; and the constant desire to steal moments and capture memories. The dance is set to classical contemporary music with sweeping sounds of the piano and strings.

The strength and stamina of DBDT dancers are showcased as they push through the layers of **Dallas Arts District Executive Director Lily Cabatu Weiss' *Thrown for a Loop***. It explores how we cope with moments of extreme loss through the support and solace of others. Weiss draws inspiration from the physically charged contemporary classical score of **John Mackey**.

The iconic work *Absolute Rule* is a collaborative duet choreographed by **Elisa Monte** and **David Brown** of New York City. The dance is described by the New York Times as, "...a virtuosic duet with entangled acrobatics that cleverly describes a male-female relationship."

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Friday and Saturday evening

November 2– 3, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street, Dallas, TX.

Sunday matinee

November 4, 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.

Director's Choice Presenting Sponsor

Texas Instruments

2018-2019 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Cultural Affairs – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, International Association of Blacks in Dance, NBC 5, *I Messenger*, *The Downtown Business News*, TACA, *The Dallas Morning News*, *PaperCity*, American Airlines, *The Dallas Weekly*, and DART.

2018 – 2019 | DBDT Season Supporters

Season Supporters: Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, OverseeMyIT, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *Elite News*, AT&T Performing



ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: Dallas Black Dance Theatre is an internationally recognized professional dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. Founded by **Ann Williams** in 1976, the company has been designated as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist by the **National Endowment for the Arts** in 2008 and received the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education in 2017.

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. The company is the 10th largest minority arts organization in America and the fourth largest black dance company in the nation. The virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 4.2 million arts patrons across 15 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.

*Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five performing companies and its training Academy. **DBDT** consists of 13 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. 2.68 million students, grades K-12, have experienced the dance company's performances and educational outreach programs.*

***Dallas Black Dance Academy**, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, celebrates 45 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 Performing Ensemble**, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, **Senior Performing Ensemble**, and **Junior Performing Ensemble**.*

*Dallas Black Dance Theatre is located in the historic Moorland YMCA building in the Dallas Arts District, which serves as the primary home for its dance studios, training facilities, and administrative offices. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a resident company of the **AT&T Performing Arts Center** and its performance home is the **Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre**.*

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





DBDT dancer Xavier Mack in photograph by Brian Guilliaux.



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