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## **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Cultural Awareness Series**

### **Is Rooted in History of American Treasures Nina Simone and Odetta**

Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** produces a dramatic lesson on the Civil Rights Movement through soul-stirring moves set to the magical voices of **Nina Simone** and **Odetta Holmes**, known simply as **Odetta**. The two works will transfix audiences in the Cultural Awareness Series, presented by **Wells Fargo**, on February 15-17, 2019 at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora, Dallas, TX 75201.

“At Wells Fargo, caring for communities is embedded in our culture,” said **Wells Fargo Region Bank President for Greater Dallas, Scott Wallace**. “We strive to create and support positive, lasting impact—socially, economically, and environmentally—through our business practices, philanthropy, and community engagement. Supporting Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers us yet another opportunity to add to the quality of life in our communities.”

The dances salute Odetta, the “Queen of American Folk Music,” and Nina Simone, the “High Priestess of Soul,” two women of courage who influenced the world and used their musical voices for change.

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist Matthew Rushing** choreographed *ODETTA* for the Ailey company in 2014. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the first dance company to perform *ODETTA* outside of *Ailey*. Rushing says he was in Dallas choreographing *Tribute* for Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2016 when he realized that DBDT would be an excellent fit for *ODETTA*. “I remember being in tech rehearsal sitting next to **Ms. (Ann) Williams**, and it hit me at that point,” said Matthew Rushing. “I could really see the dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre performing *ODETTA*. So, that was the first time that I pitched the idea to Dallas Black Dance Theatre.” Rushing utilized Odetta’s musical range of folk, gospel, and blues music in developing the work.

Iconic choreographer **Dianne McIntyre's** *The Nina Simone Project* epitomizes Nina Simone's regal presence with choreography set to Simone's signature classical, jazz, and soul fusion. DBDT first commissioned Dianne McIntyre to choreograph *The Nina Simone Project* in 2011. "I shared with the dancers, because of their youth, those events in the civil rights era, and how Nina Simone was very close with **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, and the struggle for human rights and rights for people of color," said Dianne McIntyre. Ms. McIntyre says she gave the current dancers the same historical perspective, but times have changed. "Today, with these dancers in 2018-2019, these issues have come to the forefront. So, they're not just dancing about history; they're also dancing about today in their own lives. That's what's shifted regarding the time I originally choreographed the work and today."

## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

### Friday and Saturday evening

February 15-16, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street, Dallas, TX.

### Sunday matinee

February 17, 2019, 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](http://www.attpac.org) or call 214-880-0202.

Group tickets are available by calling 214-871-2376 ext. 413.

## STUDENT MATINEE

The **Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation** and the **Katherine C. Carmody Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee** are sponsoring the three student matinees. The student matinees will be held in the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 10:30 am and 12 pm, as well as Friday, February 15, 2019, at 10:30 am. For student matinee details contact [academy@dbdt.com](mailto:academy@dbdt.com) or call 214-871-2376 ext. 101.

**2018-2019 | Cultural Awareness Presenting Sponsor**

Wells Fargo

## **2018-2019 | Cultural Awareness Choreography Sponsors**

Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger

Jean Baptiste (Tad) Adoue III Fund of The Dallas Foundation

The Kaleta A. Doolin Foundation

## **2018-2019 | Cultural Awareness Matinee Sponsors**

Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation

Katherine C. Carmody Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

## **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, Lexus, OverseeMyIT, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *Elite News*, AT&T Performing Arts Center, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*.



**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. 2.7 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 Wyle Theatre**.

For more details visit [www.DBDT.com](http://www.DBDT.com) and [www.dbdt.com/academy](http://www.dbdt.com/academy).

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*DBDT dancers Hana Delong and Zion Pradier in a scene from The Nina Simone Project as photographed by Brian Guilliaux.*



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