



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dallas Black Dance Theatre Announces New Fundraiser The BIG Dance, June 1, 2019

Taking Over Multiple Floors of the Wyly Theatre

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is making plans for the biggest dance party of the year taking over multiple floors of the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre at the AT&T Performing Arts Center with different bands. Dubbed “**The BIG Dance**,” it is set for June 1, 2019, from 7:00 pm – 2:00 am at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora, Dallas, Texas.

Hailing from Atlanta, **Big Swing & The Ballroom Blasters** headline the event, with multiple local bands like the **Texas Gypsies**, **La Pompe**, and **Sherna Armstrong Band** playing simultaneously on other levels. The bands will play a mix of swing music, jazz, standards, and contemporary hits. The evening will close with a live deejay mixing electro swing music with house and top 40 hits to create a speakeasy club for modern times.

In addition to live music on multiple levels, this evening soiree features dance lessons, professional dance vignettes, an outdoor cigar bar, and a competitive dance-off. Patrons are free to explore the floors of the Wyly Theatre throughout the evening for non-stop entertainment, cuisine choices, a signature cocktail, and dancing.

This is the inaugural year of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre fundraiser with the theme “Harlem Renaissance in the Roaring 20s.” Revelers will be transported back in time, so festive attire of that era is welcome. Pearls, feathers, sequins, headbands, and fringe are easy ways for ladies to make an outfit look in the 20s. Pinstripes, vests, suspenders, and fedoras are quick ways for gentlemen to fit right in.

Angela Chapman and Boski Sharma are the co-chairs for the event. Committee members include **Shonn Brown, Greer Christian, Janiece Evans-Page, Laura Hagan, Stephanie Johnson, Demetra King, Clem Maddox, Gabrielle Madison, Shelia McAfee, Willow**

Sanchez, Georgia Scaife, Kymberley Scalia, and Erica Wright.

Event sponsors include Wine sponsor-Hall Wines, Venue sponsor-AT&T Performing Arts Center, Spirits sponsor-Roxor Artisan Gin, and Band Co-sponsor-JPMorgan Chase. The BIG Dance event benefitting Dallas Black Dance Theatre replaces the Founder's Luncheon that was a part of DBDT for 20 years.

For sponsorship and ticket details visit www.DallasBigDance.com.

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NBC 5, I Messenger, The Downtown Business News, The Dallas Morning News, PaperCity, The Dallas Weekly, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Post Tribune, Elite News, and Trendy Africa.



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. **Melissa M. Young** was named Artistic Director in 2018 after starting at the company as a dancer in 1994. **Zenetta S. Drew** has led the administrative side of the company since 1987 as Executive Director.

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 16 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five performing companies and its training Academy. 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 Wyly Theatre**.*

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



Dallas Black Dance Theatre dancers (l-r) Kayah Franklin, Charles Michael Patterson, McKinley Willis, Sean J. Smith, Jasmine White-Killins. Photograph by Brian Guilliaux.



Dallas Black Dance Theatre dancers Charles Michael Patterson and Kayah Franklin in photograph by Brian Guillaux.



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