



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dallas Black Dance Theatre's 14th Annual DanceAfrica

Kicks off 43rd Season with Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago

Dallas, TX. – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** kicks off its 43rd season with the 14th Annual DanceAfrica series October 4-5, 2019, at the Moody Performance Hall. This year's DanceAfrica, co-sponsored by **MUFG Union Bank** and **Texas Commission on the Arts**, celebrates the rich heritage and ancestry of Africa with two evening concert performances and a free daytime festival and marketplace.

Friday and Saturday evening performances feature guest artist **Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago**. Energized by the beat of the drums, Muntu Dance Theatre performs ancient and contemporary African dance with its unique synthesis of dance, rhythm, music, and folklore. The company is highly regarded for its innovative repertoire, preserving traditional African dance while creating new works that build on African, Caribbean, and African American cultural traditions. Muntu carefully researches the cultural and historical significance of the dances and the societies from which they originate.

Experience the fierce power of all five Dallas Black Dance Theatre companies: **DBDT**, **DBDT: Encore!**, **Allegro Performing Ensemble**, **Senior Performing Ensemble**, and **Junior Performing Ensemble**, as they ignite the stage with the vibrancy of African culture. The DanceAfrica evening performances are Friday and Saturday, October 4-5, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the **Moody Performance Hall**, 2520 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas, 75201.

The **FREE** daytime DanceAfrica Festival and Marketplace is the perfect way to spend a Saturday outdoors with the family soaking in African culture. Fun for the whole family, the outdoor marketplace runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 5, 2019, at the Annette Strauss Square, 2389 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas, 75201. The marketplace kicks off with a parade and processional at 9:30 a.m. in the Dallas Arts District. An array of

festivities including vendors, food, art, children's activities, face painting, the TrendyAfrica fashion show, and performances by local community artists will all be a part of the free event.

Joining DBDT dancers, ensembles, and Muntu Dance Theatre performing on the mainstage throughout the day are local community artists including **UNT Afrikana Cultural Troupe of Ghana, Dallas Youth Repertoire Project, Concord GEiMs Youth Praise Dancers, South Oak Cliff Eleve Dance Ensemble, Corey Anointed Dancer, Rare Diamonds & Gems Dance Company, 8 & 1 Dance Company, Grupo Folkloriko Mexico Lindo, Legacy Dance Studio, IM Terrell Academy Dance Ensemble, Lancaster High School DC3, 6 o'Clock Dance Theatre, and Zion Dance Project.**

DANCEAFRICA PERFORMANCES

Friday and Saturday, October 4-5, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Moody Performance Hall

2520 Flora Street

Dallas, TX 75201

Tickets \$35.00

For single tickets visit www.attpac.org or call 214-880-0202.

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

DANCEAFRICA FESTIVAL - FREE

Saturday, October 5, 2019

10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Annette Strauss Square

2389 Flora Street

Dallas, Texas 75201

DISCOUNTED PARKING OFFERED WITH SEASON SUBSCRIPTION!

Patrons can build their own subscriptions starting with any three Wyly or Moody performances of their choice. Season subscribers now have the option of purchasing discounted parking for \$10 per performance when they buy season tickets. Season subscribers can save up to 15% off single ticket prices that range from \$22-58. For details

on subscription and parking packages, visit the AT&T Performing Arts Center at www.attpac.org or call 214-871-2376 ext. 413. Single tickets go on sale September 3, 2019.

Groups of 10 or more can also take advantage of the build-your-own subscription option and save 30% off single ticket prices when booking multiple performances. This option is great for organizations that want the convenience of a single process to purchase multiple seats at three or more performances. For group ticket information call 214-871-2376 ext. 413 or email groupsales@dbdt.com.

For single tickets, visit www.attpac.org.

For more performance details, visit www.DBDT.com.

DanceAfrica Guest Artist Sponsor

Dallas Tourism and Public Improvement District

2019-2020 | 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, *The Downtown Business News*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *I Messenger*, TACA, American Airlines, The Shubert Foundation Inc., DART, and *The Dallas Weekly*.

2019 – 2020 | DBDT Season Supporters

Season Supporters: Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *Elite News*, *OverseeMyIT*, AT&T Performing Arts Center, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*.

ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: *Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is an internationally recognized professional dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. The National Endowment for the Arts designated the 43-year-old company as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist in 2008. The company also received the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education in 2017. As Dallas' oldest and largest professional dance company, DBDT ranks as the 10th largest minority arts organization in America and the fourth largest black dance company in the nation.*

Ann Williams founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. **Melissa M. Young** took over the helm as 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 virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 4.3 million arts patrons across 16 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.

*Five performing companies comprise Dallas Black Dance Theatre 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 46 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. The academy was the first in the nation to train a student who received the Presidential Scholar Award in Dance in 1980. More than 500 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 students ages four to adult. 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's primary home in the historic Moorland YMCA building in the Dallas Arts District includes 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.dbdt.com/academy.



Top to bottom: DBDT: Encore! dancers Floyd McLean Jr., and Mia Bedford, and DBDT dancer Sierra Noelle Jones in photograph by Brian Guilliaux..



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