



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Director's Choice Series Showcases the Best in Future Dance

While Two Veteran Dancers Celebrate 10th Anniversary

Dallas, TX. – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT)** Director's Choice series features classic works of master choreographers and the world premiere of an emerging choreographer, continuing its 43-year tradition of launching the careers of talented choreographers. **Texas Instruments** is the presenting sponsor of the series that runs November 1-3, 2019 at the **Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre** in the **AT&T Performing Arts Center**, located at 2400 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas.

The world premiere by **Nijawwon Matthews** *From Within* provides the audience a raw, yet elegant, transformative experience from the trauma of betrayal to self-healing. The new work includes excerpts from **Maya Angelou's** poem "Still I Rise." Matthews is a teacher/choreographer for both **The Joffrey Ballet School** and **Broadway Dance Center** in New York City. "Dallas Black Dance Theatre is such a unique, eclectic group of artists," said Matthews. "The way they interpreted my work is beyond my imagination." Matthew's work continues the DBDT legacy of showcasing the best in the future of dance, having helped to launch the careers of noted choreographers like Garth Fagan, Donald Byrd, Ralph Lemon, and Kevin Iega Jeff in past years of the Director's Choice series.

Other works in this series include *Bounce*, a contemporary ballet created by Ballet Austin Artistic Director **Stephen Mills**, and former Alvin Ailey dancer **Kirven Douthit-Boyd** takes the audience on a journey from anguish to bliss in *Furtherance*.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre kicks-off its 43rd season while celebrating its 10th anniversary as a resident company of the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in the AT&T Performing Arts Center. Two DBDT veterans, **Claude Alexander III** and **Sean J. Smith**, are both

celebrating their 10th season with the company as dancers, choreographers, and serving in leadership roles.

DIRECTOR'S CHOICE PERFORMANCES

Friday and Saturday, November 1-2, 2019, 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 3, 2019, 2:30 pm

Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street

Dallas, TX 75201

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 performance details, visit www.DBDT.com.

Director's Choice Presenting Sponsor

Texas Instruments

Director's Choice Choreography Sponsor

Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger

2019-2020 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Arts and Culture – 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.*

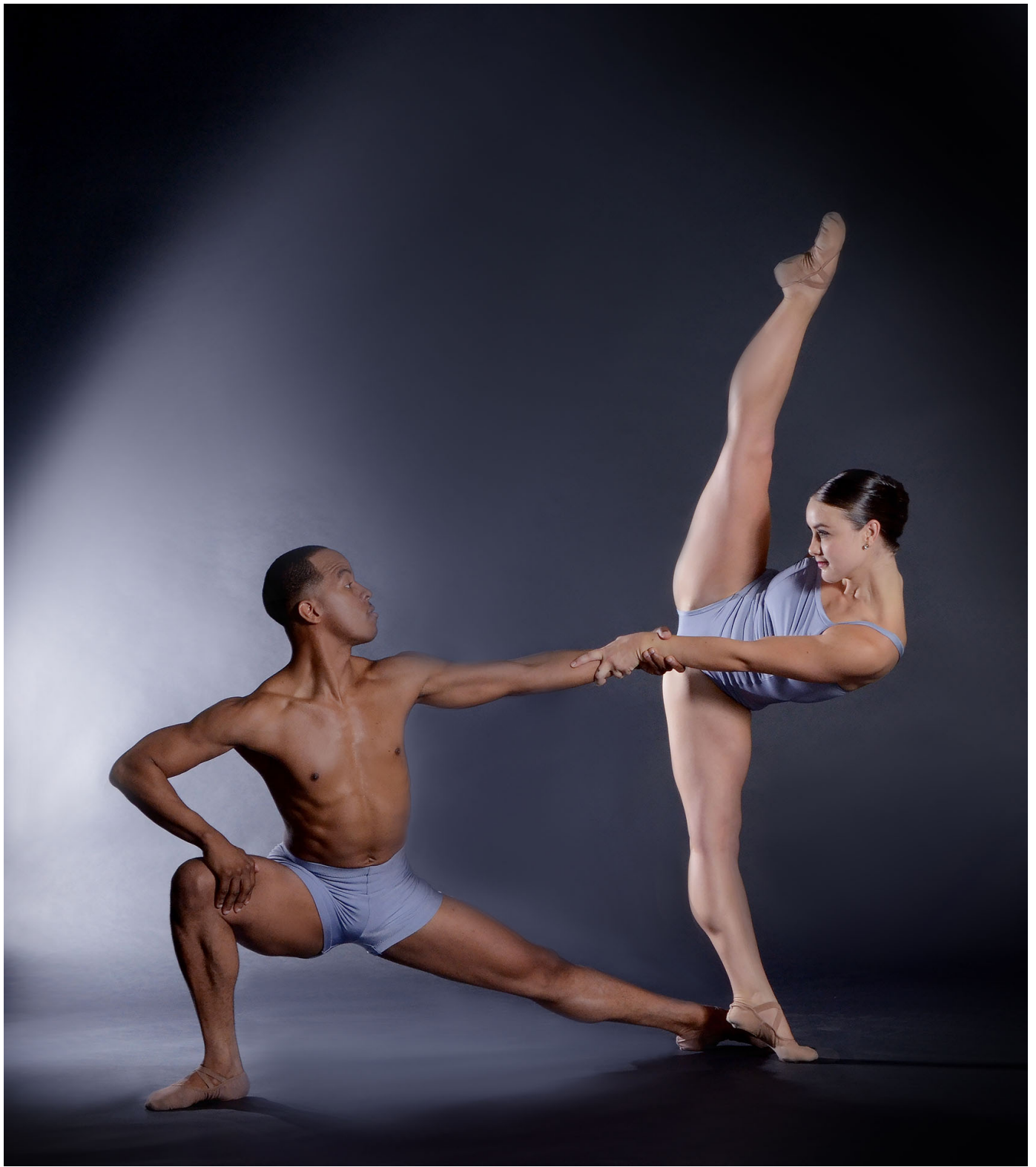
The mission of Dallas Black Dance Theatre is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. The virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 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 Wyly Theatre**.*

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



Photograph by Brian Guilliaux of DBDT dancers Claude Alexander III and Renee Walters in Furtherance by Kirven Douthit-Boyd.



Photograph of DBDT 10 year veterans Claude Alexander III and Sean J. Smith by Brian Guilliaux.



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