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## Dallas Black Dance Academy Presents Espresso Nutcracker

### Featuring the Jazz-Influenced Music of Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite

Dallas, TX. – **Dallas Black Dance Academy (DBD Academy)** presents its second annual *Espresso Nutcracker*, a new twist on a holiday tradition and the only Nutcracker of color in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The performance is jazz-influenced by the music of **Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite**. **Macy's** is the presenting sponsor for the production, scheduled for **Friday, December 13, 2019, at 7 pm in the Majestic Theatre**, located at 1925 Elm Street, Dallas, TX. 75201.

"Macy's is proud to support Dallas Black Dance Theatre's groundbreaking effort to present an inclusive *Nutcracker* experience for the Dallas community," said Robin Harman, manager of corporate giving for Macy's. "As the presenting sponsor of DBDT's *Espresso Nutcracker*, Macy's hopes audiences enjoy this fresh rendering of a timeless holiday classic."

*DBD Academy Director Katricia Eaglin*, assisted by academy instructors of the Pre Pro Division levels 1-4 students who will perform in the production *choreographed Espresso Nutcracker*. Eaglin was inspired to use the traditional **Tchaikovsky** music along with tracks from Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker Suite*, selecting Ellington tracks that were still recognizable to the original work. She included narration to the performance to unlock the mystery and magic for parts of the storyline. Eaglin also added an African dance to the Land of Sweets act that includes Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, and Russian dances.

"I was inspired to create and produce the *Espresso Nutcracker* for Dallas Black Dance Academy so our academy students could be involved in the Nutcracker tradition," said Dallas Black Dance Academy Director Katricia Eaglin. "This gives our academy students more opportunities to perform ballet, and to use the amazing music that Duke Ellington created for the Nutcracker."

The original *Nutcracker Ballet*, choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov with a score by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, is one of the most famous ballets in the world. It tells the story of young Clara's magical journey on Christmas Eve. Many dance academies bring in professionals to dance key Nutcracker roles, but Dallas Black Dance Academy students will dance all the key parts, such as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen. DBDT professional dancers will dance the characters of the Mother, Father, and Drosselmeyer.

## **ESPRESSO NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCES**

Friday, December 13, 2019, 7:00 pm

Majestic Theatre

1925 Elm Street

Dallas, TX 75201

Ticket prices range from \$22.50-\$32.50.

For single tickets visit [www.attpac.org](http://www.attpac.org) or call 214-880-0202.

Groups of 4 or more receive 10% off single-ticket prices by using promo code **GROUP**.

For more performance details, visit [www.DBDT.com](http://www.DBDT.com).

## **Espresso Nutcracker Presenting Sponsor**

Macy's

## **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*.

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***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 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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*Dallas Black Dance Academy's Espresso Nutcracker photograph by Xavier Mack.*



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