



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dallas Black Dance Theatre Celebrates Cultural Awareness in a Series that Showcases Legendary Choreography and Live Music

Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT)** Cultural Awareness series features a classic work by legendary choreographer **Alvin Ailey**, performed to live music, and a world premiere by master choreographer **Hope Boykin**, a veteran dancer with the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**. **Wells Fargo** is the presenting sponsor of the series which runs February 14-16, 2020, at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre in the **AT&T Performing Arts Center**, located at 2400 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas.

"Reflections in D" is an Alvin Ailey classic set to the music of Duke Ellington. Ellington composed the original music specifically for the Ailey solo, which made its world premiere in 1962. At that time, the *New York Times* described it as "angular, but emotional intense choreography." The visionary Ailey, who would have been 89 this year, gifted the choreography to Dallas Black Dance Theatre. For the first time, the work will be accompanied live by **Steve Harlos**, staff keyboardist for **The Dallas Symphony**, and pianist **Erik Barnes**.

Bessie Award-winning dancer Hope Boykin has choreographed *"ON. Toward. Press."* for Dallas Black Dance Theatre. This new work weaves her spoken word and movement together – sharing her personal experiences and finding her own lane in the midst of many heartaches and struggles. Richly influenced by scripture from Philippians 3:12-14, Ms. Boykin is reminded to strain toward what is ahead, focusing on her personal prize as she faces her 20th and final season with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The phenomenal dancers of DBDT will also move your spirit to the legendary music of **Aretha Franklin**, **Nina Simone**, **Patti LaBelle**, and **Duke Ellington** in the riveting dance *"Beams from Heaven."* Choreographer **Christopher L. Huggins** set this spiritual dance and joyful celebration to traditional and contemporary gospel music.

“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.”

CULTURAL AWARENESS PERFORMANCES

WHEN: Friday-Saturday, February 14-15, 2020, 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 16, 2020, 2:30 pm

WHERE: Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora Street

Dallas, TX 75201

PURCHASE: 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.

STUDENT MATINEES

The two student matinee performances on Thursday, February 13, 2020 are sold out.

To purchase tickets for the Friday, February 14, 2020, student matinee at 10:30 am at the Wyly Theatre please contact academy@dbdt.com

Cultural Awareness Presenting Sponsor

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Cultural Awareness Choreography Sponsors

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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.



DBDT dancers Lailah LaRose and Charles Michael Patterson in "Beams From Heaven." Photograph by Brian Guillaux.



DBDT dancer Sean J. Smith dancing "Reflections in D" in photograph by Brian Guillaux.



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