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Dallas Black Dance Theatre Launches 44th Season
With Online Performances in the Fall



DBDT dancers Xavier Mack and Lailah LaRose dancing in From Within choreographed by Nijawwon Matthews. Photograph by Amitava Sarkar.

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre** launches its 44th season with its Legacy Performance Series on a virtual platform during September. **DBDT** and **DBDT: *Encore!*** will

present a mix of live and taped performances showcasing crowd pleasers and audience favorites.

“Our dancers are overjoyed to safely ease back into the new season,” said Dallas Black Dance Theatre Artistic Director **Melissa M. Young**. “We will continue to embrace thoughtful ways to showcase our online presence. Art will always be relevant, and we want to explore the many ways dance can express this point.”

DBDT Legacy Performance Series

Saturday, September 12, 2020

7:00 pm CDT / 8:00 pm EDT

Connect with DBDT for our first showcase of our 44th season. You’re in for a hypnotic and dramatic excursion when you check out the Legacy Performance + Dancemaker's Discussion featuring *From Within* choreographed by **Nijawwon Matthews**. Making its world premiere in Dallas in November 2019, Theater Jones described, “DBDT channeled emotions that stir the curiosity of the soul in *From Within*.” Following the virtual performance the audience can talk live to Matthews and the dancers.

\$20 per household.

For details and to RSVP for a Zoom link visit <https://bit.ly/2Dt1Qr6>

DBDT: Encore! Legacy Performance Series

Saturday, September 26, 2020

7:00 pm CDT/ 8:00 pm EDT

DBDT: *Encore!* weaves its way through “complex patterns and fascinating elements,” according to Theater Jones in the intricate work *Mirror of the Effigy* by choreographer **My’Kal J. Stromile**. Dallas native Stromile is a **Boston Ballet** company member and an alumnus of both **The Juilliard School** and **Booker T. Washington HSPVA**, and a former DBDT: *Encore!* dancer. Then talk to My’Kal and the *Encore!* company members during the Dancemaker’s Discussion that follows.

\$20 per household.

For more details and to RSVP for a Zoom link visit <https://bit.ly/3gTOgKX>

Details at DBDT.com.

October 2020 – December 2020 - Virtual Performances

Tickets for the remaining performances of the fall season go on sale soon. Those series include:

- A virtual celebration of DanceAfrica with an online Marketplace – October 10, 2020
- Director's Choice featuring a virtual showcase of the best in future talent – November 7, 2020
- Behind the Scenes, a Thanksgiving holiday tradition – November 24, 2020
- Black on Black lets the choreographic creative side of DBDT and DBDT: *Encore!* dancers flow in a virtual production, with an online dance party finale – December 5, 2020
- Dallas Black Dance Academy's Espresso Nutcracker a family holiday tradition, featuring the jazz-influenced musical tracks from Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite –December 12, 2020

2020-2021 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Arts and Culture – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, NBC 5, *The Downtown Business News*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *I Messenger*, NorthPark Center, TACA, American Airlines, The Shubert Foundation Inc., DART, and *The Dallas Weekly*.

2020 – 2021 | DBDT Season Supporters

Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *Elite News*, *OverseeMyIT*, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*.

2020-2021 | DBDT COVID Resilience Sponsors

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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 44-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 with 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 47 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.



DBDT: Encore! dancing Mirror of the Effigy choreographed by My'Kal J. Stomile. Photograph by Amitava Sarkar.



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