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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2020

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## Dallas Black Dance Academy Launches 47<sup>th</sup> Season

### Continuing Virtual Classes in the Fall

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Academy** is launching its 47<sup>th</sup> season of classes using the virtual Zoom platform. Registration is underway for students and adults to take some 50 classes offered by the academy in Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap, African, Ballet/Tap combo, and Parent and Me sessions. Classes start Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

The Academy switched its students to virtual classes in March following guidelines from health officials to protect students during the pandemic. This summer, the academy provided its annual summer classes and its outreach programs in Austin and San Antonio on Zoom. "Dallas Black Dance Academy is excited to offer Virtual classes for 2020-2021," said DBD Academy Director **Katricia Eaglin**. "For the safety of our students and instructors, we are offering the same dynamic instruction from current and former professional dancers via Zoom. We found that the Zoom platform was a great fit for our needs, enabling students to learn their steps and phrases while communicating with the dance instructor in real-time."

The primary division classes are open to all students ages two through adult, beginner to advanced. All students ages 4-14 are required to take Ballet each year. Students six years and older are encouraged to take additional classes such as Modern, Jazz, or African.

The pre-professional program is designed for truly dedicated and hardworking students ages 9-18 years. Pre-Pro is geared to equip students with the rigorous training needed to successfully pursue dance at the collegiate and professional level. The academy extends an invitation for students to participate in this program.

No prior dance experience is required for the adult and OPEN classes.

The classes are geared towards adults, teens 16 years and older, and Pre-Professional II – IV students. Registration and monthly tuition are not required for adults. Adults are welcome

to participate in the Academy's drop-in program and take advantage of the discounted class card options.

For more information about the academy program, visit <https://dbdt.com/academy/> or email [academy@dbdt.com](mailto:academy@dbdt.com).

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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 Wily Theatre**.

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

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*Dallas Black Dance Academy photograph by Xavier Mack.*

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