

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE



45th

Anniversary Season
2021-2022

BLACK ON BLACK BLACK MUSIC LEGENDS

IN-PERSON + ON-DEMAND

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
DECEMBER 3-4
2021

HAPPY HOUR

6:30 PM

PERFORMANCE

7:30 PM



You must be 21 or older to attend.

DBDT Studios • 2700 Ann Williams Way • Dallas, Texas, 75201

Photo by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image

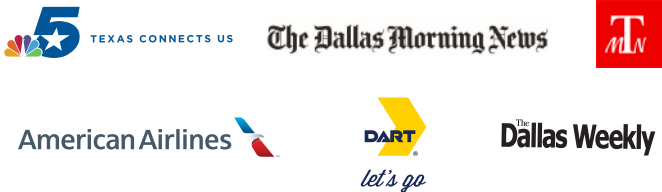
BLACK ON BLACK 2021

DBDT STUDIOS • 2700 Ann Williams Way, Dallas, TX 75201

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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.

DBDT.com

PHOTO BY: BRIAN GUILLIAUX



ANN M. WILLIAMS

FOUNDER

Ann Williams founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. She is a founding member of the Dance Council of North Texas, the Advisory Board of the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and The International Association of Blacks in Dance.

She received her early dance training under Barbara Hollis (a member of the Katherine Dunham Dance Company), Edith James, Doris Humphrey, and Charles Weidman. She received additional training under Alvin Ailey and Arthur Mitchell. Ms. Williams received her undergraduate degree from Prairie View A&M University and her graduate degree from Texas Woman's University (TWU); making her the first African American to receive a Masters of Arts Degree in Dance in the U.S. She was honored as a "distinguished alumna" by both Universities in 1990. She holds a certificate in Arts Management from Texas A&M University, received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Northwood University, and in May 2008 was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Dance from TWU. She served six years on the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents.

She is a 2002 inductee into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame; and in April 2005, she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as a part of the Masters of African-American Choreography series.

She has received many awards and honors for her support and commitment to the arts and service organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, Sankofa Foundation Legacy Award of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Dallas Dance Council, NAACP, the Dallas Historical Society, The Real Estate Council's "Dreamers, Doers & Heroes," Award, TACA (The Auction for the Cultural Arts) Award For Excellence in the Performing Arts. Ms. Williams is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Trinity Chapter-The Links, Inc., The Society, Inc.-Dallas Chapter, Charter 100, Dallas Chapter Associates of Jack and Jill of America, Lifetime member of NAACP, The Dallas Holidays Bridge Group, Bridge Interest Group, and the 13 Hearts Bridge Club. For 40 years, Ms. Williams directed Dallas Black Dance Theatre from a community-based organization and a semi-professional organization to a full professional dance company. The Dallas Black Dance Academy serves over 550 students weekly in classes of Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap, African and Hip Hop. Additionally, Ms. Williams founded four performance ensembles—DBDT: *Encore!* and three Ensembles of the Dallas Black Dance Academy. She is an active dance consultant and has served as a panelist for many city, state and national agencies. Presently she serves on The International Association of Blacks In Dance, Ursuline Academy of Dallas and the Dallas Summer Musicals Management Group. She is also a fine arts consultant to the Houston Energized for Excellence STEM Academies.

For 44 years, she was married to the late Nathaniel Williams, a retired administrator of the Dallas Independent School District. They are the parents of Angelia Williams Chancellor, a graduate of Florida A&M University School of Business and Industry and The University of Dallas School of Business Management. In May of 2014, Ms. Williams officially retired as Artistic Director of the organization. She remains actively involved with the dance company as an emeritus member of the Board of Directors.

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MELISSA M. YOUNG

Melissa M. Young is a Honduran-American raised in Santa Ana, California. She attended Orange Coast College with a focus in Business Administration. She is a graduate of The Ailey School in New York City. She trained in three of their programs: Summer Intensive, Certificate Program and Fellowship. During her Fellowship studies, she was selected to train as an exchange student at Amsterdam School of the Arts (de Theaterschool) in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Overall, her professional training includes: Ballet, Modern (Horton and Graham), and Jazz techniques, as well as West African dance.



Photo by Brian Guillaux

This marks Melissa's 28th season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Young started her career at DBDT as a dancer for 11 years, then Rehearsal Director, Academy Director, Associate Artistic Director, Interim Artistic Director, and was appointed as Artistic Director on September 25, 2018. Her most notable performances include: The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors in New York City, and for the U.S. Ambassadors to Ireland and Zimbabwe. She has restaged and rehearsed the diverse repertoire of DBDT, which spans over 80 ballets. She was an Assistant to the Choreographers, Hope Clarke for the Dallas Opera's *Porgy and Bess* (2009) and Christopher L. Huggins for Dallas Theater Center's production of *The Wiz* (2011).

Teaching master classes both nationally and internationally, Melissa specializes in the Dance Technique of Lester Horton. She was the primary Horton Technique Instructor for Dallas Black Dance Theatre from 1998–2017. As an Adjunct Instructor, she taught the Horton Technique at Dallas' Southern Methodist University in 2004 and Texas Woman's University in Denton from 2005–2008. She was on faculty (Horton Technique) at Ballet Center for Fort Worth and Dallas Youth Repertory Project, and continues to serve as a guest teacher at both schools. In 2014, Melissa was the Visiting Dance Artist for Abilene Christian University's Department of Theatre. She taught ballet, modern and lyrical jazz techniques.

Melissa currently serves on the Next Generation Leadership Committee for the International Association of Blacks in Dance, Inc. She has served as an advisory panelist for City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs, Young Audiences of Dallas, Texas Commission on the Arts and Arkansas Arts Council, as well as serving as a board member for the Dance Council of North Texas from 2010–2013. In 2000, she was presented with The Dancer's Award for her artistic excellence and dedication to Dallas Black Dance Theatre. She was chosen as one of "The Talented Tenth" by The Dallas Weekly in 2010, for being a Young and Emerging Leader. In 2014, she received an Award of Recognition from the South Dallas Dance Festival for her service to dance and in 2016, the Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence. In November 2017, Melissa received the Shining Star Award from the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for her significant contributions to dance in Texas and beyond. During the 57th Annual South Central District Conference of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. in March 2019, Melissa was honored with the "We Speak Your Name" Career Achievement Award.

DBDT: *ENCORE!*
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NYCOLE RAY

A Detroit native, Nycole Ray graduated from The California Institute of the Arts with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in dance. She received additional training at the California State Summer School of the Arts, Wayne State University, and as an exchange student at the London Contemporary Dance School in England. Mrs. Ray has performed with the Bruce Wood Dance Project, Walt Disney World Entertainment, Christopher and Friends directed by Christopher L. Huggins, the Lula Washington Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II and the Zadonu African Dance Company. She has worked with noted choreographers such as Donald McKayle, Dianne McIntyre, Christopher L. Huggins, Alonzo King, Donald Byrd, Bruce Wood®, Rennie Harris and Camille A. Brown. In addition to her concert dance performances, and has appeared in music videos, industrials in the U.S. and Europe.



Photo by Brian Guillaux

Nycole created *Nineteenth* in commemoration of the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, giving women equality and the right to vote through a grant provided by the 19th Amendment Centennial Fund in 2020, as well as works for the University of Dallas, Wayne State University, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, DBDT: *Encore!*, Milwaukee Dance Connection and Detroit Renaissance High School. Mrs. Ray was commissioned by The Dallas Opera to choreograph *Samson and Delilah*, and has had collaborations with the Dallas Museum of Art, creating *Frida, Frida and Frida* based off the Mexico exhibit in 2017, *Art on 5th Avenue*. based on the contemporary jewelry designs of Author Smith, *The Subtle, The Sum...Give More Than You Take*, based off of the Jim Hodges: Give More Than You Take exhibit in 2013, *The Line of Beauty that Runs Through*, based off of the works from The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece exhibit along with works from their permanent collection in 2013, *Le Afrique Masquerade* for The Art of Disguise exhibit of African Masks in the fall of 2010 as well as a commissioned work for the Dallas Holocaust Museum in 2009. Nycole is the 2013 recipient of the Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence from the Dance Council of North Texas.

Mrs. Ray was a featured choreographer for the Ninth FINTDAZ Festival in Iquique, Chile in 2016 as well as the Tenth Annual Choreographers Choice Series in Dallas; and premiered work in Vienna's 2003 International Black Dance Festival, and has shown work at Lincoln Center's Out of Doors Festival. She accompanied Dr. Chuck Davis, as an invited guest, during his annual pilgrimage to Africa, and has been a teaching Assistant and adjunct at Texas Woman's University. Mrs. Ray received the 2011 Artful Dancewear Teachers Scholarship through The Dance Council of North Texas to continue her studies, and is a certified Dunham Technique Instructor.

Nycole is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and is the Director of Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Summer Intensive program and has served in the past as Rehearsal Director for the Bruce Wood Dance, Assistant Rehearsal Director for Dallas Black Dance Theatre and the Director of Bloom, Dallas Black Dance Academy's Performing Ensemble. This is her 11th year as the Artistic Director of DBDT: *Encore!* and is a guest artist with DBDT. In 2021, Nycole has been named one of the "Women Who Make Dallas Great" by D Magazine. This, marks her 24th season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3–4 @ 7:30 PM CST

BLACK ON BLACK

A Merry Lootha' Kissmas

Choreographer: McKinley Willis
Music: Luther Vandross
Dancers: Claude Alexander III, Ketreon Butler,
Carmen Cage, Hana Delong, Gillian Clifford,
Rayshard Demarco Keys, Aleigha Mayo,
Olivia McCall, Jeron Sanders, Javares Selby,
McKinley Willis

It's a Man's World

Choreographer: Molly Davison
Music: James Brown
Dancers: Molly Davison and Jessica Popoff

Some Way, Shape or Form

Choreographer: Ketreon Butler
Music: Chanda Dancy and Mary J. Blige
Dancers: Ketreon Butler and Isabel Wallace-Green

Unraveled

**Based on true and highly unfortunate events.*

Choreographer: Sean J. Smith
Dancers: Claude Alexander III, Ketreon Butler,
Molly Davison, Richard A. Freeman, Jr.,
Sierra Noelle Jones, Bianca Melidor,
Sean J. Smith
Narration: Xavier Mack

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3–4 @ 7:30 PM CST

Funk is Future

Choreographer: Charles Michael Patterson
Music: Chaka Khan & Quincy Jones
Dancers: Rayshard Demarco Keys, Olivia McCall,
Brianne Sellars, Micah Sherard,
De'Anthony Vaughan

(Funk is Future) expresses an individual's life tale and the impact he or she has left onto the next generation of innovators. De'Anthony portrays the birth of funk and the ensemble represents the new bright future and legacy that must live on.

For Etta

Choreographer: Carmen Cage
Music: Etta James
Dancers: Hana Delong, Molly Davison, Aleigha Mayo,
Bianca Melidor, Jessica Popoff

Last Breath

Choreographer: Claude Alexander III
Music: Donny Hathaway
Dancers: Xavier Mack, Charles Michael Patterson,
Sean J. Smith

Legends

Choreographer: Hana Delong
Music: Barry White, Tina Turner, Nina Simone and
Michael Jackson
Dancers: Carmen Cage, Terrell Rogers, Jr.,
De'Anthony Vaughan

Bluer Than Blue Can Be

Choreographer: Terrell Rogers, Jr.
Music: Nina Simone
Dancers: Sierra Noelle Jones, Bianca Melidor,
Charles Michael Patterson, Brianne Sellars,
Isabel Wallace-Green

Wake Up to **#SomethingGood**



TODAY

WEEKDAYS 4:30-7 AM

Deborah
Ferguson

Laura
Harris

THE MISSION

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.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOUNDER

MELISSA M. YOUNG
ZENETTA S. DREW
ANN M. WILLIAMS

DBDT COMPANY DANCERS

Claude Alexander III
Carmen Cage
Hana Delong
Sierra Noelle Jones
Xavier Mack

Bianca Melidor
Charles Michael Patterson
Jessica Popoff
Terrell Rogers, Jr.

Sean J. Smith
De'Anthony Vaughan
Isabel Wallace-Green
McKinley Willis

DBDT COMPANY TEACHERS

Claude Alexander III
Asako Fandrich
Ceyhun Özsoy

Frankie Lee Peterson III
Sean J. Smith

Enrica Tseng
Michelle Zada

DBDT: ENCORE! ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nycole Ray

DBDT: ENCORE! DANCERS

Ketreon Butler
Gillian Clifford
Molly Davison
Rayshard Demarco Keys

Aleigha Mayo
Olivia McCall
Jeron Sanders

Javares Selby
Brianna Sellars
Micah Sherard

ARTISTIC

Academy Director
Neiman Marcus Group Lead Outreach Teacher
DBDT: *Encore!* Artistic Assistant / Booking Assistant
DBDT Rehearsal Assistants

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Shamonn Wise
Richard A. Freeman, Jr.
Claude Alexander III &
Sean J. Smith

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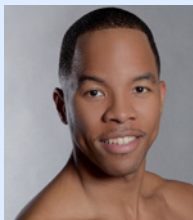
Freda Wright

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas

Keron Wright

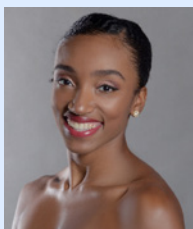
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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DANCERS



CLAUDE ALEXANDER III (Rehearsal Assistant)

A native of Washington D.C., Claude comes to Dallas Black Dance Theatre after graduating from Towson University. He began his training with Spirit Wings Dance Co. and additionally with The Ailey School, Parsons Dance and DBDT's Professional Summer Intensive on full scholarship. Claude has had the opportunity to guest with Dishibem, Dance RINK, Ballet Frontier of Texas, Tuzer Ballet, and Dance Iquail. Notably, Claude performed in the 2017 Command Performance Gala by TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND. He has choreographed two ballets for Dallas Black Dance Theatre, *Face what's facing you!* (2018) and *A Tender Pardon* (2019). Claude joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2010.



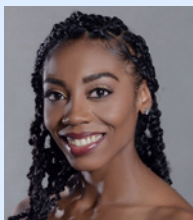
CARMEN CAGE

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Carmen began her pre-professional training at the Jacksonville Center for the arts and the Douglas Anderson School of the arts. She is a 2018 graduate of SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance, and a minor in Arts Management. Carmen has performed renowned works by Kevin Wynn, Doug Varone, Martha Graham, Trisha Brown, Christopher L. Huggins, Levi Marsman and José Limón. She has completed intensives at The Ailey School, Dance Italia, Movement Invention Project, Bates Dance Festival and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. She has performed at the Kuandu Arts Festival in Taipei Taiwan, New York live Arts, New York City Center, and Peridance Capezio Center. Carmen joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.



HANA DELONG

Hana Delong, began her dance training in Orlando, FL. She studied dance at the Dr. Phillips High School Dance Magnet and the Orlando Ballet. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Adelphi University and was a scholarship student at The Ailey School. She has performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in *Memoria* and *Revelations Cast of 50* and has performed pieces by choreographers such as Ulysses Dove, Matthew Rushing, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Margo Sappington, and Ray Mercer. Hana joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2015.



SIERRA NOELLE JONES

Sierra Noelle Jones, from Fort Washington, MD is a 2015 honors graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance & Choreography. She graduated from Baltimore School for the Arts (2011) and received her training through Donna's Dance A Company, The Dance Institute of Washington, and Dance Theatre of Harlem's Pre-Professional Residency program. Sierra has performed in works by Dianne McIntyre, Elisa Monte, Ulysses Dove, Matthew Rushing and Darrell Grand Moultrie. She also performed two seasons with DBDT: *Encore!* and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is also currently the director of the Junior Performing Ensemble within DBDA. Sierra joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2017.



XAVIER MACK

Xavier Mack joins the company from Washington, D.C. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Modern Language & Linguistics from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC). Before dance, Xavier trained in gymnastics and received national and regional awards. He began his dance training at Divine Dance Institute, in Capitol Heights, Maryland. Xavier received summer intensive scholarships from Dance Theatre of Harlem and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Mack has performed works by Talley Beatty, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Dianne McIntyre, and Matthew Rushing. Xavier joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2017.



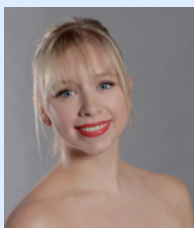
BIANCA MELIDOR

Bianca received her dance training at the Gwinnett Ballet Theater under the artistic direction of Lisa Sheppard Robson and Wade Walthall. Bianca furthered her training at Point Park University, with professors Jason McDole, Judith Leifer-Bentz, and many others. In 2018, Bianca graduated from Point Park receiving her Bachelor in Fine Arts with Magna Cum Laude. Having been part of a conservatory directed under Ruben Graciani and Garfield Lemonius, Bianca has had opportunities to work with choreographers such as Troy Powell, Sidra Bell, Helen Simoneau, Kiesha Lalama and many others along with performing works by Mark Morris and José Limón. In addition, Bianca has spent many of her summers training at intensives like Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Mark Morris Dance Group, Ballet West, Atlanta Ballet, and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Along with her training, Bianca enjoys teaching students of all ages in ballet, jazz, modern, and Haitian folklore dance. Bianca joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.



CHARLES MICHAEL PATTERSON

Born and raised in Trinidad & Tobago, Charles moved to the United States at the age of ten. He began his dance training at the Boston Arts Academy and after-school program Jeannette Neill studio. Charles received his Bachelor of Fine Art in Ballet Pedagogy from The Boston Conservatory on full scholarship. Mr. Patterson has been awarded scholarships to summer intensives such as American Ballet Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and The Juilliard School. Charles accepted his first company contract dancing with Complexions Contemporary Ballet 2016–2017 season as an apprentice. This is Charles' third season performing with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.



JESSICA POPOFF

A native of Garden City, MI Jessica started her pre-professional training at Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance. She is a 2019 graduate from the University of Oklahoma where she earned her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Ballet Pedagogy. There, Jessica had the opportunity to perform works by Trey McIntyre, David Hochoy, and Alejandro Cerrudo. She has also trained at BalletMet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Dallas Black Dance Theatre summer intensives. Jessica joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.



TERRELL ROGERS, JR.

A native of Baltimore, MD, is a recent graduate from Point Park University Conservatory of Performing Arts under the direction of Garfield Lemonius. He began his dance training with the Ava Fields Dance Company under the direction of Ava Fields. He later received a full scholarship to study at Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory. He has attended summer intensives at Complexions Contemporary Ballet and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. During his time at Point Park, he trained and performed works by master choreographers and teachers, José Limón, Lucinda Childs, Jennifer Archibald, Ori Flomin, Judith Leifer-Bentz, Garfield Lemonius, Jason McDole, and Kiesha Lalama. Terrell joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.

**SEAN J. SMITH** (Rehearsal Assistant)

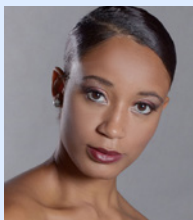
A proud Canadian, Sean trained with Goh Ballet Academy, Ballet British Columbia's Mentor Program and The Ailey School. He has performed with Bruce Wood Dance Project, Rhythmic Souls Tap Company and African American Repertory Theater. Sean has performed with Dallas Theater Center in *The Wiz* (2011) and *Hairspray* (2018). Sean has taught the Lester Horton technique for Ailey Athletic Boys (AAB), Dallas Black Dance Academy, and Southern Methodist University. Sean has choreographed two works for Dallas Black Dance Theatre: *Monologues* (2013) and *Interpretations* (2017) and one work for DBDT: *Encore!*, *Dollhouse* (2015). Sean joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2010.

**DE'ANTHONY VAUGHAN**

Born in Kansas City, MO, De'Anthony was drawn into dance by his grandmother at the age of three. She ran a performing arts school and introduced him to all forms of dance. He attended Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Ballet School. He continued his training in New York City at The Ailey School on scholarship. Prior to joining Dallas Black Dance Theatre, he was a member of the Von Howard Project. He is currently the director of the Senior Performing Ensemble within DBDA. De'Anthony joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2014.

**ISABEL WALLACE-GREEN**

Originally from Houston, Texas, Isabel Wallace-Green began dancing at Houston Ballet Academy. She graduated summa cum laude from Fordham University/The Ailey School with a BFA in Dance and African/ African American Studies. She has performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at New York City Center, New Chamber Ballet, Urban Souls Dance Company, and was an Ensemble member of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Isabel attended summer programs at Boston Ballet School, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Abraham.In.Motion. She has performed works by choreographers Alvin Ailey, Ephrat Asherie, Adam Barruch, Earl Mosley, and Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish. Isabel joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.

**McKINLEY WILLIS**

Ms. Willis is a Dallas native, and began her training with the Dallas Black Dance Academy and Özsoy's School of Ballet. She is a graduate of Booker T. Washington HSPVA, and in the midst of her time there she received the Texas Commission on the Arts Young Masters scholarship. In 2015 she received her Bachelor of Fine Art in Modern Dance Performance with a minor in Health and Exercise Science from the University of Oklahoma. She made her debut with the Bruce Wood Dance Project in 2011 as an apprentice, and again as a performing member in 2015. McKinley joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2015.

JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL

In 2021, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival commissioned Darrell Grand Moultrie to choreograph the new work *LIKE WATER* for Dallas Black Dance Theatre as the inaugural recipient of the Joan B. Hunter New Work Commission in a world premiere at the prestigious dance festival.

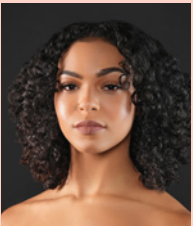


DBDT: *ENCORE!* DANCERS



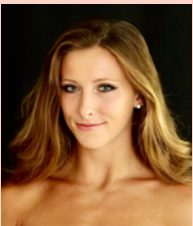
KETREON BUTLER

A native of Plaquemine, Louisiana, Ketreon Butler began his dance training under the direction of Sharon Mathews at Baton Rouge Magnet High School. He was then awarded a full scholarship to train at the Dancer's Workshop and Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre under the artistic direction of Sharon Mathews and Molly Buchmann. He is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor's degree in Dance and Business Administration. He has trained on full scholarships at The Oklahoma City Ballet, The Debbie Allen Dance Academy, The National Choreography Intensive, and The American Ballet Theatre. In 2015, he was awarded the Regional Dance America: Choreography Award for his piece *Yearn*. Ketreon has worked with choreographers such as Karen McDonald, Terry Beeman, Joshua L. Peugh, Jessica Hendricks, Nycole Ray, Derion Loman, and Madison Olandt. Ketreon joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2019.



GILLIAN CLIFFORD

Gillian began her dance journey at Center Stage Dance Studio. She recently graduated from Howard University Suma Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance and a minor in Strategic, Law, and Management Communications. During her summers, she furthered her training with many prestigious organizations including Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Anthony Burrell's Breaking Barriers, Contemporary West Dance Theatre, Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and the Radio City Rockettes. At Howard, Gillian had the opportunity to perform in works by Tommie Waheed-Evans, Brian Flynn, Edward Franklin, Darrell Grand Moultrie and many more. Gillian joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



MOLLY DAVISON

Originally from Ringwood, New Jersey, Molly Davison began her pre-professional training at the King Centre for the Performing Arts under the artistic direction of Nancy King. Molly furthered her training at the University of Oklahoma, with professors Austin Hartel, Roxanne Lyst, Leslie Kraus and many others. During her time at OU, she had the opportunity to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain, as well as train and perform with Centre de Dansa de Catalunya under the artistic direction of Roser Munoz and Joan Boix. During summer and winter breaks, she also participated in Parsons Summer Dance Intensive and Parsons Choreography Intensive, as well as Broadway Dance Center classes in New York City. Molly has had the opportunity to perform renowned works by David Parsons, David Hochoy and Jean Guillaume Weis. Alongside dance, Molly also

choreographed works for the King Centre for the Performing Arts and the Lakeland Dance Team. Molly joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



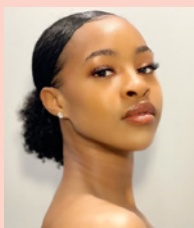
RAYSHARD DEMARCO KEYS

A native of Lafayette, LA. Rayshard began his dance journey at the Lafayette High School Performing Arts Academy and the Hamilton Academy of Dance under the direction of Grace Mayfield. He furthered his training at the Performing Arts Program at the University of Louisiana, Fire Expressions Performing Arts Conservatory, the Jill Listi Dance Studio, and The Ballet Académie. Rayshard was a scholarship recipient to the Ballet Studio, the Clare Cook Dance Theater in Lafayette, LA., the Dance Theatre of Harlem for a 3-week summer intensive and a merit scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet School in Frisco, Texas. Rayshard has performed in *Pepitio's Story* under the Direction of Debbie Allen and staff, with the Legacy Dance Crew at Louisiana State University, Segovia Dance Company, the Zion Dance Project and as an apprentice with Ballet North Texas. Rayshard joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



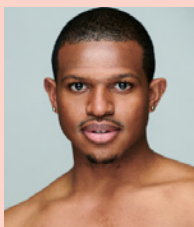
ALEIGHA MAYO

Aleigha Mayo, A Chicago Native who began her dance journey at the age of 13 at Mayfair Academy of Fine Arts. She is a 2019 graduate from Howard University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in dance, studying Graham technique and Ballet. After college Aleigha went on to continue her dance training in Alonzo King Lines Ballet Training Program. It was there where she deepened her understanding and love of contemporary movement, improv, as well as ballet. Throughout her two years she has had the privilege of performing works by Carmen Rozenstraten, Roderick George, Maurya Kerr, and Sidra Bell.



OLIVIA McCALL

Olivia Wynter McCall, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, began her early training at Baltimore Dance Tech under the direction of Stephanie Powell which sparked her passion for dance. Olivia later attended Baltimore School for the Arts where she graduated in 2017. She furthered her training on scholarship at George Mason University School of Dance where she earned her Bachelors of Fine Arts. She has performed in works by George Balanchine, Rafeal Bonachela, Hope Boykin, Martha Graham, Susan Shields, and many others. She has also attended distinguished intensives including Alonzo King LINES Ballet and Dance Theater of Harlem. She is excited to embark on her new journey as a professional dancer. Olivia joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



JERON SANDERS

Jeron Sanders, born and raised in Miami, FL, studied theater at Southwood Middle School Center for the Arts and continued on to New World School of the Arts studying theater and dance. He received additional training at Stars Dance Studio in Contemporary, Jazz Funk, Hip Hop, Ballroom and Ballet education at Armour Dance Theatre. Jeron earned a BFA in dance from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA, with a concentration in Modern dance and a minor in business management. He has performed

works by Martha Graham, Crystal Frazier, Martha Nichols, Edward Liang, Kiki Lucas, and many more. Mr. Sanders future goal is to open or take leadership in an artistic institution to share his knowledge and mentor talented youth in his community. Jeron takes pride in educating others to create their own success from his success. Jeron joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



JAVARES SELBY

A native to Augusta, GA, Javares Selby started his career at the John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School with Sharon Mayfield, a New York Dance and Performance Award “Bessie” recipient at the Garth Fagan Dance Company. There he was molded into the inquisitive shape-shifter that explores the ins and outs of the body as canvas. Javares is a 2021 Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) Cum Laude alumnus of The University of the Arts and Presidential Scholar full scholarship recipient to help pursue his four years at Uarts. Mr. Selby has had the grand opportunity of attending the Garth Fagan Dance Summer Movement Institute, where he performed as a soloist in the world renowned choreographer Garth Fagans’, *From Before* in Rochester, NY. He has been in many other works of acclaimed choreographers performing as a soloist for Tommie-Waheed Evans & Katie Swords Thurman, Sidra Bell, Bobbi Jene Smith & Annie Rigney, Da’Von Doane and ensemble for Wendell Gray II, Niall Jones, Stephen Petronio, Jesse Zaritt, and Boris Charmatz. Javares joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



BRIANNE SELLARS

Brianne Sellars is a native of Atlanta, GA and started her training under the direction of Lynise Heard and Denise Latimer. Their studio Dancemakers of Atlanta would pave the way of her professional career. She is a 2019 graduate of Point Park University where she performed works by Peter Chu, Kyle Abraham, and José Limón. She has also performed with Komansé Dance Theater under the direction of Raianna Brown. Brianne joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



MICAH SHERARD

Micah Sherard began his early training in his hometown of Goldsboro, North Carolina and has attended the American Dance Festival as a scholarship recipient. His training has taken him from North Carolina to his new home of Dallas, Texas where he was a company member of Ingredients Dance Company and is a member of The Rev Crew. Throughout Micah’s career, he’s had the opportunity to perform works by T. Lang, Vincent Hardy, Baba Chuck Davis, and has performed with Grammy – winning gospel artist, Jonathan McReynolds, as well as in industrials and commercials throughout the states. He’s also had the opportunity to create works within Texas, North Carolina, and Florida and enjoys teaching. Micah is excited to expand his knowledge and training at Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Micah joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



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