
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2020

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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE
MAKES THE CITY OF DALLAS ITS STAGE
IN DIRECTOR'S CHOICE 2020 VIRTUAL PROGRAM
Two Works with Relevance to the Past and Present



Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre** connects the past to present with two works that stir emotional relevance. The world premiere of *I am Large* choreographed by **Joshua L. Peugh** poses the broad question of ‘Who is Dallas Black Dance Theatre?’ Audience favorite *Bodies as Site of Faith and Protest*, choreographed by **Tommie-Waheed Evans**, transcribes **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s** “We Shall Overcome” speech into dance. Instead of a performance hall, both works are performed by the dancers at locations across the Dallas landscape. **Texas Instruments** is the Presenting Sponsor of the virtual Director’s Choice program on November 14, 2020, at 7:00 pm CST/ 8:00 pm EST.

Joshua L. Peugh’s *I AM LARGE* is a collage of music and dance styles. The work embodies the DBDT dancers’ feelings about the company, which they view as a powerful family grounded in excellence. The movement vocabulary evolved as Peugh continued dialogue with the dancers about their impressions. “Some of the words used to describe Dallas Black Dance Theatre were hidden, powerful, discipline, Black, excellence, and family,” said Peugh. “We then took those lists and used them to generate movement.” It progresses from formal, light, performative, entertainment to stripped, introspective thoughtfulness and then returns to a reimagined, repossessed, performance. The choreography is sponsored by **Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger**.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “We Shall Overcome” speech is 57 years old, but his words still ring true today. In 2018, DBDT dancers performed to those soul-stirring, iconic words in the powerful work *Bodies as Site of Faith and Protest*. Choreographer Tommie-Waheed Evans explored the idea of bodies uniting in protest through faith. Embedded in this rich work, Dr. King’s speech becomes the embodiment of faith and protest. In 2018 Theater Jones described the piece as “both compelling and increasingly relevant.”

DIRECTOR’S CHOICE SERIES DETAILS

Virtual Performance

Saturday, November 14, 2020

7:00 pm CST/ 8:00 pm EST

\$30 per household.

www.DBDT.com

2020-2021 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Arts and Culture – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, NBC 5, *Texas Metro News*, *The Dallas Morning News*, 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, *Elite News*, *FYI-50+*, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *OverseeMyIT*, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*.

2020-2021 | DBDT COVID Resilience Sponsors

Anonymous, LKS Foundation, Mid-America Arts Alliance United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, Office of Arts and Culture – City of Dallas Coronavirus Relief Fund, National Endowment for the Arts CARES Act, Dallas Black Dance Theatre Board of Directors, Henry C. Beck, Jr. Donor Advised Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation, Kate Wilson Davis Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, PNC, Wells Fargo, Anonymous, Communities Foundation of Texas/North Texas Giving Day, Chase, Deedie Rose, TACA Emergency Arts Relief Fund, Sally Pian & Ira Silverman, Lucy and Henry Billingsley Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation, Ford Reynolds Fund of the Southwest Community Foundation, Keron Wright.

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 Wyly Theatre**.

For more details, visit www.DBDT.com and www.dbdt.com/academy.



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