
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Go “Behind the Scenes” Virtually
With Dallas Black Dance Academy**



Photograph by Xavier Mack.

Dallas, TX – Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Academy** invites the community to take a free “Behind The Scenes” virtual view of its three performing ensembles during the Thanksgiving holiday. The performance provides the audience the opportunity to experience clips of virtual rehearsals, in-person rehearsals and a mini-performance. This event has become a holiday tradition for many families during the Thanksgiving break. **The City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture** is the presenting sponsor of Behind the Scenes that is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 1:00 pm CST.

The ensembles will perform works choreographed by Dallas Black Dance Theatre company members. Hana DeLong has choreographed a work *Primal* for the **Allegro Performing Ensemble**. Academy Director **Katricia Eaglin** created a solo for an Allegro member. The Allegro Performing Ensemble is the premier academy ensemble with students between the ages of 14-18 under the direction of Mrs. Eaglin.

De’Anthony Vaughn developed group pieces *Off the Rails* and *La Vida* for the **Senior Performing Ensemble (SPE)** and the **Junior Performing Ensemble (JPE)**. Sierra Noelle Jones has choreographed solos for SPE and JPE members. The Senior Performing Ensemble with students between the ages of 11-14 is directed by De’Anthony Vaughan. The Junior Performing Ensemble with students between the ages of 9-12 is under the direction of Sierra Noelle Jones.

The academy has provided virtual classes since the pandemic started. Students utilize the Zoom format to participate in 50 dance classes weekly, including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are open to students ages four to adult.

The virtual performance is **FREE**, but you must RSVP at www.DBDT.com.

BEHIND THE SCENES PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 1:00 pm CST

Virtual performance

Visit www.DBDT.com for details.

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*, Oversee My IT, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*.

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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, Oversee My IT, 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 Wylie Theatre**.

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



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