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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:  
Ramona Logan  
(214) 871-2376 Ext. 411  
(214) 882-2451 cell  
[r.logan@dbdt.com](mailto:r.logan@dbdt.com)

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**DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE AND DBDT: ENCORE!**

**PRESENT BLACK ON BLACK PERFORMANCE**

**WITH NEW WORKS THAT REFLECT THE TIMES**

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** presents its 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Black on Black** in a virtual performance. This performance showcases the choreographic skills of **DBDT** and **DBDT: *Encore!*** company members as they create works that are a reflection of the times for their peers to perform. The virtual performance is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2020, at 7:00 pm CST/ 8:00 EST.

The featured works of Black on Black are the dancer's introspective reflections surrounding the pandemic, as well as an exploration of the multi-faceted feelings universally experienced during this time.

· DBDT: *Encore!* dancer **Terrell Rogers** choreographed *A Good Day in My Mind*. It was inspired by the Civil Rights era and how his generation still hurts from current unrest.

· DBDT dancers **Lailah LaRose** and **Renee Walters** created a duet together that demonstrates the harm and hope that humanity causes.

· DBDT: *Encore!* dancer **Floyd McLean, Jr.** developed a work for five male dancers that expressed support, bonding, and strength as they deal with the loss of a friend.

· DBDT dancer **Sean J. Smith** choreographed his tap solo as a dedication to Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, set to the music of Louis Armstrong.

· DBDT: *Encore!* dancer **Marques Furr** created an ensemble work that speaks to courage, freedom of self, and self-expression.

Along with showcasing the performance, the pre-performance mingle and after-party festivities in the Zoom room will include line dancing, cocktail/mocktail demonstrations, and a DJ to top things off for a fun atmosphere for all to enjoy!

## **BLACK ON BLACK PERFORMANCE DETAILS**

Saturday, December 5, 2020 Virtual Performance starts at 7:00 pm CDT/ 8:00 pm EDT \$25 per household

Details at [www.DBDT.com](http://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*, *Oversee My IT*, *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, *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.

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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](http://www.DBDT.com) and [www.dbdt.com/academy](http://www.dbdt.com/academy).*

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*Photograph by Brian Guilliaux.*



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Dallas Black Dance Theatre 2700 Ann Williams Way, Dallas, TX 75201