

**DALLAS BLACK**  
**DANCE THEATRE**  
*RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Unsettled Thoughts choreographed by Richard A. Freeman, Jr. Photograph by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image. More photographs are at the end of the press release.*

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**DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DBDT: *Encore!***

**REINVENTS AUDIENCE FAVORITES VIRTUALLY**

**MAKING THE DALLAS LANDSCAPE ITS STAGE**

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's DBDT: *Encore!*** reinvents audience favorites featuring established and emerging choreographers using the Dallas landscape as its stage. The dancers will be filmed dancing in Dallas' East Quarter, Block House, and 2200 Main. **Bank of Texas** is the presenting sponsor for the two virtual performances scheduled for January 9, 2021, and February 6, 2021.

The *Choreographer Experience* on January 9<sup>th</sup> features distinctive works by four choreographers. **Theater Jones** described *Unsettled Thoughts* "choreography simply stuns with excellent precision." **Richard A. Freeman, Jr.**, former DBDT company member and current DBDT: *Encore!* Artistic Assistant, created the work that explores the roles of the heart and mind. *Some Moan for Love*, by the late **Darryl B. Sneed**, is a solo that expresses the sentiment of love in hopes of reciprocation, set to Nina Simone singing "Wild is the Wind." *COLD*, a duet choreographed by DBDT: *Encore!* member **Floyd McLean, Jr.**, is filled with searing strength and colossal control. *Weighted* by **Shauna Davis** is a thought-provoking work that explores pushing past physical boundaries. The virtual performance is Saturday, January 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm CST / 8:00 pm EST.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, *Reminisce* reflects on the Civil Rights Era, paying tribute through the music of **Andra Day**, **Aretha Franklin**, and **Gladys Knight & The Pips** with the empowering words of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** This work was a collaborative effort by DBDT: *Encore!* Artistic Director **Nycole Ray**, DBDT: *Encore!* Artistic Assistant **Richard A. Freeman, Jr.**, *Encore!* dancer **Terrell Rogers** and the entire *Encore!* company. The virtual performance is Saturday, February 6, 2021, at 7:00 pm CST / 8:00 pm EST.

For ticket details visit [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 Wyly Theatre**.*

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



*COLD choreographed by Floyd McLean, Jr. Photograph by Amitava Sarkar.*

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*Some Moan for Love choreographed by Darryl B. Sneed. Photograph by Sharen Bradford - The Dancing Image.*



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