



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

CELEBRATES THE TRIUMPHS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

FEATURING GUEST ARTIST JULLIARD'S ALICIA GRAF MACK

Dallas, TX – - **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT)** Spring Celebration performance features guest artist **Alicia Graf Mack**, Dean and Director of the Dance Division at **The Juilliard School**, following an esteemed career as the principal dancer at two major dance companies. The works in this year's Spring Celebration performance celebrate the triumphs of the human spirit. The on-demand virtual performance will be held from Saturday, May 22, 2021, at 7:00 pm to Sunday, May 23, 2021, at 11:59 pm CDT. The presenting sponsor is Anonymous, and the co-sponsor is **The David M. Crowley Foundation**. Choreography sponsors are **Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

Guest artist Alicia Graf Mack performs a sentimental solo *Don't Stop* from a New York City rooftop. Graf Mack appears in the official music video of Academy Award-winning composer **Jon Batiste** from his album "Hollywood Africans." Graf Mack and Batiste first met while performing "Don't Stop" in honor of dance icon **Carmen de Lavallade** at the **Kennedy Center Honors** in 2017. Graf Mack was a former principal dancer at both the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and the **Dance Theatre of Harlem** during her dance career.

DBDT veteran dancer and rehearsal assistant **Claude Alexander III** takes you on an emotional journey through the process of forgiveness and unconditional love in his full company work, *A Tender Pardon*.

The program will also feature an emotionally moving male trio, *Evidence of Souls Not Seen*, choreographed by **Lloyd Whitmore**. The work is a beautiful requiem that expresses mourning of the deaths for those we hold close to our hearts.

DBDT SPRING CELEBRATION PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Saturday, May 22, 2021, 7:00 pm – Sunday, May 23, 2021, 11:59 pm

On-demand virtual performance

\$30 per household

Group tickets are also available.

Details at 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, Communities Foundation of Texas (North Texas Cares), 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 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 at 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 5 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 12 full-time salaried dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, African, and spiritual works by national and international choreographers. **DBDT: Encore!** features six 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 permanent 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.



Photograph of A Tender Pardon by Amitava Sarkar.





Photograph of Alicia Graf Mack by Jon Batiste.



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