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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

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**Go "Behind the Scenes"  
With Dallas Black Dance Theatre**

**On-demand Viewing Available**

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre** invites the community to enjoy a free Behind the Scenes view of its two professional companies and three performing academy ensembles during the Thanksgiving holiday. The performance allows the audience to experience the rehearsal process, take a peek at upcoming new works and meet the dancers. **MUFG Union Bank** is the presenting sponsor of Behind The Scenes performances. The family fun begins Monday and Tuesday, November 22-23, 2021, at Noon CST in the Dallas Black Dance Theatre studios at 2700 Ann Williams Way, Dallas, TX. 75201.

This event has become a holiday tradition for many families during the Thanksgiving break, and seating has already reached capacity. You can still watch the Monday performance on-demand at your convenience for free from Monday, November 22, 2021, at 3:00 pm CST through Sunday, November 28, 2021, at 11:59 CST.

**DBDT and DBDT: *Encore!***

Monday, November 22, 2021

**Dallas Black Dance Theatre** and **DBDT: *Encore!*** will both be featured in this free program. DBDT will showcase excerpts from its 45<sup>th</sup> season as it does rehearsal run-throughs and previews what is in store for Cultural Awareness February 18-19, 2022. DBDT: *Encore!* will share a snippet of works planned for Black History Month and Rising Excellence April 22-23, 2022.

**Dallas Black Dance Academy**

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Dallas Black Dance Academy will showcase the talents of students in its three performing ensembles. The **Allegro Performing Ensemble**, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, will provide a class demonstration. The **Senior Performing Ensemble** displays the

choreographic process, and the **Junior Performing Ensemble** will perform an excerpt from one of their works.

If you would like to get on the waitlist for the free in-person performances, RSVP to [ticketsales@dbdt.com](mailto:ticketsales@dbdt.com) with your name, the date you would like to attend, the number of tickets needed, and your cell phone number.

For more performance details visit [www.DBDT.com](http://www.DBDT.com).

## **2021 - 2022 | DBDT Season Media and Travel Sponsors**

NBC 5, *Texas Metro News*, *The Dallas Morning News*, American Airlines, DART, *The Dallas Weekly*.

## **2021 - 2022 | DBDT Season Media Supporters**

*Elite News, FYI-50+, The Dallas Examiner, The Dallas Post Tribune, Trendy Africa, Arts+Culture.*

**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 45-year-old company as American Masterpiece Touring Artist in 2008. The company also received the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education in 2017.*

*As a result of COVID closures, Dallas Black Dance Theater's 44<sup>th</sup> season was entirely virtual, with many of its stage performances reimaged on film across the Dallas landscape. During the summer of 2020, Dallas Black Dance Theatre became the first professional dance company in the world to present its entire season as paid-only virtual performances, a new business model developed after the closing of live performances during the pandemic.*

*In 2021, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival commissioned Darrell Grand Moultrie to choreograph the new work LIKE WATER for Dallas Black Dance Theatre as the inaugural recipient of the **Joan B. Hunter New Work Commission** in a world premiere at the prestigious dance festival.*

*As Dallas' oldest and largest professional dance company, Dallas Black Dance Theatre 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 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 following a volunteer assignment for the dance company.

*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. Dallas Black Dance Theatre consists of 14 full-time salaried dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, African, and spiritual works by national and international choreographers. **DBDT: Encore!** features 10 artists of rising excellence from across the nation who support Dallas Black Dance Theatre'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 48 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, including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are held at Dallas Black Dance Theatre's studios and are open to students ages four to adult. The academy has three performing ensembles: **Allegro Performing Ensemble**, Dallas Black Dance Theatre'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 Wily 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 Chadi El-Khoury.*



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