

The Official Dance Academy For Dallas Black Dance Theatre

# **ESPRESSO NUTCRACKER**

IN-PERSON • ON-DEMAND • STREAMING

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 2022 • <u>7:00 PM</u>

> MAJESTIC THEATRE 1925 ELM ST • DALLAS, TX 75201

# DBDT.com

Photo by Xavier Mack



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# ESPRESSO NUTCRACKER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022 • 7:00 PM

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# **DEAR PATRONS & FRIENDS,**

It brings me great joy to greet you at Dallas Black Dance Academy's 5th Espresso Nutcracker!

In 2018, Dallas Black Dance Academy's faculty and staff supported me with excitement as I cast the vision to have our students join the Nutcracker tradition in celebration of the Academy's 45th Anniversary. In 2019, we experienced overwhelming community support in a sold-out performance at the Majestic Theatre. With gratitude in 2020 and 2021, we were able to continue our Espresso Nutcracker tradition virtually spreading holiday cheer in homes around the world. Last year we had a joyful in person return and are thankful to keep sharing our Espresso Nutcracker tradition.

Please enjoy our students as they shine bright!

Katricia Eaqlin

# Wake Up to #SomethingGood



Deborah Laura Ferguson Harris

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#### ANN M. WILLIAMS

Founder

Ann M. Williams founded Dallas Black Dance Academy in 1973 and the Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. She is a founding member of the Dance Council of North Texas, the Advisory Board of the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and The International Association of Blacks in Dance. Additionally, Ms. Williams founded four performance ensembles—DBDT: *Encore!* (DBDT's second professional company) and three training ensembles of the Dallas Black Dance Academy.

She received her early dance training under Barbara Hollis (a member of the Katherine Dunham Dance Company), Edith James, Doris Humphrey, and Charles Weidman. She received additional training under Alvin Ailey and Arthur Mitchell. Ms. Williams is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University and the first African American to earn a Master of Arts degree in Dance and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University. She was honored as a "distinguished alumna" by both universities and received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Northwood University, and in May 2008 was awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Dance from TWU. She served six years on the Texas Woman's University Board of 3 Regents. She is a 2002 inductee into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame; and in April 2005, she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as a part of the Masters of African American Choreography series.

For 40 years, Ms. Williams directed Dallas Black Dance Theatre from a community-based organization and a semi-professional organization to a fully professional dance company that has now become the fourth largest black dance company in the nation. Dallas Black Dance Theatre's administrative and rehearsal facility is located in the historic former Moorland YMCA building in the Dallas Arts District and DBDT is a resident company in the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre located in the AT&T Performing Arts Center. DBDT tours annually throughout the state, nationally and internationally. During its history, the company has performed in 31 states, 16 countries and performances for Queen Elizabeth II and President Nelson Mandela. DBDT has been recognized by the NEA as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist and has received the Texas Medal of the Arts Award for Arts Education.

The Academy trains over 500 students weekly in classes of ballet, modern, jazz, tap, African and hip hop and has produced nine Presidential Scholars in dance including the first Presidential Scholar in dance in the nation in 1980.

Ms. Williams is an active dance consultant and has served as a panelist for many city, state, and national agencies. Presently, she serves on the boards of The International Association of Blacks in Dance, Ursuline Academy of Dallas, and serves as a member the advisory board of the Martin Luther King Center. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Incorporated, the Dallas Opera, and a lifetime member of the NAACP.

She has received many rewards and honors for her support and commitment to the arts and service organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Dallas Dance Council, NAACP, the Dallas Historical Society, TACA, and most recently the Lifetime Arts Leadership Award given by the Dallas Business Committee for the Arts.

For 44 years, she was married to the late Nathaniel Williams, a retired administrator of Dallas Independent School District. They are the parents of Angelia Williams, a graduate of Florida A&M University School of Business and Industry and the University of Dallas School of Business Management.

In May of 2014, Ms. Williams officially retired as Artistic Director of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. She remains actively involved as an emeritus member of DBDT's Board of Directors. Founded by **Ann Williams** in 1973, **Dallas Black Dance Academy (DBDA)**, the official school of **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)**, celebrates 49 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. The academy offers classes (four levels each) in ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African for ages 4 and up. Classes take place three evenings per week and on Saturdays during the school year. Currently, the academy trains 550+ students per week in the DBDT studios.

The academy's arts-in-education curriculum meets the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. In February 2017, DBDT received the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education (one of only three Dallas arts organizations to hold that honor). DBDT is the first contemporary modern dance company certified to utilize the American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum in its academy.

DBDA conducts a variety of summer programs. A five-week Summer Academy Workshop provides classes for students ages two through adult. A three-week Summer Enrichment Program is held for ages 8–17 with previous dance experience. Nationally recognized dancers, choreographers, and dance educators teach at the two-week Summer Intensive Workshop for semi-professional dance students from across the country.

Dallas Black Dance Academy trained the nation's first U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts for dance (1980). To date, eight other Dallas Black Dance Academy students have been named U.S. Presidential Scholars and many more have received the Texas Young Masters award in dance, the state equivalent to the national award. Since 2014, four students have attended The Juilliard School on full scholarship. DBDA frequently serves as a training base for students auditioning for Dallas' prestigious arts magnet Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Students who show exceptional performance skills are encouraged to audition for one of the three academy performing ensembles: Allegro Performing Ensemble, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble. The ensembles perform about 20 times a year, locally at festivals and various events in the Dallas area. The Performing Ensemble members have performed in Los Angeles, Miami, Washington DC, and internationally in Uganda, Africa.

Under the direction of Katricia Eaglin since 2017, the academy employs 15 instructors, a registrar, a Neiman Marcus Group Lead Outreach Teacher, and 20 independent instructors. The classes are held in the historic Moorland YMCA building and permanent home of DBDT with state-of-the-art rehearsal studios, training classrooms, and administrative offices located at 2700 Ann Williams Way in the downtown Dallas Arts District.

#### ACADEMY DIRECTOR / NEIMAN MARCUS GROUP LEAD OUTREACH TEACHER

#### DALLAS BLACK DANCE ACADEMY DIRECTOR

**KATRICIA EAGLIN**, is Dallas Black Dance Academy's Academy Director. Mrs. Eaglin is a Dallas native has a long history with DBDT starting with her professional dance career at the dance company from 2005–2015. Ms. Eaglin has been the Director of the academy's premier Allegro Performing Ensemble since 2012 and an academy instructor since 1998.

"As an instructor for Dallas Black Dance Academy since 1998 and a former company member of Dallas Black Dance Theatre for 10 years, it is important to me to continue to enrich the students of Dallas Black Dance Academy with the confidence and perspective it takes to pursue and produce dance at its highest level."

Mrs. Eaglin directed DBDT's satellite Summer Enrichment program in San Antonio from 2010–2015. She is an ABT certified instructor and has taught on tour with the professional dance company.

Katricia has done choreography for Dallas Black Dance Theatre, DBDT: *Encore!*, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts as well as other dance programs in the Dallas community. Katricia's work, *Testament*, made its Dallas premiere during DBDT's Cultural Awareness series in 2016. The work enabled Ms. Eaglin to combine both her passions, faith and dance.

While a member of DBDT, Ms. Eaglin performed with the Dallas Opera's *Porgy and Bess* in 2008 and Dallas Black Dance Theatre's collaboration with Dallas Theatre Center in *The Wiz* in 2011. She also performed for the King of Ghana and Winnie Mandela.

Katricia received her BFA in Dance with a minor in Business Foundations from the University of North Texas, earned a Master's in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

#### NEIMAN MARCUS GROUP LEAD OUTREACH TEACHER

**SHAMONN WISE**, from Duncanville, Texas, is a 2018 University of North Texas in Denton Honors graduate, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance. She has trained with Ad Deum Dance in Houston, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and is a founding member of the Terrance M. Johnson Dance Ensemble in Dallas. Shamonn is currently in her fifth year as Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Neiman Marcus Lead Outreach Teacher, facilitating arts integrated programs for students in Dallas County.

#### DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

Ann Williams Founder Melissa M. Young Artistic Director Zenetta S. Drew Executive Director

#### ACADEMY STAFF

Katricia Eaglin – Academy Director DeAngela Christian – Academy Registrar/ Jr. Accountant Shamonn Wise – Neiman Marcus Group Lead Outreach Teacher Sierra Noelle Jones – Junior Performing Ensemble Director De'Anthony Vaughan – Senior Performing Ensemble Director Katricia Eaglin – Allegro Performing Ensemble Director Richard Battle – Facilities Coordinator

#### FACULTY

Attiyya Fortune Richard A. Freeman Jr. Katricia Eaglin Kevin Jackson Sierra Noelle Jones Daijhia Kirk Olivia McCall Bianca Melidor Jhordyn Nelson Alexandra Newkirk Terrell Rogers Jr. Sean J. Smith Sydney Winston

#### TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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Jeannette Allen Attiyya Fortune Zenobia Fortune Michelle Fuller Randolph Grant

Odette Goer Tinita Jacquet Galen Johnson Kim Jones Sareath Kirk Emelda Lawrence Amber McCoy Ryan Pleasant Tori Thompson Latricia Willis

# THE SYNOPSIS

# ACT I

It's a Winter white Christmas at the Black home, and Mr. and Mrs. Black and their child, Clara, are welcoming their guests to a holiday party. There are games and gifts for the children and dancing for everyone. Clara's beloved godfather, Herr Drosselmyer gives her a wonderful present, a wooden Nutcracker.

After the party, Clara falls asleep with her Nutcracker but she wakes up because something is suspicious. Out of nowhere, giant mice scurry into the room. Everything in the room disappears except for toy soldiers and the mice.

The toy soldiers battle with the mice, and Clara helps them by throwing her slipper to slay the fierce Mouse King. Now that the Mouse King is dead, Clara enters into a beautiful forest, where the snowflakes dance a lovely waltz.

# ACT II

Clara and Drosselmyer arrive in the Land of Sweets and are greeted by the beautiful Sugarplum Fairy and all the other inhabitants of her realm. Everyone is delighted that Clara is safe. Everyone dances for Clara: Hot Chocolate from Spain, little ones from Africa, Chinese Tea, Coffee from Arabia, the Reed Flutes, and Mother Ginger with her little ones. Then comes the Waltz of the Flowers to dance and finally, the Sugarplum Fairy returns to perform a majestic dance.

It's time for Clara to say goodbye and she bids the Land of Sweets a farewell.

**KATRICIA EAGLIN** (Instructor: Pre-Pro III / IV Pointe, Pre-Pro IV Modern)—See also Academy Director Bio.

**SIERRA NOELLE JONES** (Instructor: Ballet A ages 6–8, Pre-Pointe ages 10–14, Beginning Pointe ages 11–15, Pre-Pro II Ballet, Pre-Pro IV Ballet, Pre-Pro IV Pointe) —Sierra Noelle Jones, from Fort Washington, Maryland is a 2015 honors graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance & Choreography. She graduated from Baltimore School for the Arts (2011) and received early training through Donna's Dance A Company, The Dance Institute of Washington, and Dance Theatre of Harlem's Pre-Professional Residency program. Sierra teaches for the Dallas Black Dance Academy and is the director of the Academy's Junior Performing Ensemble. Sierra performed in DBDT: *Encore!* for two seasons. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and is currently serving on the Auxiliary Board for the AT&T Performing Arts Center. Sierra has performed in works by Darrell Grand Moultrie, Elisa Monte, Ulysses Dove, and Matthew Rushing. This is her sixth wonderful season with DBDT!

**DAIJHIA KIRK** Instructor: Ballet/Tap ages 4–5 9am & 10am, African ages 6–8, Jazz B ages 9–12)—A Dallas native, Daijhia Kirk danced three seasons as a member of DBDT II (DBDT: Encore!). She is a graduate of Garland High School and is currently a student at Richland College receiving her Associate in Arts degree. She began her training at the Dallas Black Dance Academy and received additional training from The Ailey Summer Intensive and the Sister Act Dance Studio. She has performed in multiple International Association of Blacks in Dance conferences; two including Los Angeles, CA in 2011 and Washington, DC in 2013. She also performed in Miami, FL for the FedEx Orange Bowl Halftime show in 2010. Her dance career consists of training with and attending workshops by Christopher L. Huggins, Melissa M. Young, Nycole Ray, Allyne D. Gartrell, Milton Myers, Mary Barnett, Dr. Chuck Davis, Camille A. Brown, Chris Judd, Elena Comendador, Dudley Williams, Jamal Story, Diane Grisby, Dr. Mel Tomlinson, Ana Marie Forsythe, Kevin L. Predmore, Joan Peters, Bruce Wood<sup>®</sup>, and Zachary Ingram just to name a few.

**BIANCA MELIDOR** (Instructor: Ballet A ages 6–8, Pre-Pro III A Ballet, Pre-Pro III A Pointe, Ballet/Tap ages 6–8, Teen/Adult Tap)—Bianca began her dance training at the Gwinnett Ballet Theater under the direction of Lisa Sheppard Robson and Wade Walthall. Bianca received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Point Park University with Magna Cum Laude. In the conservatory directed under Ruben Graciani and Garfield Lemonius, Bianca had opportunities to work with choreographers like Sidra Bell and Helen Simoneau, along with performing classic works by Mark Morris and José Limón. In addition, Bianca has spent many of her summers training at prestigious summer intensives. In her professional career, Bianca has performed works by Katarzyna Skarpetowska, Rennie Harris, Hope Boykin, Christopher L. Huggins, and other world-renowned choreographers. Along with her dancing, Bianca enjoys practicing and teaching yoga. Bianca joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.

**ALEXANDRA NEWKIRK**—Alexandra Newkirk is a native to Atlanta, Georgia. Newkirk began her pre-professional training with Atlanta Ballet. Through her years of dancing Newkirk has trained at Atlanta Ballet, Ballethnic Dance Company, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and San Fransisco Conservatory of Dance. After graduating high school Newkirk began college at Point Park University studying to get her BFA in Dance with

a concentration of ballet. Newkirk has trained with and performed works by Matthew Powell, Keith Saunders, Robert Garland, Kiesha Lalama, and many more. After Point Park University Newkirk has performed many guests artist roles such as, Dew Drop from the *Nutcracker*, and the Gypsy from *Dracula*.

**SEAN J. SMITH** (Instructor: Tap ages 9–12 mixed levels)—A proud Canadian, Sean trained with Goh Ballet Academy and Ballet British Columbia's Mentor Program both in Vancouver, British Columbia. Sean continued his training at The Ailey School in New York City. Sean has performed with Ballet Creole (Toronto, Ontario), Bruce Wood Dance Project, Rhythmic Souls Tap Company and African American Repertory Theater. Sean has performed with Dallas Theater Center in *The Wiz* (2011) and *Hairspray* (2018). Sean has taught the Lester Horton technique for Ailey Athletic Boys (AAB), Dallas Black Dance Academy, The Dallas Conservatory, and Southern Methodist University. Sean has choreographed two works for Dallas Black Dance Theatre: *Monologues* (2013) and *Interpretations* (2017) and one work for DBDT: *Encore!*, *Dollhouse* (2015). Sean joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2010.

**DE'ANTHONY VAUGHAN** (Instructor: Modern B ages 9–12, Modern C & D ages 11–14, Pre-Pro III Modern, Pre-Pro II Modern, Pre-Pro III / IV Jazz)—From Kansas City, Missouri, De'Anthony was introduced to dance at the age of three by his grandmother. He received training from the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Ballet School. He continued his training as a three-year scholarship student at The Ailey School. He was a member of the Von Howard Project in New York and is currently the director of Dallas Black Dance Academy's Senior Performing Ensemble. De'Anthony has performed works by choreographers such as Matthew Rushing, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Alvin Ailey, Elisa Monte, Christopher L. Huggins, and many more. De'Anthony joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2014.

**JASMINE WHITE-KILLINS**—A native of Cincinnati, OH, Jasmine began her dance training at the Cincinnati School for Creative and Performing Arts. In addition to earning her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University and minor in Arts Management, Jasmine has studied on scholarship at The Ailey School, Martha Graham School, Cincinnati Ballet Academy and other intensives across the country. Jasmine performed two seasons with DBDT: Encore! and is an instructor at both Dallas Black Dance Academy and Texas Ballet Theater. She is currently the director of the Senior Performing Ensemble within DBDA.

**MCKINLEY WILLIS** (Instructor: Pre-Pro III Ballet, Pre-Pro III Pointe, Pre-Pro III / IV Ballet & Pointe)—Ms. Willis is a Dallas native, and began her training with the Dallas Black Dance Academy and Özsoy's School of Ballet. She is a graduate of Booker T. Washington HSPVA, and in the midst of her time there she received the Texas Commission on the Arts Young Masters scholarship. In 2015 she received her Bachelor of Fine Art in Modern Dance Performance with a minor in Health and Exercise Science from the University of Oklahoma. She made her debut with the Bruce Wood Dance Project in 2011 as an apprentice, and again as a performing member in 2015. McKinley joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2015.

#### PROGRAMME • DECEMBER 10, 2022

# **ESPRESSO NUTCRACKER**

No photography or videography permitted. Please silence all devices.

Founder, Ann Williams Artistic Director, Melissa M. Young Academy Director, Katricia Eaglin

**Composers: Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky & Duke Ellington** 

Additional Composers: Relax Café, Invincible Czars Narration: Dr. Von Eaglin Lighting Design: Velyncia Caldwell Script: Katricia Eaglin Costumes: Nycole Ray, Sareatha Kirk, Katricia Eaglin

## **ACT I**

Family Scene

Choreographer—Katricia Eaglin Father—Sean J. Smith Mother—Nycole Ray Clara—Aniya Whitaker Drosselmyer—Richard A. Freeman Jr.

**Family Children**—Olivia Booker, Gabrielle Bowens, Taylor Brock, Tiffany Fuller, Dallas Lewis, Charlee McCoy, Farrah McCoy, Paris Paris, Journey Pipkins, Tyrann Riguard, Marley Randolph, Zoee Shepherd, MacKenzie Wallace, Ailey Williams

> Family Adults—Hana Delong, Elijah W. Lancaster, Keon K. Nickie, Micah Sherard, Sydney Winston

#### Toys

**Choreographer**—Sean J. Smith Carra Collins, Carmen Johnson, Daijhia Kirk, Hannah Lowe, Jade Morant, Sydney Williams

#### Battle

**Choreographer**—Katricia Eaglin Lead Soldier—Trinitee Hall Soldiers—Devyn Black, Juliana Gamino, Aicila Johnson Lead Rat—Ziari Thomas Rats—Alex Vanzant, Jordan Webster, Viviana Rivera Santiago

#### **Snow Scene**

Choreographer—Jasmine White-Killins Snow Queen—Jordan Pipkins Corps de ballet: Carra Collins, Carmen Johnson, Hannah Lowe, Jade Morant, Moriah Perry, Kendall Stone, Sydney Williams

#### -15 MINUTE INTERMISSION-

#### PROGRAMME • DECEMBER 10, 2022

### **ACT II**

#### Spanish

**Choreographer**—Bianca Melidor Spanish Lead—Kendall Stone Corps de ballet:

Carisyn Anderson, Nakhoby Bullock, Michaela Fuller, Ziari Thomas, Alex Vanzant, MacKenzie Wallace, Jordan Webster, Morgan Wesley

#### Africa

**Choreographer**—Daijhia Kirk African Lead—Sydney Williams

Jade Morant, Tori Davis

Harper Brown, Jene Crawford, Taylor Jacquet, Dailynn Ward, Camille Weightmann

#### Arabian

Choreographer—Alexandra Newkirk Arabian Soloist—Hannah Lowe

#### Chinese

**Choreographer**—Sierra Noelle Jones *Chinese Lead*—Carra Collins

#### Russian

**Choreographer**—De'Anthony Vaughan Moriah Perry, Ziari Thomas, Alex Vanzant

#### **Reed Flutes**

**Choreographer**—Katricia Eaglin Aniya Whitaker with Carra Collins, Hannah Lowe, Jordan Pipkins, Sydney Williams

#### Ginger

**Choreographer**—Jasmine White-Killins *Restaged by*: Sierra Noelle Jones *Mother Ginger*—Jade Morant *Corps de ballet:* Olivia Booker, Taylor Brock, Tiffany Fuller, Dallas Lewis, Charlee McCoy, Farrah McCoy, Paris Paris, Journey Pipkins, Marley Randolph, Zoee Shepherd, Tyrann Ridgard, Ailey Williams

#### Waltz of the Flowers

**Choreographer**—McKinley Willis Waltz of the Flowers Leads—Carmen Johnson, Kendall Stone, Sydney Williams *Corps de ballet:* Devyn Black, Tori Davis, Juliana Gamino, Laila Heep, Aicila Johnson, Trinitee Hall, Viviana Rivera Santiago, Micah White

#### **Sugar Plum Fairy**

**Choreographer**—Jasmine White-Killins Sugar Plum Fairy Soloist—Moriah Perry

#### Journey Home

**Choreographer**—Katricia Eaglin *Pas da deux*—Richard A. Freeman Jr. & Aniya Whitaker

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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.

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Carmen Cage Hana Delong Sierra Noelle Jones Elijah W. Lancaster Derick McKoy, Jr. Bianca Melidor Daniel Palladino Jessica Popoff Terrell Rogers, Jr. Sean J. Smith De'Anthony Vaughan Isabel Wallace-Green McKinley Willis

#### **DBDT COMPANY TEACHERS**

Gregory Dolbashian Asako Fandrich Ceyhun Özsoy Sean J. Smith Enrica Tseng Michelle Zada

#### DBDT: ENCORE! ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nycole Ray

Katricia Eaglin

#### **DBDT:** ENCORE! DANCERS

Darian Brogdon Gillian Clifford Jayla Johnson Aleigha Mayo Olivia McCall Brandon Palmer Javares Selby Brianne Sellars Micah Sherard Markel Antonio Williams

#### ARTISTIC

Academy Director Neiman Marcus Group Lead Outreach Teacher Artistic Project Coordinator Production Manager Administrative & Artistic Assistant DBDT: *Encorel* Artistic Assistant DBDT Co-Rehearsal Assistants

#### Shamonn Wise Richard A. Freeman, Jr. Jonathan Tyler Casey Gutenberger Keon K. Nickie Sean J. Smith, Hana Delong, and De'Anthony Vaughan

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#### NOVEMBER 30, 2021 - NOVEMBER 30, 2022

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