

DALLAS BLACK   
DANCE THEATRE  
*RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE*

# CULTURAL AWARENESS



IN-PERSON • ON-DEMAND • STREAMING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 17-18, 2023 • 7:30 PM

WYLY THEATRE  
2400 FLORA ST • DALLAS, TX 75201

**DBDT.com**



# Movement

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Celebrating the stand-out moments of African Americans who have come before us creating a rich history of cultural contributions and honoring the many who are stepping into the future.

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# CULTURAL AWARENESS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17-18, 2023 • 7:30 PM

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# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

## HISTORY

Founded in 1976 by Ann Williams, 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. With an ever-expanding national and global audience, the company employs a diverse, multi-ethnic troupe of dancers performing for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. Under the direction of the Artistic Director Melissa M. Young, the contemporary company consists of 13 professional, full-time dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, ballet, jazz, and ethnic works by nationally and internationally known choreographers. Over the course of its history, DBDT has performed for 4.5 million arts patrons and 2.7 million children worldwide (100,000 youth grades K–12 annually).

To keep up with demand and continue to serve its local community, Ann Williams formed DBDT: *Encore!* (formerly DBDT II), the second performing company of Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2000. This company consists of ten classically trained and highly-skilled artists from around the nation. Since its inception, *Encore!* has grown in popularity and thrills audiences with its fresh allure. *Encore!* annually hosts its season performing in the Moody Performance Hall (formerly Dallas City Performance Hall).

Under the direction of Executive Director Zenetta Drew, a professional administrative staff of 15 full-time employees is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company. Ms. Drew also works with a 50-member Board of Directors, whose primary responsibilities are fundraising and fiduciary oversight.

The 50-year old Dallas Black Dance Academy, founded in 1973, is the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre and offers classes (three levels each) in ballet, jazz, tap and other dance disciplines for ages four and up. DBDT's academy offers classes four evenings per week and Saturdays during the school year and summer. The academy trains 550+ students per week in year-round classes at the DBDT studios.

Moving to the Dallas Arts District continues the legacy of founder, Ann Williams. In January 2008, 2700 Flora Street, the historic prior residence of the Moorland YMCA became the first permanent home for DBDT's rehearsal studios, training classrooms, and administrative offices.

In October of 2014, the 2700 block of Flora Street was officially renamed Ann Williams Way in honor of the lifelong work of Williams.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre was designated as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist in 2008 by the National Endowment for the Arts and is proud to be the recipient of the coveted 2017 Texas Medal of Arts award for opening doors for artistic and educational opportunity for Texans of all ages from the Texas Cultural Trust. In August 2021, Dallas Black Dance Theatre made its Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival debut. *LIKE WATER* by the award-winning choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie was commissioned by Jacob's Pillow as the inaugural recipient of the Joan B. Hunter New Work Commission.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a resident company member of the AT&T Performing Arts Center – Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre.

# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

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# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

### MELISSA M. YOUNG

Melissa M. Young is a Honduran American raised in Santa Ana, California. She attended Orange Coast College with a focus in Business Administration. She is a graduate of The Ailey School—The Official School of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City. During her Fellowship studies, she was one of five students selected to train as an exchange student at Amsterdam University of the Arts in the Netherlands.



Photo by Brian Guillaux

Melissa is celebrating her twenty-ninth season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT). Young started her career at DBDT as a dancer for eleven years, then moved up the ranks as Rehearsal Director, Academy Director, Associate Artistic Director, and Interim Artistic Director. Her most notable performances include The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, and for the U.S. Ambassadors to Ireland and Zimbabwe. She has restaged and rehearsed the diverse repertoire of DBDT, which spans over 100 ballets. She was an Assistant to the Choreographers, Hope Clarke for The Dallas Opera's *Porgy and Bess* and Christopher L. Huggins for Dallas Theater Center's production of *The Wiz*. Melissa is most proud of thoughtfully leading DBDT through the pandemic by using the many restrictions as a guide to push the boundaries of her imagination into a creative reality.

Teaching master classes both nationally and internationally, Melissa specializes in the Dance Technique of Lester Horton. She was the primary Horton Technique Instructor for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre company dancers from 1998–2017. As an Adjunct Instructor, she has taught at Southern Methodist University, Texas Woman's University, and Abilene Christian University. Over the years, she has led several movement workshops for Leadership North Texas and Leadership Dallas.

Melissa is a graduate of the Leadership Arts Institute, Class of 2022, a program of Business Council for the Arts in Dallas County. She is a member of the International Association of Blacks in Dance, Inc. Melissa has served as an advisory panelist for arts organizations that include the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, Texas Commission on the Arts and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and is a former board member for the Dance Council of North Texas.

Melissa was presented with The Dancer's Award in 2000 for her artistic excellence and dedication to Dallas Black Dance Theatre. She was chosen as one of "The Talented Tenth" by The Dallas Weekly in 2010 for being a Young and Emerging Leader. In 2014, she received an Award of Recognition from the South Dallas Dance Festival for her service to dance, and in 2016, the Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence. In 2017, Melissa received the Shining Star Award from the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance for her significant contributions to dance in Texas and beyond. During the 57th Annual South Central District Conference of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. in 2019, Melissa was honored with the "We Speak Your Name" Career Achievement Award.

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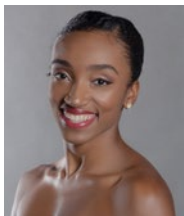
Grapevine

Plano



# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

## THE COMPANY



### **CARMEN CAGE**

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Carmen began her pre-professional training at the Jacksonville Center for the Arts and the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. She is a 2018 graduate of SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, and a minor in Arts Management. Carmen has performed works by Martha Graham, Christopher L. Huggins, Rennie Harris, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Kameron N. Saunders, Elisa Monte, Hope Boykin, and many more. She has completed intensives at The Ailey School, Dance Italia, Movement Invention Project, Bates Dance Festival, and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. She has performed at the Kuandu Arts Festival in Taipei Taiwan, New York Live Arts, New York City Center, and Peridance Capezio Center. Carmen is in her second season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.



### **HANA DELONG** (Co-Rehearsal Director)

Hana Delong, began her dance training in Orlando, Florida. She studied dance at the Dr. Phillips High School Dance Magnet Program and the Orlando Ballet School. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Adelphi University and was a three-year scholarship student at The Ailey School. Hana is a 2017 Princess Grace Nominee. She has performed pieces by choreographers such as Ulysses Dove, Matthew Rushing, Doug Varone, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Hope Boykin, Christopher L. Huggins, Ray Mercer, and many more. She has also performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in *Memoria* and *Revelations Cast of 50*. Hana joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2015.



### **SIERRA NOELLE JONES**

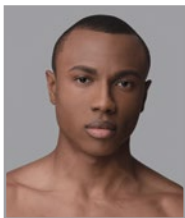
Sierra Noelle Jones, from Fort Washington, Maryland is a 2015 honors graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance & Choreography. She graduated from Baltimore School for the Arts (2011) and received early training through Donna's Dance A Company, The 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!



### **ELIJAH W. LANCASTER**

Born in Port Au Prince, Haiti, Elijah began his formal dance training at the age of seven at Aspire Dance in Arkansas. He furthered his training at The Ailey School, where he graduated from the Certificate Program in 2018. Since then, Elijah has performed with XY Dance Project, Ailey II, and The Black Iris Project. In 2020, Mr. Lancaster was the principal dancer in an Emmy award-winning film with The Black Iris Project entitled *WILD: These walls can talk* by Jeremy McQueen. He also appeared in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* during the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2016 and 2017 New York City Center seasons. Elijah has attended summer intensives at Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Classical Ballet, and the Joffrey Ballet School. He has worked with choreographers Elisa Monte, Amy Hall Garner, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Andrea Miller, Francesca Harper, and Robert Battle. This is Elijah's debut season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.





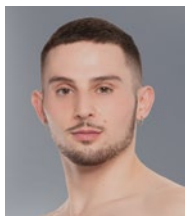
## **DERICK McKOY, JR.**

Originally from Miami, Florida, Derick is a Gloria Kaufman scholar graduate of the Ailey/Fordham Bachelor of Fine Arts Program in Dance. He has performed with Nimbus Dance, Jeremy McQueen's Emmy award-winning *The Black Iris Project*, and on the hit tv show *POSE* on FX. He started his official training under Lucricia Welters and after a year, joined her dance company, Jubilee Dance Theater. He furthered his training under scholarship at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Arts Umbrella, BalletX, Ballet Hispánico, and Springboard Danse Montreal. As a choreographer, Derick is an award-winning voice revered for his storytelling through movement. His works have been presented at performance venues around the country. He has performed works by choreographers Alvin Ailey, Matthew Rushing, Crystal Pite, Jirí Kylián, Nacho Duato, and Amy Hall Garner. Derick currently helms his own dance company called McKoy Dance Project II MDP, based in Brooklyn, NY. This is Derick's debut season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.



## **BIANCA MELIDOR**

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.



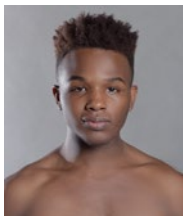
## **DANIEL PALLADINO**

Originally from Canada, Daniel Palladino began his dance training at the age of nine. Daniel received his dance education while attending Victoria School of The Arts, Shelley's Dance Company, and The Kore Dance Studio. Daniel has attended many summer study programs throughout North America, which include The Boston Conservatory, Point Park University, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Springboard Danse Montreal. He received his International Baccalaureate diploma in dance in 2018. Daniel attended the University of the Arts in Philadelphia on a full tuition scholarship, obtaining his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. Daniel has worked with choreographers Jeffery Page, Helen Pickett, Juel D. Lane, Mark Caserta, Helen Simoneau, Tommie-Waheed Evans, Sidra Bell, and Stacey Tookey. Post graduation, Daniel joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in August 2022.



## **JESSICA POPOFF**

A native of Garden City, Michigan, Jessica started her pre-professional training at Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance. She is a 2019 graduate from the University of Oklahoma where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ballet Pedagogy. There, Jessica had the opportunity to perform works by Trey McIntyre, David Hochoy, and Alejandro Cerrudo. She has also trained at BalletMet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Dallas Black Dance Theatre summer intensives. During her time with DBDT: *Encore!* Jessica performed works by Jess Hendricks, Rennie Harris, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, and Joshua L. Peugh. In 2020, she became a proud mother of a beautiful girl. Jessica joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.



## **TERRELL ROGERS, JR.**

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Terrell Rogers Jr., is a 2018 graduate of Point Park University Conservatory of Performing Arts under the direction of Garfield Lemonius where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. He began his dance training with the Ava Fields Dance Company and later received a full scholarship from the Estelle Dennis/Peabody Training Program for Boys at Johns Hopkins University. In 2022, he was featured on the cover of Dallas Magazine's 'Best of Big D' August Issue. He has performed works by Darrell Grand Moultrie, José Limón, Christopher L. Huggins, Hope Boykin, Kameron N. Saunders, Lucinda Childs, Rennie Harris, Tommie-Waheed Evans, Milton Myers, Katarynza Skarpetowska, Joshua L. Peugh, and Jennifer Archibald among others. Terrell danced with DBDT: *Encore!* for three seasons. This is his second season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.



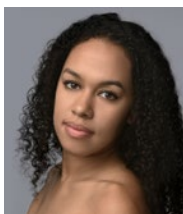
## **SEAN J. SMITH** (Co-Rehearsal Director)

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.



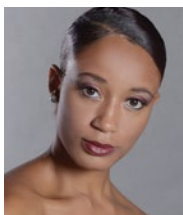
## **DE'ANTHONY VAUGHAN** (Co-Rehearsal Director)

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.



## **ISABEL WALLACE-GREEN**

Originally from Houston, Texas, Isabel Wallace-Green began dancing at Houston Ballet Academy. She graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Fordham University/The Ailey School with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and African/African American Studies. She has performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at New York City Center, New Chamber Ballet, Urban Souls Dance Company, and was an ensemble member of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Isabel attended summer programs at Boston Ballet School, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Abraham.In.Motion, and Rockettes Summer Intensive. She has performed works by choreographers Alvin Ailey, Ephrat Asherie, Hope Boykin, Rennie Harris, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Milton Myers, and Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish. Isabel danced with DBDT: *Encore!* for six months before joining Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021.



## **McKINLEY WILLIS**

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.

# Wake Up to **#SomethingGood**



**TODAY**

WEEKDAYS 4:30-7 AM

Deborah  
Ferguson

Laura  
Harris

# CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS



Photo by Joseph Heitman

## GREGORY DOLBASHIAN

Born and raised in New York City, Gregory received his dance training at the Alvin Ailey School, then graduated cum laude from SUNY Purchase dance conservatory. He debuted his own company, The DASH Ensemble, in December 2010 at The JOYCE SoHo. DASH Company performance credits include The JOYCE Theater, Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York Live Arts, Guggenheim Works and Process Series, Kaatsbaan, Joe's Pub, Central Park Summerstage, Tribeca Film Festival, Venice Biennale in Madison Square Park, Bryant Park Dance Fest, as well as domestic touring all over the U.S. including Dallas, L.A., and North Carolina. Gregory, in partnership with dance

education specialist Lindsey Pettus, is also the co-founder of The DASH Academy. He has been commissioned for original works by American Ballet Theater, including exclusive creations for Jeffrey Cirio, Daniil Simkin, and Hee Seo. Ballet commissions also include Atlanta Ballet, St. Louis Ballet, and Ballet Austin. He was the recipient of the highly selective Footprints commission at American Dance Festival, and most recently for Limón Dance Company's newly formed Limón 2. Awards for Choreography include Hubbard Street 2 International Competition, Ballet Austin's New American Talent, and Northwest Dance Project's Pretty Creatives. Commissions for Contemporary/Rep companies include LA Contemporary Dance Co., Owen/Cox in Kansas City, Dark Circles CD in Dallas, TU Dance in MPLS and Northwest Dance Project in Portland, OR. His collegiate and training program commissions include Juilliard, Princeton, Point Park, LINES Ballet, BODYTRAFFIC Summer Study, MOVENYCY P & S.W.E.A.T programs, NYU, SUNY Purchase, Earl Mosely's Diversity of Dance, University of Minnesota, Fordham/Ailey, Montclair State, and SAM Houston State. Faculty positions include Broadway Dance Center, Gibney Dance, The Martha Graham School, Ballet Hispánico, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and Peridance Capezio Center. Adjunct positions held at SUNY Purchase and The Hartt School. He has conducted multiple masterclasses around the country including Juilliard, NYU, UNCSA, The Hartt School, Ballet Hispánico, UC Irvine, SUNY Purchase, Point Park, Booker T Washington HSPVA, OCSA and HSPVA in Houston. In addition, Gregory, alongside fellow choreographer Loni Landon, is the co-founder of The PlaygroundNYC, a choreographic initiative that was voted 25 to Watch in 2013 by Dance Magazine.



Photo by Rose Eichenbaum

## DONALD MCKAYLE

Professor Donald McKayle, recipient of honors and awards in every aspect of his illustrious career, has been named by the Dance Heritage Coalition "one of America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures: the first 100." His choreographic masterworks, considered modern dance classics, GAMES, RAINBOW 'ROUND MY SHOULDER, DISTRICT STORYVILLE, and SONGS OF THE DISINHERITED are performed around the world. He has choreographed over a hundred works for dance companies in the United States, Canada, Israel, Europe, and South America. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Cleveland Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley, the

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Lula Washington Dance Theatre and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble serve as repositories for his works. He was Artistic Mentor for the José Limón Dance Company. Ten retrospectives have honored his choreography. In April 2005, Donald McKayle was honored at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and presented with a medal as a Master of African American Choreography. In 2001, he choreographed the monumental ten-hour production of TANTALUS, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company in collaboration with the



# CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

Denver Center Theatre Company. Five Tony Nominations and Tony Awards have honored his choreography for Broadway musical theater: SOPHISTICATED LADIES, DOCTOR JAZZ, A TIME FOR SINGING, GOLDEN BOY, and for RAISIN, which garnered the Tony Award as Best Musical, and for which he received Tony nominations for both direction and choreography. For SOPHISTICATED LADIES he was also honored with an Outer Critics Circle Award and the NAACP Image Award. His most recent choreography for Broadway was showcased in IT AIN'T NÖTHIN' BUT THE BLUES, which earned a Tony nomination for Best Musical. He received an Emmy nomination for the TV Special, FREE TO BE... YOU AND ME. In dance he has received the Capezio Award, the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award, the American Dance Guild Award, a Living Legend Award from the National Black Arts Festival, the Heritage Award from the California Dance Educators Association, two Choreographer Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Dance/USA Honors, an Irvine Fellowship in Dance, the Martha Hill Lifetime Achievement Award, the Annual Award from the Dance Masters of America, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival, the Black College Dance Exchange Honors, the Dance Magazine Award, and the American Dance Legacy Institute's Distinguished and Innovative Leadership Award, among others.



Photo courtesy the artist

## MATTHEW RUSHING

Matthew Rushing was born in Los Angeles, California. He began his dance training with Kashmir Blake in Inglewood, California, and continued his training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He is the recipient of a Spotlight Award and a Dance Magazine Award and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He was a scholarship student at The Ailey School and later became a member of Ailey II. During his career Mr. Rushing has performed as a guest artist for galas in Vail, Colorado, as well as in Austria, Canada, France, Italy, and Russia. He has performed for Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, as well as at the 2010 White House Dance Series.

During his time with the Company he has choreographed four ballets: *Acceptance In Surrender* (2005), a collaboration with Hope Boykin and Abdur-Rahim Jackson; *Uptown* (2009), a tribute to the Harlem Renaissance; *ODETTA* (2014), a celebration of "the queen of American folk music"; and *Testament* (2020), a tribute to Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* created in collaboration with Clifton Brown and Yusha-Marie Sorzano. In 2012 he created *Moan*, which was set on Philadanco and premiered at The Joyce Theater. Mr. Rushing joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1992, became Rehearsal Director 2010, and became Associate Artistic Director in January 2020.



Photo by Brian Guillaux

## SEAN J. SMITH

See dancer bio.

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS  
**CULTURAL AWARENESS**

FEBRUARY 17–18, 2023

**\*\*No photography or videography permitted. Please silence all devices.\*\***

## GAMES

*a dance in three sections*

**PLAY • HUNGER • TERROR**

Choreography:	<b>Donald McKayle</b>
Music:	<b>Traditional Children's Songs and Chants</b>
Arrangement:	<b>Donald McKayle</b>
Official Legacy Stager/ Musical Director:	<b>Liane McKayle</b>
Original Costume Design:	<b>Remy Charlip</b>
Original Set Design:	<b>Paul Bertelsen</b>
Lighting Design:	<b>Kenneth Keith</b>
Lighting Recreation:	<b>Jonathan Tyler</b>

### Cast

Sissy	<b>Carmen Cage</b>
Rope Jump	<b>McKinley Willis</b>
Sally	<b>Jessica Popoff</b>
Jinx	<b>De'Anthony Vaughan</b>
Tin Cans	<b>Elijah W. Lancaster</b>
Johnny	<b>Sean J. Smith</b>
Cop	<b>Derick McKoy, Jr.</b>
Singers	<b>Sierra Noelle Jones, Terrell Rogers, Jr.</b>

## GAMES

**The streets are their playground. Through all their play runs a thread of fear..."Chickee, the cop!"**

*World Premiere May 1951*

*Donald McKayle & Co. • Hunter Playhouse, New York, NY.*

*GAMES dramatically observes city children at play...the serious business of being a child. It is divided into three uninterrupted sections: 1) Play, where we meet the children, see their interaction, and experience the joys of childhood; 2) Hunger, which explores living and growing with deprivation; and 3) Terror, in which fear and brutality wipes away innocence. GAMES is unique in its presentation as dance theatre in that there is no instrumental music. Songs from the rich heritage of oral transmission in both the rural and metropolitan communities of the United States accompany the dance movement and are performed (a cappella by the cast of singers and dancers).*



GAMES was premiered May 1951 at the Hunter Playhouse in New York City as Donald McKayle’s initial full scale choreographic offering for his concert featuring his multi-cultural dance company Donald McKayle and Company. It was inspired by the streets of Harlem where these games were played and McKayle lived. GAMES has since been recognized as a modern dance classic and first appeared on the West Coast with McKayle’s Inner City Dance Company, then shortly after with Lula Washington Dance Company. Because of its topic and enormous success in stage performances, it was refused presentation on the Fred Waring TV show but subsequently appeared on WCBS- TV “Camera Three” in 1955. It has been staged for the repertoires of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Ballet Hispánico, Feld Ballet, Cleveland San Jose Ballet among many others. The mounting of GAMES on the African American Dance Ensemble in 1986 was the pilot project that inaugurated the American Dance Festival’s prestigious project. “The Black Tradition in American Modern Dance” which, under the sponsorship of the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, has reconstructed modern dance masterworks on dance companies throughout the nation.

*Read more on its history in McKayle’s book  
“Transcending Boundaries - My Dancing Life”.*

*GAMES is made possible by special arrangement with  
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**GAMES is supported in part by a grant from the  
National Endowment for the Arts**

— PAUSE —

## Shatter

Choreography:

(World Premiere)

Gregory Dolbashian in Collaboration with  
the dancers of DBDT

Music:

“MOD” by Martin Kohlstedt;

“Familiar” (feat. Canea Quartett) by ABBOTT

Costumes:

Eugenia Stallings

Lighting Design:

Jonathan Tyler

Dancers:

Hana Delong, Daniel Palladino,

Terrell Rogers, Jr. and Isabel Wallace-Green

## Swipe Left

Choreography:

(World Premiere)

Sean J. Smith in collaboration with Bianca Melidor

Music:

Various Artists

Monologue:

Spoken by Bianca Melidor, Written by Sean J. Smith

Audio Engineer:

Jorge Amador & Erik Barnes

Music Editor:

Micah Sherard

Costume:

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Lighting Design:

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Dancer:

Bianca Melidor & Company

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## TRIBUTE

**TRIBUTE**—a gift, testimonial, or the like, given as due or in acknowledgment of gratitude or esteem.

A special thank you to Mr. McKayle for your years of generosity and inspiration.

Choreography by:	Matthew Rushing (World Premiere 2016)
Associate to Choreographer:	Alexandria O. Johnson
Music Composed by:	Ted Rosenthal and Alex Paton Ted Rosenthal – <i>Defining Ourselves, Pathways, My Feet Can't Fail Me Now</i> Alex Paton – <i>Guided, Seeds, Ringshout</i>
Original Lighting Design by:	Andre Vasquez
Lighting Recreation:	Pavel Perebillo
Quotes by:	Dr. Pearl Primus, Donald McKayle, Judith Jamison, and Dance Artists of Dallas Black Dance Theatre
Voice Overs by:	Hope Clarke and Matthew Rushing
Images Designed by:	Jamar Roberts and Kimara Wood
Dance Artists:	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

**TRIBUTE** originally premiered at Dallas Black Dance Theatre with support from the TACA New Works Fund.

—POST-PERFORMANCE TALKBACK—

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# REAL + LOCAL

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The arts make us feel something deep in the core of our souls. It is imperative that great cities continue to support the arts at the local level. The strength of every community is measured by its commitment to the arts.

*The Dallas Morning News* is a proud supporter of Dallas Black Dance Theatre and its relentless excellence to contemporary modern dance.

*Photo Kent Barker*

# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

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Elijah W. Lancaster

Derick McKoy, Jr.  
Bianca Melidor  
Daniel Palladino  
Jessica Popoff  
Terrell Rogers, Jr.

Sean J. Smith  
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Ceyhun Özsoy  
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**DBDT: ENCORE! ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Nycole Ray

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