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Dallas Black Dance Theatre Expands Audience Access With Launch of On-Demand Collection

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** continues its expansion and building of new audiences around the globe with the launch of **DBDT On-Demand Collection**, its library of works performed by **DBDT**, **DBDT: Encore!**, and **DBDT Academy**. Since July 2020, DBDT has been presenting selected works from its repertoire via on-demand, with patrons from 34 countries and 38 states purchasing virtual performances.

Melissa M. Young, DBDT's Artistic Director, has selected a collection of audience favorites to feature during Black History Month 2023 and will continue to add to the catalog of DBDT's On-Demand Collection in the future. Three of the most dynamic works available for viewing now are *Beams from Heaven* by **Christopher L. Huggins**, *Nineteenth* by **Nycole Ray**, and *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich* by **Asadata Dafora**. Complimentary bonus videos will be included in the collection as well.

DBDT's Executive Director **Zenetta S. Drew** states, "We want to share our most beloved dance works with audiences who may not be able to see us at an in-person performance. Our data on our virtual audience shows 70 percent are from 200 miles outside of Dallas, 60 percent are from outside of Texas, and 40 percent are brand new audience members."

DBDT patrons, near and far, appreciate the virtual element. **Erin McLaughlin** writes, "Keep offering virtual options so supporters worldwide can watch! The virtual productions are incredible! I loved being able to watch from Seattle, and the quality was way above what I expected!" **Carol Jackson** explained, "More performances in person and virtually! I hope you continue to have on-demand and virtual performances in the future. They allow everyone, in spite of mobility, health, or age, to enjoy your aesthetic beauty."

To view the DBDT On-Demand Collection of works, visit [DBDT On-Demand Collection](#).

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ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: **Ann Williams** founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. The dance company is now under the direction of Artistic Director **Melissa M. Young**. Dallas Black Dance Theatre's mission is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at the highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. As the largest and oldest professional dance company in Dallas, DBDT is the fourth-largest Black dance company in the nation, the ninth-largest contemporary modern dance company, and ranked 40th among the nation's leading ballet companies. Located in the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, DBDT has performed worldwide for over 4.5 million arts patrons and 2.7 million students in 32 states and 16 countries on five continents. The performances include two Olympics (1996 & 2012), the nation's most prestigious venues (Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Broadway, Jacob's Pillow), and for such luminaries as **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** and **South African President Nelson Mandela**. Since the pandemic began in 2020, DBDT performances have also been viewed virtually in 34 countries and 38 states. The Company has been recognized by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist (2008) and received the **Texas Medal of the Arts Award** for Arts Education (2017).

For more details on DBDT, visit DBDT.com.



"Beams of Heaven" photograph by Amitava Sarkar.



Screenshot of "Nineteenth" choreographed by Nycole Ray.



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