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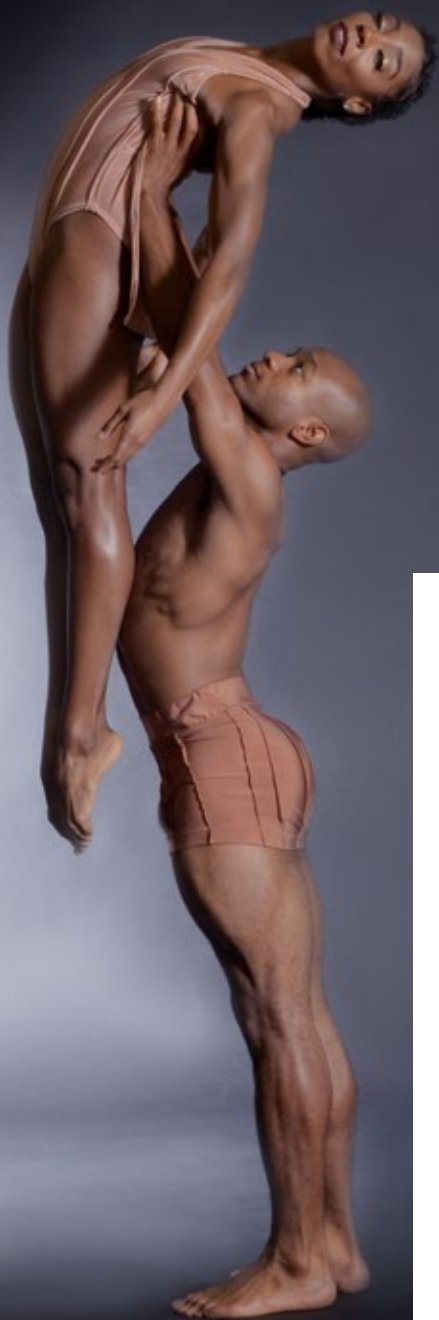


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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

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.

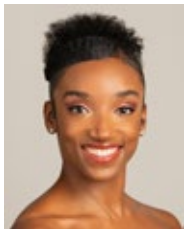
Teaching master classes both nationally and internationally, Melissa specializes in the Dance Technique of Lester Horton. She was the primary Horton Technique Instructor for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre company dancers from 1998–2017. As an Adjunct Instructor, she has taught at Southern Methodist University, 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.

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.



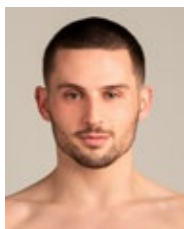
DERICK McKOY, JR.

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 Luctricia 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.



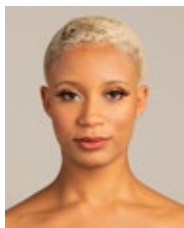
DE'ANTHONY VAUGHAN (Co-Rehearsal Director)

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-Dobrich. 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.

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Photo courtesy of the artist.

CHANEL DaSILVA

Chanel DaSilva, a native of Brooklyn, NY, is a multifaceted artist whose work reflects her deep connection to the transformative power of the arts. She trained at The Juilliard School. Her additional training includes The Ailey School and Springboard Danse Montreal. Chanel was a member of the highly celebrated Trey McIntyre Project based in Boise, Idaho. As a choreographer Chanel has been commissioned to create works for Dallas Black Dance Theatre, The Juilliard School, The Joffrey Ballet, Gibney Company, Ballet Memphis, Parsons Dance Company, and American Repertory Theater. She is a widely sought after teacher, educator, and mentor. Chanel has received recognition from numerous institutions including the 2020 Joffrey Ballet Winning Works Choreographic Competition, the 2019 Martha Hill Dance Fund Mid-Career Award, and a 2011 Princess Grace Award. In 2015, alongside her long-time friend and business partner, Nigel Campbell, Chanel co-founded MOVE INYCI, a multi-pillared arts and social justice organization with the mission of creating greater equity and diversity in the dance field and beyond. www.movenyc.nyc



Photo courtesy of the artist.

KIRVEN DOUTHIT-BOYD

Kirven Douthit-Boyd (Boston, MA) began his formal dance training at the Boston Arts Academy in 1998 and joined Boston Youth Moves in 1999. In 2018, he earned his M.F.A. from Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. He has also trained on scholarship at The Boston Conservatory, and The Ailey School prior to performing with Battleworks Dance Company, Ailey II, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 2004–2015. He joined Ron K. Brown's EVIDENCE, A Dance Company as a Guest Artist in 2016. He has choreographed works for The Ailey School, The Juilliard School, Webster University, Washington University in St. Louis, and Ailey II. He has also staged works by Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, and Robert Battle on companies in Japan and St. Louis. Douthit-Boyd currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri where he works as the Associate Director of Dance at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA), the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country and the Artistic Director of The Big Muddy Dance Company.

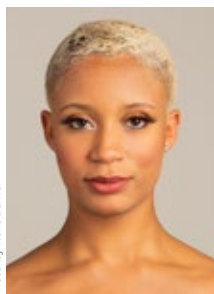


Photo by Kent Barker

McKINLEY WILLIS

See dancer bio.

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS

SPRING CELEBRATION

MAY 19–20, 2023

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

Furtherance

Furtherance is a ballet based on overcoming a personal struggle that ends with a celebration of triumph. The leading figures take us on a journey from anguish to bliss.

Choreography:	Kirven Douthit-Boyd (2016)
Assistant to Choreographer:	Philip Levi Marsman
Music:	"Taiko Daiko" by Taiko Drums Music of Japan, "Tibet Meditation Bowl Rubbed/Builds" by Sounds and Effects-Asian Gongs and Bells and "Banjara" by Sarvar Sabri
Original Lighting Design:	Milton T. Tatum, Jr.
Lighting Recreation:	Jonathan Tyler
Costumes:	Beth Thomason-Designes Unique and Eugenia Stallings
Dancers:	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

—PAUSE (5-MINUTES)—

Smile.

Live.

Love.

Laugh.

Breathe...

Smile.

Choreography:	McKinley Willis (World Premiere)
Music:	Various Artists
Music Editor:	McKinley Willis

Costumes:	McKinley and Dancers
Costume Alterations:	Jasmine Woods
Lighting Design:	Pavel Perebillo
Dancers:	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

—INTERMISSION (20-MINUTES)—

TABERNACLE

Choreography:	Chanel DaSilva (World Premiere)
Music:	Tobe Nwigwe
Costumes:	Eugenia Stallings
Lighting Design:	Jonathan Tyler
Dancers:	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

TABERNACLE is a recipient of a grant from the TACA New Works Fund.
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—POST-PERFORMANCE TALKBACK—



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Elijah W. Lancaster

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Bianca Melidor
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Jessica Popoff
Terrell Rogers, Jr.

Sean J. Smith
De'Anthony Vaughan
Isabel Wallace-Green
McKinley Willis

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Photo Kent Barker

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