



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE'S 18TH ANNUAL DANCEAFRICA FESTIVAL RETURNS

OCTOBER 6 - 7, 2023 AT MOODY PERFORMANCE HALL

FREE FESTIVAL & MARKETPLACE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH AT KLYDE WARREN PARK

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

[VIEW DIGITAL ASSETS](#)

Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT)** annual **DanceAfrica** festival is returning for its 18th season! Presented by PNC Bank, the theme for this year's series is *Rhythms of Unity: Celebrating in Harmony* and will feature performances from all five of DBDT's dance companies – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre**, **DBDT: Encore!** and **Dallas Black Dance Academy's Junior Performing Ensemble**, **Senior Performing Ensemble** and **Allegro** – in addition to performances by special guest artists **Forces of Nature**, the **DeSoto A Cappella Choir** and **Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Dance Conservatory**.

Performances will take place at **Moody Performance Hall**, October 6-7, 2023 at 7:30PM.

New York-based **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre Company** was co-founded in 1981 by Executive Artistic Director **Abdel R. Salaam** and Executive Managing Director **Olabamidele Husbands** and have since presented professional concerts, master classes and educational programs for over 42 years.

Abdel R. Salaam took over the role of artistic director for the original **DanceAfrica** festival following the retirement of his mentor **Chuck Davis** in 2016, a highly acclaimed choreographer and teacher of traditional African dance who founded the festival at the **Brooklyn Academy of Music** in 1977.

The **DeSoto A Cappella Choir** is led by Grammy Award-winning choral director, **Pamela Dawson**. During her 16 years with DeSoto High School, **Pamela Dawson** elevated their choir program to

DALLAS BLACK
DANCE THEATRE
RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

international prestige with notable performances at **Carnegie Hall** and the **Southwestern American Choral Directors Association (SWACDA)** national honor choir.

Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Dance Conservatory (BTWHSVPA) is a nationally recognized arts school, with over 600 awards in the performing, visual and creative writing arts through the **National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts**. The school consistently produces noteworthy graduates such as **Erykah Badu** and **Norah Jones**.

In addition to the evening performances, on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 10AM – 2PM a free **Festival and Marketplace** will take place in **Klyde Warren Park**. Presented by TCA, the festival will feature a variety of vendors, food trucks and performances throughout the day from over 28 performance groups that involve over 280 individual performers. For our youngest guests, the festival will feature a children's activity center which is sponsored by H-E-B.

DANCEAFRICA PERFORMANCES

October 6-7, 2023 | 7:30PM

Moody Performance Hall

2520 Flora St, Dallas, TX 75201

In-person tickets are \$45. Details at attpac.org or call 214.880.0202.

NEW THIS SEASON! *Virtual season subscriptions are available for \$225. Stream all nine performances from DBDT's 2023-2024 season from wherever you are!*

Livestreaming tickets are \$25. Details at dbdt.com.

DANCEAFRICA FESTIVAL & MARKETPLACE (FREE!)

October 7, 2023 | 10AM – 2PM

Klyde Warren Park

2012 Woodall Rogers Fwy, Dallas, TX, 75201

2023 – 2024 LEGACY SPONSORS

Harold Simmons Foundation

2023 – 2024 CATALYST SPONSORS

Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, Texas Instruments, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts

2023 – 2024 SEASON SPONSORS

NBC 5, *Texas Metro News*, American Airlines, Oversee My IT, The Shubert Foundation, DART, TACA, *The Dallas Weekly*, Texas Commission on the Arts, and *Elite News*.



2023 – 2024 SEASON SUPPORTERS

The Rea Charitable Trust, *Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Morning News*, Lexus, FYI50+, *Dallas Post Tribune*, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts + Culture*.

ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

Founded in 1976 by **Ann Williams**, and currently under the direction of 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 4.6 million arts patrons and 2.8 million students in 33 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 43 countries. 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 about Dallas Black Dance Theatre, visit dbdt.com.