



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Leigh Hopkins | Director of Marketing & Public Relations
(214) 871-2390 | l.hopkins@dbdt.com

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE'S DIRECTOR'S CHOICE SERIES RETURNS

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2023 AT THE DEE & CHARLES WYLY THEATRE

PRESENTING SPONSOR TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

FEMALE CHOREOGRAPHER SPONSOR THE KALETA A. DOOLIN FOUNDATION

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Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT)** Director's Choice series, with the support of Presenting Sponsor **Texas Instruments** and Female Choreographer Sponsor **The Kaleta A. Doolin Foundation**, returns with two world premieres, one by 2023 Guggenheim Fellow **Nejla Y. Yatkin** and another by the award-winning **Norbert De La Cruz III**, in addition to a performance of **Francesca Harper's** *Instinct 11/1*. The program also includes **Alvin Ailey's** *Reflections in D*.

Performances will take place **November 10-11, 2023 at 7:30 PM** at **Dee & Charles Wyly Theatre** (2400 Flora St). In-person, on-demand, and streaming tickets are available at www.dbdt.com.

Nejla Y. Yatkin's work, titled *The Return*, is a dance in four movements inspired by ancient dances of the Middle East and North Africa that have been recreated and recombined with contemporary dance movements and social dances of our era to be reimagined anew like a Jazz composition.

"Similar to my dances, which are reimagined ancient dances, the music by **Anouar Brahe** and **Avishai Cohen** is inspired by ancient Middle Eastern rhythms and melodies as well as classical and Jazz music to transcend cultural boundaries," says **Yatkin** about her work. "Dance to me is an embodied artform and its most powerful when its visceral and metaphoric in nature."



Nejla Y. Yarkin originally hails from Germany, bringing a luminous and transcultural perspective to her creations. An award-winning and critically acclaimed choreographer, she is a recent 2018 **Drama Desk Award** nominee, a **3Arts Award** fellow, and a **Princess Grace Choreography** recipient.

Norbert De La Cruz III's premiere, titled *Critical Mass*, tells the story of a protagonist who is driven to seek community and reclaim their sense of self. Born in Bayombong Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines, and raised in Los Angeles, CA **De La Cruz** is recognized for his versatility in performance and choreography.

Francesca Harper's *Instinct 11/1* is inspired and dedicated to her mother, **Denise Jefferson**, who directed **The Ailey School** at the **Alvin Ailey Dance Theater** for more than 25 years. **Harper**, a choreographer, filmmaker, and Artistic Director at **Ailey II**, has choreographed works for **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Dance Theater of Harlem, Hubbard Street II, Tanz Graz**, and many more companies, including her own **The Francesca Harper Project**, which she founded in 2005.

Reflections in D is a strong yet serene solo set to a stunning and masterful expression of **Duke Ellington's** music. Choreographed by **Alvin Ailey**, *Reflections in D* is presented by arrangement with the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc.

A Post-Performance Talkback will occur after both performances.

For tickets and performance details, visit www.dbdt.com.

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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 36th 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 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 www.dbdt.com.