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Students participating in Dallas Black Dance Academy's Summer Enrichment Youth Dance Workshop
Photo Credit: DBDT Studios

DALLAS BLACK DANCE ACADEMY BRINGS IN WORLD RENOWNED INSTRUCTORS

TO LEAD ANNUAL SUMMER PROGRAMS, VIRTUALLY & IN-PERSON

WITH ENROLLMENT INCREASING 20% ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

**SUPPORTED BY TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS, ROSEMARY HAGGAR VAUGHAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION AND CITY OF DALLAS OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE**



Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Academy’s (DBDA)** summer dance programs set the bar for their 2024-2025 season, with the annual June series seeing an average increase in enrollment of 20%. This continues a steady trend of recovery following a reduction in class sizes in the wake of COVID-19, bringing overall enrollment close to half of pre-pandemic levels.

Following Dallas Black Dance Academy’s highly successful **50th anniversary season** and the continued growth of their summer programs, the stage is set for the next **“50 Years Forward”** in their 2024-2025 season.

“Dallas Black Dance Academy is committed to spur its rich legacy forward,” **Dallas Black Dance Academy Director Katricia Eaglin** said when discussing their initiative to achieve new heights of excellence in dance, discipline and diversity. “We are making space for the growth of our students physically and mentally and the expansion of our student body. We have some exciting educational programs emerging!”

Throughout the month of June, DBDA welcomed new and returning students from all skill levels and age groups to their historic dance studios located in the heart of the **Dallas Arts District** throughout the to their **Summer Workshop, Summer Enrichment** and **Summer Intensive** series’.

Summer Workshop (June 1-22, 2024) is open to students ages 2-adult attended in-person classes focused on ballet, modern, African, jazz and tap. No previous experience is required for these sessions, with the program acting as a continuation of fall and spring classes on a smaller scale.

Summer Enrichment (June 3-14, 2024) is co-sponsored by the **Texas Commission on the Arts** and the **Rosemary Haggart Vaughan Family Foundation**, and designed for dancers aged 9-16 with previous experience, with in-person and virtual classes available to students. Along with daily dance classes and ballet courses taught by Guest Master Teacher **Stephanie Powell**, students met with licensed professional counselors, nutritionists, physical therapists and more to learn how to manage their mental and physical health.

Stephanie Powell is a tenured professor of dance at **Long Beach City College** and a part-time professor at the **University of California**. Her professional dance career began at the **Oakland Ballet**, after which she went on to perform with the **San Francisco Opera, Donald Byrd/The Group, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, and **Contemporary West Dance Theatre**. She also



has extensive credits in television and music, notably including performances on the **Grammy Awards** and the **Jay Leno Show**, and with **Beyoncé, Janet Jackson, MC Hammer, and Kenny G.**

Summer Intensive (June 17-28, 2024) is a program supported by the **City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture** and intended for intermediate, advanced and professional dancers, ages 13 & up. Taught by elite industry professionals with expertise in a variety of techniques, this year's program featured in-person and virtual classes led by **Karen Brown** (Ballet), **Tracey Franklin** (Horton), **Michelle Rambo** (Hip-Hop), **Zach Law Ingram** (Jazz), and **T. Ayo Alston** (West African).

Karen Brown's many career accomplishments include a 22-year tenure as **Principal Ballerina with the Dance Theatre of Harlem** and six years as **Artistic Director of Oakland Ballet Company**. At the time, she was the only African American woman leading an American ballet company. Brown is certified as an **ABT® Teacher, Vaganova Syllabus** and **Reinforced Motor Function for Ballet Applications**.

Tracey Franklin started her professional dance career at **Dallas Black Dance Theatre**, where she danced for four years. She then became a company member with **Deeply Rooted Dance Theater** where she danced for 12 years, before becoming their Education Director from 2021-2023. Currently, Franklin is the **Department Head and Horton technique instructor at The Chicago High School for the Arts**.

Michelle Rambo has been teaching for over 16 years, specializing in hip hop, jazz/funk and contemporary styles. She has choreographed and taught at numerous notable institutions, including the **Weitzenhoffer School of Music Theatre, American College Dance Association at Southeast Missouri State University** and **Anderson Indiana University**.

Zach Law Ingram, Founder and Artistic Director of **6 o'Clock Dance Theatre**, has performed with for multiple prestigious dance companies throughout the country, including **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Lion King Las Vegas** and **Ballet Noir**, and choreographed works for **DBDT: Encore!** and **Dallas Black Dance Theatre**. Law is also an adjunct faculty member at **Southern Methodist University**.

T. Ayo Alston is the Founder and Executive Director of **Ayodele Drum and Dance**, a performance training organization that offers community classes, performances and workshops focused on West African dance and live drum experiences. Alston also serves as an adjunct professor at **Columbia College Chicago** and dance faculty at **Chicago High School of the Arts**. Throughout her career she has taught, choreographed and performed at national schools and



universities, in addition to international institutions and organizations throughout Africa and Brazil.

Registration for Dallas Black Dance Academy's 2024-2025 fall and spring courses is open now! For more information, visit www.dbdtd.com/academy.

ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE ACADEMY

The official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre has delivered dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds for over 50 years! Founded by **Ann M. Williams**, the Academy has achieved many notable milestones, including producing one of the **first Presidential Scholars in Dance** in the nation. Students ages four to adult participate in 36 weekly dance classes on-site at DBDT's studios, including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. The Academy also has three performing ensembles: Dallas Black Dance Theatre's premier academy ensemble, **Allegro Performing Ensemble**, **Senior Performing Ensemble**, and **Junior Performing Ensemble**.

For details on Dallas Black Dance Academy, visit www.dbdtd.com/academy.