



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:
Ramona Logan
(214) 871-2376 Ext. 411
(214) 882-2451 cell
r.logan@dbdt.com

**FREE Dallas Viewing of Cultural Exchange Film between
DBDT Dancers, Macedonian Filmmakers, and Romani Musicians**

Dallas, TX. – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** hosts the Dallas premiere of a creative documentary about African American history and dance in Dallas and Romani heritage and music in North Macedonia. The medium-length documentary, *The Way of Clave*, will premiere at 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora Street, Dallas, TX. 75201. DBDT dancers will take part in a Q&A following both showings. The 1:00 pm showing will include a live synchronous Q&A with participants in North Macedonia on screen.

The documentary is the culmination of an eight-month cultural exchange Dallas Black Dance Theatre facilitated with Association MakeDox, a filmmaking nonprofit in the Republic of North Macedonia. All 13 DBDT dancers participated in the program with 12 Macedonian filmmakers and Romani musicians. Together, they learned about **African American history and dance** and **Macedonian** and **Romani heritage and music**. The dancers and musicians preserved and interpreted this heritage in site-specific performances in both countries. Filmmakers recorded their creativity and interactions in both countries, resulting in the 40-minute creative documentary.

Funding for this cultural exchange project was provided by **Communities Connecting HeritageSM (CCH)**, a program sponsored by the **U.S. Department of State** with funding provided by the **U.S. Government** and administered by **World Learning**. Dallas Black Dance Theatre was among five American cultural and educational organizations to be paired with five international cultural and educational organizations for the **CCH exchange program**.

The Dallas Screening is made possible by **City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs** and

Communities Foundation of Texas.

TICKETS

Free tickets to the premiere of *The Way of Clave* are available on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-dbd-t-film-screening-tickets-64643223622>

2018-2019 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Cultural Affairs – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, International Association of Blacks in Dance, NBC 5, *I Messenger*, *The Downtown Business News*, TACA, *The Dallas Morning News*, PaperCity, American Airlines, *The Dallas Weekly*, and DART.

2018 – 2019 | DBDT Season Supporters

Season Supporters: Texas Commission on the Arts, Lexus, OverseeMyIT, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *Elite News*, AT&T Performing Arts Center, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*.

*ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: Dallas Black Dance Theatre is an internationally recognized professional dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. Founded by **Ann Williams** in 1976, the company has been designated as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist by the **National Endowment for the Arts** in 2008 and received the **Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education** in 2017. **Melissa M. Young** was named Artistic Director in 2018 after starting at the company as a dancer in 1994. **Zenetta S. Drew** has led the administrative side of the company since 1987 as Executive Director.*

The mission of Dallas Black Dance Theatre is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. The company is the 10th largest minority arts organization in America and the fourth largest black dance company in the nation. The virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 4.2 million arts patrons across 16 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five performing companies and its training Academy. 2.7 million students, grades K-12, have experienced the dance company's

performances and educational outreach programs.

Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates 45 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. More than 550 students participate weekly in 50 dance classes, which include ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are held at DBDT's studios and are open to children starting at age four and adults. The academy has three performing ensembles: **Allegro Performing Ensemble**, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, **Senior Performing Ensemble**, and **Junior Performing Ensemble**.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is located in the historic Moorland YMCA building in the Dallas Arts District, which serves as the primary home for its dance studios, training facilities, and administrative offices. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a resident company of the **AT&T Performing Arts Center** and its performance home is the **Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre**.

For more details visit www.DBDT.com and www.dbdt.com/academy.



DBDT dancer Claude Alexander III dancing on Macedonian mountain. Photograph by Xavier Mack.



Tehamana Lazar, a Romani trumpet player, songwriter/composer, and vocalist, breaks out in laughter on the Dallas City Hall Plaza. Photograph by Melissa M. Young.



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Dallas Black Dance Theatre 2700 Ann Williams Way, Dallas, TX 75201