
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DALLAS BLACK DANCE ACADEMY PRESENTS VIRTUAL ESPRESSO NUTCRACKER

Featuring the Jazz-Influenced Music of Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite



Photograph by Amitava Sarkar.

Dallas, TX – Families across America will be able to enjoy **Dallas Black Dance Academy's (DBD Academy)** third annual *Espresso Nutcracker* as they celebrate the holiday in the comfort of their own home for the price of one virtual ticket. The performance spins a new twist on a holiday tradition, as it is jazz-influenced by the music of **Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite**. **Macy's** is the presenting sponsor and **Fichtenbaum**

Charitable Trust is the co-sponsor for the performance that is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2020, at 7:00 CST/ 8:00 EST.

DBD Academy Director **Katricia Eaglin**, assisted by academy instructors of the Pre Pro Division, choreographed *Espresso Nutcracker*. Pre Pro Division levels 1-4 students performed to sold-out audiences during the first two years of the production.

Ms. Eaglin was inspired to use the traditional **Tchaikovsky** music and tracks from **Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite**, selecting Ellington tracks that were still recognizable to the original work. Narration has been added to the performance to unlock the mystery and magic for parts of the storyline. Eaglin also added an African dance to the Land of Sweets act that includes Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, and Russian dances.

"The pandemic has shuttered so many Nutcrackers that have been an annual holiday tradition for many families. Dallas Black Dance Academy decided to continue the tradition by bringing the *Espresso Nutcracker* performance to our audience on a virtual platform," said Patricia Eaglin. "This will enable families to share the holiday spirit in their homes this holiday season." Unlike traditional versions of the Nutcracker that run two and a half hours long, the *Espresso Nutcracker* is perfect to capture the attention of everyone in the family to enjoy, at just one hour.

The original Nutcracker Ballet, choreographed by **Marius Petipa** and **Lev Ivanov** with a score by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**, is one of the most famous ballets in the world. It tells the story of young Clara's magical journey on Christmas Eve. Many dance academies bring in professionals to dance key Nutcracker roles, but Dallas Black Dance Academy students will dance all the essential parts, such as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen. DBDT professional dancers will dance the characters of the Mother, Father, and Drosselmeyer.

ESPRESSO NUTCRACKER DETAILS

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Virtual ticket is \$40 per household.

Visit www.DBDT.com for details.

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Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund at Texas Women's Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Arts and Culture – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, NBC 5, *Texas Metro News*, *The Dallas Morning News*, NorthPark Center, TACA, American Airlines, The Shubert Foundation Inc., DART, and *The Dallas Weekly*.

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ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is an internationally recognized professional dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. The National Endowment for the Arts designated the 44-year-old company as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist in 2008. The company also received the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education in 2017. As Dallas' oldest and largest professional dance company, DBDT ranks as the 10th largest minority arts organization in America and the fourth largest black dance company in the nation.

Ann Williams founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. ***Melissa M. Young*** took over the helm as Artistic Director in 2018 after starting with 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 virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 4.3 million arts patrons across 16 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.

*Five performing companies comprise Dallas Black Dance Theatre and its training Academy. **DBDT** consists of 13 full-time salaried dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, African, and spiritual works by national and international choreographers. **DBDT: Encore!** features eight artists of rising excellence from across the nation who support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach. 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 47 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. The academy was the first in the nation to train a student who received the Presidential Scholar Award in Dance in 1980. More than 500 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 students ages four to adult. 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's primary home in the historic Moorland YMCA building in the Dallas Arts District includes 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.



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