

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sonya Spencer
Dallas Black Dance Theatre
(214) 871-2376
s.spencer@dbdt.com



**THE WORLD'S BEST BLACK DANCE COMPANIES
TO CONVENE IN DALLAS FOR IABD FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE**

[December 19, 2013] –DALLAS – Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) will host the world's pre-eminent dance companies when the International Association of Blacks in Dance 26th Annual Festival and Conference convenes in Dallas January 16-19, 2014. Sponsored by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, more than 500 attendees will participate in workshops, master classes and performances held throughout Dallas at various venues.

The host hotel, Marriott City Center will be the conference headquarters where workshops will be held on dance management, funding, marketing, audience development and more as well as panel discussions with Arts Leaders and Corporate Partners. World renowned master teachers Dianne Grigsby, Christopher Huggins, Theo Jamison, Virginia Johnson, Milton Myers, Stephanie Powell and more will conduct master classes at two locations: DBDT Studios on Flora Street and Booker T. Washington HSPVA.

In addition, evening dance concerts held on the campus of Southern Methodist University (SMU) at McFarlin Auditorium, January 16-18 will feature companies from around the nation. Beginning on Thursday, January 16, the following dynamic youth companies will perform: Straight to the Pointe!Dance Company (Philadelphia), Detroit School of Arts Dance (Detroit), Dance Institute of Philadelphia (Philadelphia), Booker T. Washington HSPVA (Dallas), DBDT's Allegro Performing Ensemble (Dallas) and more.

Electrifying professional artists from around the world to perform on Friday, January 17 include: Ballet Creole (Ontario), Dance Theatre of Harlem (New York), Atlanta Dance Connection (Atlanta) Orchestis | College of William and Mary, Howard University Dance Ensemble, DBDTII and other professional ensembles.

On Saturday, January 18, the celebration will conclude with performances from the five founding IABD companies: Dayton Contemporary Dance (Dayton), Lula Washington Dance (Los Angeles), Philadanco!The Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadelphia), Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (Denver) and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. The performance series is sponsored by Texas Instruments.

Special classes at midnight will be taught on Thursday, January 16 in Hip Hop by Keith Clark and A'naz Cotton. Clark and Cotton are members of the DC Dance Collective. Friday, January 17 will feature the much acclaimed midnight African Bantaba led by Dallas favorites Bandan Koro Drum and Dance Ensemble. These classes will be held in the main studio at DBDT and will be open to the public.

The conference will also honor two legends in Black Dance, Virginia Johnson (Dance Theatre of Harlem) and Milton Myers (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) during a special luncheon held on Saturday, January 18 at the Marriott.

For more information regarding corporate panels, lecture/demonstrations, dance classes or registration for the festival and conference, please visit the website at dbdt.com. Tickets for the performance showcases are available by calling the AT&T Performing Arts Center Box office at 214-880-0202 or visiting the purchasing website at attpac.org.

About The Conference

In marking 26 years of serving the Black Dance field, the International Association of Blacks in Dance will host its 26th annual conference in Dallas, Texas from January 16 - 19, 2014. This exciting event represents the broadest gathering of Black Dance professionals in the US and Internationally, including executive directors, artistic directors, company managers, choreographers, artists, presenters, teachers, historians, agents, and so many others.

Over four days, participants engage in invaluable professional and networking opportunities. Workshop and Panel Sessions provide experiential hands-on learning paired with examples of successful new models that reflect the field's entrepreneurial spirit and inspire new thinking for a vibrant future for dance. Performance showcases also include Dance organizations from around the country and abroad.

The Host Hotel is the Marriott City Center located in downtown Dallas, TX located in the Dallas Arts District with shopping, dining, entertainment nearby. Conference performances are held on the campus of SMU at McFarlin Auditorium.

About IABD

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in networking, funding, performance, education, audience development, philosophical dialogue, touring and advocacy. The Association is committed to documenting and addressing Black aesthetics in Dance. It also educates younger generations about contributions of Black artists in Dance. As one avenue for accomplishing these goals, the Association has established archives with the National Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum in Wilberforce, Ohio, the Afro-American Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University in Washington, DC.

About Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Founded by Ann Williams, Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) celebrates its 37th Season of providing professional modern dance for the citizens of Dallas. As an IABD Founding Member Company, DBDT has previously hosted the IABD Conference in 1993, 1997, 2000 (20th Anniversary), and 2008.

Sponsors for the conference include: City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs; National Endowment for the Arts; Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District; Dallas Marriott City Center; American Airlines; Baltimore Dance Tech, Inc.; Booker T. Washington HSPVA Advisory Board.