



DALLAS DANCE

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This fall marks the 30th Anniversary season of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT). Ann Williams, the company’s founder and artistic director, says, “This started as a dream. Then with a little bit of money and a lot of patience and faith, it turned into reality.” The company is now the oldest, continuously operating, full-time dance company in Dallas. During this season, they will add new educational and enrichment programs, new performances and seven new dancers to round out the 14-member dance company. DBDT has a new home for their new programs: a historic facility the company acquired and plans to renovate.

DBDT is one of the most recognized dance companies in the US. They are renowned for their rich, cultural diversity and high-level of artistic excellence in contemporary modern dance and educational programming.

“The Dallas Black Dance Theatre has

BLACK THEATER

30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

By Delmetia L. Millener

had an incredible journey,” explains Wynn C. Watkins, DBDT Board President. “Through hard work, remaining focused, and soliciting the financial support of corporations, communities and individuals, DBDT can continue to share the art of dance to all cultures.”

Over the years, DBDT has survived tensions, economic struggles and social ills to remain unwavering as one of the most recognized professional dance companies in the world. They were the only regional U.S. dance company invited to the 1996 Olympic Games. Presently, they are the only minority group in Dallas’ Arts District.

Since opening its doors, DBDT has also grown culturally to employ dancers from all over the world. The company’s artistic talent includes professional dancers not only from the U.S., but also from Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, and beyond. The troupe performs all over the



world in such places as Mexico, Spain, Italy, Great Britain, South Africa, Bermuda, Austria, Zimbabwe and Ireland. Marketing manager, Tatum H. Rodgers, emphasizes the company’s broad appeal. “We are culturally diverse and more importantly, artistically diverse. Many people don’t know that in addition to modern dance, we offer other forms of dance movement,

including ballet and jazz.”

With the word out about cultural diversity, expansions, and clearer visions, Rodgers predicts “I think this is going to be our best season yet.”

DBDT will perform at the Juneteenth Film Festival. For more information visit www.dbdt.com. 