

Stepping Ahead Across the Nation



ANN M. WILLIAMS
FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

HISTORY

Founded in 1976 by Ann Williams, 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. With an ever-expanding national and global audience, the company employs a diverse, multi-ethnic troupe of dancers performing for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates its 34th Season as the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. Under the direction of Ann Williams, Founder/Artistic Director, the ensemble, a contemporary modern dance company, consists of 12 professional, full-time dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers. Over the course of its history, DBDT has performed for 2.5 million arts patrons and 1.5 million children worldwide (40,000 annually youth grades K-12).

Under the Direction of Executive Director, Zenetta Drew, the management of DBDT is composed of a 50 member Board of Directors whose primary responsibilities are fundraising and fiduciary oversight. A professional administrative staff of nine full-time staff is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company.

To keep up with demand and continue to serve its local community, Ann Williams formed Dallas Black Dance Theatre II, the second performing company of Dallas Black Dance Theatre. This semi-professional company consists of 12 aspiring artists from around the nation. Since its inception, DBDT II has grown in popularity and thrilled audiences with its fresh allure.

The 36 year old Dallas Black Dance Academy is the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre and offers classes (3 levels each) in ballet, jazz, tap and Liturgical disciplines for ages 4 and up. DBDT's academy offers classes four evenings per week and Saturdays during the school year and summer. The academy trains 400 students per week in year-round classes.

Moving to the Dallas Arts District continues the legacy of Founder/Artistic Director, Ann Williams. In January 2008, the former Moorland YMCA became the first permanent home for DBDT's rehearsal studios, training classrooms, and administrative offices. DBDT's permanent home and performance facility in the Arts District the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre truly marked a new era for the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company of Dallas.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre
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HIGHLIGHTS

Represented the USA at Expo '92 in Seville, Spain

Dallas Black Dance Theatre performs for 1996 Olympic Festival in Atlanta, Georgia being the first and only Texas arts organization to ever be invited to be an Olympic Cultural Olympiad participant.

Designated an “**American Masterpiece Touring Artist**” by the National Endowment for the Arts.

2008 celebrated the opening of Dallas Black Dance Theatre’s new headquarters in Dallas’ downtown Arts District.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre receives 1998 **invitation from South Africa’s Minister of Arts, Culture and Sports** as featured guest for South Africa’s largest festival and to perform educational programs in the cities of Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and Soweto.

PAST NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- **Dance Women/Living Legends** New York City 1997
- **Olympic Arts Festival** Atlanta, GA 1996
- **Commissioning for the Gershwin Centennial** Kennedy Center 1998
Texas, Montana, Utah
Washington (state), New York,
Pennsylvania, Austria
- **Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival** New York City 1997 & 2004
- **Commissioning by the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities** Dallas and nationally 2004
(based upon Dallas’ Nasher Sculpture Center)
- **Masters of African-American Choreography** Kennedy Center 2005
- **Commissioning collaboration with Dallas Symphony Orchestra** Dallas 2006
- **Nasher Sculpture Center George Segal Seascapes Exhibit** Dallas 2008

International performances have included the Festival International in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and tours to Austria, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Bermuda, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Peru, Canada, Japan, Uganda and Great Britain.

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