



**DALLAS  
THEATER  
CENTER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DALLAS THEATER CENTER MOURNS THE PASSING OF LIFE TRUSTEE LINDA CUSTARD**

**DALLAS, Texas** – Dallas Theater Center (DTC) announces with deep sadness the passing of Life Trustee Linda Pitts Custard, who died on January 22. Custard was a supporter of DTC since its founding in 1959, and was preceded in death by her husband Bill, who was also a Life Trustee. The Custard's support of DTC for more than 65 years exemplified their commitment to philanthropy and love of the arts.

“Linda Custard’s impact on Dallas Theater Center is immeasurable.” said Executive Director Kevin Moriarty. “From the first opening night at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in 1959, which she and Bill Custard attended on a date a few months before they were married, Linda was woven into the fabric of the life of our theater. Alongside Bill, her devoted husband and fellow Life Trustee, she helped shape Dallas Theater Center for more than six decades.

“Linda was a powerful leader, a thoughtful strategist, a generous donor, and one of DTC’s most influential champions. The Linda and Bill Custard Award — DTC’s most prestigious honor — bears their name, and they were its first recipients, a fitting recognition of the extraordinary legacy of leadership and generosity they established. She believed deeply in Dallas’s potential to become an ever more perfect union, grounded in learning and artistry. She led not from obligation, but from unwavering belief: belief in artists, in institutions, and in the power of theater to strengthen civic life.

“Dallas Theater Center is stronger because of Linda Custard. Indeed, we owe much of our sustained existence to her and to the partnership she shared with Bill. Her vision, her generosity, and her steadfast commitment will inspire us for decades to come. We will honor her legacy not only in words, but through the continued excellence, courage, and civic purpose of the theater she helped build.”

In 1994 Custard served as a co-chair of the inaugural Centerstage gala featuring Paul Simon, alongside Jane Dunne and Bess Enloe. Linda and Bill were also founding members of the “Benefactors” donor membership program that year. In 2017, they endowed the Linda and Bill Custard SMU Meadows Actor, a designated position in DTC’s Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company for a recent graduate of SMU’s Meadows School of the Arts’ Master of Fine Arts Program, creating a bridge between academic training and professional work alongside seasoned actors.



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DTC Board Chair Lynn Pride Richardson added, “Linda shaped the course of DTC for over 60 years. She brought not only extraordinary generosity, but also deep thoughtfulness, curiosity and care to every conversation about DTC’s future. She believed fiercely in the power of theater to build empathy, spark dialogue, and strengthen our community, and she backed that belief with sustained commitment and action. Linda’s leadership helped guide DTC through major moments of growth and change, always with a steady hand and a clear sense of purpose. Beyond her service, she was a trusted advisor, a champion for artists, and a friend to so many of us. We are profoundly grateful for Linda’s legacy, and we will honor her by continuing the work she cared about so deeply.”

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**DALLAS THEATER CENTER (DTC)** is one of the leading regional theaters in the country and the recipient of the 2017 Regional Theatre Tony Award. DTC is committed to producing theater with resident artists that illuminate diverse experiences and spark collaboration and dialogue. Founded in 1959, DTC is a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its annual season at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, and at its historic home, the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Kevin Moriarty and Interim Artistic Director Jonathan Norton, DTC produces a year-round subscription series of classics, musicals, and new plays and an annual production of *A Christmas Carol* for more than 50,000 North Texas residents annually. DTC’s productions have been seen on Broadway and at theaters nation-wide. Additionally, the theater’s Department of Public Works produces extensive education programs, including the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Project Discovery, a partnership with SMU Meadows School of the Arts, and many community collaborations. DTC is also the home of the Diane and Hal Brierley Resident Acting Company, which features twelve resident artists who perform in every season.