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Robert Battle, Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director Sharon Gersten Luckman, Executive Director Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER NEW YEAR'S EVE PERFORMANCE FEATURING INSPIRING REVELATIONS AND LIVE MUSIC

Celebrate with Ailey's Extraordinary Dancers Over the Holidays for a Soul-Stirring Experience

During New York Season Ending New Year's Day

New Year's Resolution for Fun and Fitness Started with Free Class at The Ailey Extension

(New York) December 20, 2011 – <u>Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater</u>'s first season led by <u>Robert Battle</u> is exciting packed houses and receiving standing ovations at New York City Center this month. A cherished holiday tradition, Ailey's performances will continue to inspire with dynamic new works and Alvin Ailey's inspiring *Revelations* through January 1st.

There is still time to join friends and family in a joyous celebration with Ailey's extraordinary dancers during a special holiday schedule that includes matinee and evening programs on Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24th at 2pm and 8pm), an evening performance on Christmas Day (Sunday, Dec. 25th at 7:30pm) and two performances on New Year's Eve (Saturday, December 31st at 2pm and 7pm).

The stage will be set for a joyous move into the New Year on Saturday, December 31st at 7pm with a performance featuring two acclaimed premieres - modern dance master Paul Taylor's <u>Arden Court</u> and the bold hip hop choreographer Rennie Harris' <u>Home</u>. Mr. Ailey's beloved masterpiece <u>Revelations</u>, an American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all and recognized by a U.S. Senate resolution, will be accompanied by live music featuring the inimitable singers Kenny Brawner and Ella Mitchell. In the spirit of the night, the hand-clapping, soul-stirring finale will culminate in confetti and fireworks!

Ailey's dancers bid farewell to New York audiences on New Year's Day (Sunday, January 1 at 7:30pm) in a special program highlighting all of this year's dynamic premieres and new productions, along with *Revelations* in its entirety.

Audiences can also get a jump on their New Year's resolution for fun and fitness. Ailey's "Ticket to Dance"* enables ticket holders to take their first class for free at The Ailey Extension, a popular program of dance and fitness classes for the general public. Since its inception, over 45,000 people have experienced the joy of dancing in a wide variety of classes seven days a week.

Don't miss the opportunity to share the holiday spirit, and experience the passion, beauty, and power of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater before they depart on a 27-city North American tour!

Tickets starting at \$25 are avilable at the New York City Center Box Office (131 West 55th Street), through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at www.nycitycenter.org. For discounts on groups of 10 or more, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail groupsales@alvinailey.org.

For additional information about the Alvin Ailey New York City center season please visit www.alvinailey.org. For a complete schedule of The Ailey Extension schedule, visit: www.aileyextension.com

*Note – "Ticket to Dance" offer - Paid ticket stub from Ailey performance can be redeemed for a free class for first time students, and free class with purchase of a 10-class card for returning students. Good for one year from the performance date.

Click here for Season Release/Full Schedule - (All programming is subject to change)

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Prudential Financial and Wells Fargo are co-sponsors of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Season.

American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the lead funder of "Minus 16."

Bristol-Myers Squibb is the proud supporter of "Home" which was inspired by the Fight HIV Your Way Initiative.

Simin & Herb Allison, American Express, BNY Mellon, Linda & Sandy Lindenbaum, Prudential Financial, Inc., and Joan & Sandy Weill and The Weill Family Foundation are Co-Sponsors of Ailey's Opening Night Gala.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of DIAGEO during the New York City Center Season.

American Airlines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Toyota is the Official Vehicle Partner of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The 2011-2012 season is sponsored, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

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(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. AAADT's Alicia Graf Mack in Joyce Trisler's Journey. AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims & Antonio Douthit in Paul Taylor's Arden Court. AAADT's Kirven James Boyd in Alvin Ailey's Revelations. All Photos by Andrew Eccles.

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About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," grew from a now-fabled March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Founded by Alvin Ailey, and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, which brings dance into the classrooms, communities and lives of people of all ages; and The Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey's permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world —named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.AlvinAiley.org.