

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

In a Sentimental Mood (World Premiere – 2022)

Choreography: Jamar Roberts
Music: Duke Ellington and Rafiq Bhatia
Costume & Décor: Jamar Roberts
Lighting: Brandon Stirling Baker

*“Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does.
Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up.”*

-James Baldwin

An intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple becomes an exploration of love and desire in Jamar Roberts' [In a Sentimental Mood](#). Using an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia, Roberts bridges the past and present, making these musical classics freshly relevant and timely.

“Here Roberts **explores a genre that is new to him, the mini-dance drama. The piece could almost be a short film**, and film noir is its clear point of reference... The dance is **stylish and taut ...**” – *Fjord Review*

“Roberts also continues his relationship with jazz music, beginning the work with “There’s Something About an Old Love,” a Duke Ellington composition. Its crackling, lo-fi recording sets the ambience; **like the sometimes ominous music, the dance speaks to a darker, more complicated side of love as it also evokes a bygone era...** The music — four jazz standards reimaged by the composer Rafiq Bhatia — sets the stage for a dream ballet that sometimes feels like a nightmare...” – *The New York Times*



Ailey's Khalia Campbell and James Gilmer in Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



Jamar Roberts.
Photo by Dario Calmese.

Jamar Roberts

Jamar Roberts, from Miami, FL, was the Resident Choreographer of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 2019-2022. Mr. Roberts made five works on the Company, all to critical acclaim: [Members Don't Get Weary](#) (2016), [Ode](#) (2019), [A Jam Session for Troubling Times](#) (2020), [Holding Space](#) (2021), and [In a Sentimental Mood](#) (2022). He also set *Gemeos* on Ailey II. Mr. Roberts is a graduate of the New World School of the Arts and The Ailey School and has danced for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Roberts won the 2016 Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer and has performed as a guest artist with the Royal Ballet in London. Commissions include Miami City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, ABT Studio Company, Martha Graham Dance

Company, LA Dance Project, Vail Dance Festival, Fall for Dance, The Juilliard School, BalletX, MoveNYC, New York City Ballet, and Works and Process at the Guggenheim where he created the films [Cooped](#) and *A Chronicle of a Pivot at a Point in Time*. The March on Washington Film Festival invited Mr. Roberts to create a tribute to John Lewis and he has also made a film for the LA Opera entitled *The First Bluebird in the Morning*. Mr. Roberts was a Director's Fellow at NYU's Center for Ballet and the Arts and he is currently a Creative Associate at Juilliard. He was featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine* in 2021 and 2013 and was named one of “25 to Watch” in 2007. He first joined the Ailey company in 2002 and retired from dancing in 2021.

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In a Sentimental Mood Music Credit Information

From the Duke Ellington album, *The Duke Ellington Story*:

“There’s Something About an Old Love” by Lupin Fein, Will Hudson, Irving Mills, Used by Permission of Sony/ATV Harmony.

From the Rafiq Bhatia album, *Standards, Vol. 1 – EP*:

“In a Sentimental Mood” by Duke Ellington, Used by Permission of Sony/ATV Harmony

“First Time I Ever Saw Your Face” by Ewan MacColl, featuring Cécile McLorin Salvant, Used by Permission of The Royalty Network, Inc.

“Lonely Woman” by Ornette Coleman, Used by Permission of Kobalt Music Publishing”

“Single Petal of a Rose” by Duke Ellington, Used by Permission of G. Schirmer Inc.