



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

AILEY II | THE AILEY SCHOOL | AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS | AILEY EXTENSION
The Joan Weill Center for Dance 405 West 55th St, New York NY 10019-4402 (212) 405-9000 AlvinAiley.org

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO LINCOLN CENTER'S DAVID H. KOCH THEATER AFTER THREE-YEAR ABSENCE FROM JUNE 15-19

**Six-Performance Engagement Capping Artistic Director Robert Battle's 10th Anniversary Season Kicks Off
During NYC Dance Week with Four Diverse and Dynamic Programs:**

***Battle 10th Anniversary Program Features Works by Robert Battle Set to the Music of
Ella Fitzgerald, Wynton Marsalis, Leontyne Price, Nina Simone, and Stevie Wonder***

***Contemporary Creators Showcases the Bold Visions of
Jamar Roberts (World Premiere *In a Sentimental Mood*) and Robert Battle (2021 Premiere *For Four*)***

***Masterful Movement Spotlights 20th Century Modern Dance Masters
Alvin Ailey (*The River*) and Paul Taylor (Company Premiere *DUET*)***

**Ailey Spirit Gala Benefit Honors Verizon and Grammy® Emmy® and Tony® Award-winning actress, singer and
producer Cynthia Erivo to serve as Honorary Chair on Thursday, June 16**

Celebrating Jacqueline Green Farewell Tribute on Friday, June 17

**Ailey Extension Brings "Real Classes for Real People" to the Crossroads of the World Every Friday Through
June 17 with Free "Dance in Times Square" Outdoor Workshop Series in Partnership with TSQ LIVE**

Tickets Starting at \$29 Now on Sale

New York – updated June 14, 2022 – [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts after a three-year absence for a six-performance engagement at the David H. Koch Theater June 15-19 that caps a decade of Artistic Director [Robert Battle's](#) leadership. In addition to diverse programs featuring world premiere of Ailey Resident Choreographer [Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*](#) and company premiere of Paul Taylor's *DUET*, the season includes [The Ailey Spirit Gala Benefit](#) with Honorary Chair Grammy® Emmy® and Tony® Award-winning actress, singer and producer Cynthia Erivo, and An Evening Celebrating Jacqueline Green. Additional highlight includes free [Ailey Extension "Dance in Times Square"](#) outdoor workshop series hosted on Fridays at 5pm now through NYC Dance Week.

The 2022 Lincoln Center engagement begins on **Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30 pm** with the *Contemporary Creators* program, featuring the world premiere of [Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*](#), an intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple that becomes an exploration of love and desire. The work is set to an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia. The program also presents Robert Battle's 2021 premiere [For Four](#), a swirling duet set to a Wynton Marsalis delicious jazz score written in 4/4 time capturing the pent-up energy of a world cooped up during the pandemic. *Contemporary Creators repeats on Saturday, June 18 at 8 pm—Ailey Pride Night, with a Dancers Responding to AIDS appeal to raise funds that are essential for those battling the illness.*

On **Thursday, June 16 at 7 pm**, the [Ailey Spirit Gala](#) honoring **Verizon** and sponsored by **Diageo** raises funds that are vital to scholarships for talented students of [The Ailey School](#) and Ailey's innovative [Arts In Education & Community Programs](#). **Honorary Chair** for the evening is Grammy® Emmy® and Tony® Award-winning actress, singer and producer **Cynthia Erivo**. In addition to showcasing the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the benefit performance includes the rising stars of [Ailey II](#), gifted young dancers from **The Ailey School**, and blossoming students from [AileyCamp](#)—all performing works by Robert Battle in celebration of his 10th anniversary as Artistic Director. Following an uplifting *Revelations* finale, a festive soirée takes place on the Lincoln Center promenade with dancing to the musical stylings of DJs [Angel + Dren](#). For tickets and information, visit alvinailey.org/support/ailey-spirit-gala or call 212-405-9624. Click [here](#) for the complete press release.

The **Masterful Movement** program on **Friday, June 17 at 8 pm** highlights 20th century trailblazers whose work is central to modern dance. *Masterful Movement* introduces audiences to the company premiere of **Paul Taylor's** 1964 [DUET](#). Set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn, *DUET* portrays a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true. The program also includes **Alvin Ailey's** [The River](#) and **Robert Battle's** [Mass](#). Originally choreographed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre and first performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1980, *The River* combines classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz in sections suggesting tumbling rapids and slow currents on a voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of human existence. *Mass*, a thrilling ensemble work set to a score by Battle's frequent collaborator John Mackey, showcases his signature ritualistic choreography. The Friday presentation is also **Celebrating [Jacqueline Green](#)**, a beloved Company member in her farewell engagement after more than a decade of lighting up the stage. The tribute to her artistry treats audiences to performances by Ms. Green in lead roles in *Mass*, *Pas de Duke*, *The River* and *Revelations*. *Masterful Movement repeats on Sunday, June 19 at 3 pm (Juneteenth)*.

Battle 10th Anniversary program brings to a culmination a celebratory year marking a decade of Robert Battle's leadership. The **Saturday, June 18 2 pm Family Matinee** spotlights Mr. Battle's choreography to the music of Ella Fitzgerald, Wynton Marsalis, Leontyne Price, Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, and more. The program features a new production of his swirling duet [Unfold](#), evoking the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria "Depuis le jour" sung by the incomparable Leontyne Price, along with [Ella, For Four, In/Side, Love Stories](#) finale, *Mass*, and [Takademe](#). A **post-performance discussion with Robert Battle and Company dancers follows** the program.

The inspiring finale for each performance is Alvin Ailey's masterpiece **Revelations**. Since its creation in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more audiences around the world than any other modern work, inspiring generations through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring spirituals. Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the south and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich African American cultural heritage and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition. Learn more about the visionary choreographer's life in Jamila Wignot's acclaimed *Ailey* documentary, now streaming on [Hulu](#) and [PBS Passport](#).

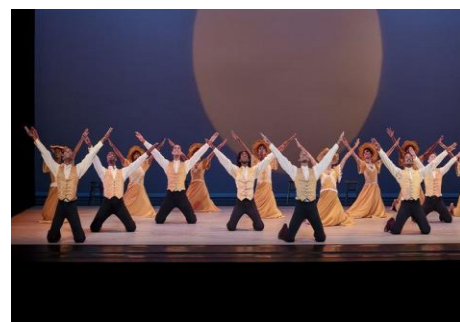
In 1958, Alvin Ailey and a small group of dancers took the stage in New York and forever changed American dance and culture. One of the country's groundbreaking greats, the Company inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African American cultural experience and the modern dance tradition. Now in its seventh decade, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle.

Tickets for the Lincoln Center engagement starting at \$29 can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, and online at alvinailey.org/LC. Discount tickets are available for students with an appropriate ID and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$29 tickets). For group sales, contact 212-405-9082 or groupsales@alvinailey.org. For further information, visit www.alvinailey.org. **The program schedule is detailed below.**

Your health and safety are our top priority. All audience members are required to provide proof of vaccination and wear a mask inside the theater. [Read more here](#) about performance COVID-19 protocols.

Ahead of the Lincoln Center engagement, **Ailey brings its “real classes for real people” to Times Square for a series of free outdoor workshops by Ailey Extension instructors.** Each Friday at 5pm from now through June 17, fun for all unfolds with participatory, high-spirited dance sessions, ranging from the iconic choreography of Ailey’s *Revelations*, to West African dance, mambo, and more at the Crossroads of the World. Marking Ailey’s first-ever classes on Broadway, the public is invited to **move and groove through this series culminating during NYC Dance Week with two dance events on June 10 and 17.** For more information, visit www.timessquarenyc.org/tsqlive.

Through August 31, Ailey ticket holders are welcome to join in the dance and take their **first class for free at Ailey Extension** with the “**Ticket to Dance**” promotion, either [in-person](#) at The Joan Weill Center for Dance—New York’s largest building dedicate to dance—or [online](#) from the comfort of their homes. Students of all experience levels can select from a wide range of “real classes for real people,” including dance and fitness techniques like hip-hop, Zumba®, Horton, yoga, West African, Pilates, ballet, Masala Bhangra, and more styles taught by Ailey’s elite instructors. A full schedule of classes is available at alvinailey.org/extension.



(L to R): Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey’s *The River*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s Jacqueline Green and James Gilmer. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

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CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world’s most popular dance companies, **presents a six-performance engagement at Lincoln Center’s David H. Koch Theater, June 15 – 19, 2022.** Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey’s acclaimed dancers perform a diverse repertory featuring the world premiere of **Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts’s *In a Sentimental Mood***, repertory favorites, and classics across four captivating programs highlighting the best of modern dance. In addition to *In a Sentimental Mood*, the **Contemporary Creators** program spotlights the bold work of **Robert Battle’s 2021 premiere *For Four. Masterful Movement*** showcases the works of 20th century modern dance masters—with the Company debut of Paul Taylor’s *DUET* and Alvin Ailey’s *The River*. **Robert Battle’s 10th Anniversary program** culminates a celebratory year marking his decade-long leadership. **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit performance honoring **Verizon** on **Thursday, June 16** features the world-renowned Ailey dancers and appearances by the rising stars of Ailey II, gifted dancers from The Ailey School, and talented students from AileyCamp, followed by a soirée on the promenade. Alvin Ailey’s masterpiece *Revelations* provides the uplifting finale of each program. **Performance tickets start at \$29 and go on sale on Tuesday, April 26** at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at alvinailey.org/LC. Student tickets may be available on the day of the performance for \$17 at the box office with a valid student ID (one per student, subject to availability). On **Saturday, June 18**, bring the whole family to enjoy the matinee and stay for a free, post-performance Q&A with Artistic Director Robert Battle. Additional discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by phone 212-405-9082 or e-mail groupsales@alvinailey.org. For further information about Ailey performances, please visit www.alvinailey.org.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
June 15-19, 2022, at Lincoln Center’s David H. Koch Theater
20 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY (Columbus Avenue at 63rd Street)
212-496-0600 / www.davidkochtheater.com

Programs – Subject to Change

Contemporary Creators: *For Four, Unfold, Takademe, Love Stories* (finale) / *In a Sentimental Mood* / *Revelations*
Wednesday, 6/15 at 7:30 pm | Saturday, 6/18 at 8 pm+

The Ailey Spirit Gala: Celebrating Robert Battle's 10th Anniversary

Performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, and AileyCamp, incl. *Revelations*
Thursday, 6/16 at 7 pm

Masterful Movement: *The River* / *DUET, Mass* / *Revelations*

Friday, 6/17 at 8 pm (**Celebrating Jacqueline Green**) **also includes excerpt of *Pas de Duke* | Sunday, 6/19 at 3 pm

Robert Battle 10th Anniversary: *Mass, In/Side, Ella* / *For Four, Unfold, Takademe, Love Stories* finale / *Revelations*

Saturday, 6/18 at 2 pm*

+ *Ailey Pride Night* includes Dancers Responding to AIDS appeal to raise funds essential for those battling the illness

*Family Matinee - followed by a post-performance Q&A with Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle and Company dancers

For additional press materials please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

The WNET Group is the Media Partner for the 2022 Spring Season.

The Ailey Spirit Gala is sponsored by Diageo.

The 2022 Spring Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts
with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature,
and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

The world premiere of *In a Sentimental Mood* is made possible with support from Maury & Joseph Bohan, Peter S. Croncota,
and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

Leadership support for the world premiere of *For Four* is provided by Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer.

The world premiere of *For Four* is made possible with major support from Melinda & Paul Pressler,
Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn & Nicolas S. Rohatyn, The Ellen Jewett & Richard L. Kauffman New Works Endowment Fund,
Elaine & Lawrence J. Rothenberg, Denise Littlefield Sobel, and the Red Moose Charitable Fund.

For Four is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Love Stories was created through the Ailey New Works Fund, supported by Altria Group, Inc.

Love Stories was supported by the Ailey New Choreography Initiative, sponsored by AT&T.

Major support for *Love Stories* was provided by Ford Foundation.

Generous support was also received from The Fred Eychaner New Works Endowment Fund and

The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey – Sara & Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund.

Additional funding for *Love Stories* was provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance, NJPAC Alternate Routes,
Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation and Laren & Jesse Brill.

Generous support for this production of *The River* was provided by Celestine & Howard Campbell.

Support for the original production of *Unfold* was received from Elma Linz Kanefield.

Leadership support for this production of *Unfold* is provided by The Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer Endowment Fund.

This production of *Unfold* was made possible with generous support from Judith McDonough Kaminski & Joseph Kaminski.

All performances of *Revelations* are permanently endowed by a generous gift from Donald L. Jonas in celebration of the birthday of his wife,
Barbara, and her deep commitment to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Generous support for *Takademe* was provided by The Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer New Works Endowment Fund
and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey through the generosity of the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation and individual donors.

WORLD PREMIERE

[In a Sentimental Mood](#) (2022 World Premiere)

Choreography by Jamar Roberts

Music: Duke Ellington and Rafiq Bhatia

An intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple becomes an exploration of love and desire in Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts's world premiere. 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.

COMPANY PREMIERE

[DUET](#) (1964 / 2022 Company Premiere)

Choreography by Paul Taylor

Music: Josef Haydn

Paul Taylor's 1964 *DUET*, set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn, is a testament to the simplicity and clarity of his craft. Brief and beautifully shaped, it portrays a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true.

2021-22 SEASON WORLD PREMIERE

[For Four](#) (2021 World Premiere)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Wynton Marsalis

Take four amazing Ailey dancers and add Wynton Marsalis's delicious jazz score—written in 4/4 time—and you'll understand why Robert Battle cheekily titled this exuberant short work *For Four*. Capturing the pent-up energy of a world cooped up during the pandemic, Battle expresses the drive to perform and the electricity of dancers coming together to create.

2021-2022 SEASON NEW PRODUCTIONS

[Pas de Duke](#) (1976 / New Production 2021)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Music: Duke Ellington

Pas de Duke was Alvin Ailey's modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux honoring two of the most renowned dancers in the world, Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov and celebrating the musical genius of the late Duke Ellington (1899-1974). It was originally presented as part of the festival "Ailey Celebrates Ellington" at Lincoln Center's New York State Theater in 1976, commemorating the nation's bicentennial with America's two great art forms—modern dance and jazz music. Ailey choreographed five sections capturing the sassy sophistication of "The Duke's" jazz music: the introduction to "Such Sweet Thunder" (1957); the pas de deux to "Sonnet for Caesar" (1975); the male solo to "Sonnet for Hank Cinq" (1957); the female solo to "Unclothed Woman" (1948); and the finale to "Old Man's Blues" (1930), which captured the exuberance of the star dancers' qualities and techniques as the male and female soloists mirror each other toe-to-toe and line-for-line in this playful, good-natured competition. Robert Battle comments: "Created especially for Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov—reigning stars at the time from parallel worlds of dance—*Pas de Duke* springs from Alvin Ailey's interest in many things when it came to dance and music, as well as his appreciation and ability to showcase great dancers. He took the ballet pas de deux formula and had a play with it, still using some of the balletic motifs but adding in elements of jazz and other forms of contemporary dance."

[The River](#) (1970 / New Production 2021)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Original Score: Duke Ellington

Alvin Ailey's acclaimed collaboration with the musical genius Duke Ellington was choreographed and composed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre and first performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1980. One of 14 dances Ailey created to Ellington's music, *The River* was Ellington's first symphonic score written specifically for dance. Combining classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz, the suite suggests tumbling rapids and slow currents on its voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of life. With Ailey's mixture of light and playful yet also dark and romantic choreography balanced with Ellington's score, the work is an abstract celebration of birth, life, and rebirth. Robert Battle comments: "*The River* shows Alvin Ailey's range as a choreographer, and certainly the versatility of the dancers. Mr. Ailey always seemed to have a passport through all the different genres of dance while still retaining his essence."

[Unfold](#) (2007/ New Production 2021)

Choreography: Robert Battle

Music: Gustave Charpentier, Recorded by Leontyne Price

Artistic Director Robert Battle's sensuous, swirling duet evokes the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria "Depuis le jour" sung by the incomparable Leontyne Price. With its fluid grace, this gem exemplifies the choreographer's skill for nuanced gesture and vivid imagery.

RETURNING FAVORITES

[Ella](#) (2008 / 2016 Company Premiere)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Ella Fitzgerald

Originally created as a solo, this high-energy comical dance was reinvented by Mr. Battle as a duet for the Ailey company. Using a live concert recording of Fitzgerald performing the song "Airmail Special," *Ella* matches the iconic singer's virtuosic scatting with lightning-fast, articulated movement in an irresistible tour-de-force that leaves audiences (and the dancers) breathless.

[In/Side](#) (2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind" play out in Robert Battle's gripping solo. Battle's bold, unrestrained signature style is evinced in this visceral cry of pure physicality. The piece, originally commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, was created as part of its annual series "In the Company of Men," a celebration of the spirit of male dancers in New York [in light of the AIDS epidemic].

[Love Stories](#) finale (2004)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Stevie Wonder & Clarence Paul-Henry Cosby

Love Stories was Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison's dynamic collaboration with hip-hop pioneer Rennie Harris and Artistic Director Robert Battle. Inspired by the African concept of "Sankofa," which teaches that "we don't know where we are going unless we know where we have been," this extraordinary ballet celebrates the heritage of African American dance and the rich legacy of Alvin Ailey. In the ballet's joyful third section, presented as a standalone piece this season, Robert Battle portrays a luminous future built on the lessons and legacy of the past, with a forceful push forward.

[Mass](#) (2004 / 2017 Company Premiere)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: John Mackey

Mass features a score by John Mackey, who has collaborated on multiple occasions with Robert Battle, including his 2015 world premiere *Awakening*. Commissioned for The Juilliard School in 2004, the movement in this work showcases Mr. Battle's signature ritualistic choreography.

[Takademe](#) (1999 / 2012 Company Premiere)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Sheila Chandra

During his first season as Artistic Director, Mr. Battle chose to bring one of his first creations to the Ailey Company, *Takademe*. Previously performed by Ailey II, the complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted in this percussive, fast-paced work. Clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score.

SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE

[Revelations](#) (1960)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audiences cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

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, recent posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation’s highest civilian honor, 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 25 million people in 71 countries on six continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA, and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark (where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. 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.

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