



# 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

## AILEY SHARES THE GIFT OF HOLIDAY REVELATIONS WITH FREE STREAMING OF OPENING NIGHT GALA FROM DECEMBER 21 THROUGH JANUARY 2

Special Appearances from Honorary Chair Tamron Hall and Honoree Denise Littlefield Sobel,  
Red Carpet Highlights and Performance Excerpts of Mauro Bigonzetti's *Festa Barocca*,  
Robert Battle's *Unfold* Sung by Brandie Sutton, Alvin Ailey's Must-See Masterpiece *Revelations* and more

Ailey All Access Program and Ailey Extension Workshop Celebrating the Birthday of Founder Alvin Ailey  
Kick off the New Year and Preview 2023 North American Tour

**NEW YORK – December 21, 2022** – The Ailey organization is sharing the gift of holiday *Revelations* with a free streaming of the 2022 [Opening Night Gala at New York City Center](#) from today, Wednesday, December 21 through Monday, January 2 on [Ailey All Access](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

The one-night-only celebration features special appearances from **Honorary Chair Tamron Hall**, the two-time Emmy-winning TV host, journalist, author and producer, and **philanthropist Denise Littlefield Sobel, the Honoree**. Star-studded red carpet highlights and performances by Ailey's extraordinary dancers mark the launch of Ailey's [annual season starting in New York City](#) that continues across the country on a [2023 North American tour](#). The dynamic dancing includes acclaimed Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti's *Festa Barocca* with **Constance Stamatiou** and talented students from [The Ailey School](#), excerpt from Alvin Ailey's dazzling *Night Creature* set to a sparkling score by Duke Ellington, Robert Battle's tender *Unfold* danced to Gustave Charpentier's exquisite aria sung by Brandie Sutton, Mr. Ailey's beloved *Revelations* and more. For more information, please visit [alvinailey.org/opening-night-gala](#).

Following the Opening Night Gala broadcast, Ailey All Access continues with another special program that begins streaming on Alvin Ailey's birthday. From **January 5 – 11**, viewers will be treated to highlights of Mr. Ailey's works featuring perennial favorite *Blues Suite* (1958) and seldom-seen gems *Mary Lou's Mass* (1971), *Hidden Rites* (1973), *For 'Bird' – With Love* (1984) and *Opus McShann* (1988).

[Ailey Extension](#) will also pay tribute to the organization's founder with a **Celebrating Alvin Ailey workshop**. On **Saturday, January 7 at 3pm ET** National Director of AileyCamp and former Ailey dancer [Nasha Thomas](#) will invite all to step into the world of Alvin Ailey's choreography and his classic works. This unique opportunity offers fans of the Company to explore Mr. Ailey's genius as a choreographer while learning more about his impact on the dance world and American history. To sign-up to join at the Ailey studios or online, [click here](#).

Ailey All Access virtual programming is the continuation of the organization's commitment to furthering the pioneering vision of founder Alvin Ailey by finding new ways to inspire and celebrate the indomitable human spirit through dance. To enjoy a variety of digital content, follow Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey Extension on Facebook and Instagram, The Ailey School on Instagram, Alvin Ailey Official on TikTok, and visit [www.alvinailey.org](#) regularly for updates.

Each year, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater enlightens and unites with a universal celebration of the human spirit through the African-American heritage and the modern dance tradition in performances around the world. For further information on Ailey's performances and programs, including coast-to-coast tours by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).



L to R: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Constance Stamatiou with students of The Ailey School in Mauro Bigonzetti's *Festa Barocca* at Ailey's 2022 Opening Night Gala. Photo by Christopher Duggan. Honorary Chair Tamron Hall. Photo by Pete Monsanto. Honoree Denise Littlefield Sobel and Artistic Director Robert Battle. Photo by Christopher Duggan. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* 2022 Opening Night Gala performance. Photo by Christopher Duggan

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**PRESS:** For photos, videos, materials, visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)

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**[Ailey's Pressroom \(free of charge\)](#) | [Getty Images](#)**

**The 2022 Winter 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.**

**Bank of America is Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's North American Tour Sponsor.**

**The 2023 National Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

## **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 6 continents—as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms—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 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 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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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