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## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S WASHINGTON, D.C. GALA BENEFIT RETURNS TO THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

### Opera House Performance Culminates in Alvin Ailey's American Masterpiece *Revelations* Followed by Dinner and Dancing



(CLICK PHOTOS FOR HIGH-RES DOWNLOAD)

Please Credit Images: Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle, Christopher Womack, and the 2020 DC Gala Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members from the DMV area at Ailey's 2020 DC Gala. Board Member and Gala Co-Chair Sela Collins, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, and Executive Director Bennett Rink at the 2018 DC gala. All photos ©Tony Powell.

(Washington, D.C.) August 18, 2022 – On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 23<sup>rd</sup> [Washington, D.C. Gala Benefit](#) celebrates the renowned Company's week-long engagement – February 7-13, 2023 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts during a coast-to-coast North American tour. Following the 7pm performance on the Opera House Stage – culminating with **Alvin Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*** – Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) will join prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy, and politics for dinner and dancing at the Kennedy Center for the first time since 2020.

The evening's **Corporate Chairs**, Southern Company President & CEO, **Thomas A. Fanning**; Gala Co-Chairs include **Lyndon K. Boozer**, **Sela Thompson Collins**, **Lisa Warner Wardell**, and **Yelberton R. Watkins**; and Vice Chairs: **Joyce Brayboy**, **Lawrence Duncan III**, **Anthony A. Lewis**, **Tanya Leah Lombard**, **Vanessa I. Reed**, **Jennifer M. Stewart**, **Nicole Venable**, and **Katharine Weymouth**.

Proceeds from the annual benefit support Ailey's Washington, D.C. programs, including the creation of new works, Arts In Education activities, and scholarships for talented young dance students in the area to attend The Ailey School in New York City. Incredibly, **nearly one-third of Ailey's 32 renowned dancers have roots in the DMV area**, including Ghrai DeVore-Stokes, Samantha Figgins, Michael Jackson, Jr., Xavier Mack, Corrin Rachelle Mitchell, Alisa Rena Peek, Courtney Celeste Spears, Jermaine Terry, and Miranda Quinn.

For further information on tickets for the black-tie benefit performance and party, please contact [aileyDCGala@metzgerevents.com](mailto:aileyDCGala@metzgerevents.com) or visit: [www.alvinailey.org/dcgala](http://www.alvinailey.org/dcgala). For more information on Ailey's performances and programs, visit: [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). For additional photos and press materials, visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

#### 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, 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 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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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