

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Annual Gala

March 2023 Issue



Gala Co-Chairs Yelberton Watkins, Sela Collins, Lisa Warner Wardell and Lyndon Boozer



Leon and Phylcia Rashad



Artistic Director Robert Battle and Rep. Maxine Waters

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNUAL GALA

The Kennedy Center | PHOTOS BY TONY POWELL

CELEBRATING TALENT AND BEAUTY: Gala committee members and corporate sponsors including Southern Company joined 500 individual patrons to raise over \$1 million to support the Alvin Ailey company's programs and scholarships for local students to attend The Ailey School in New York City. Following a dinner for major benefactors, 32 talented dancers dazzled audiences with **Kyle Abraham's** acclaimed world premiere of "Are You in Your Feelings?," a celebration of Black culture and music set to a "mixtape" of soul, hip-hop and R&B; Artistic Director **Robert Battle's** tender duet "Unfold," with live vocals by acclaimed soprano **Brandie Sutton**; and Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece, "Revelations," which is the inspiring finale of every performance. The event kicked off Ailey's week-long run at the Kennedy Center. A testament to Ailey's presence in the nation's capital is that one-quarter of its dancers have roots here. Events by André Wells produced the festive post-performance party with live music and yes, beautiful people dancing late into the night.



Tracy Inman and Melanie Person, co-directors of the Ailey School



Lawrence Duncan and Joyce Brayboy



Michael Collins



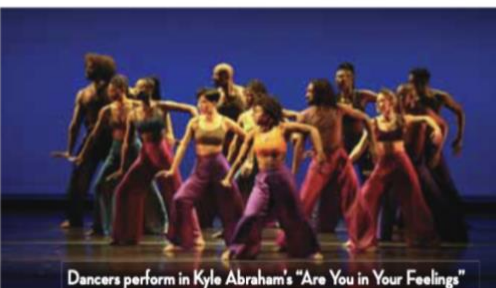
Bennett Rink and Daria Wallach



Guests dancing



Nicole Venable and Gina Adams



Dancers perform in Kyle Abraham's "Are You in Your Feelings"



Robert Battle, Carla Sims and Frédéric Yonnet