



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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Press Contact:

Lauren Morrow

lmorrow@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9079

THE JOAN WEILL CENTER FOR DANCE 405 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019-4402 PH 212.405.9000 FX 212.405.9001 WWW.ALVINAILEY.ORG

CULTURAL  
AMBASSADOR  
TO THE WORLD

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director  
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S "AN EVENING OF AILEY AND JAZZ" OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE & PARTY HONORING DIAGEO, NORTH AMERICA – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM

**Songwriter, Recording Artist, and Activist Solange Knowles to be Honorary Chair**

**Features One-Night-Only Program Celebrating the Marriage of Modern Dance and Jazz Music, Including Artistic Director Robert Battle's *Ella*, a Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald Performed for the Centennial of Her Birth**

**The Gala Kicks Off Ailey's New York City Center Holiday Season, November 30 – December 31**

(New York) **UPDATED November 21, 2016** – On Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://www.alvinailey.org) kicks off a five-week holiday season with a star-studded gala benefit, including a performance at New York City Center and party at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom. Songwriter, recording artist, and activist **Solange Knowles** is the evening's Honorary Chair. Her third and most recent album, *A Seat at the Table*, debuted at number one on the *Billboard* chart in October.

"An Evening of Ailey and Jazz" features a special one-night-only program celebrating the marriage of modern dance and jazz music, including excerpts of John Butler's *Portrait of Billie*, Talley Beatty's *The Road of the Phoebe Snow*, Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon* (a 2016 new production), and Alvin Ailey's *For Bird – With Love* and *Pas de Duke*. A highlight of the evening will be Artistic Director Robert Battle's *Ella*, a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald performed for the centennial of her birth. The program culminates with Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece, [Revelations](#), performed with live singers and musicians. Prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy and politics will join Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) and dancers for dinner and dancing to live music in the New York Hilton Midtown's Grand Ballroom following the performance.

The Gala honors **Diageo, North America** and benefits the creation of new works, scholarships to The Ailey School, and Ailey's educational programs for young people. Early confirmed celebrity guests include **La La Anthony, Tituss Burgess, Carmen de Lavallade, Savion Glover, Tamron Hall, Keegan-Michael Key, Ledisi, Damaris Lewis, Naturi Naughton, Robin Roberts, and Esperanza Spalding. Emily & Len Blavatnik, Debra L. Lee, Karen & David Peetz, Almaz & Marc S. Strachan, Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach, and Joan & Sandy Weill** serve as Co-Chairs for the Gala. Call 212-405-9031 for tickets.

For more information on Ailey's holiday season of premieres, new productions, and returning favorites taking place November 30 – December 31, click [here](#). Tickets for season performances start at \$25, and are on sale at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org).



(L to R); AAADT with live onstage music in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, photo by Christopher Duggan; AAADT, photo by Andrew Eccles; 2015 Gala Co-Chairs and Honorees with Artistic Director Robert Battle, Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison, and Chadwick Boseman, photo by Christopher Duggan; **(CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD)** – Please credit photos.

**Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Winter Season.**

**American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo, North America during the New York Winter Season.**

**Opening Night Gala Benefit Sponsors: BET Networks; Emily & Len Blavatnik;  
BNY Mellon; Diageo, North America; Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach;  
Joan & Sandy Weill and The Weill Family Foundation.**

**The 2016 New York Winter Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.**

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### **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 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).