



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

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ROBERT BATTLE LEADS ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER IN TWO-WEEK LINCOLN CENTER SEASON JUNE 8th – 19th

Season Kicks Off with One-Night-Only Ailey Spirit Gala Benefit on Wednesday, June 8th

Season of Diverse Repertory Features Over a Dozen Works on Five Programs, Including:
World Premieres of Mauro Bigonzetti's *Deep* and Kyle Abraham's *Untitled America: Second Movement*
New Productions of Ulysses Dove's *Vespers* and Robert Battle's *The Hunt*

Three New Members Debut During the 15-Performance Engagement at the David H. Koch Theater

Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale now!

New York – UPDATED June 1, 2016 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, will return to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts for a two-week 15-performance engagement at the David H. Koch Theater June 8th – 19th, 2016. Led by Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#), the dancers will perform in a diverse repertory, including the world premieres of *Deep*, by acclaimed Italian choreographer **Mauro Bigonzetti**, and *Untitled America: Second Movement*, the second work in a three-part suite by MacArthur "Genius" **Kyle Abraham**. The season also includes new productions of *Vespers*, **Ulysses Dove's** breathtaking ballet for six women, and *The Hunt*, **Robert Battle's** thrilling work for six men, as part of over a dozen works featured on five different programs.

The 2016 Lincoln Center engagement opens on **Wednesday, June 8th at 7pm** with **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit sponsored by **FedEx Corporation**. Actor **Anthony Anderson** of *black-ish* and *Barbershop: The Next Cut* and journalist **Roland S. Martin** of TV One and the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* will serve as Honorary Chairs. The benefit will raise vital funds to support scholarships for talented students of The Ailey School and Ailey's extensive Arts In Education & Community Programs. Along with the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the one-night-only Ailey Spirit Gala will include performances by the rising stars of **Ailey II**, gifted young dancers from **The Ailey School**, and blossoming students from **AileyCamp**. A soirée on the promenade follows the performance, and tickets are available online at alvinailey.org/ailey-spirit-gala or by calling 212-405-9031.

Attended by prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy, and politics, expected guests include Gala Co-Chairs **Gina F. Adams, Lynne & Anthony M. Carvette, Leslie & Tom Maheras, Almaz & Marc S. Strachan** and **Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach**; Gala Vice Chairs **Michele & Timothy Barakett, Dr. N. Anthony & Robyn Coles, Jaishri & Vikas Kapoor**, and **Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer**; and celebrities **Khandi Alexander, Lion Babe, Jon Batiste, Lance Gross, Keegan-Michael Key, Damaris Lewis, Phylicia Rashad, Deborah Roberts, Al Roker, Cicely Tyson, and Jessica Williams**. For more information on benefit tickets starting at \$500 call 212-405-9031.

Just in time for the Lincoln Center season, Robert Battle welcomes new Company members **Ashley Mayeux** and **Solomon Dumas**, and returning dancer **Constance Stamatiou**. Solomon Dumas was first introduced to dance at AileyCamp Chicago, and later earned a scholarship to The Ailey School before dancing with Ailey II and Ronald K. Brown's *Evidence*. Ashley Mayeux joins the Company after four years with Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Constance Stamatiou was a member of Ailey II before dancing with the Company from 2007-2011. Now a proud mother of two, she is excited to return to the Ailey stage.

Throughout the season the incomparable Ailey dancers will perform in five exhilarating programs. The **21st Century Voices** program on **Thursday, June 9th** features inventive works by today's preeminent modern choreographers. The program includes the world premiere of ***Untitled America: Second Movement***, the second installment of MacArthur "Genius" **Kyle Abraham's** three-part suite. Set contemporary composer **Jordan Chiolis'** original music, Abraham continues to explore the impact of incarceration on African-American families in part two of the series. Also on the program are the 2015-16 season premieres ***Open Door***, Ronald K. Brown's Cuban-inspired work set to music from **Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra's** latest album *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*; ***Exodus***, hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris'** celebratory piece that explores the idea of "exodus" as a necessary step toward enlightenment; and **Robert Battle's *No Longer Silent***, which brings to life a score by Erwin Schulhoff, a composer whose music was banned by the Nazis, and who died in a concentration camp in 1942. **21st Century Voices** returns on **Saturday, June 11th** (evening), **Friday, June 17th**, and **Sunday, June 19th** (matinee).

On **Friday, June 10th**, the **Dance Trailblazers** program will introduce audiences to **Mauro Bigonzetti's** world premiere ***Deep***, set to the soulful music of Ibeyi, twin indie sensations who sing in English and Yoruba. Last at Ailey with 2008's *Festa Barocca*, the newly appointed director of La Scala Ballet is known for his seamless integration of classical and modern techniques, and has been praised for his fresh and inventive sensibility. This program will also include works by two seminal American choreographers: **Paul Taylor's** 2015-16 Company premiere ***Piazzolla Caldera***, set in a smoky tango club where 12 men and women engage in a series of fiery encounters, and **Alvin Ailey's** must-see masterpiece, ***Revelations***. **Dance Trailblazers** returns on **Saturday, June 11th** (matinee) and **Sunday, June 12th** (evening).

In addition to ***Revelations***, the **All Ailey** program on **Sunday, June 12th** (matinee) and **Thursday, June 16th** will include 2015-16 season new productions of three beloved **Ailey classics**: ***Cry***, the tour de force solo made famous by Judith Jamison and dedicated to "all black women everywhere," ***Love Songs***, set to music by Nina Simone and Donny Hathaway and often considered the male counterpart to *Cry*, and ***Blues Suite***, Ailey's original masterpiece that launched the Company during its first performance in 1958.

The second week of performances begins with the **Bold Visions** program on **Tuesday, June 14th**, presenting a diverse quartet of adventurous works. Highlights will include **new productions** of two dynamic and complementary ballets for six – one cast all-male, one all-female. ***The Hunt*** (2001), Artistic Director **Robert Battle's** athletic work for six men reveals the predatory side of human nature and the primitive thrill of the chase. Thundering percussion by **Les Tambours du Bronx** drives the ritualized movement and pushes the dancers to their physical limits. Originally set on the Company in 2010, just after it was announced that Battle would take over as Artistic Director the following year, *The Hunt* is inspired by Battle's martial arts background and showcases the masculinity of Ailey's male dancers. The phenomenal Ailey women embody **Ulysses Dove's** bold choreographic voice and daring athleticism in ***Vespers***, a dramatic work full of raw energy and profound grace. **Mikel Rouse's** electronic score matches the dancers' insistent drive as they propel themselves across the stage. Inspired by Dove's memories of his grandmother's place of worship, this powerhouse work has captivated audiences around the world with its intensity and passion. This program also includes **Mauro Bigonzetti's** world premiere ***Deep*** and **Alvin Ailey's** signature classic, ***Revelations***. **Bold Visions** returns on **Saturday, June 18th** (matinee) and **Sunday, June 19th** (evening).

The **Musical Inspirations** program on **Wednesday, June 15th** and **Saturday, June 18th** (evening) includes [Awakening](#), **Robert Battle's** December 2015 world premiere – his first since becoming Artistic Director. Buoyed by the complex rhythmic quality of **John Mackey's** score, Battle's work is a powerful ensemble dance of dissonance and harmony, chaos and resolution. The program also includes the 2015-16 season new production of **Judith Jamison's** emotional and sensual [A Case of You](#) duet from *Reminiscein'*, performed to Diana Krall's version of Joni Mitchell's song by the same title; **Ronald K. Brown's** *Open Door*, driven by the music of **Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra's** *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*; and *Revelations*, set to a suite of traditional gospel spirituals, invoking Alvin Ailey's "blood memories" of the South.

This season, the Company will also offer free and fun activities for ticketholders attending **Saturday Family Matinees** on **June 11th** and **18th**. Prior to the performance, audiences of all ages are invited to join in a special celebration of Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece on the promenade with dancing, games and crafts. At 1pm, former Company members **Renee Robinson** (June 11), **Amos Machanic, Jr.** (June 11 & 18), and **Cheryl Rowley-Gaskins** (June 18) will teach steps inspired by Alvin Ailey's [Revelations](#) to participants of all levels. The 2pm performance concludes with a rousing finale of the must-see American classic, followed by a Q&A with the dancers.

Additionally, the Lincoln Center season welcomes the return of "**Ticket to Dance**," which invites audience members to try their first [Ailey Extension](#) class FREE with the presentation of a performance ticket (returning students receive a free class with the purchase of a 10-class card). The offer is valid for 60 days from the performance date. The Ailey Extension has fulfilled Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering "real classes for real people," with over 80 classes per week in more than 25 different dance and fitness techniques.

Tickets starting at \$25 can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, and online at www.alvinailey.org. For information about discounts for groups, students, and Ailey's tour performances, visit www.alvinailey.org.

The Ailey Spirit Gala is sponsored by FedEx Corporation.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo.

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

American Express is a major supporter of the new production of *Blues Suite*.

Major support for the creation of *Awakening* is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

The creation of *Awakening* is supported in part by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County with lead sponsor support from Ira and Carole Hall.

***Awakening* is supported by commissioning funds from Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley.**

The creation of *Open Door* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

The World premiere of *Untitled America: Second Movement* is made possible by Denise R. Sobel and Tikkun Olam Foundation, Inc.

The 2016 spring 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.



(L to R) AAADT with Artistic Director Robert Battle, Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, and Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist Matthew Rushing. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Rachael McLaren in Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT in Robert Battle's *Awakening*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Jacqueline Green and Jamar Roberts. Photo by Andrew Eccles. **(CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD)** - Please Credit Photos

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, **will present a two-week, 15-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater June 8th – 19th, 2016**. The season kicks off with **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit performance on **Wednesday, June 8th**, featuring the world-renowned Ailey dancers, and appearances by the rising stars of Ailey II, gifted dancers from The Ailey School, and students from AileyCamp, followed by a soiree on the promenade. Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform in a diverse repertory featuring the world premieres of ***Deep*** by acclaimed Italian choreographer **Mauro Bigonzetti** and ***Untitled America: Second Movement***, the second work in a three-part suite by MacArthur "Genius" **Kyle Abraham**. The season also includes new productions of ***Vespers***, **Ulysses Dove's** breathtaking ballet for six women, and ***The Hunt***, **Robert Battle's** thrilling work for six men, as part of over a dozen works performed on five different programs. **Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale** and can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at www.alvinailey.org. Student tickets *may* be available on the day of the performance for \$15 at the box office with a valid student ID (one per student – subject to availability). On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy the matinee – ticket-holders can arrive early to participate in workshops and activities and stay afterward for a free Q&A with the Ailey dancers in the theater. Additional discounts for groups of 10 or more are now available by phone 212-405-9082 or e-mail groupsales@alvinailey.org. For further information about Ailey's performances, please visit www.alvinailey.org.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
June 8th – 19th, 2016 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

Programming – Subject to Change

The Ailey Spirit Gala: Performances by AileyCamp, The Ailey School, Ailey II & Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, incl. *Revelations*
Wednesday, 6/8 at 7:00pm

21st Century Voices: *Open Door, Untitled America: Second Movement / No Longer Silent / Exodus*
Thursday, 6/9 at 7:30pm, Saturday, 6/11 at 8:00pm, Friday, 6/17 at 8:00pm, Sunday, 6/19 at 3:00pm

Dance Trailblazers: *Deep / Piazzolla Caldera / Revelations*
Friday, 6/10 at 8:00pm, Saturday, 6/11 at 2:00pm*, Sunday, 6/12 at 7:30pm

All Ailey: *Blues Suite / Love Songs, Cry / Revelations*
Sunday, 6/12 at 3:00pm, Thursday, 6/16 at 7:30pm

Bold Visions: *Deep / Vespers, The Hunt / Revelations*
Tuesday, 6/14 at 7:30pm, Saturday, 6/18 at 2:00pm*, Sunday, 6/19 at 7:30pm

Musical Inspirations: *Open Door / Awakening, A Case of You / Revelations*
Wednesday, 6/15 at 7:30pm, Saturday, 6/18 at 8:00pm

**Family Matinee - preceded by 1pm activities in the lobby, and followed by a post-performance Q&A session with the dancers*

PRESS:

For additional press materials please visit the links below or pressroom.alvinailey.org

[Photo/Video Document](#)
[Sizzle Reel For Broadcast](#)
[Electronic Press Kit](#)

The 2016 Lincoln Center Engagement: Highlights

Artistic Director Robert Battle and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will present a two-week 15-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater from June 8th – 19th, 2016, featuring over a dozen works on five different programs. Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory including *Deep*, a world premiere by Mauro Bigonzetti, *Untitled America: Second Movement*, the second work in the three-part suite by Kyle Abraham, and new productions of Robert Battle's *The Hunt* and Ulysses Dove's *Vespers*. Encores of 2015-16 season premieres and new productions also highlight the season, including Ronald K. Brown's *Open Door*, Robert Battle's *Awakening*, his first world premiere since becoming Artistic Director, and legendary works by Alvin Ailey – including the American masterpiece *Revelations*.

WORLD PREMIERES

Deep (World Premiere)

Choreography by Mauro Bigonzetti

Music: Ibeyi, Bernard Hanighen, Theolonious Monk, Sakamoto Ryuichi, Cootie Williams, Performed by Ibeyi

Mauro Bigonzetti, the newly appointed director of La Scala Ballet, returns to Ailey to create a world premiere set to the soulful music of Ibeyi, twin sisters who sing in English and Yoruba (“Ibeyi” is the Yoruba word for twins). Bigonzetti’s last work for the Company was 2008’s *Festa Barocca*. He is known for his seamless integration of classical and modern techniques, and has been praised for his fresh and inventive sensibility.

Untitled America: Second Movement (World Premiere)

Choreography by Kyle Abraham

Music: Raime, Traditional

In the second installment of this three-part suite, MacArthur “Genius” Kyle Abraham continues to explore the impact of incarceration on African-American families. The spiritual “No More My Lord” paired with contemporary music by Raime will underscore Abraham’s distinct and captivating movement style. Wendy Perron of *Dance Magazine* praised the first installment of *Untitled America* by saying, “This is something our culture should be looking at...Kudos to Ailey—and Abraham—for keeping the revelations relevant.”

NEW PRODUCTIONS

The Hunt (2001 / New Production 2016)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Les Tambours du Bronx

Artistic director **Robert Battle**’s athletic work for six men reveals the predatory side of human nature and the primitive thrill of the hunt. A thundering percussion score by **Les Tambours du Bronx** drives the ritualized movement and pushes the dancers to their physical limits.

Vespers (1987 / New Production 2016)

Choreography by Ulysses Dove

Music: Mikel Rouse

The phenomenal Ailey women embody Ulysses Dove’s bold choreographic voice and daring athleticism in *Vespers*, a dramatic work full of raw energy and profound grace. Mikel Rouse’s percussive score matches the dancers’ insistent drive as they propel themselves across the stage, in a piece inspired by Dove’s memories of his grandmother’s place of worship.

2015-16 SEASON WORLD PREMIERES

Awakening (2015)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: John Mackey

Battle uses his signature taut, ritualistic choreographic style and a score by composer **John Mackey** in his first world premiere since becoming artistic director. *Awakening* follows a community on a cathartic journey from lamentation to peace. Buoyed by the complex rhythmic quality of Mackey’s music and a cast of a dozen of Ailey’s extraordinary dancers, Battle’s work leads the audience on a cathartic journey of dissonance and harmony, chaos and resolution.

Exodus (2015)

Choreography by Rennie Harris

Music: Raphael Xavier, Ost & Kjex

Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer **Rennie (Lorenzo) Harris** created a work that explores the idea of “exodus” – from one’s ignorance and conformity – as a necessary step toward enlightenment. Set to gospel and house music along with spoken word, the work underscores the crucial role of action and movement in effecting change. Exemplifying his view of hip hop as a “celebration of life,” *Exodus* is Harris’ latest invitation to return to spiritual basics and affirm who we are. His previous contributions to the Ailey repertory include *Home* (2011) and *Love Stories* (2004), Judith Jamison’s dynamic collaboration with Harris and Robert Battle.

Open Door (2015)

Choreography by Ronald K. Brown

Music: Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra

Acclaimed choreographer **Ronald K. Brown**’s Cuban-inspired *Open Door* is a work for 10 dancers set to the music of **Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra**, including their recent Grammy-Award winning album *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*. Brown’s travels to Cuba inspired much of the movement, from the salsa partnering to the references to Elegba – the Santería god who opens pathways. *Open Door* marks Brown’s sixth Ailey world premiere, and is a testament to the power of dance and music as vehicles for culture and compassion.

2015-16 SEASON NEW PRODUCTIONS

Blues Suite (1958 / New Production 2015)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional

"Blood memories" of rural, Depression-era southern Texas, come to life in Alvin Ailey's hugely popular *Blues Suite*, his first masterpiece that launched the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the inaugural 1958 performance. With the rumble of a train and the toll of distant bells, a cast of vividly-drawn characters from the barrelhouses and fields of Alvin Ailey's southern childhood are summoned to dance and revel through one long, sultry night. Ailey's first masterpiece poignantly evokes the sorrow, humor, and humanity of the blues, those heartfelt songs that he called "hymns to the secular regions of the soul."

Cry (1971 / New Production 2015)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, Voices of East Harlem

In 1971, Alvin Ailey choreographed the ballet *Cry* as a birthday present for his mother Mrs. Lula Cooper, and created the dance on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison. It was an instant sensation and went on to become an enduring work of American art. This physically and emotionally demanding 16-minute solo is dedicated to "all black women everywhere – especially our mothers." The solo is made up of three parts – the first set to **Alice Coltrane's** "Something about John Coltrane," the second to **Laura Nyro's** "Been on a Train" and the last has the **Voices of East Harlem** singing "Right On, Be Free." Ms. Jamison has since taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women, and wrote of the work in her autobiography *Dancing Spirit*: "In my interpretation, she represented those women before her who came from the hardships of slavery, through the pain of losing loved ones, through overcoming extraordinary depressions and tribulations. Coming out of a world of pain and trouble, she has found her way and triumphed."

Love Songs (1972 / New Production 2015)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Donny Hathaway, Nina Simone

Love Songs, a three-part technical and dramatic tour de force, was originally created for the legendary Dudley Williams and is often viewed as the male counterpart to *Cry*, the famous woman's solo that Mr. Ailey originally choreographed for his muse, Judith Jamison. The suite opens with Donny Hathaway's tender "A Song For You," followed by Nina Simone's rendition of "A Field of Poppies," an anti-narcotics song in which the audience witnesses the man's descent into self-destruction, and closes with Hathaway singing "He Aint Heavy" as the dancer travels around the stage bearing an imaginary load with resolve. The work gives the soloist a unique opportunity to display both the power and gentleness of the male dancer while digging deep into all the aspects of his relationships – with himself, his fellow man, his brother.

A Case of You (excerpt from *Remiscin'* 2005 / New Production 2015)

Choreography by Judith Jamison

Music: Joni Mitchell, Performed by Diana Krall

A Case of You is an emotional and sensual duet by Judith Jamison, performed to Diana Krall's version of Joni Mitchell's song by the same title. The duet was originally created in 2004 as a birthday tribute to Chairman Emerita Joan Weill and premiered publicly the following year as part of Ms. Jamison's larger work, *Remiscin'*, inspired by Edward Hopper's famous painting *Nighthawks* and great female jazz artists.

2015-16 SEASON COMPANY PREMIERES

Piazzolla Caldera (1997 / Ailey Company Premiere 2015)

Choreography by Paul Taylor

Music: Astor Piazzolla and Jerzy Peterburshsky

Piazzolla Caldera is a finely wrought work sizzling with erotic energy by modern dance master Paul Taylor, set to music by Astor Piazzolla and Jerzy Peterburshsky. It captures the essence of tango culture as men and women engage in a series of fiery encounters, in turns playful and predatory. There are vivid duets and trios through the work's four sections in this passionate homage to tango's Argentinian working class roots.

No Longer Silent (2007 / Ailey Company Premiere 2015)

Choreography: Robert Battle

Music: Erwin Schulhoff

No Longer Silent is an ensemble work featuring the imaginative interplay of four groups of dancers evoking a complex and mysterious ritual to Erwin Schulhoff's percussive score "Ogelala." Originally created in 2007 for The Juilliard School, **Robert Battle's** alma mater, it was part of a concert of choreography that brought to life long-forgotten scores by composers whose work the Nazis had banned. Powerful phrases stir the imagination with images of flight and fatigue, chaos and unity, and collectivity and individualism as dancers travel in military rows. Created between 1922-1924, the music tells the story of a pre-Columbian Mexican warrior and its ever-shifting mechanical cadence is the backdrop against which the dancers, dressed in all black,

dramatically build to the work's piercing conclusion. Lamentably, the composer was denied employment after the Germans occupied Czechoslovakia and, died of tuberculosis in the Wülzburg concentration camp in 1942.

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."

ONE-NIGHT-ONLY AILEY SPIRIT GALA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE AND PARTY

Sponsored by FedEx Corporation, **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit on **June 8th at 7pm** raises vital funds to support scholarships for talented students of The Ailey School and Ailey's extensive Arts In Education & Community Programs. Actor **Anthony Anderson** of *black-ish* and *Barbershop: The Next Cut* and journalist **Roland S. Martin** of TV One and the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* will serve as Honorary Chairs. The one-night-only performance features Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, and AileyCamp, and will be followed by a soirée on the promenade. Tickets are available online at alvinailey.org/ailey-spirit-gala or by calling 212-405-9031.

SATURDAY FAMILY MATINEE SERIES

This season, the Company offers free and fun activities for ticket-holders attending the Saturday Family Matinees on June 11th and 18th. At 1pm, audiences of all ages are invited to learn steps inspired by Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, and enjoy Ailey games and crafts. The 2pm performance concludes with a rousing finale of the must-see masterpiece, followed by a Q&A with the acclaimed Ailey dancers in the theater.

TICKET TO DANCE

The Lincoln Center season welcomes the return of "**Ticket to Dance**," which invites audience members to try their first [Ailey Extension](#) class FREE with the presentation of a performance ticket (returning students receive a free class with the purchase of a 10-class card). The offer is valid for 60 days from the performance date. The Ailey Extension has fulfilled Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering "real classes for real people," with over 80 classes per week in more than 25 different dance and fitness techniques.

All Programming – Subject to Change

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, 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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