

AILEY II PERFORMS IN 24 CITIES DURING 2016-2017 WORLD TOUR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TROY POWELL COMMISSIONS FOUR WORLD PREMIERES BY LEILA DA ROCHA, JAE MAN JOO, BRIDGET MOORE, AND FORMER AILEY COMPANY MEMBER MARCUS JARRELL WILLIS

(New York) September 13, 2016 – This Friday, **September 16th**, Ailey II will embark on a **24-city world tour** continuing through March 18th (complete schedule on page two). The tour will take the superb 12-member ensemble to more than 20 cities across the U.S., from **Rochester, NY to Kansas City, MO to Honolulu, HI**. Ailey II will also reach international audiences in **the Bahamas, Germany, and France**, before returning home for its annual **New York season**, taking place for the first time at NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts from **March 29th – April 2nd**.

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Ailey II is one of the most popular dance companies in the country, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. In his fifth year leading the company, Artistic Director Troy Powell announces four dynamic new commissions.

"I am excited to introduce audiences to the four outstanding premieres by talented rising choreographers that we've welcomed into the repertory," said Troy Powell. "These diverse and powerful new works – along with the eight returning favorites – showcase the strength, grace, and versatility of these gifted young dancers."

In the colorful duet ***Meika***, set to music by Max Richter and Isaac Albéniz, French choreographer Leila Da Rocha uses dance to counter the unrest caused by barbarism and violence. Building on the body's natural breathing rhythms, her movement takes on the push-pull of opposing energies to ultimately reach a message of peace.

Princess Grace Award-winning choreographer Jae Man Joo's ***Circular*** is a heartfelt conversation through movement. The Korean-born Joo's distinctive choreographic style – a blend of classical and contemporary ballet – is showcased in this large ensemble work that captures the full circle of human emotions. The melodic soundscape is by a diverse group of composers including Denisov and Handel.

In ***Sketches of Flames***, Bridget L. Moore fuses flamenco influences with her African-American and contemporary aesthetic to create a rapturous ensemble dance. Set to a series of passionate folk songs and drawing upon the writings of Federico García Lorca and others, each section of this eight-part work depicts a different facet of the joys and sorrows of love.

Stream of Consciousness, by former Ailey company member Marcus Jarrell Willis, gives physical life to our inner thoughts. Willis weaves six simple gestures into "the stream," the tumultuous monologue within each person's mind. Set to a contemporary reimagining of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* by Max Richter, this work echoes the tension and poignancy of the music's ever-changing tides.

This season, six new dancers – **Tara Bellardini, Khalia Campbell, Yazzmeen Laidler, Jessica Amber Pinkett, Martell Ruffin, and Christopher R. Wilson** – join the six returning members – **Lloyd A. Boyd III, Gabriel Hyman, Jacob Lewis, Jacoby Pruitt, Courtney Celeste Spears, and Terri Ayanna Wright**. Ailey II also welcomes **Fana Fraser** as Rehearsal Director this season. In addition to Powell's four new commissions, Ailey II's touring repertory will include ***Gêmeos*** by Jamar Roberts, ***I Am The Road*** by Kyle "JustSole" Clark, ***In & Out*** by Jean Emile, ***Something Tangible*** by Ray Mercer, ***Streams*** by Alvin Ailey, and ***Takademe*** and ***The Hunt*** by Robert Battle. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

AILEY II

Troy Powell Artistic Director

2016-2017 Tour Schedule

(Subject to Change)

FALL 2016

Sep. 16-17	Towson, MD	Stephens Hall Theatre at Towson University
*Sep. 24	Paradise Island, Bahamas	Atlantis Theatre
Sep. 28-Oct. 1	Kansas City, MO	Folly Theater
Oct. 11	Eau Claire, WI	Gantner Concert Hall, Haas Fine Arts Center
Oct. 14	Rockford, IL	Coronado Performing Arts Center
Oct. 18	Omaha, NE	Orpheum Theater
Oct. 21	Brookfield, WI	The Harris Theater, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts
Oct. 22	Green Bay, WI	Cofrin Hall – Weidner Center
Oct. 26	Storrs, CT	Jorgensen Theatre – University of CT
Oct. 28	Wilmington, DE	The Grand Opera House
Oct. 30	Rochester, NY	Nazareth College
Nov. 2	Oswego, NY	SUNY Oswego
Nov. 4	Lyndonville, VT	Lyndon Center
Nov. 6	Orono, ME	Collins Center for the Arts

WINTER 2017

*Jan. 24	Neuss, Germany	Internationale Tanzwochen
*Jan. 27-28	Brest, France	Le Quartz
Feb. 10-12	Tacoma, WA	Broadway Performing Arts Center
Feb. 14	Honolulu, HI	Hawaii Theatre
Feb. 16	Kahului, HI	Castle Theater
Feb. 18	Kamuela, HI	Kahilu Theatre
Feb. 28-Mar. 2	Los Angeles, CA	LA Music Center
Mar. 16	Norfolk, VA	The Governors School for the Arts
Mar. 18	Newberry, SC	Newberry Opera House
Mar. 19	Tuskegee, AL	Logan Hall

Mar 29-Apr 2

New York, NY

Skirball Center for the Arts

**International Tour Date*