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ALVIN AILEY
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Adrienne Arsht Center
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
vibrant@10

**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE
ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR RETURN TO ARSHT CENTER STAGE FEBRUARY 23-26**

Miami's Own Robert Battle Returns Home to Announce Scholarships for Local Students to
Attend The Ailey School Summer Intensive in New York

**Five Performances Feature New Choreographic Treasures and Ailey's American Masterpiece
Revelations Performed by 32 Dancers Including Miami's Award-Winning Ailey Star Jamar Roberts**

**World Premiere Season for Ailey Dancer Hope Boykin's *r-Evolution, Dream.*, MacArthur "Genius"
Kyle Abraham's *Untitled America*, and Mauro Bigonzetti's *Deep***

**Company Premiere of Johan Inger's *Walking Mad* and Robert Battle's *Ella* Celebrating the
Centennial of Legendary Singer Ella Fitzgerald's Birth**

**Ailey's Extraordinary Company Members Move to Music by Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Ella
Fitzgerald, Rising Global Stars Ibeyi and Original Composition by Jazz at Lincoln Center's Ali Jackson**

**Part of the 2016-2017 Knight Masterworks - Dance Series
Tickets starting at \$29 on sale now!**

NEW YORK – January 6, 2017 — Today, Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) announces programming for [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's](#) return by popular demand to the **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County** for five performances from **Thursday, February 23 through Sunday, February 26, 2017**. In conjunction with his visit home to Miami this week, he is also pleased to share news about the opportunity for local students to attend The Ailey School in New York City, thanks to the establishment of two Ailey Awakening Summer Intensive Scholarships supported by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.

One of the world's most celebrated dance companies, Ailey is launching a coast-to-coast tour following a successful five-week season launch in New York City. The highly-anticipated Miami engagement is co-presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County as part of the Knight Masterworks Dance Series, with leadership support from John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Ailey's eighth Adrienne Arsht Center visit showcases a collection of diverse works that shine a spotlight on social issues, celebrate the centennials of birth for jazz legends Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie, and showcase the virtuosity of Ailey's 32 renowned dancers. A leading figure center stage will be [Jamar Roberts](#), another Miami native and one of the Company's stars, who recently won Outstanding Performer at the prestigious New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Awards for "impeccably representing the traditional values of classic modern dance while forging new paths with his sublime artistry, technical precision, and passionate presence with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater."

"Now more than ever, I'm proud to use the power of dance to unite and inspire people in my hometown, just as Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* lifted me up as a young student and changed my life," **stated Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "This

February, fellow Miamian Jamar Roberts and all of Ailey's renowned dancers will move audiences with premieres that hold up a mirror to society and our common humanity. We will also revel in the marriage of America's two great art forms – modern dance and jazz – with an “Ailey Jazz” program bringing to life the music of legends Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, and Ella Fitzgerald. We look forward to celebrating with everyone at the Arsht!”

Alvin Ailey's perennial crowd-pleaser [Revelations](#) -- an American masterpiece acclaimed as a must-see and recognized by U.S. Senate resolution -- will provide the **inspiring grand finale at all performances.**

The **Thursday, February 23rd opening night program** (also performed Saturday, 2/25 at 8pm) features Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti's soulful ensemble world premiere [Deep](#) set to the music by rising global music stars Ibeyi; the company premiere of [Walking Mad](#), revered Swedish choreographer **Johan Inger's** daring contemporary take on **Maurice Ravel's** *Bolero* which imaginatively employs a long, movable wall that can also be viewed as a symbol of the barriers people construct in their relationships; and the company premiere of [Ella](#), Robert Battle's tour-du-force duet celebrating the centennial of legendary Ella Fitzgerald's birth set to her virtuosic scatting in the song “Airmail Special.”

The **Friday, February 24th evening program** will feature MacArthur “Genius” **Kyle Abraham's** completed three-part suite [Untitled America](#), which shines a light on the impact of the prison system on African-American families, along with Ailey classics *Night Creature* and *Cry*. Audiences will also experience [In/Side](#), Robert Battle's bold, unrestrained solo, which captures the vivid emotions of Nina Simone's “Wild is the Wind” and [Night Creature](#), one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works, the definitive Ailey homage to the exuberance of Duke Ellington's jazz. The sensual nighttime rituals, prowling patterns and spirited competitions bring to life Duke Ellington's vision that “*Night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night-they come ON, each thinking that before the night is out he or she will be the star.*”

The **Saturday Family Matinee on February 25th at 2pm and the Sunday, February 26th at 2pm matinee** will be “**Ailey Jazz**” programs featuring *The Winter in Lisbon*, *r-Evolution*, *Dream.*, and *Ella*. Veteran company member **Hope Boykin** was inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to create [r-Evolution, Dream.](#), a large ensemble work melding creative storytelling, new music composed by **Ali Jackson** (Jazz at Lincoln Center), and historic and original writings narrated by Tony Award winner **Leslie Odom, Jr.** (*Hamilton*). Restaged for the centennial of Dizzy Gillespie's birth, Billy Wilson's [The Winter in Lisbon](#) (1992), is a tribute to consummate jazz musician that evokes an atmosphere in which the dancers challenge, tease and romance against a backdrop of rhythm, color and four decades of his brilliant music, and *Revelations*. **The Saturday Family matinee is followed by a free post-performance Q & A in the theater with Ailey dancers** for the enjoyment of the entire family.

Two aspiring dance students in Miami will be awarded the Ailey Awakening Summer Intensive Scholarship supported by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust. Named after *Awakening* (2015), Robert Battle's first world premiere for the Company after becoming Artistic Director, the scholarship continues Mr. Ailey's legacy of making dance accessible to all people, and pays homage to the powerful role that dance played in Robert Battle's life – catalyzing his inspiring journey from Liberty City, to stages around the world, to the helm of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Awarded to two rising Miami-area dancers, one male, one female (ages 14-18), the scholarship covers the full cost of tuition at The Ailey School's [Summer Intensive](#) in New York, along with a housing stipend. The Ailey School will hold auditions at Miami's New World School of the Arts on Sunday, February 26th at 10am (ages 11-15) and 12:30pm (ages 16-25). For more information and to register to audition visit The Ailey School [website](#). The scholarships in Miami are part of a larger multi-city, two-year initiative supported by The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust that will offer scholarships, stipends, workshops, and audition opportunities to talented young dancers in Miami, FL; Lexington, KY; New York, NY and Winston-Salem, NC.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. Nearly 60 years after its founding, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing once again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world's most beloved dance companies. Tickets starting at \$29 **are now on sale** at www.arshtcenter.org or 305.949.6722.

2017 Miami Engagement Program:

Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 8:00pm

Deep / Walking Mad / Ella, Revelations

Friday, February 24, 2017 at 8:00pm

Night Creature, In/Side / Untitled America / Revelations

Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 2:00pm – Family Matinee

The Winter in Lisbon / r-Evolution, Dream. / Ella, Revelations

Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 8:00pm

Deep / Walking Mad / Ella, Revelations

Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 2:00pm

The Winter in Lisbon / r-Evolution, Dream. / Ella, Revelations

TICKETS:

Tickets starting at \$29 are now on sale at www.arshtcenter.org or 305.949.6722. Group discounts available by calling (786) 468-2326 or e-mail groupsales@arshtcenter.org.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – February 23 - 26, 2017

Ziff Ballet Opera House

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132

305.949.6722

www.arshtcenter.org

Prices, artists, dates, times, and program are subject to change without notice.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires in all a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. Nearly 60 years after its founding, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing once again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world's most beloved dance companies.

For further information, the public may visit www.alvinailey.org. For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org

The 2017 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

American Express is the lead funder of the new production of *Masekela Langage*.

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

The creation of *Untitled America* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

Generous support for *Untitled America* is also provided, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The creation of *r-Evolution, Dream.* is supported by commissioning funds from The Music Center.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's engagement at the Adrienne Arsht Center is part of the Knight Masterworks Dance Series supported by Knight Foundation.

Scholarships, stipends, workshops, and audition opportunities in Miami, FL are generously supported by The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the world's favorite dance companies, returns by popular demand to Miami for its only South Florida engagement at the **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County from February 23-26, 2017**. Led by Miami native [Robert Battle](#) in his sixth season as Artistic Director, Alvin Ailey's extraordinary dancers will move audiences with acclaimed premieres, including *r-Evolution, Dream.*, a world premiere by veteran Ailey dancer Hope Boykin, and *Ella*, a company premiere by Robert Battle, honoring Ella Fitzgerald during her centennial year. Alvin Ailey's perennial, crowd-pleasing masterpiece *Revelations* -- an American classic acclaimed as a must-see and recognized by U.S. Senate resolution -- will provide the inspiring finale at each of the five performances. Ailey's 2017 Miami visit is part of a 19-city North American Tour. For additional information, please visit www.alvinailey.org.

World Premieres

[Untitled America](#) (World Premiere)

Choreography by Kyle Abraham

Music: Laura Mvula, Raime, Traditional

In this haunting three-part suite, MacArthur "Genius" Kyle Abraham shines a light on the impact of the prison system on African-American families. Developed over three seasons, the work features interviews by those impacted by incarceration. Laura Mvula's touching "Father, Father," the traditional spiritual "No More My Lord," contemporary music by Raime, and other musical compositions underscore Abraham's distinct movement style and signature avant-garde aesthetic. 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."

[r-Evolution, Dream.](#) (World Premiere)

Choreography by Hope Boykin

Music: Ali Jackson

Veteran Company member Hope Boykin has been inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to create *r-Evolution, Dream.*, in which the Ailey dancers will be joined by members of Ailey II. Ms. Boykin began to immerse herself in this historical material after a visit to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, during Ailey's U.S. tour. Convinced of the timely relevance of the messages, she is staging a large ensemble work that melds creative storytelling, new music composed by Ali Jackson (Jazz at Lincoln Center), and historic and original writings narrated by Tony Award winner Leslie Odom, Jr. (*Hamilton*).

[Deep](#) (2016 Season World Premiere)

Choreography by Mauro Bigonzetti

Music: Ibeyi, Bernard Hanighen, Theolonious Monk,

Sakamoto Ryuichi, Cootie Williams, Performed by Ibeyi

Mauro Bigonzetti's elegant and soulful ensemble work set to songs by Ibeyi, twin sisters who sing in English and Yoruba and are rising global music stars. 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.

Company Premieres

[Walking Mad](#) (2001)

Choreography by Johan Inger

Music: Maurice Ravel, Arvo Pärt

Revered Swedish choreographer Johan Inger's *Walking Mad* is his first work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Set to the driving sounds of Ravel's much-loved *Boléro* as well as music by minimalist master Arvo Pärt, the rousing 28-minute work for 9 dancers grips audiences throughout, bringing waves of emotion – first laughter, then tears. Full of wit and laced with an unsettling edge of madness, the piece employs a long, movable wall that can also be viewed as a symbol of the barriers people construct in their relationships. According to the choreographer, "The famous *Boléro* from Ravel, with its sexual, almost kitschy history, was the trigger point to make my own version. I quickly decided that it was going to be about relationships in different forms and circumstances. I came up with the idea of a wall that could transform the space during this minimalistic music and create small pockets of space and situations. *Walking Mad* is a journey in which we encounter our fears, our longings and the lightness of being."

[Ella](#) (2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Ella Fitzgerald

Originally created as a solo, this high-energy comical dance was reinvented as a duet by the Ailey company for its December 2016 opening night gala benefit, "An Evening of Ailey and Jazz" – in anticipation of the centennial celebration of the birth of legendary singer Ella Fitzgerald. Using a live concert recording of Fitzgerald performing the song "Airmail Special," Ella matches the iconic singer's virtuosic scatting with lightning-fast, articulated movement in an irresistible tour-de-force performance.

2016 New Production

[The Winter in Lisbon](#) (1992)

Choreography by Billy Wilson

Music: Dizzy Gillespie

The Winter in Lisbon is a sizzling, sensuous ballet celebrating four decades of Dizzy Gillespie's brilliant music. Choreographed in 1992 by Billy Wilson, the work pays tribute to Mr. Gillespie, the consummate jazz musician, creating an atmosphere in which the dancers challenge, tease and romance against a backdrop of rhythm and color. Wilson's exuberant, playful ballet was conceived in celebration of Gillespie's birthday after Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison was approached by the musician's management to create a dance for his music. Confident in Wilson's ability to blend his eclectic ballet and modern dance training with the boisterous sound of Gillespie's music, Jamison commissioned him to bring the project to life. "It's a celebration of life," explains Ailey's Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, who restaged the work. "It's fun, it's full of energy, it's about life going on."

Repertory Favorites

[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, who has since taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women, 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."

[In/Side](#) (2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music by Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of **Nina Simone's** "Wild is the Wind" play out in **Robert Battle's** gripping solo. The bold, unrestrained style that has become his signature is evinced in this visceral cry of pure physicality. The piece, originally commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, was created as part of its annual series "In the Company of Men," a celebration of the spirit of male dancers in New York [in light of the AIDS epidemic].

[Night Creature](#) (1975)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Duke Ellington

A bubbly champagne cocktail of a dance that perfectly fuses **Alvin Ailey's** buoyant choreography and **Duke Ellington's** sparkling music in a definitive homage to The Duke's jazz that remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works. Ellington said "night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night– they come ON, each thinking that, before the night is out, he or she will be the star." The large ensemble work is full of stars - strutting, leaping and slinking using modern dance, classical ballet and jazz.

[Revelations](#) (1960)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional

Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece *Revelations* has become one of the most well-known and respected ballets in the history of dance, acclaimed as a must-see for all and recognized by a U.S. Senate resolution. Using African-American

spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues, this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Alvin Ailey said that one of America's richest treasures was the cultural heritage of the African-American—"sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful." Springing from Ailey's childhood "blood memories" of growing up in rural Texas and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church, *Revelations* is a tribute to the cultural heritage of the African-American and to Alvin Ailey's genius. Since its premiere in 1960, this enduring classic has been seen by more audiences around the world than any other modern work, universally inspiring with its transcendent exploration of the human condition.

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.

About the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Set in the heart of downtown Miami and designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Spotlighting legends and serving as a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage, the Center presents nearly 500 events each year across its eight flexible, state-of-the-art performance spaces. The Center programs 12 signature series, including the largest jazz series in South Florida, the biggest flamenco festival on the East Coast, and a robust program of new theatrical works as well as free programming for the community and an arts education program that serves nearly 30,000 children each year. Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has emerged as a leader in presenting innovative programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity as well as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area. Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.

About John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit KnightFoundation.org.