



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contacts

Christopher Zunner: czunner@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9028

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 ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 31, 2017

**Artistic Director Robert Battle Leads the Company in Five-Week Holiday Engagement Featuring  
More than Two Dozen Dynamic Works and a Series of Special Programs**

**“Modern American Songbook” Opening Night Gala Benefit Honoring Ailey Board President Debra L. Lee on  
Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Launches Season with Janelle Monáe as Honorary Chair**

**Company Choreographic Debuts with World Premieres of Gustavo Ramírez Sansano’s *Victoria* and  
Ailey Dancer Jamar Roberts’ *Members Don’t Get Weary***

**New Productions of Twyla Tharp’s *The Golden Section*, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar’s *Shelter*, and  
Talley Beatty’s *Stack-Up* in Celebration of His Upcoming Centennial**

**Season Also Features a Special Evening Celebrating the Men of Ailey on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

***Tickets starting at \$29 are on sale!***

**NEW YORK – UPDATED October 27, 2017** — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://www.alvinailey.org), New York City Center’s Principal Dance Company, returns to the theater’s stage from **November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) leads Ailey’s 32 extraordinary dancers during this annual five-week engagement, which has become a joyous holiday tradition. The repertory features more than two dozen diverse works by some of the world’s preeminent dance-makers, including world premieres by Spanish choreographer **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano** and Ailey dancer Jamar Roberts, as well as new productions by **Twyla Tharp**, **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**, and **Talley Beatty**.

The season launches on **November 29<sup>th</sup>** with an **Opening Night Gala Benefit** performance at New York City Center and party at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom. The Gala honors Ailey Board President **Debra L. Lee** for her commitment to the advancement of arts and culture and her dedication to the organization, which has helped steer Ailey to success since she joined the Board in 2002. **Janelle Monáe** – a six-time Grammy-nominated singer who starred in the Academy Award nominated film *Hidden Figures* and Best Picture winner *Moonlight* – serves as Honorary Chair for the evening, which raises funds to support the creation of new works and Ailey’s extensive educational and training programs for young people. The one-night-only performance features excerpts of dynamic works set to music from the “Modern American Songbook,” and culminates with an uplifting [Revelations](#) finale featuring live musicians and singers.

On **Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**, Spanish choreographer **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano**’s work takes the Ailey stage for the first time with his world premiere, [Victoria](#). Spanish for “victory,” the work is a tribute to the triumph of good over evil. Set to an adaptation of Beethoven’s *Seventh Symphony* by award-winning composer Michael Gordon, *Victoria* features Sansano’s signature whimsy, theatricality, and physicality. Sansano’s work – hailed for its originality and expressiveness – has appeared on companies around the world, including Nederlands Dans Theater, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Ballet Hispánico, and Atlanta Ballet.

One week later, on **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, Ailey dancer [Jamar Roberts](#) unveils his first world premiere for the Company, [Members Don't Get Weary](#), created with the support of commissioning funds from New York City Center. The recent New York Dance & Performance "Bessie" Award-winner says the work is "a response to the current social landscape in America," and "takes an abstract look into the notion of one 'having the blues.'" Set to the powerful music of the legendary jazz saxophonist and composer **John Coltrane** 50 years after his death, the work aims to allow the audience to momentarily transcend their own personal blues.

In addition to world premieres, the season features **new productions** of works by three American dance innovators. Tony Award-winning choreographer **Twyla Tharp's** [The Golden Section](#) returns to the repertory on **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. This sizzling ensemble work is set to a propulsive score by David Byrne, and shatters the limits of human physicality with breathtaking leaps, finely-honed partnering, and explosive joy.

On **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**, Urban Bush Women founder and 2017 New York Dance & Performance "Bessie" Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's** [Shelter](#) returns to the Ailey stage 25 years after first being performed by the Company. A gripping portrait of homelessness, the work is set to an inventive score which incorporates drumming by Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn and poetry by Hattie Gossett and Laurie Carlos.

On **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**, Ailey celebrates modern dance pioneer **Talley Beatty** on his upcoming centennial with the return of [Stack-Up](#). Set to the background of vibrant 1970s beats (Earth, Wind and Fire, Grover Washington Jr., Fearless Four, and Alphonze Mouzon) and a graffiti landscape, patrons in a crowded disco dance with attitude, sass, and fierce despair. Inspired by Los Angeles' urban landscape and the lives of its disparate inhabitants, the work depicts the emotional "traffic" in a community that is stacked on top of each other.

"The incomparable Ailey dancers are sure to astound audiences this season when they bring to life a wide array of works – old and new," **stated Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "I'm thrilled for the Company choreographic debuts of Gustavo Ramírez Sansano and our very own Jamar Roberts, who has brought so much brilliance to the stage since joining Ailey 15 years ago. New productions highlight three of the most revered and unique choreographic voices in the history of American dance: Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section*, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter* – for its 25<sup>th</sup> Ailey anniversary – and the legendary Talley Beatty's *Stack-Up*, as we approach his upcoming centennial. From our one-night-only opening saluting the "Modern American Songbook" to our New Year's Eve finale, this season's special performances and programs will prove once again why the holidays in New York aren't complete without Ailey."

Another exciting highlight to the season is the **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** performance **Celebrating the Men of Ailey**. The evening will showcase the strength, grace, and dynamism of the Company's men, and will feature veteran dancers Clifton Brown, Vernard Gilmore, Yannick Lebrun, Jamar Roberts, and Glenn Allen Sims in a special program including classic works choreographed by Alvin Ailey (*Night Creature*, *Love Songs*, and *Revelations*) plus select one-night-only performances of solos and duets by Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle and members of the Company.

In addition, the engagement showcases a variety of 2016-17 season premieres: Robert Battle's [Mass](#), set to a score by his frequent collaborator John Mackey, and [Ella](#), set to Ella Fitzgerald's virtuosic scatting in "Air Mail Special;" Ailey dancer Hope Boykin's [r-Evolution, Dream.](#), inspired by the speeches and sermons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that she encountered during a visit to the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta; Kyle Abraham's [Untitled America](#), which highlights the impact of the prison system on African-American families; and Johan Inger's [Walking Mad](#), a daring contemporary take on Maurice Ravel's *Bolero* that employs a long, movable wall, and brings waves of emotion – first laughter, then tears.

2016 new productions coming to life onstage include Billy Wilson's [The Winter in Libson](#) (1992), a rhythmic and colorful celebration of the great Dizzy Gillespie, and [Masekela Langage](#) (1969), Alvin Ailey's searing portrait of oppression – set to Hugh Masekela's driving music – that draws parallels between the era of South African apartheid and the race-induced violence in Chicago during the 1960s.

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Special season programs include **All Ailey** performances comprised entirely of works by Alvin Ailey (December 10 mat and 30 eve), **All Jazz** performances celebrating the marriage of jazz music and modern dance (December 14 and 17 mat), and **All New** programs containing season premieres (December 16 eve, 22, 23 eve, and 31 mat).

The engagement also includes **Family Matinee Series** performances presented each **Saturday at 2pm**, with a Q&A session featuring Ailey's revered dancers following the finale of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, which is acclaimed as a must-see for all ages. *Revelations* will bring an inspiring close to the performance on **Christmas Eve** (December 24 matinee) as well as a **Special Season Finale on New Year's Eve**. **Live music performances of *Revelations*** will take place on November 29, and December 1-2 (matinee and evening). **A performance schedule is attached (subject to change).**

This season also welcomes the return of the **Young New York** program, supported by The Wallace Foundation as part of a multi-year audience development project. The initiative engages people between the ages of 21 – 30 through a series of special events and ticket offers, introducing new audiences to the art form of modern dance and the Company's inspiring legacy. The events kick off on **Young New York Night (Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>)**, which features **\$35 tickets for every seat in the house**, followed by a series of parties and dance classes during the season. Click [here](#) for program details, and to sign up (all participants must be between ages 21 – 30).

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 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). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID, and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$29 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information about Ailey's New York City Center season please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

**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 and was the lead funder of the production of *Shelter and Masekela Langage*.**

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

**The creation of *Members Don't Get Weary* and *Untitled America* was 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*. was supported by commissioning funds from The Music Center of Los Angeles.**

**The creation of *Victoria* was made possible with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.**

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

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

**New York Winter Season programs for Young New Yorkers are supported by a generous grant through The Wallace Foundation's Building Audiences for Sustainability initiative.**

**The 2017 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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For further information, the public may visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). For additional press materials or photos, members of the media may visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org) or **Ctrl+Click the photos below for high resolution download.**



(L to R); AAADT in Talley Beatty's *Stack Up*. Photo by Nan Melville; AAADT's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, Photo by Paul Kolnik. AAADT's Michael Jackson, Jr. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Johan Inger's *Walking Mad*, Photo by Paul Kolnik. Please credit photos.

### **New York City Center 2017 Season Highlights:**

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will take the stage at New York City Center from November 29 – December 31, 2017 in a five-week season that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform an expansive repertory of more than two dozen works, including the world premieres of Ailey dancer Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary* and Gustavo Ramírez Sansano's *Victoria*. The season also includes new productions of Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section*, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter* – for its 25<sup>th</sup> Ailey anniversary – and Talley Beatty's *Stack-Up*, in celebration of his centennial. The season launches on **November 29<sup>th</sup>** with an **Opening Night Gala Benefit honoring Board President Debra L. Lee, with Janelle Monáe as Honorary Chair**, which includes a performance at New York City Center and party at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom to raise funds to support the creation of new works and Ailey's extensive educational and training programs for young people. Other highlights include special live music performances of *Revelations*; an evening Celebrating the Men of Ailey; All Ailey, All Jazz, and All New programs; a Season Finale on New Year's Eve; and the Family Matinee Series with a post-performance Q&A with Ailey dancers.

### **WORLD PREMIERES**

**[Members Don't Get Weary](#)** (World Premiere)

**Choreography by Jamar Roberts**

**Music: John Coltrane**

Longtime Ailey dancer and recent "Bessie" Award winner Jamar Roberts makes his choreographic debut on the Company in this world premiere inspired by the blues. Roberts says, "As a response to the current social landscape in America, *Members Don't Get Weary* takes an abstract look into the notion of one 'having the blues.'" Set to the powerful music of the legendary American jazz saxophonist and composer John Coltrane, the aims to inspire the audience, allowing them to momentarily transcend their own personal blues.

**[Victoria](#)** (World Premiere)

**Choreography by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano**

**Music: Michael Gordon**

Gustavo Ramírez Sansano's work – hailed for its singularity and expressiveness – has appeared on companies around the world, including Nederlands Dans Theater, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Atlanta Ballet. *Victoria*, Spanish for "victory," is his first work for Ailey, and features 10-12 dancers and his signature whimsy, theatricality, and physicality. Set to Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony* – adapted by the award-winning composer Michael Gordon – this world premiere is a tribute to the triumph of good over evil, underscoring the power of people to join forces in overcoming difficult situations.

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## **NEW PRODUCTIONS**

**[The Golden Section](#)** (1983 / Company Premiere 2006 / New Production 2017)

**Choreography by Twyla Tharp**

**Music: David Byrne**

*The Golden Section* by Tony Award-winning choreographer Twyla Tharp is a sizzling work set to a propulsive score by David Byrne. The work shatters the limits of human physicality with breathtaking leaps, finely-honed partnering, and explosive joy.

**[Shelter](#)** (1988 / Company Premiere 1992 / New Production 2017)

**Choreography by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**

**Music: Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn**

Originally performed by the Ailey company in 1992, Zollar's *Shelter* is a gripping portrait of homelessness. Set to an inventive score which incorporates drumming by Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn and poetry by Hattie Gossett and Laurie Carlos, *Shelter* delivers the compelling message that the poverty of individuals will inevitably lead to the destitution of all humanity.

**[Stack-Up](#)** (1982 / New Production 2017)

**Choreography by Talley Beatty** **Music: Earth, Wind and Fire, Grover Washington, Jr., Fearless Four, Alphonze Mouzon**

Set to the background of a throbbing 1970s beat (Earth, Wind and Fire, Grover Washington Jr., Fearless Four, and Alphonze Mouzon) and a graffiti landscape, patrons in a crowded disco dance with attitude, sass, and fierce despair in this classic work by Talley Beatty, which was re-staged in conjunction with the 2018 centennial of his birth. Inspired by Los Angeles' urban landscape and the lives of its disparate inhabitants, *Stack-Up* depicts the emotional "traffic" in a community that is stacked on top of each other. Tough, brutal yet poignant, the stage sizzles with street life, break dancing, and physical pyrotechnics as an aloof drug pusher and two displaced lovers are destined for collision.

## **2016-2017 SEASON PREMIERES & NEW PRODUCTIONS**

**[Ella](#)** (2008 / 2016 Company Premiere)

**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 legendary singer Ella Fitzgerald's centennial in April 2017. 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 that leaves audiences (and the dancers) breathless.

**[Masekela Langage](#)** (1969 / 2016 New Production)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Hugh Masekela**

*Masekela Langage*, a rarely-seen Ailey masterwork, which premiered at Connecticut College in 1969, was last performed at BAM during the Company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Set in a shebeen (a South African beer house) and danced to the driving score of South African jazz composer and trumpeter Hugh Masekela, Ailey's choreography speaks of passivity, militancy, despair, and defiance in a searing portrait of oppression during the apartheid era, drawing parallels between events in South Africa and those in Chicago.

**[Mass](#)** (2004 / 2017 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Robert Battle**

**Music: John Mackey**

*Mass* features a score by John Mackey, who has collaborated on multiple occasions with Robert Battle – including his 2015 world premiere *Awakening*. Commissioned for The Julliard School in 2004, the movement in this work showcases Mr. Battle's signature ritualistic choreography.

**[r-Evolution, Dream](#)**. (2016 World Premiere)

**Choreography by Hope Boykin**

**Music: Ali Jackson**

Veteran Company member Hope Boykin was inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to create *r-Evolution, Dream*. after immersing herself in this historical material after a visit to the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, during Ailey's U.S. tour. Convinced of the timely relevance of the messages, she staged the 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*).

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**Untitled America** (2016 World Premiere)

**Choreography by Kyle Abraham**

**Music: Laura Mvula, Raime, Traditional**

In this haunting work, 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.”

**Walking Mad** (2001 / 2016 Company Premiere)

**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.”

**The Winter in Lisbon** (1992 / New Production 2016)

**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.”

**Season Repertory**

In addition to the premieres, new productions, and special programs, the season repertory includes:

*After the Rain Pas de Deux* – Christopher Wheeldon (2005)

Music: Arvo Pärt

*Cry* – Judith Jamison (1971)

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

*Deep* – Mauro Bigonzetti (2016)

Music: Ibeyi

*Episodes* – Ulysses Dove (1989)

Music: Robert Ruggieri

*Exodus* – Rennie Harris (2015)

Music: Raphael Xavier, Ost & Kjex

*Four Corners* – Ronald K. Brown (2013)

Music: Carl Hancock Rux, Rahsaan, Roland Kirk, Yacoub

*The Hunt* – Robert Battle (2001)

Music: Les Tambours du Bronx

*In/Side* – Robert Battle (2008)

Music: Nina Simone

*Love Songs* – Alvin Ailey (1972)

Music: Donny Hathaway & Nina Simone

*Memoria* – Alvin Ailey (1970)

Music: Keith Jarrett

*Night Creature* – Alvin Ailey (1974)

Music: Duke Ellington

*No Longer Silent* – Robert Battle (2007)

Music: Erwin Schulhoff

*Revelations* – Alvin Ailey 1960

Music: Traditional Spirituals

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## **SEASON HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### **Opening Night Gala Benefit (Nov. 29 at 7pm)**

The 2017 Opening Night Gala Benefit honoring Board President Debra L. Lee includes a performance featuring a special one-night-only medley of Ailey works set to music from the “Modern American Songbook,” as well as Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* with live musicians and singers. Followed by a dinner-dance at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom, the benefit raises support for the creation of new works and Ailey’s extensive educational and training programs for young people. Singer and actress Janelle Monáe serves as Honorary Chair.

### **Family Matinee Series (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)**

On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy the performance and stay for a free Q & A with the Ailey dancers in the theater following the inspiring finale of *Revelations*, which is acclaimed as a must-see for all ages.

### **Celebrating the Men of Ailey (Dec. 17 at 7:30pm)**

Ailey celebrates the strength, power, and dynamism of its male dancers in a special one-night-only program featuring performances by veteran dancers Clifton Brown, Vernard Gilmore, Yannick Lebrun, Jamar Roberts, and Glenn Allen Sims.

### **Christmas Eve Performance (Dec. 24 mat)**

Dance into the holidays with a festive matinee performance on Christmas Eve, featuring Twyla Tharp’s *The Golden Section*, Billy Wilson’s *The Winter In Lisbon*, Robert Battle’s *Ella*, and Alvin Ailey’s timeless *Revelations*.

### **New Year’s Eve Season Finale (Dec. 31 eve)**

Join Ailey for a very special New Year’s Eve Season Finale, including repertory favorites, and a *Revelations* finale.

***Revelations* - performed with live music – November 29, December 1, and 2 (mat and eve)**

**“All Ailey” Programs – December 10 mat, 30 eve**

**“All Jazz” Programs – December 14 and 17 mat**

**“All New” Programs – December 16 eve, 22, 23 eve, 31 mat**

### **Ticket to Dance**

The New York City 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 stub (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.

## **FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE ATTACHED – TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**  
**November 29 – December 31, 2017 at New York City Center**  
**131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY**  
**(212) 581-1212 / [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org)**

### **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world’s most popular dance companies, returns to the New York City Center stage November 29 – December 31, 2017 for a season that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey’s extraordinary dancers will move audiences with premieres, new productions, repertory favorites and classics like the American masterpiece *Revelations*, acclaimed as a must-see for all. **Tickets starting at \$29** can be purchased 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). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID, and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$29 tickets). The Saturday Family Matinee series includes a post-performance Q&A with the Ailey dancers and an increased availability of \$29 tickets, but buy early for the best seat selection. For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

Performance Times:

Opening Night Gala (11/29)	7:00pm (note earlier curtain time)
Tuesday - Thursday evenings	7:30pm
Friday & Saturday evenings	8:00pm
Sunday evenings	7:30pm
Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm
Wednesday (12/20 & 12/27) matinees	2:00pm
New Year's Eve (12/31)	3:00pm & 7:00pm

**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 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).

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