ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER’S “MODERN AMERICAN SONGBOOK”  
OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE AND PARTY HONORS  
BOARD PRESIDENT DEBRA L. LEE – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH AT 7PM

Honorary Chairs are Music and Film Stars Queen Latifah and Janelle Monáe


Celebration Launches Ailey’s New York City Center Holiday Season, November 29 – December 31

(New York) November 9, 2017 – On Wednesday, November 29th at 7pm, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s five-week holiday season kicks off with a star-studded gala benefit, including a 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 (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BET Networks) 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. Honorary Chairs for the evening are music and film stars Queen Latifah and Janelle Monáe. Queen Latifah is an actress, singer, songwriter and producer and has earned numerous awards including a Grammy, an Emmy, and a Golden Globe. Singer-songwriter Janelle Monáe, a six-time Grammy nominee, rose to silver screen fame last year in the Academy Award nominated film Hidden Figures and Best Picture winner Moonlight.

The one-night-only program features excerpts of dynamic works set to music by soul icons: George Faison’s Suite Otis (Otis Redding), Love Stories by Judith Jamison, Robert Battle, and Rennie Harris (Stevie Wonder), Camille Brown’s The Groove to Nobody’s Business (Ray Charles), and David Parson’s Shining Star (Earth, Wind & Fire). The performance culminates with Alvin Ailey’s masterpiece, Revelations, performed with live musicians and singers. 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 benefits the creation of new works, scholarships to The Ailey School, and Ailey’s educational programs for young people. Deedra & Bob Bakish, Emily & Len Blavatnik, Paulette & Howard Bradnock, Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach, and Joan & Sandy Weill will serve as Co-Chairs for the Gala. Call 212-405-9031 for tickets.

Ailey’s holiday season of new works and returning favorites also features special programs such as an evening Celebrating the Men of Ailey; All Ailey, All Jazz, and All New programs; a Christmas Eve performance; and culminates with a New Year’s Eve Season Finale. Click here for more information. Tickets for season performances start at $29, and are on sale at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or online at www.alvinailey.org or www.nycitycenter.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.

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


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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.