

AILEY II – THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE – PERFORMS IN 32 CITIES DURING 2017-2018 WORLD TOUR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TROY POWELL COMMISSIONS WORLD PREMIERES BY RENEE I. MCDONALD, DARRELL GRAND MOULTRIE, AND JUEL D. LANE

(New York) September 13, 2017 – Ailey II kicks off a **32-city world tour** this **Saturday, September 16th**, continuing through March 11th (schedule on page 3). The acclaimed 12-member ensemble will inspire audiences in more than two dozen cities across the U.S., including a stop in Atlanta as part of Ailey’s Destination Dance initiative, which uses dance as a centerpiece for engagement. Ailey II will also reach international audiences in **France** and **Spain**, and will return home for its annual **New York season**, taking place at the Ailey Citigroup Theater from **March 14th – 25th**.

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. One of the most popular dance companies in the country, Ailey II combines a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. In his sixth year as Artistic Director, Troy Powell announces three diverse new commissions.

“I am thrilled to welcome remarkable new works by three talented rising choreographers into the repertory this season,” said Troy Powell. “These world premieres – alongside a roster of returning favorites – will allow audiences far and wide to experience the power and versatility of these gifted young dancers.”

Jamaican-born choreographer Renee I. McDonald’s ***Breaking Point*** is an intense depiction of the fight for our heart’s desire. Whether it is love, friendship, forgiveness, or a secret longing – these things can take us to our limit. Suitably paired with the bold and pulsating sounds of Audiomachine, McDonald’s high-powered, modern-based choreography captures the willpower and frenzy it takes to keep up “the fight” until you hit your breaking point.

Darrell Grand Moultrie’s ***Road To One*** passionately embraces the journey we all take to find meaning in our lives and eventually pass it on to the next generation. Inspired by a mentor who introduced him to the arts at a young age, Moultrie pays it forward with the Ailey II dancers, creating a high-energy ensemble work that uses elegant, modern movement with a contemporary edge. The musical score features an eclectic range of artists, including Ezio Bosso, Kinjey Bunchens, Monica Chuchi, Oliver Davis, and Spark.

Juel D. Lane’s ***Touch & Agree*** explores what it is to be in love and how we commit to another person without losing our own identity. To do this, Lane brings his personal experiences as a black gay man to the stage, using such wide-ranging musical sources as Sam Cooke, James Blake, H.E.R., and Byrell the Great. The Atlanta native’s unique style fuses contemporary, African, and hip-hop – bringing a fresh choreographic perspective to the ups and downs of relationships today.

An excerpt of Lane’s ***Touch & Agree*** will be performed in Atlanta on **Friday, October 20th** at Woodruff Park as part of the **ELEVATE** festival, and the work has its mainstage premiere on **Saturday, October 21** at **Rialto Center for the Arts**. Both performances are part of **Destination Dance**, the Ailey organization’s initiative to collaborate with Atlanta’s arts and civic organizations through workshops, master classes, performances, special events, and more. For more information on this exciting partnership, visit Destination.Dance.

In addition, six new dancers – [Antuan Byers](#), [Kyle H. Martin](#), [Corrin Mitchell](#), [Adrien Picaut](#), [Arianna Salerno](#), and [Marcus Williams](#) – join the six returning members – [Tara Bellardini](#), [Khalia Campbell](#), [Yazzmeen Laidler](#), [Jessica Amber Pinkett](#), [Martell Ruffin](#), and [Christopher R. Wilson](#). Along with the three world premieres, Ailey II's touring repertory will include [Circular](#) by Jae Man Joo, [In & Out](#) by Jean Emile, [Sketches of Flames](#) by Bridget L. Moore, [Something Tangible](#) by Ray Mercer, [Virtues](#) by Amy Hall Garner, and works by members of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater family – [Gêmeos](#) by Ailey star Jamar Roberts, [Stream of Consciousness](#) by former Ailey dancer Marcus Willis, [The Hunt](#) and [Takademe](#) by Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle, and [Revelations](#) – the must-see masterpiece by Alvin Ailey himself. For more information on the tour, visit alvinailey.org.

Please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org for bios, hi-res downloadable photos and b-roll, and [Ailey II's electronic press kit](#).

Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta is sponsored by Georgia Power, The Home Depot Foundation, Georgia-Pacific, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, and Boston Consulting Group.

About Ailey II

Ailey II – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's second company – 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. Founded in 1974 as a bridge between The Ailey School and the professional dance world, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Ailey II flourished into one of the most popular dance companies in the country under the leadership of Sylvia Waters from 1974-2012, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. With Artistic Director Troy Powell at the helm, Ailey II continues to thrive as he brings a fresh dimension to this beloved company.

– See page 3 for Ailey II's complete 2017-18 tour schedule –

AILEY II

Troy Powell Artistic Director

Ailey II's 2017-2018 Tour Schedule

(As of 9.13.2017 – Subject to Change)

FALL 2017

Sept. 16	Towson, MD	Stephens Hall Theatre at Towson University
Oct. 7	Lake Placid, NY	Lake Placid Center for the Arts
Oct. 13	Toms River, NJ	The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts
Oct. 15	Greensboro, NC	Carolina Theatre
Oct. 17	Goldsboro, NC	The Paramount Theatre
Oct. 20	Atlanta, GA	Woodruff Park (Part of ELEVATE)
Oct. 21	Atlanta, GA	The Rialto Center for the Arts
Oct. 26	Boone, NC	Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts
Oct. 28	Hopkinsville, KY	Alhambra Theatre
Nov. 2	Cleveland, MS	Bologna Performing Arts Center
Nov. 3	Starkville, MS	Bettersworth Auditorium
Nov. 5	Baton Rouge, LA	Magnolia Performing Arts Pavillion
Nov. 9	Lady Lake, FL	Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center
Nov. 11-12	Hilton Head, SC	Arts Center of Coastal Carolina

SPRING 2018

Jan. 16-21*	Lyon, France	Maison de la Danse
Jan. 23-24*	Blagnac, France	Odyssud
Jan. 25*	Anglet, France	Théâtre Quintaou
Jan. 26*	Arcachon, France	Théâtre Olympia
Jan. 30*	Castres, France	Théâtre Municipal
Feb. 3*	Terrassa, Spain	Centre Cultural Terrassa
Feb. 9	Logan, UT	Ellen Eccles Theater
Feb. 11	Telluride, CO	Palm Theater
Feb. 13	Santa Fe, NM	Lensic Theatre
Feb. 15	Beaver Creek, CO	Vilar Performing Arts Center
Feb. 16	Aspen, CO	Aspen District Theatre
Feb. 17	Boulder, CO	Macky Auditorium
Feb. 20	Colorado Springs, CO	Ent Center (University of Colorado)
Feb. 23	Red Wing, MN	Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts
Feb. 25	Fish Creek, WI	Door Community Auditorium
Feb. 27	Houghton, MI	Rosza Center for the Performing Arts
Mar. 2	Toledo, OH	Valentine Theater
Mar. 4	Marietta, OH	Peoples Bank Theater

Mar. 14-25	New York, NY	Ailey Citigroup Theater
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**International tour dates*