



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

Alvin Ailey, Founder Robert Battle, Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director
Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita Bennett Rink, Executive Director

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S ANNUAL WASHINGTON, D.C. OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT AT JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Opera House Performance Features D.C. Premiere of Ailey Star Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary*, Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section*, and Alvin Ailey's Must-See Masterpiece *Revelations*

Dinner and Dancing Follows on the Terrace Level with Ailey's Extraordinary Dancers



AAADT in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Gert Krautbauer; Executive Director Bennett Rink and Artistic Director Robert Battle with Gala Co-Chairs Gina Adams, Lyndon Boozer, Sela Collins, Debra Lee, Ailey Board Chairman Daria Wallach, and Chris Womack at the 2017 DC Gala. Photo © Tony Powell; AAADT in Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. (CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD) – Please credit photos.

(Washington, D.C.) January 25, 2018 – On Tuesday, February 6, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's [annual Washington, D.C. Opening Night Gala Benefit](#) kicks off the opening of its [week-long engagement at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#). After the 7pm opening program on the Opera House stage – featuring performances of a D.C. premiere, new production, and Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece *Revelations* – Artistic Director Robert Battle and Ailey's renowned dancers will join guests for dinner and dancing on the Terrace Level of the Kennedy Center.

The evening's premieres and new productions include: Ailey star **Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary***, a blues-inspired work that is “a response to the current social landscape in America” set to music by legendary jazz saxophonist and composer John Coltrane; **Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section***, a sizzling ensemble work filled with breathtaking leaps, finely-honed partnering, and explosive joy with a rocking score by David Byrne; and **Alvin Ailey's soul-stirring *Revelations***, a must-see American masterpiece that is as relevant now as ever and has been hailed by *The New York Times* as “modern dance's unquestionable greatest hit.”

Proceeds will support Ailey's Washington, D.C. programs, including the creation of new works, Arts In Education activities, and scholarships to talented young dance students in the Washington area to attend The Ailey School in New York City. Tickets for the black-tie benefit performance and party are starting at \$1,000 for individual tickets and range from \$10,000 to \$35,000 for tables of 10. For more information, call 202-518-6908 ext. 2 or email bobette@eventsbyandrewells.com.

The 2018 Opening Night Gala Benefit Co-Chairs include Gina F. Adams, Lyndon K. Boozer, Sela Collins, and Debra L. Lee. **Gala Vice Chairs** are Alaina Beverly, Joyce Brayboy, Kim Sheftall Humphries, Robert Raben, Vanessa Reed, Nicole

Venable, Yelberton R. Watkins, and Katharine Weymouth. The evening is made possible by a generous grant from Southern Company and the **Corporate Chair is Southern Company Chairman, President and CEO, Thomas A. Fanning**. The post-performance party is produced by Events by André Wells.

Pioneering founder Alvin Ailey's enduring legacy lives on through the vision of Artistic Director Robert Battle, who continues to expand the company's repertory. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has a rich history with the Kennedy Center dating back to the building's grand opening in 1971 with the world premiere of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* choreographed by Alvin Ailey and featuring the company's dancers. Today, the Ailey organization continues to champion the ideal of freedom, embodying the spirit of President Kennedy's vision for America.

Alvin Ailey is a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Freedom – the nation's highest civilian honor – and the Ailey organization was awarded the prestigious National Medal of Arts, among many other honors. In 2008, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was recognized by U.S. Congress as "a vital American cultural ambassador to the world."

The company marks its annual Washington, D.C. engagement from February 6-11, 2018 with seven performances spotlighting 10 dynamic works, including two premieres and three new productions. [Click here](#) to view the full press release on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2018 performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For more information on the company's North American tour and the organization's training and education programs, visit www.alvinailey.org.

For additional photos and press materials, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org:

[Photos and Video](#)

[Sizzle Reel For Broadcast](#)

Southern Company is the proud sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Washington, D.C. Gala Benefit.

Bank of America is the Ailey Tour Sponsor during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2018 engagement in Washington, DC.

The 2018 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The creation of *Members Don't Get Weary* was supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo, North America and Altria Group for providing the spirits and wines for the Washington, D.C. Gala Benefit.

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.

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