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**ALVIN AILEY**  
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

**Adrienne Arsht Center**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**MARKING A DECADE AT THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER,  
ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR  
MIAMI ENGAGEMENT FEBRUARY 22-25, 2018**

**World Premiere Season for Miami Ailey Star Jamar Roberts' Broadly Acclaimed  
*Members Don't Get Weary* Set to Music of Jazz Legend John Coltrane**

**Five Inspiring Performances Showcase Exciting Premieres by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano and Robert Battle and Choreographic Masterpieces from Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and Talley Beatty**



AAADT in Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary*.  
Photo by Paul Kolnik.

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**NEW YORK – January 18, 2018** — Led by Liberty City native and Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#), [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) announces programming for celebration of a decade at the **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County Thursday, February 22 - Sunday, February 25**. 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 Center's Knight Masterworks Season - Dance Series, which is offered with support from Knight Foundation. The engagement is also supported by Ailey Tour Sponsor Bank of America.

Following critically-acclaimed performances in New York City, Miami native [Jamar Roberts](#), along with 31 of Ailey's extraordinary dancers, will move audiences with exciting premieres, inspiring new productions, repertory favorites and the classic American masterpiece *Revelations*. [Members Don't Get Weary](#), Roberts' revered season world premiere he calls "a response to the current social landscape in America," is among the powerful works taking center stage at the Arsht for the very first time.

"We are ecstatic to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Adrienne Arsht Center," said Robert Battle. "For a decade, Miami and Ailey have cultivated a relationship that has impacted the Miami culture scene bringing different communities together to inspire, educate and empower through the arts. I'm thrilled for Arsht audiences to witness the renowned dancers of Ailey in choreographic treasures and Jamar Roberts' return to his roots to showcase both his uplifting artistry and vision with the world premiere of *Members Don't Get Weary*."

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**The Thursday, February 22 opening night program** (also performed at the Saturday, 2/24 matinee) will include longtime Ailey star Jamar Roberts' South Florida debut of the season world premiere of [Members Don't Get Weary](#), set to the powerful music of the legendary American jazz saxophonist and composer John Coltrane 50 years after his death. Receiving acclaim from *The New York Times* for being "...emotional as it was virtuosic...", the piece aims to inspire audiences, allowing them to momentarily transcend their own personal blues. Another highlight of the program will be Artistic Director **Robert Battle's** [Ella](#), a *tour-du-force* duet celebrating the centennial of legendary Ella Fitzgerald's birth set to her virtuosic scatting in the song "Airmail Special." During Black History Month, Ailey invites all to enjoy this energetic program celebrating jazz legends **John Coltrane** and **Ella Fitzgerald**.

**The Friday, February 23 evening program** will feature Talley Beatty's dynamic [Stack-Up](#), depicting the emotional "traffic" in a community that is stacked on top of each other, as well as the world premiere of [Victoria](#), renowned Spanish choreographer Gustavo Ramírez Sansano's first work for the Ailey repertory. The work pairs his audacious athletic movement style with the propulsive drive of "Rewriting Beethoven's Seventh Symphony" by award-winning composer Michael Gordon.

**A Family Matinee on Saturday, February 24 at 2:00 pm**, featuring **Robert Battle's** [Mass](#), a 2017 company premiere showcasing Mr. Battle's signature ritualistic choreography and Alvin Ailey's uplifting [Revelations](#), will be followed by **free post-performance Q & A in the theater with Ailey's esteemed dancers** for the enjoyment of the entire family.

**The Saturday, February 20 evening program and the Sunday, February 24 matinee** will include a new production of [Shelter](#), **Urban Bush Women founder Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's** gripping portrait of homelessness – returning 25 years after it was originally staged on Ailey. Set to an inventive score of drumming and poetry, the ending features revised text highlighting recent hurricanes and how our shelter can be threatened by climate change. The program will also feature [The Hunt](#), **Robert Battle's** thrilling, percussive work for six men examining the relationship between modern sports and the rituals of gladiators.

In addition to new choreographic treasures, Alvin Ailey's beloved masterpiece *Revelations*, an American classic acclaimed as a must-see and recognized by U.S. Senate resolution, will provide the inspiring finale of **all programs**.

### **Educational Offerings for the Miami Community**

The Arsht Center and Ailey will provide various arts education offerings and training opportunities for young people in conjunction with the Company's Miami engagement.

In addition to ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*** residency taking place at **South Miami Middle School**, ***Night Creature: An Imaginative Journey Through Dance*** residency will be conducted at **Frederick Douglass Elementary School** from **February 13-16**. This innovative curriculum-based initiative uses Mr. Ailey's *Night Creature*, set to a sparkling score by jazz legend Duke Ellington, as a framework for young students to explore the power of their imaginations through writing poetry, drawing, and creating their own choreography.

On **Sunday, February 18 at 10:00 am (ages 11-15) and 12:30 pm (ages 16-25)**, [The Ailey School](#) will hold auditions at the New World School of Arts as part of their North American audition tour. The mission of The Ailey School is to make dance accessible to outstanding students – such as South Florida area students Emerick Ligonde, Natalie

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Rey and Gianna Theodore – through a curriculum of rigorous and diversified dance training. Nearly 70% of current Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members received their pre-professional training from The Ailey School, including Miami’s own Jamar Roberts. 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 and to the helm of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. For more information and to register to audition, visit The Ailey School [website](#).

On **Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00pm**, Ailey dancer **Jamar Roberts** will lead a community master class for aspiring dancers ages 16 and up (intermediate level and above) in the Arsht Center’s Peacock Foundation Studio. **To register, please email [education@arshtcenter.org](mailto:education@arshtcenter.org) or call (786) 468-2270.**

On **Wednesday, February 21 at 11:00 am**, **Jamar Roberts** will lead a student dance workshop/master class in the Arsht Center’s Peacock Foundation Studio for students from area schools – **Coral Reef Senior High School** and his alma mater, **New World School of the Arts**. This will be a very special opportunity for the dance students to learn portions of choreography from Roberts’ *Members Don’t Get Weary* in advance of the premiere performance on February 22.

On **Friday, February 23 at 11:00 am**, a special one-hour performance featuring *Stack-Up* and *Revelations* will be offered **free of charge to approximately 2,000 public school students in the Miami-Dade County area**, including the Liberty City neighborhood where Robert Battle grew up.

On **Saturday, February 24 at 2:00 pm**, alumni from **AileyCamp Miami** have been invited to attend the Family Matinee performance and participate in a reunion pre-performance. **AileyCamp Miami** is a nationally-acclaimed summer program hosted by the Arsht Center since 2009 that uses dance as a vehicle to help middle school students ages 11-14 to reach their full potential.

Founded by Alvin Ailey in 1958, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s inspiring performances honor and enrich the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition, uniting people of all backgrounds in a celebration of the human spirit through the universal language of dance. Nearly 60 years after its founding, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing time and 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 [arshtcenter.org](http://arshtcenter.org) or (305)949-6722.

### **2018 Miami Engagement Program**

**Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 8:00pm**

*Mass, Ella / Members Don’t Get Weary / Revelations*

**Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11:00am** (student performance)

*Stack-Up (excerpt) / Revelations*

**Friday, February 23, 2018 at 8:00pm**

*Stack-Up / Victoria / Revelations*

**Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 2:00pm – Family Matinee** (followed by free post-performance Q & A with Ailey dancers)

*Mass, Ella / Members Don’t Get Weary / Revelations*

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**Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 8:00pm**

*Stack-Up / Shelter, The Hunt / Revelations*

**Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 2:00pm**

*Stack-Up/ Shelter, The Hunt / Revelations*

**TICKETS:**

Tickets starting at \$29 are now on sale at [arshtcenter.org](http://arshtcenter.org) or (305)949-6722. Group discounts available by calling (786) 468-2326 or e-mail [groupsales@arshtcenter.org](mailto:groupsales@arshtcenter.org). Discounted tickets are also available for students with an appropriate id for all performances. Up to 50% off tickets \$39 or higher available for day of performances.

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – February 22 - 25, 2018**

**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](http://www.arshtcenter.org)

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

For further information, the public may visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

**The 2018 U.S. Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

**Bank of America is the Ailey Tour Sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2018 engagement in Miami, FL.**

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

**This new production of *Shelter* is made possible with major support from American Express.**

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

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

**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 22-25, 2018**. Led by Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) and featuring Company star [Jamar Roberts](#), both Miami natives, Alvin Ailey's extraordinary dancers will move audiences with exciting premieres and new productions. 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 2018 Miami visit is the only South Florida engagement on a 21-city coast-to-coast North American Tour. For additional information, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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## **REPERTORY FOR MIAMI ENGAGEMENT**

### **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 work 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 Ramirez Sansano's *Victoria* pairs the Spanish choreographer's audacious, athletic movement style with the propulsive drive of "Rewriting Beethoven's Seventh Symphony" by award-winning composer Michael Gordon to create a work that feels vital and thrillingly of-the-moment.

### **NEW PRODUCTIONS**

**[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 COMPANY PREMIERES**

**[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.

**[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

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world premiere *Awakening*. Commissioned for The Julliard School in 2004, the movement in this work showcases Mr. Battle's signature ritualistic choreography.

## **REPERTORY FAVORITES**

**Revelations** (1960)

**Choreography: Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Traditional Spirituals**

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. **Alvin Ailey's** signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African-American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audiences cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the

opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

**The Hunt** (2001 / New Production 2016)

**Choreography by Robert Battle**

**Music: Les Tambours du Bronx**

Artistic director Robert Battle's athletic work for six men reveals the predatory side of human nature and the primitive thrill of the hunt. A thundering percussion score by Les Tambours du Bronx drives the ritualized movement and pushes the dancers to their physical limits.

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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 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).

## **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. 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. Spotlighting legends and serving as a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage, the Center presents nearly 400 events each year across its flexible, state-of-the-art performance spaces. The Center programs several Signature Series, including the largest jazz series in South Florida, a major annual Flamenco Festival, and a robust program of new theatrical works as well as

free programming for the community and an arts education program that serves nearly 60,000 children each year. As Miami's new Town Square, the Arsht Center also houses BRAVA by Brad Kilgore, a fine dining restaurant; the Café at Books & Books in the historic Carnival Tower and a weekly Farmers Market. Visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://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 Bank of America Environmental, Social and Governance**

At Bank of America, our focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors is critical to fulfilling our purpose of helping make people's financial lives better. Our commitment to growing our business responsibly is embedded in every aspect of our company. It is demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our customers, and the impact we help create around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships across sectors – including community and environmental advocate groups, as well as non-profits – in order to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Learn more at [www.bankofamerica.com/about](http://www.bankofamerica.com/about) and connect with us on Twitter at @BofA\_News.

#### **About Knight Foundation**

Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.