



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 ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR FOX THEATRE ENGAGEMENT FROM FEBRUARY 14 –18, 2018

Presenting Special Valentine's Day Program & Performance Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

New Productions by Dance World Legends Include Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section*, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter*, and Talley Beatty's *Stack-Up* in Celebration of His Centennial

Ailey Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta Initiative with 10 Local Partners
Dedicated To Engaging with the Community through Dance

ATLANTA – January 11, 2018 — For more than four decades, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://www.alvinailey.org) has dazzled audiences in Atlanta, and the Company will move the crowd once again during this year's return to the **Fabulous Fox Theatre February 14 – 18, 2018**. Six breathtaking performances will showcase the brilliance of Ailey's 32 dancers, shine a spotlight on social issues with timely and topical works, and pay homage to love and legacy through two special programs: **"A Night to Love"** on a Valentine's Day, **Wednesday, February 14**, featuring a one-night-only program of duets celebrating love; and **"MLK50: Celebrating the Legacy"** on **Friday, February 16**, honoring the life and works of Atlanta's greatest peacemaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as the 50th anniversary of his death approaches in April.

In addition to annual performances, Ailey reaffirmed its commitment to the city by celebrating the completion of its pilot year of [Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta](http://www.alvinailey.org) to engage Atlanta's vibrant cultural community.

"Atlanta has long been Ailey's heart and soul in the South, with audiences passing down a shared love of our heart-pounding, soul-stirring, thought-provoking performances for more than 40 years now," said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "The city has given so much to the Company, and we're proud to partner with cherished cultural institutions throughout Atlanta to give back to the community with our Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta initiative. We love the opportunity to maintain a relationship with our audiences year-round along with the highlight of inspiring annual performances at The Fabulous Fox Theatre by 32 of the most extraordinary dancers in the world."

Ailey's cornerstone engagement, featuring five days of breathtaking performances in Atlanta, kicks off on **Wednesday, February 14 at 8 p.m.** with **"A Night to Love,"** a celebration of the most magical of human emotions represented through the art of dance. The one-night-only program will touch the hearts of all, beginning with the return of **Stack-Up** to celebrate the centennial of modern dance pioneer **Talley Beatty** with a look at the hectic realities of living and searching for love in a crowded, urban landscape set to a heart-pounding 1970s music and dance scene. The second act comprised of duets saluting love features Robert Battle's **Ella** – set to Ella Fitzgerald's virtuosic scatting in "Air Mail Special" – and excerpts from **The Winter in Lisbon**, celebrating the music of Dizzy Gillespie, and a special staging of a highlight from **Shining Star**, choreographed by David Parsons to the music of Earth, Wind & Fire. The program will feature Ailey stars and real-life love-birds **Linda Celeste Sims** and **Glenn Allen Sims**, who fell in love dancing together with the Company, were married on Alvin Ailey's birthday, and have now been performing together for over two decades.

The **Thursday, February 15 8 p.m.** program ushers in the return of Tony Award-winning choreographer **Twyla Tharp** to the repertory with ***The Golden Section***, an ensemble work set to a propulsive score by David Byrne, showcasing the sheer physicality of Ailey dancers with breathtaking leaps, finely-honed partnering and explosive joy. The work will also be performed on **Saturday, February 17 at 2 p.m.**, in a program that will delight audiences with Ulysses Dove's electrifying ***Episodes*** and ***Cry***, Alvin Ailey's classic solo celebrating "all black women everywhere – especially our mothers," made famous by Judith Jamison, the legendary Ailey dancer and second artistic director of the Company. **A free Q&A session with the dancers will follow the Saturday "Family Matinee" performance**, allowing people of all ages to hear first-hand about the magic of Ailey.

On **Friday, February 15 at 8 p.m.**, "**MLK50: Celebrating the Legacy**" honors Atlanta's prodigal son and great Civil Rights leader with a special program as we approach the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ***r-Evolution, Dream.*** returns to the Atlanta stage after last year's premiere, bringing audiences creative storytelling set to music composed by Ali Jackson (Jazz at Lincoln Center) and historical and original writings narrated by Leslie Odom, Jr. (*Hamilton*). Inspired by Dr. King's sermons and speeches witnessed during a visit to Atlanta's Center for Civil and Human Rights, choreographer and Ailey dancer Hope Boykin reminds us all of the incredible power of Dr. King's words and his legacy. The program continues with Urban Bush Women founder **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter*** – bringing to the forefront the harsh realities and struggles of the homeless in America, and featuring an updated ending with revised text highlighting recent hurricanes and how our shelter can be threatened by climate change – and ***The Hunt***, Robert Battle's powerful work for six men.

The **Saturday night, February 17 8 p.m.** and **Sunday, February 18 3 p.m. matinee** performances highlight the choreography of Robert Battle with ***In/Side***, featuring the music of the legendary Nina Simone, this season's striking Company premiere ***Mass***, and ***Ella***, along with Talley Beatty's ***Stack-Up***.

The rousing finale of all performances is Alvin Ailey's timeless American masterpiece ***Revelations***, which has been resonating with audiences more powerfully than ever.

Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta launched in January 2017 with the goal of forming partnerships between Ailey and Atlanta-based cultural, civic, and educational organizations, collaborations with 10 local organizations to present performances, classes and workshops for the public, education programs in schools, and more. Special programs like the "***Revelations Celebration***" workshops at the High Museum of Art attracted more than 450 members of the local community, while **Atlanta Ballet's AileyCamp** provided free dance education for 100 middle school students from underserved communities. Additionally, Atlanta native **Juel D. Lane** choreographed his first work Ailey II – **[Touch & Agree](#)** – which premiered in Atlanta with a sold-out performance at the **Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University**. Destination Dance initiatives for 2018 include:

Ailey Arts In Education Residencies

***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach* – B.E.S.T. Academy / M. Agnes Jones Elementary**

From Monday, January 29 – Friday, February 2, Ailey Arts In Education Master Teacher Nasha Thomas and Ailey teaching artists Michael Leon Thomas and Theara Ward will lead 6th grade students at B.E.S.T. Academy and 5th grade students at M. Agnes Jones Elementary in ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach***, which utilizes Alvin Ailey's signature work, ***Revelations***, as the inspirational framework for a comprehensive study of language arts, social studies, and dance.

***Ailey Experience, presented in collaboration with AREA* – Maynard H. Jackson High School**

Ailey fans in Atlanta have the opportunity to move with the Ailey spirit by participating in dance workshops from Saturday, February 10 – Sunday, February 11 at Maynard H. Jackson High School, co-presented by Ailey Extension and AREA (Atlanta's Resource for Entertainment & Arts). Led by three former Ailey company members, two workshops ("The Ailey Experience" for teens and adults, and "Ailey Experience Jr." for ages 10-12) will teach students Contemporary and Horton techniques, as well as choreography from Alvin Ailey's classic works like ***Revelations***, ***Blues Suite***, and ***Night Creature***. No experience is required and all levels are welcome.

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Atlanta Ballet's AileyCamp

Serving 100 middle school children in summer 2018, Atlanta Ballet's AileyCamp is an innovative, six-week day camp that uses the power of disciplined dance training, creative writing instruction, and personal development and communication workshops to provide a highly motivating experience for at-risk youth. The program, returning to Atlanta for its 12th year, is provided at no cost to the campers or their families and helps youth develop their self-confidence in an atmosphere of warmth, respect, and trust.

Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale now at the The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltix.com or by calling 855-285-8499.

- Student tickets are available for \$15 each or 2 for \$25 for students with an appropriate ID on Wed., 2/14 and Thu., 2/15.
- Up to 25% off for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$25 tickets). For group sales, call 404-881-2000.
- Tickets at a 20% discount are available for "A Night to Love" using code Aileylove (limit 8 tickets, valid for tickets priced \$39+).
- Receive \$10 off tickets to the Thu., Feb. 15 WSB Family 2 Family performance using code Fam2Fam.
- Buy one, get one 50% off tickets are available for the Family Matinee on Sat., 2/17 at 2 p.m. (limit 8 tickets).
- Ailey audiences can enjoy 15% off admission to the Center of Civil and Human Rights with a performance ticket stub, and Center visitors can use code CCHR for 15% off tickets regularly priced over \$25 for the 2/16 MLK50 performance (subject to availability, cannot be combined with other offers).

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

Wells Fargo is the Proud Ailey Engagement Sponsor for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's engagement in Atlanta, GA.

Georgia Power and The Home Depot Foundation are Platinum Circle Sponsors of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.

Georgia-Pacific is a Gold Circle Sponsor of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Lockheed Martin are Silver Circle Sponsors of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.

Additional support for Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta is provided by Boston Consulting Group.

The creation of *r-Evolution*, *Dream*. was supported by commissioning funds from The Music Center.

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

For further information, the public may visit www.alvinailey.org. For additional press materials or photos, members of the media may visit 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 Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, Photo by Paul Kolnik. AAADT's Michael Jackson, Jr. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT in Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. Please credit photos.

2018 Atlanta Programs:

Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. A NIGHT TO LOVE – *Stack-Up* / *The Winter in Lisbon* (excerpt), *Ella*, *Shining Star* (excerpt) / *Revelations*

Thursday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. *Episodes* / *The Golden Section*, *Cry* / *Revelations*

Friday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. MLK 50: CELEBRATING THE LEGACY – *r-Evolution*, *Dream*. / *Shelter*, *The Hunt* / *Revelations*

Saturday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m.* *Episodes* / *The Golden Section*, *Cry* / *Revelations*
*Family Matinee – free post-performance Q&A with dancers

Saturday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. *Stack-Up* / *Mass*, *In/Side* / *Ella*, *Revelations*

Sunday, Feb. 18 at 3 p.m. *Stack-Up* / *Mass*, *In/Side* / *Ella*, *Revelations*

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2018 Atlanta Repertory

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 passionate statement about the physical and emotional deprivation of homeless people. Set to an inventive score which incorporates drumming by Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn and poetry by Hattie Gossett and Laurie Carlos, *Shelter* features a new ending with revised text highlighting recent hurricanes and how our shelter can be threatened by climate change.

[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. 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.

2017-18 SEASON COMPANY PREMIERE

[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.

RETURNING FAVORITES

[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.

[Episodes](#) (1987)

Choreography by Ulysses Dove

Music: Robert Ruggieri

Ulysses Dove created this explosive choreographic masterpiece, *Episodes*, for the classical London Festival Ballet in 1987, exploring the battle of the sex with original and daring choreographic feats to the provocative soundscore by Robert Ruggieri. A former member of the Ailey company, Mr. Dove re-choreographed the dance on pointe for Patrick Dupond's Ballet Francais de Nancy in 1988 and set it on the Ailey dancers in 1989.

[The Hunt](#) (2001)

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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[In/Side](#) (2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind" play out in Robert Battle's gripping solo. The bold, unrestrained style that has become his signature is evinced in this visceral cry of pure physicality. The piece, originally commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, was created as part of its annual series "In the Company of Men," a celebration of the spirit of male dancers in New York [in light of the AIDS epidemic].

[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*).

[Shining Star](#) (2004)

Choreography by David Parsons

Music: Earth, Wind & Fire

A suite of dances performed to the timeless songs of Earth, Wind & Fire, the ballet builds around a central duet that celebrates a deep and lasting love. The two lovers are supported and celebrated by the community of dancers who surround them, rejoicing in the beauty and light that radiate from their commitment. Parsons' playful wit and hopeful spirit meld perfectly with the familiar and uplifting song, "That's The Way of the World."

[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."

AILEY CLASSICS

[Cry](#) (1971)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

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

In 1971, Alvin Ailey choreographed the ballet *Cry*, as a birthday present for his mother Mrs. Lula Cooper, and created the dance on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison. It was an instant sensation and went on to become an enduring work of American art. This physically and emotionally demanding 16-minute solo is dedicated to "all black women everywhere – especially our mothers." The solo is made up of three parts – the first set to Alice Coltrane's "Something about John Coltrane," the second to Laura Nyro's "Been on a Train" and the last has the Voices of East Harlem singing "Right On, Be Free." Ms. Jamison, who has since taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women, wrote of the work in her autobiography *Dancing Spirit*: "In my interpretation, she represented those women before her who came from the hardships of slavery, through the pain of losing loved ones, through overcoming extraordinary depressions and tribulations. Coming out of a world of pain and trouble, she has found her way-and triumphed."

[Revelations](#) (1960)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans. An American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all, Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage and genius. 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, with audiences cheering, singing along and dancing 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."

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SEASON HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

A Night to Love (February 14, 8 p.m.) – Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Ailey company returns to share the love with Atlanta audiences. Join your loved ones for a special program dedicated to the most beautiful of human emotions brought to life on stage via breathtaking performances from Ailey's virtuosic dancers. Tickets at a 20% discount are also available for "A Night to Love" using code Aileylove (limit 8 tickets, valid for tickets priced \$39 or higher).

MLK50: Celebrating the Legacy (February 16, 8 p.m.) – As we approach the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., join Ailey to remember his legacy and work with an honorary performance of Hope Boykin's *r-Evolution, Dream*. Inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. King, *r-Evolution, Dream* blends creative storytelling with rousing ensemble movement to honor Atlanta's greatest peace-maker.

Family Matinee (February 17, 2 p.m.) – On Saturday afternoon, 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. Buy one, get one 50 percent off tickets are available for the Family Matinee performance Saturday, February 17 at 2 p.m. (limit 8 tickets).

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
February 14 – February 18, 2018 at The Fox Theatre
660 Peachtree Street Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30308
(404) 881-2100 / <https://foxtheatre.org/>

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to the Fox Theatre February 14 – February 18 for six performances that will astound audiences, old and new. 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*. Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale now at the The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltx.com or by calling 855-285-8499. Student tickets are available for \$15 or two for \$25 for the Wed., Feb. 14 and Thu., Feb. 15 performances at the Fox Theatre box office (with appropriate ID; limit 2 tickets per ID, 1 ID per person) and for groups of 10 + (25% discount on Wed., Thu. and Fri. evening on prices \$39+, excluding Premium section; 20% discount on Sat. matinee and evening, and Sun. on prices \$39+, excluding the Premium section). For group sales, call 404-881-2000. Tickets at a 20% discount are also available for "A Night to Love" using code Aileylove (limit 8 tickets, only valid for tickets priced \$39 or higher). \$10 off tickets to the Thu., Feb. 15 WSB Family 2 Family performance using code Fam2Fam. Ailey audiences can enjoy 15% off admission to the Center of Civil and Human Rights with a performance ticket stub, and Center visitors can use code CCHR for 15% off tickets priced over \$25 for the Fri., Feb. 16 MLK50 performance (subject to availability, cannot be combined with other offers). Buy one ticket, get one 50% off the Saturday Family Matinee with post-performance Q&A (limit 8). Visit www.alvinailey.org for more information.

Performance Times:

Wednesday – Friday evenings	8 p.m.
Saturday matinee	2 p.m.
Saturday evening	8 p.m.
Sunday matinee	3 p.m.

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.

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