

60
YEARS
AILEY
ASCENDING



ALVIN AILEY
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

AILEY II | THE AILEY SCHOOL | AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS | AILEY EXTENSION
The Joan Weill Center for Dance 405 West 55th St. New York NY 10019-4402 (212) 405-9000 AlvinAiley.org

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

Press Representative:

Daisy Cabrera - daisycabrerapr@gmail.com / 305-868-1213

Ailey Public Relations:

Christopher Zunner - czunner@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9028

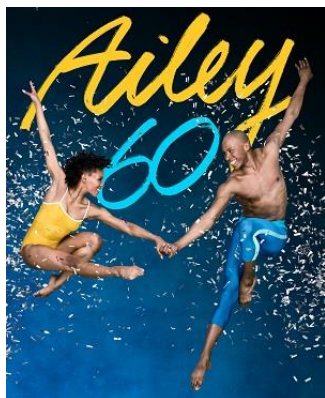
Tracy Severe - tsevere@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9032

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR MIAMI'S ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER ENGAGEMENT CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF "AILEY ASCENDING" FROM FEBRUARY 14-17, 2019 AS PART OF 21-CITY TOUR

South Florida Premieres of Ronald K. Brown's *The Call*, Rennie Harris' *Lazarus* - the Company's First Two-Act Ballet, Wayne McGregor's *Kairos* and New Production of Robert Battle's *Juba*

Alvin Ailey's American Masterpiece *Revelations* is the Uplifting Finale of Five Powerful Performances Spotighting Miami Native Jamar Roberts and 32 Virtuositic Dancers

Tickets Starting at \$29 are On Sale with Special Holiday Offer through Christmas Eve



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Samantha Figgins and Jeroboam Bozeman.
Photo by Andrew Eccles.

Ctrl+Click Photos for High Resolution

NEW YORK – December 3, 2018 — Led by Liberty City native and Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the world's favorite dance companies, returns to the **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County February 14-17**, as part of a **21-city U.S. Tour honoring 60 years of *Ailey Ascending***. Miami native [Jamar Roberts](#), along with 32 of Ailey's extraordinary dancers, will reveal the power, passion and astonishing beauty that have become a hallmark of the company. Ailey's Miami engagement is co-presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center as part of the Center's Knight Masterworks Season - Dance Series, which is offered with support from Knight Foundation.

Robert Battle said, "Alvin Ailey was a pioneer in celebrating the human spirit through the African-American culture and modern dance, elevating the world of the performing arts and the hearts and minds of people of all backgrounds. It is a privilege for me to return home to Miami as we honor his storied legacy by heightening the artistry of our performances and extending the reach of our educational programs. We hope you will join us to be uplifted during the "Ailey Ascending" 60th anniversary season at the Arsht!"

The Thursday, February 14 opening night program (also performed Saturday, 2/16 evening) will include acclaimed hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris' [Lazarus](#), the Company's first two-act ballet. Inspired by Alvin Ailey's life and legacy, Harris connects the past and present in the powerful work that addresses the racial inequities America faced when Mr. Ailey founded this company in 1958 and still faces today.

The Friday, February 15 evening program (also performed Saturday, 2/17 matinee evening) will feature the world premiere of 2018 Dance Magazine Award winner **Ronald K. Brown's** [The Call](#) seamlessly blends modern and West African dance idioms, as “a love letter to Mr. Ailey.” The music includes Johann Sebastian Bach (performed by Chris Thile, Edgar Meyere & Yo-Yo Ma), Mary Lou Williams, and Asase Yaa. A new production will be staged of Artistic Director **Robert Battle's** first work for the Company, [Juba](#), a modern day “Rite of Spring” with an abstract twist set to an original score by John Mackey. **Wayne McGregor's** [Kairos](#), his second Company premiere (following 2013's *Chroma*) feature Idris Khan's dramatic set design and McGregor's angular yet sinuous movement on a cast of 10. The title has dual meanings – one being the most opportune time to act, the other weather – and is set to Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, re-imagined by experimental composer Max Richter.

A Family Matinee on Saturday, February 16 at 2:00 pm, will showcase a special program entitled, “**Timeless Ailey**,” featuring over a dozen treasures from Mr. Ailey's wonderfully rich body of work, including highlights of seldom-seen gems *The Lark Ascending*, *Mary Lou's Mass* and *Opus McShann* as well as perennial favorites like *Cry*, *Love Songs*, *Night Creature*, and *Revelations*. The family matinee also includes a **free post-performance Q & A in the theater with the Ailey dancers** for the enjoyment of the entire family.

The inspiring finale of each program is the must-see American masterpiece [Revelations](#). Since its creation in 1960, *Revelations* has inspired generations through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring spirituals. Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the south and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African-American and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

When **Alvin Ailey** and a small group of African American modern dancers first took the stage at the 92nd Street Y in 1958, the engagement was for one night only—but it turned out to be the start of a new era in the performing arts. Mr. Ailey became one of the groundbreaking greats in African American history, while the work of his Company grew beyond the limits of the stage to encompass education at all levels, community outreach and cultural diplomacy. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater now embodies six decades of achievement, celebrating the human spirit with performances that unite and inspire all.

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.

On **Sunday, January 13 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 third-year BFA student Ashley Simpson – 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.

In addition to ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach* residency** taking place at **Lake Stevens Middle School**, ***Night Creature: An Imaginative Journey Through Dance* residency** will be conducted at **Dr. Henry E. Perrine Elementary Academy of the Arts** from **February 4-8**. 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 **Friday, February 15 at 11:00 am**, a special one-hour performance featuring *The Call* and *Revelations* will be offered by the Arsht Center and Ailey **at no cost 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 16 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.

Additional educational offerings will be announced in early 2019.

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. Visit www.alvinailey.org or www.arshtcenter.org for tickets and further information on Ailey's milestone season in Miami.

2019 Miami Engagement Program

Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:00pm

Lazarus / Revelations

Friday, February 15, 2019 at 11:00am (*student performance*)

Excerpts TBD / Revelations

Friday, February 15, 2019 at 8:00pm

Kairos / The Call, Juba / Revelations

Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 2:00pm – Family Matinee (*followed by free post-performance Q & A with Ailey dancers*)

Timeless Ailey (including *Revelations*)

Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 8:00pm

Lazarus / Revelations

Sunday, February 17, 2019 at 2:00pm

Kairos / The Call, Juba / Revelations

TICKETS:

Tickets starting at \$29 **are now on sale** at arshtcenter.org or (305)949-6722. Group can save up to 30% off by calling (786) 468-2326, e-mail groupsales@arshtcenter.org or visit [online request form](#). Save 20% on tickets or more with the code HOLIDAY, valid through December 24, 2018. **Discounted tickets are also available for students** with an appropriate id for all performances. The Arsht Center's UTIX program provides discounted student tickets to many shows at the Arsht. [Visit the UTIX webpage](#) for details.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – February 14 - 17, 2019

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

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

For further information, the public may visit www.alvinailey.org. For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

The 2019 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Bank of America is the Ailey Tour Sponsor during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2019 engagement in Miami, FL.

The Company premiere of *Kairos* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

The world premiere of *Lazarus* is made possible with major support from American Express.

Lazarus was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Commissioning support for *Lazarus* provided by The Auditorium Theatre (Chicago).

Lazarus is supported by commissioning funds from Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley.

Additional commissioning support for *Lazarus* provided by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Music for *Lazarus* commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation.



L to R: AAADT in Rennie Harris' *Lazarus*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Robert Battle's *Juba*. Photo by Nan Melville; AAADT in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

[\(Ctrl+Click for hi-res download\)](#)

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 at the **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County from February 14-17, 2019 as part of the Company's 60th anniversary celebration, *Ailey Ascending***. 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 for five dynamic performances only. 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 performance. For additional information, please visit www.alvinailey.org. Tickets starting at \$29 are now on sale at arshtcenter.org or (305)949-6722.

REPERTORY FOR MIAMI ENGAGEMENT

WORLD PREMIERES

[Lazarus](#) (World Premiere)

Choreography by Rennie Harris Music: Darrin Ross, Nina Simon, Terence Trent D’Arby, Michael Kiwanuka, Odetta
Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer Rennie (Lorenzo) Harris returns to Ailey this season with the Company’s first two-act work, *Lazarus*. Inspired by the life and legacy of Mr. Ailey, Harris connects past and present in a powerful work that addresses the racial inequities America faced when Mr. Ailey founded this company in 1958 and still faces today. Harris’ previous contributions to the Ailey repertory include *Exodus* (2015), *Home* (2011), and *Love Stories* (2004), Judith Jamison’s dynamic collaboration with Rennie Harris and Robert Battle.

[The Call](#) (World Premiere)

Choreography by Ronald K. Brown Music: Johan Sebastian Bach, Mary Lou Williams, Asase Yaa Entertainment Group

2018 Dance Magazine Award recipient Ronald K. Brown’s joyous mix of modern and West African dance idioms – seen previously in *Grace* (1999), *Open Door* (2015), *Four Corners* (2013), and other works – fits the Ailey dancers perfectly, and his themes of spiritual awakening and redemption never fail to inspire. *The Call*, which is Brown’s seventh work for the Company, is “a love letter to Mr. Ailey,” set to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (performed by Chris Thile, Edgar Meyere & Yo-Yo Ma), Mary Lou Williams, and Asase Yaa.

COMPANY PREMIERE

[Kairos](#) (2014 / Company Premiere 2018)

Choreography by Wayne McGregor

Music: Max Richter

Kairos, choreographer Wayne McGregor’s second Ailey Company premiere, fills the stage with sinuous, angular movement and synchronicity. Drawn from the ancient Greek language, the word “Kairos” has dual meanings, the first being the most opportune time to take action and the second being weather. The ballet is framed by Idris Khan’s dramatic set design and played out to Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*, re-imagined by experimental composer Max Richter. Ailey is the first American company to perform *Kairos*, which originally premiered in 2014 as part of the STEPS contemporary dance festival in Switzerland.

NEW PRODUCTIONS

[Juba](#) (2003 / New Production 2018)

Music: Original Score Composed by John

Mackey

Juba, Artistic Director Robert Battle’s first work for the Company, explores where ritual and folk traditions exist in today’s society, as four dancers engage in a modern day “Rite of Spring” with an abstract twist. An original score by John Mackey for string quartet and percussion drives the mood of this edgy, ritualistic work, called “electrifying” by *The New York Times*.

[Timeless Ailey](#)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Various Artists

This special program brings new vitality to over a dozen treasures from Mr. Ailey’s wonderfully rich body of work, including highlights of seldom-seen gems *Choral Dances*, *Mary Lou’s Mass*, and *The Lark Ascending* as well as perennial favorites like *Memoria*, *Night Creature*, and *Cry*. Act I excerpts: *Blues Suite* (1958), *Streams* (1970), *Pas de Duke* (1976), *Mary Lou’s Mass* (1971), *The Lark Ascending* (1972), *Hidden Rites* (1973), *Night Creature* (1974), and *Cry* (1971). Act II excerpts: *Phases* (1980), *Opus McShann* (1988), *For Bird – With Love* (1984), *Love Songs* (1984), *Memoria* (1979).

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."

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 scattling with lightning-fast, articulated movement in an irresistible tour-de-force that leaves audiences (and the dancers) breathless.

###

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.

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 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 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.