



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

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

THE AILEY SPIRIT GALA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE & PARTY AT LINCOLN CENTER SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS AND ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS, THURSDAY, JUNE 14 AT 7PM

Actor, Singer, and Activist Jussie Smollett to Serve as Honorary Chair

Evening Honors Board Member Jaishri Kapoor and Vikas Kapoor

David H. Koch Theater One-Night-Only Performance Features Rising Stars of Ailey II, The Ailey School and AileyCamp Alongside the World-Renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Soirée on the Promenade Follows with Spinning by DJs M.O.S. and Kiss

(NEW YORK, NY) May 14, 2018 – The centerpiece of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s Lincoln Center engagement is **The Ailey Spirit Gala** on **Thursday, June 14**. This one-night-only benefit performance and party honors Jaishri Kapoor and Vikas Kapoor for their remarkable support of the Ailey organization, their dedication to Ailey’s educational initiatives, and Jaishri’s leadership as an Ailey Trustee. The evening’s Honorary Chair is actor, singer, and activist Jussie Smollett, who stars on Fox’s *Empire* and recently released his debut album, *Sum of My Music*.

The evening will include the incomparable [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) in an excerpt of Jamar Roberts’ *Members Don’t Get Weary*; the rising stars of [Ailey II](#) in an excerpt of Juel D. Lane’s *Touch & Agree*; and gifted young dancers from [The Ailey School](#) showcasing their talents in Ailey Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#)’s *Battlefield*. In honor of the program’s 30th year, gifted students from [AileyCamp](#) will perform a hip-hop/modern fusion work by instructor Jonathan Lee and Ailey II’s Marcus Williams, dedicated to hip-hop legend Prodigy of Mobb Deep. An expanded cast of the present and future stars of Ailey will come together for a memorable finale of Alvin Ailey’s masterpiece, *Revelations*. A soirée on the promenade follows with dancing to the musical stylings of husband-and-wife duo DJ M.O.S. and DJ Kiss.

The Ailey Spirit Gala raises funds to support scholarships to The Ailey School and Ailey’s Arts In Education & Community Programs, including AileyCamp, an innovative, full-scholarship summer program that uses dance as a means to help inner-city youth stretch their minds, bodies, and spirits. Attendees will see the impact of their charitable giving firsthand as talented students from these programs take the stage. Gala Co-Chairs are **Stephen Meringoff & Kim Charlton, Almaz & Marc S. Strachan, and Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach**; and Vice Chairs are **Michele & Timothy Barakett, Robyn & N. Anthony Coles, Leslie & Tom Maheras, and Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer**. For tickets, visit [alvinailey.org/ailey-spirit-gala](#) or call 212-405-9031.

For more information on Ailey’s Lincoln Center engagement from June 13 – 17, click [here](#). Tickets for season performances start at \$29, and can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at [www.alvinailey.org](#).



Left to right: Jussie Smollett. Photo by Tarrice Love; Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* with a cast of 50, including students from The Ailey School. Photo by Christopher Duggan; AAADT’s Linda Celeste Sims. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Honorees Vikas and Jaishri Kapoor at the 2017 Ailey Spirit Gala. Photo courtesy of Ailey/DCP.

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo.

Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Spring Season.

Wells Fargo is the Opening Night Sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Spring Season.

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

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

Generous support for *EN* is provided, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The 2018 spring season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Complete Lincoln Center Season Programming – Subject to Change

Wednesday, 6/13 at 7:30pm, Saturday, 6/16 at 8pm: Celebrate Women: *EN / A Case of You, Shelter / Revelations*

Thursday, 6/14 at 7pm: The Ailey Spirit Gala: Performances by AileyCamp, The Ailey School, Ailey II, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Friday, 6/15 at 8pm, Sunday, 6/17 at 3pm: Ailey, Then & Now: *Stack-Up / Mass, In/Side / Revelations*

Saturday, 6/16 at 2pm*, Sunday, 6/17 at 7:30pm: Musical Icons: *Members Don't Get Weary / The Golden Section, Ella / Revelations*

**Family Matinee - followed by a post-performance Q&A session with the dancers*

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, **will present a seven-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater June 13 – 17, 2018, 60 years after the Company's founding.** Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory by eight choreographers featuring the world premiere of Jessica Lang's *En*, her Company choreographic debut. In addition to *EN*, the **Celebrate Women** program celebrates the work of groundbreaking female choreographers Judith Jamison (*A Case of You*) and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar (*Shelter*). The **Ailey, Then & Now** program highlights the work of visionary choreographers central to the Ailey repertory: Talley Beatty's *Stack-Up*, performed during his centennial, and Robert Battle's *Mass* and *In/Side*. **Musical Icons** features works set to music by legendary artists: Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary* (music by John Coltrane), Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section* (music by David Byrne), and Robert Battle's *Ella* (music by Ella Fitzgerald). Each program closes with an uplifting finale of *Revelations*, Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece. **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit performance on **Thursday, June 14**, features the world-renowned Ailey dancers, and appearances by the rising stars of Ailey II, gifted dancers from The Ailey School, and talented students from AileyCamp, followed by a soiree on the promenade. **Performance tickets starting at \$29 are on sale** and can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at alvinailey.org/LC. Student tickets *may* be available on the day of the performance for \$16 at the box office with a valid student ID (one per student – subject to availability). On Saturday, June 16, bring the whole family to enjoy the matinee and stay afterward for a free Q&A with the Ailey dancers in the theater. Additional discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by phone 212-405-9082 or e-mail groupsales@alvinailey.org. For further information about Ailey's performances, please visit www.alvinailey.org.

PRESS:

For additional press materials, please visit the links below or pressroom.alvinailey.org

[Photo/Video Document](#)

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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, 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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