



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contacts

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

Lauren Morrow: lmorrow@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9079

THE JOAN WEILL CENTER FOR DANCE 405 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019-4402 PH 212.405.9000 FX 212.405.9001 WWW.ALVINAILEY.ORG

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

Artistic Director Robert Battle Announces Exciting Highlights to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Lincoln Center Season June 13 - 17, 2018

"Celebrating *Revelations*" Plaza Workshop on Thursday, June 14 Kicks Off Free Classes & Workshops with NYC Dance Week (June 14-23) and SummerStage *Revelations* Workshops (June 22- Aug 16)

***Empire* Star Jussie Smollett is Honorary Chair of the Ailey Spirit Gala Benefit on Thursday, June 14**

Family Matinee Performance on Saturday, June 16 & Father's Day Performances on Sunday, June 17

Company Welcomes Three New Members:

Former Ailey II Dancers Khalia Campbell, Courtney Celeste Spears, and Christopher Wilson

Tickets Starting at \$29 are on sale now

New York – May 17, 2018 – Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) has announced exciting highlights to [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Lincoln Center season](#) at the David H. Koch Theater June 13 – 17. In addition to three diverse programs – Celebrate Women, Ailey, Then & Now, and Musical Icons – the engagement also includes The Ailey Spirit Gala benefit; three new Company dancers; and a series of activities for all as Ailey enters its sixth decade.

FREE EVENTS

"Celebrating *Revelations*" Workshop: Thursday, June 14 at 5:30pm – Josie Robertson Plaza (10 Lincoln Center Plaza)

On Thursday, June 14 at 5:30pm, a free **"Celebrating *Revelations*" workshop** takes place on Lincoln Center's Josie Robertson Plaza. Ailey Master Teacher and National Director of AileyCamp [Nasha Thomas](#) leads the workshop, and former Company dancer Michael Thomas will join her in teaching people of all ages and levels movement from Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece, and the world's best-known work of modern dance. This activity also kicks off a series of free **SummerStage *Revelations* workshops** taking place in parks throughout the city (Jun 22, Jul 13, Jul 27, Aug 10, Aug 16). Click [here](#) for SummerStage workshop details.



Revelations Celebration on the Lincoln Center Plaza.
Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.

NYC Dance Week: Thursday, June 14 – Saturday, June 23 – The Joan Weill Center for Dance (405 West 55th Street)

The free activities continue at Ailey's home – The Joan Weill Center for Dance – with **NYC Dance Week** (June 14 – 23), a citywide celebration during which Ailey Extension offers three free dance and fitness classes each day for new students. Techniques include Horton (the modern dance technique seen in *Revelations*), West African, hip-hop, ballet, Zumba, yoga, and more. In addition, Ailey Extension will offer two classes that will be free for all students, new and returning – **Latin Night with Katherine Jimenez on Saturday, June 16 at 4pm, and DanceFit with Karen Arceneaux on Friday, June 22 at 6pm.** Click [here](#) for the full schedule, and to register.

THE AILEY SPIRIT GALA BENEFIT

On **Thursday, June 14 at 7pm**, all parts of the organization take the Lincoln Center stage during **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit performance. Honorary Chair for the evening is actor, singer, and activist **Jussie Smollett**, who stars on Fox's *Empire* and recently released his debut album, *Sum of My Music*. Along with the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the one-night-only benefit performance will include the rising stars of Ailey II, gifted young dancers from The Ailey School, and blossoming students from AileyCamp, and culminates with a *Revelations* finale. Honoring Board member Jaishri Kapoor and Vikas Kapoor, the evening will raise vital funds to support scholarships for talented students of The Ailey School and Ailey's extensive Arts In Education & Community Programs. A soiree on the promenade follows the performance. Tickets are available online at alvinailey.org/ailey-spirit-gala or by calling 212-405-9031. Click [here](#) for the complete press release.



Jussie Smollett.
Photo by Tarrice Love.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES FOR THE FAMILY

Family Matinee – Saturday, June 16 at 2pm

Following the **Musical Icons** Saturday matinee program, the entire family is invited to stay in the theater for a **free Q&A with the Ailey dancers**, moderated by Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist [Matthew Rushing](#).

Father's Day – Sunday, June 17 at 3pm and 7:30pm

Two exciting Sunday programs offer an unforgettable Father's Day experience. At **3pm**, enjoy the **Ailey, Then & Now** program, featuring works by choreographers central to the Ailey repertory; at **7:30pm**, the **Musical Icons** program is sure to move the whole family with ballets set to music by legendary artists.

NEW DANCERS

This season the Company welcomes three former Ailey II dancers who also attended The Ailey School, two as part of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program – which is heading into its 20th year. Born and bred in Bronx, NY, [Khalia Campbell](#) just finished her second year with Ailey II, and was a scholarship student at The Ailey School. [Courtney Celeste Spears](#), who was born in the Bahamas and raised in Baltimore, MD, is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program, and was the recipient of a 2015 Princess Grace Award. An August, GA native, [Christopher R. Wilson](#) was a scholarship student in the Ailey/Fordham BFA program and just completed his second year with Ailey II.

Throughout the engagement audiences can experience the grace and power of Ailey's 32 incredible dancers on three dynamic programs. **Celebrate Women** (Wed, 6/13 at 7:30pm, Sat, 6/16 at 8pm) features works by three trailblazing female choreographers – Jessica Lang's Ailey choreographic debut, [EN](#); Judith Jamison's emotional and sensual [A Case of You](#) duet; and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's gripping portrait of homelessness, [Shelter](#). **Ailey, Then & Now** (Fri, June 15 at 8pm, Sun 6/17 at 3pm) highlights visionaries whose work is central to the Ailey repertory – **Talley Betty's** sizzling [Stack-Up](#), set to 1970s music (Earth, Wind & Fire and more); and Artistic Director **Robert Battle's** striking [Mass](#), and emotional [In/Side](#), set to Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind." **Musical Icons** (Sat, 6/16 at 2pm, Sun, 6/17 at 7:30pm) is sure to move audiences with a series of works featuring music by legendary artists – **Twyla Tharp's** breathtaking [The Golden Section](#), set to a rocking David Byrne score; Ailey dancer [Jamar Roberts'](#) critically-acclaimed [Members Don't Get Weary](#), with music by John Coltrane; and **Battle's** tour-de-force duet [Ella](#), set to Ella Fitzgerald's virtuosic scatting. Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece [Revelations](#) is the uplifting finale of each performance.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and American modern dance tradition. 60 years after its founding, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing once again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world's most beloved dance companies.

Click [here](#) for the complete Lincoln Center engagement press release.

Tickets for the Lincoln Center engagement starting at \$29 can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, and online at alvinailey.org/LC. For further information about discounts for groups, students, and Ailey's tour performances, please visit www.alvinailey.org. **The program schedule is detailed below.**

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* is 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.

Ailey Extension at NYC Dance Week is sponsored by TD Bank.

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

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.



(L to R) Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacquelin Harris. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Yannick Lebrun in Talley Beatty's *Stack-Up*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. **CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD** - Please Credit Photos

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: Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section* (music by David Byrne), Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary* (music by John Coltrane), 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 soirée 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.

Programming – Subject to Change

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

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

Fri, 6/15 at 8:00pm & Sunday, 6/17 at 3pm: Ailey, Then & Now: *Stack-Up / Mass, In/Side / Revelations*

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

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

PRESS:

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

[Photo/Video Document](#)

[Sizzle Reel For Broadcast](#)

[Electronic Press Kit](#)

WORLD PREMIERES

[EN](#) (World Premiere)

Choreography by Jessica Lang

Music: Jakub Ciupinski

Jessica Lang, a 2014 New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award and 2017 Arison Award recipient, makes her choreographic debut on the Ailey company with the world premiere *EN*, her 100th ballet. *EN* – whose multiple meanings in Japanese signify circle, destiny, fate and karma – is a celebratory ensemble work set to original music by composer Jakub Ciupinski, with costumes by Bradon McDonald. According to Lang, the work “reflects on the universal experience of coming full circle and, as time passes, we recognize the people we meet along life’s journey who play a part in the fate and destiny of our lives.” Artistic Director of Jessica Lang Dance since 2011, Lang has created original works for major companies around the world like American Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Joffrey Ballet and National Ballet of Japan. Lang’s choreography has demonstrated a breathtaking range of influences, including interests in visual art, theatrical lyricism, the geometry of the human body, and the nuances of bodily gesture.

[Members Don’t Get Weary](#) (2017 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.

2017-18 SEASON 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, Victor See Yuen

Urban Bush Women founder Jawole Willa Jo Zollar’s *Shelter* is a gripping portrait of homelessness. Set to an inventive score that incorporates drumming by Junior “Gabu” Wedderburn and poetry by Hattie Gossett and Laurie Carlos, the work includes 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 & Fire, Grover Washington, Jr., Fearless Four, Alphonze Mouzon

Set to the background of a throbbing 1970s beat (Earth, Wind & Fire, Grover Washington Jr., Fearless Four, and Alphonze Mouzon) and a graffiti landscape décor adapted from a painting by artist Romare Bearden, patrons in a crowded disco dance with attitude, sass, and fierce despair in this classic work by Talley Beatty, which was restaged in conjunction with his 2018 birth centennial. 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, breakdancing, and physical pyrotechnics as an aloof drug pusher and two displaced lovers are destined for collision.

RETURNING FAVORITES

[A Case of You](#) (excerpt from *Reminiscein’* – 2005 / New Production – 2015)

Choreography by Judith Jamison

Music: Joni Mitchell, Performed by Diana Krall

A Case of You is an emotional and sensual duet by Judith Jamison, performed to Diana Krall’s version of Joni Mitchell’s song by the same title. The duet was originally created in 2004 as a birthday tribute to Chairman Emerita Joan Weill and premiered publicly the following year as part of Ms. Jamison’s larger work, *Reminiscein’*, inspired by Edward Hopper’s famous painting *Nighthawks* and great female jazz artists.

[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 for the Ailey company. 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.

[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. Battle’s bold, unrestrained signature style 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]

[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.

SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE

[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 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.”

All Programming – Subject to Change

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.

###