

AILEY II – THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE – SETS OUT ON A WORLD TOUR AS AILEY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BEGINS

NEW COMMISSIONS INCLUDE WORLD PREMIERES BY URI SANDS, BRADLEY SHELVER, AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TROY POWELL, PLUS A COMPANY PREMIERE BY ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE

(New York) September 13, 2017 – As the “**Ailey Ascending**” 60th Anniversary celebration gets underway, Ailey II embarks on a **38-city world tour** this **Saturday, September 15**, continuing through May 18 (schedule on page 3). The renowned 12-member ensemble will inspire audiences in nearly two dozen cities across the U.S., including a stop in **Atlanta** as part of Ailey’s **Destination Dance** initiative, which uses dance as a centerpiece for engagement through partnerships with cultural, civic, and educational institutions. Ailey II will reach international audiences in **Canada, Poland, Germany, France and Luxembourg**, and will return home for its annual **New York season**, taking place at **NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts March 13 – 17, 2019**.

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. One of the most popular dance companies in the country, Ailey II combines a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. In his seventh year as **Artistic Director, Troy Powell** announces four exciting new commissions.

“This is a special year for the Ailey organization,” said Powell. “As the second company joins in Ailey’s 60th Anniversary celebration, it seems only fitting to bring in works by choreographers from the Ailey family – Uri Sands, Bradley Shelver, Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle, and myself.”

Uri Sands, in collaboration with the dancers of Ailey II, created ***Tracking Suffering Smiling***, a work that braids together ballet, modern, and urban dance techniques. The soundtrack, ranging from The O’Jays to Pharrell and Snoop Dogg, underscores the powerful movement which examines racial, sexual, and economic divisions in our world today.

South African-born Bradley Shelver’s high-energy ***Where There Are Tongues*** is inspired by the idea that we are all in this world together, succeeding or failing as a collective. The rhythmically complex music, by French a cappella group Lo Còr De La Plana, couples with Shelver’s quirky style to make dance theater that will set pulses racing.

An early signature work by Robert Battle, ***Flock*** depicts a community of believers under the control of a charismatic but flawed leader. The percussive score, composed by the Scottish virtuoso Evelyn Glennie, delivers intense emotions that mirror Battle’s distinctive, hard-hitting choreography.

Troy Powell’s picturesque duet ***Ebb and Flow*** – set to Samuel Barber’s most famous work, “Adagio for Strings” – calls to mind the rush and calm of the ocean tide. This non-narrative work matches the emotional impact of Barber’s lyrical music as two beings come together as one.

“I had the pleasure of dancing with Uri Sands in Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the ‘90s, a time during which the Company went on a historic tour to South Africa. While there, then-Artistic Director Judith Jamison handpicked Bradley Shelver from an outreach activity to receive a scholarship to The Ailey School, where he attended before joining Ailey II. Both men have become outstanding choreographers, and I’m proud to welcome them home. I’m also thrilled to bring another breathtaking work by Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle into the repertory. And of course, after six years, I’m excited to unveil my first world premiere since becoming the Artistic Director of this extraordinary company.”

Part of Ailey II's tour will include a stop in Atlanta, where they will perform on **Friday, October 19** at 8pm at **Providence Missionary Baptist Church** as part of the **ELEVATE festival**, and at **The Rialto Center for the Arts** on **Saturday, October 20** at 8pm. Additionally, on Friday, October 19 at **Auburn Avenue Research Library**, Ailey and Hammonds House will present "**Movement in Focus: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on Film**," a screening of 2015's Lincoln Center at the Movies film, followed by a **Q&A with Troy Powell** moderated by WABE 90.1 FM host Rose Scott. All of these events are part of **Destination Dance**, the Ailey organization's initiative to collaborate with Atlanta's arts and civic organizations through workshops, master classes, performances, special events, and more. Destination Dance activities taking place in advance of Ailey II's performances include an AileyDance for Active Seniors workshop, a weeklong Arts In Education *Revelations* Residency at two Atlanta public schools, an Ailey Extension Horton workshop, and more. For more details on these activities, visit Destination.Dance.

In addition, six new dancers – [Grace Bergonzi](#), [Leonardo Brito](#), [Caroline Theodora Dartey](#), [Amarachi Valentina Korie](#), [Alisha Rena Peek](#), and [Marcel Wilson, Jr.](#) – join the six returning members – [Antuan Byers](#), [Kyle H. Martin](#), [Corrin Rachele Mitchell](#), [Adrien Picaut](#), [Arianna Salerno](#), and [Marcus Williams](#). Along with the three world premieres, Ailey II's touring repertory will include *Breaking Point* by Renee McDonald, *Circular* by Jae Man Joo, *Road To One* by Darrell Grand Moultrie, *Touch & Agree* by Juel D. Lane, *Virtues* by Amy Hall Garner, and additional works by members of the Ailey family – *Gêmeos* by Ailey star Jamar Roberts, *Stream of Consciousness* by former Ailey dancer Marcus Willis, *The Hunt and Takademe* by Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle, and *Revelations* – the must-see masterpiece by Alvin Ailey himself. For more information on the tour, visit alvinailey.org.

Please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org for bios, hi-res downloadable photos and b-roll.

Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta is sponsored by Georgia Power, The Home Depot Foundation, Georgia-Pacific, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, and Lockheed Martin.

About Ailey II

Ailey II – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's second company – is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Founded in 1974 as a bridge between The Ailey School and the professional dance world, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Ailey II flourished into one of the most popular dance companies in the country under the leadership of Sylvia Waters from 1974-2012, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. With Artistic Director Troy Powell at the helm, Ailey II continues to thrive as he brings a fresh dimension to this beloved company.

– See page 3 for Ailey II's complete 2018-19 tour schedule –

AILEY II

Troy Powell Artistic Director

Ailey II's 2018-19 Tour Schedule

(As of 9.13.2018 – Subject to Change)

FALL 2018

Sep. 15	Towson, MD	Stephens Hall Theatre at Towson University
Oct. 9*	St. John, NB, Canada	Imperial Theatre
Oct. 10*	Moncton, NB, Canada	Capitol Theatre Moncton
Oct. 11*	Fredericton, NB, Canada	Fredericton Playhouse
Oct. 13	Manchester, NH	The Dana Center
Oct. 16	Sumter, SC	Patriot Hall
Oct. 19	Atlanta, GA	ELEVATE Festival: Providence Baptist Church
Oct. 20	Atlanta, GA	The Rialto Center for the Arts at GSU
Oct. 21	Newberry, SC	Newberry Opera House
Oct. 23	Salisbury, MD	Holloway Hall Auditorium
Oct. 27	Eau Claire, WI	Pablo Center for the Arts – Univ. of WI, Eau Claire
Oct. 28	Platteville, WI	Brodbeck Concert Hall – Univ. of WI, Platteville
Oct. 30	Columbia, MO	University of Missouri
Nov. 2	Wichita, KS	Crown Uptown Theatre
Nov. 4	Iowa City, IA	Englert Theatre
Nov. 6	Columbus, OH	Capitol Theatre
Nov. 10	Henderson, KY	Preston Arts Center
Nov. 17-18*	Lublin Poland	International Meetings of Dance Theaters
Nov. 21*	Fulda, Germany	SchlossTheatre Fulda
Nov. 24*	Neuss, Germany	Stadhalle Theater

WINTER/SPRING 2019

Jan. 13*	Esch, Luxemburg	Théâtre de la Ville d'Esch
Jan. 15*	Leverkusen, Germany	Forum (Großer Saal)
Jan. 17*	Cesson- Sévigné, France	Pont des Arts
Jan. 19*	Mougins, France	Scène 55
Jan. 22*	Avignon, France	Opéra Grand Avignon
Jan. 25-26*	Schweinfurt, Germany	Theater Schweinfurt
Feb. 9	Texarkana, TX	Perot Theatre
Feb. 13	Lafayette, LA	Heymann Performing Arts Center
Feb. 15	Stillwater, OK	Seretan Concert Hall
Feb. 16	Edmond, OK	Mitchell Hall Theatre
Feb. 19	Albuquerque, NM	Popejoy Hall
Feb. 22	Reno, NV	Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts
Feb. 23	Modesto, CA	Gallow Center for the Arts
Feb. 24	Fresno, CA	Tower Theatre
Feb. 26	Malibu, CA	Smothers Theatre – Pepperdine University
Mar. 2-3	Tacoma, WA	Pantages Theater
Mar. 13-17	New York, NY	NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts
May 10-11*	Terrassa, Spain	Centre Cultural de Terrassa
May 13-18*	Lyon, France	Maison de la Danse

**International tour dates*