

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ailey Contacts:

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

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

Polskin Arts & Communications Counselors Contact:

Megan V. Sprenger, sprengerm@finnpartners.com / 212-593-5889

**Ailey Ascending 60th Anniversary Celebration Continues with *Choreography Unlocked*
October 12-14 & 26 – 28**

Two-Weekend Festival Designed to Foster Community and Creativity Includes:

A Series of Panel Discussions Featuring Robert Battle, Ronald K. Brown, Thelma Golden, Rennie Harris, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Dianne McIntyre, Matthew Rushing, Judy Hussie Taylor, Shanta Thake, Darren Walker, Eva Yaa Asantewaa & Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Performances of Works by New Directions Choreography Lab Alumni Camille A. Brown, Juel D. Lane & Netta Yerushalmy

A Public Workshop Led by Robert Battle

Private Workshops Led by Matthew Rushing and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Tickets Now on Sale

September 25, 2018 (NEW YORK CITY) —As part of the “Ailey Ascending” 60th Anniversary celebration, the [Choreography Unlocked Festival](#) of performance, conversation, and master classes will take place at Ailey’s home across two weekends – **October 12 – 14 & 26- 28**. Building on the success of the **New Directions Choreography Lab**, created by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director **Robert Battle** in 2011, the festival will elevate The Joan Weill Center for Dance’s role in the community as a hub for creating and presenting new work and fostering the next generation of choreographers.

Leaders from the arts world will come together for a series of enlightening panel discussions taking place across both festival weekends. On **Friday, October 12 at 6pm** choreographer **Ronald K. Brown** will interview Robert Battle about the choreographic process in [Unlocking the Mystery of Choreography](#). **Saturday, October 13** welcomes Battle back as the moderator of a **4pm** [Nurturing New Voices](#) conversation about how institutions can encourage emerging artists across genres, featuring panelists **Thelma Golden** (Director and Chief Curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem), **Rennie Harris** (Founder of Rennie Harris Puremovement, Ailey’s 2018-19 Artist-in-Residence), **Tarell Alvin McCraney** (Oscar-winning co-writer of *Moonlight*, Chair of Playwriting at the Yale School of Drama), **Shanta Thake** (Senior Director of Artistic Programs at the Public Theater), and **Darren Walker** (President of The Ford Foundation).

On **Friday, October 12** and **Saturday, October 13** (both at **8pm**) [Choreography Unlocked performances](#) will bring works by New Directions alumni **Netta Yerushalmy**, **Juel D. Lane**, and **Camille A. Brown** to the **Ailey Citigroup Theater** stage. Yerushalmy’s ensemble work *PICTORGRAMS* will be performed; followed by a solo and duet from Lane’s 2017 work for Ailey II, *Touch & Agree*, and his dance film, *Daydream*; and the evening will culminate with Brown performing a solo from her work *Mr. Tol E. RAnCE*. Each work will be introduced through a brief conversation with Battle and the choreographer.

On **Friday, October 26 at 12pm**, New Directions alumni and invited choreographers will hear **Battle** and **Judy Hussie Taylor** (Danspace Project Executive Director and Chief Curator) discuss how they process choreography. The panels conclude on **Saturday, October 27** with an **8pm** [Process and Research](#) panel moderated by **Hussie Taylor**, featuring **Dianne McIntyre** (Choreography Fellows Program Director at Jacob’s Pillow), **Matthew Rushing** (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Rehearsal Director & Guest Artist), **Eva Yaa Asantewaa** (Senior Curatorial Director, Gibney), and **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar** (Urban Bush Women Founder), about the role research plays in the process of creating art.

The public will have the rare opportunity to learn choreography from Ailey’s Artistic Director when [Robert Battle teaches an Ailey Extension Choreography Workshop](#) on **Sunday, October 14** at 12pm. Private learning activities include **workshops** for students from The Ailey School’s Professional Division led by **Matthew Rushing** on **Friday, October 12 at 1:30pm** and **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar** on **Friday, October 26 at 2pm**; and workshops led by Zollar (through Urban Bush Women’s Choreography Institute Initiative) for New Directions alumni and invited choreographers on **Saturday, October 27 at 4pm** and **Sunday, October 28 at 3pm**.

For tickets and registration to Choreography Unlocked activities, visit alvinailey.org/choreography-unlocked-festival or call OvationTix at 866-811-4111.

Choreography Unlocked is part of a yearlong celebration in honor of Alvin Ailey’s pioneering legacy and enduring vision. This landmark year includes Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s New York City Center season November 28 – December 30, Ailey Legacy Panels taking place throughout New York City, and more.

For the complete “Ailey Ascending” 60th Anniversary press release, click [here](#).

Choreography Unlocked Festival Schedule - The Joan Weill Center for Dance (405 West 55th Street)

WEEKEND 1	WEEKEND 2
<p><u>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12</u> 1:30pm – Master Choreography Workshop for The Ailey School’s Professional Division led by Matthew Rushing Closed*</p> <p>6pm – Ronald K. Brown in Conversation with Robert Battle: <i>Unlocking the Mystery of Choreography</i> \$10; Ticket package with conversation and 8pm performance: \$35</p> <p>8pm – Performance: <i>PICTOGRAMS</i> by Netta Yerushalmy, <i>Touch & Agree</i> (excerpts) and <i>Daydream</i> by Juel D. Lane, <i>Mr. Tol E. RAnCE</i> by Camille A. Brown \$30; Ticket package with 6pm conversation and performance: \$35</p> <p><u>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13</u> 4pm – Panel Discussion: <i>Nurturing New Voices</i> – Thelma Golden, Rennie Harris, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Shanta Thake, and Darren Walker, moderated by Robert Battle \$20; Ticket package with conversation and 8pm performance: \$45</p> <p>8pm – Performance: <i>PICTOGRAMS</i> by Netta Yerushalmy, <i>Touch & Agree</i> (excerpts) and <i>Daydream</i> by Juel D. Lane, <i>Mr. Tol E. RAnCE</i> by Camille A. Brown \$30; Ticket package with 6pm conversation and performance: \$45</p> <p><u>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14</u> 12pm – Robert Battle Workshop at Ailey Extension \$40</p>	<p><u>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26</u> 12pm – Conversation with Robert Battle and Judy Hussie Taylor Closed*</p> <p>2pm – Master Choreography Workshop for The Ailey School’s Professional Division led by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar Closed*</p> <p><u>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27</u> 4pm – Master Choreography Workshop for NDCL alumni and invited choreographers led by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar Closed*</p> <p>8pm – Panel Discussion: <i>Process and Research</i> – Dianne McIntyre, Matthew Rushing, Eva Yaa Asantewaa, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, moderated by Judy Hussie Taylor FREE</p> <p><u>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28</u> 3pm – Master Choreography Workshop for NDCL alumni and invited choreographers led by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar Closed*</p> <p><i>*These events are not open to the public.</i></p>

Lead support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s 60th Anniversary is provided by Emily and Len Blavatnik.

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Additional support for the Choreography Unlocked festival provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance.

About the New Directions Choreography Lab

Robert Battle created the New Directions Choreography Lab in 2011, during his first year as Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, to serve the entire field of dance. The program assists choreographers in developing their craft by granting resident fellowships to four emerging and mid-career artists. The selected choreographers receive a monetary stipend, creative mentorships, the opportunity to utilize dancers from The Ailey School, and rehearsal time at Ailey's home – The Joan Weill Center for Dance. Unlike other programs that require the production and presentation of a final performance or commission, Ailey's lab enables choreographers to focus solely on the process of choreography as a creative experience, free from restricting expectations or deadlines. The 2018-19 fellows and mentors are Kyle Marshall and Rennie Harris; Davalois Fearon and Gus Solomons, Jr.; Yusha Sorzano and Charmaine Warren; and Bryn Cohn and Joanna Koetze.

About Ailey's 60th Anniversary

When **Alvin Ailey** and a small group of African American modern dancers first took the stage in 1958, appearing at New York City's 92nd Street Y, 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. This fall the organization that Mr. Ailey founded is honoring his pioneering legacy and carrying it forward with a *60th Anniversary celebration* titled *Ailey Ascending*. In the spirit of Mr. Ailey's belief that "dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people," the celebration will include the *Choreography Unlocked Festival* of performance, conversation and master classes; exceptional discussions and legacy panels at partner institutions throughout New York City; a momentous New York City Center Season of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, November 28 through December 30; national and international tours by the first company and Ailey II, and more.

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 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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