

60
YEARS
AILEY
ASCENDING



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

AILEY II | THE AILEY SCHOOL | AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS | AILEY EXTENSION
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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S AILEY ASCENDING 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION INCLUDES A RETURN TO ATLANTA'S FABULOUS FOX THEATRE FEBRUARY 21-24, 2019 AS PART OF A 21-CITY NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

Engagement Includes Premieres by Ronald K. Brown, Ailey Star Jamar Roberts, and Rennie Harris – *Lazarus*, the Company's First Two-Act Ballet – Plus a New Production by Robert Battle, and a *Timeless Ailey* Program of Rarely Seen Gems by the Legendary Founder

Tickets Starting at \$29 Now on Sale!

ATLANTA – Updated January 24, 2019 –Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to the **Fabulous Fox Theatre, February 21 – 24, 2019**, as part of a 60th Anniversary North American tour, for six breathtaking performances that promise to uplift, unite and enlighten. Ailey's 32 incomparable dancers invite Atlantans to join in a celebration of Mr. Ailey through a variety of works celebrating his life and legacy. The engagement also includes a **Family Matinee** program on Saturday, February 23 at 2 p.m., which features a post-performance Q&A with the dancers.

The opening night ***Trailblazers*** program on Thursday, February 21 features ***Lazarus***, a world premiere by hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris and the Company's first two-act ballet. Inspired by Mr. Ailey and addressing the racial inequities our nation has faced, both in 1958 when the company was founded and today, *Lazarus* is an ensemble work featuring a soundtrack that melds Nina Simone, Terrence Trent D'Arby, Michael Kiwanuka, Odetta, original music by Darrin Ross, and the voice of Alvin Ailey. The opening performance is also **WSB-TV's Family 2 Family Night**, hosted by anchor **Jovita Moore**. The *Trailblazers* program repeats on Sat., Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. (hosted by KISS 2014.1 FM).

The ***Heart and Soul*** program on **Friday, February 22 at 8pm** includes three exciting works: Ailey star Jamar Roberts' ***Member Don't Get Weary***, created to powerful music of jazz legend John Coltrane "as a response to the current social landscape in America;" 2018 Dance Magazine Award recipient Ronald K. Brown's world premiere ***The Call***, a quintet that seamlessly blends modern and West African dance styles in a joyous dance celebrating Mr. Ailey's guiding vision; and the return of the electrifying ***Juba***, Robert Battle's first work choreographed for the Company back in 2003. This evening will be hosted by **V-103**. The ***Heart and Soul*** program repeats on Saturday, February 23 at 2p.m (Family Matinee performance by a Q&A with Ailey dancers).

For one performance only, the ***Timeless Ailey*** program will bring over a dozen treasures from Mr. Ailey's rich body of work to the Atlanta stage on Sunday, February 24 at 3 p.m. Excerpts from rarely seen gems, including *Streams*, *Opus McShann*, *The Lark Ascending*, *For "Bird" – With Love*, will be joined by perennial favorites like *Memoria*, *Night Creature*, and *Cry*.

The uplifting finale of each program will be Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece ***Revelations***, which has been seen by more audiences around the world than any other modern work. 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. The American masterpiece was choreographed in 1960 when Alvin Ailey was only 29 years old and is as relevant now as ever.

“I am thrilled to bring our 60th Anniversary celebration to Atlanta, a city that has long embraced Alvin Ailey, whose pioneering vision opened the hearts and minds of people of every background and elevated the world of the performing arts,” said Robert Battle. “During this milestone season, we honor Alvin Ailey’s storied legacy with dynamic performances, educational programs that enlighten young people, and the development of the next generation of performing artists. What Mr. Ailey gave us is more than a repertory and a tradition. It is a movement, a direction, a desire, a conviction that if the spirit is to live it must rise. We dedicate our 60th Anniversary to the next ascent.”

In 1958, Alvin Ailey and a small group of dancers took the stage in New York and forever changed American dance and culture. One of the country’s groundbreaking greats, his Company inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the modern dance tradition. 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.

Tickets, starting at \$29, are now on sale at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltix.com or by calling 855-285-8499. Atlantans can take advantage of a special ticket offers for students, groups, and the Saturday matinee and Sunday evening performances. See page 3 for details.

Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta

In addition to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s captivating live performances, the Ailey organization is also excited for the continuation of [Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta](#). This year’s activities include:

- [Ailey Experience](#), Saturday, February 16 – Sunday, February 17 at Charles R. Drew Charter School: Ailey instructors and former Company dancers – including Ailey Extension Director Lisa Johnson-Willingham will lead workshops that teach students the rich history of Ailey’s signature style.
- [The Ailey School Auditions](#), Sunday, February 24 at 12 p.m. (ages 11-15) and 2 p.m. (ages 16-25) at Atlanta Ballet: Students can audition for the 2019 Summer Intensive and the 2019-2020 academic program.
- [Atlanta Ballet’s AileyCamp](#) May 31 – July 6, 2019, location to be announced: A summer program that helps underserved youth reach their full potential. Alumni from AileyCamp Atlanta are invited to the Fox Theatre on Saturday, February 23 for a reunion followed by the 8 p.m. performance.

As the choreographer and cultural leader Alvin Ailey said, “Dance came from the people, and it should always be delivered back to the people.” The goal of **Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta** is to engage Atlanta’s vibrant cultural community through partnerships between Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – which has been performing in the city since the 1970s – and Atlanta-based cultural, civic and educational organizations.

For more information on Ailey’s upcoming performances, visit www.alvinailey.org. For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

Bank of America is the Ailey Tour Sponsor during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s 2019 engagement in Atlanta, GA.

The creation of Members Don’t Get Weary was 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.

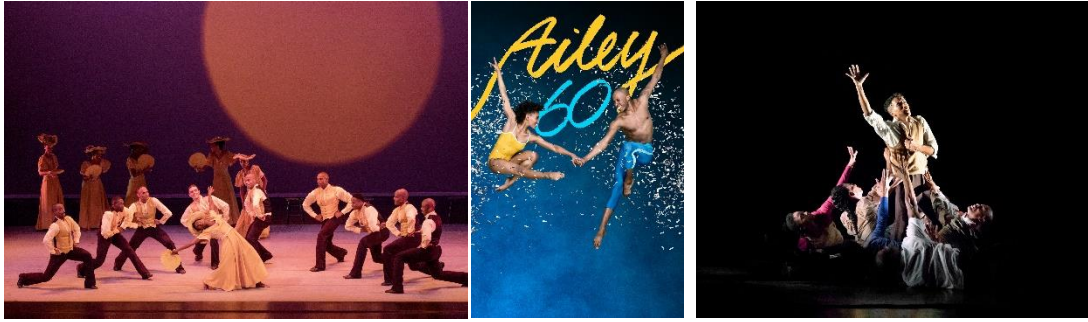
Additional commissioning support for Lazarus provided by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

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

Georgia Power and The Home Depot Foundation are Platinum Circle Sponsors of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.

Georgia-Pacific is a Gold Circle Sponsor of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.

**The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is a Silver Circle Sponsor of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.
The 2019 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.**



(L to R); AAADT in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Samantha Figgins and Jeroboam Bozeman. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT in Rennie Harris' *Lazarus*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. Please credit photos. [Ctrl+Click for high-res download](#).

Calendar Listing Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's breathtaking and beloved dancers return to center stage at the Fox Theatre February 21 – 24, 2019, with premieres, new productions and *Revelations* for six audience-captivating performances only. Tickets, starting at \$29, are available at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltix.com or by calling 855-285-8499.

Ailey's 2019 Atlanta Engagement Performance dates and times:

Thursday, February 21 at 8 p.m. - **Trailblazers:** *Lazarus / Revelations* (WSB Family 2 Family Night with Jovita Moore)

Friday, February 22 at 8 p.m. - **Heart and Soul:** *Members Don't Get Weary / The Call, Juba / Revelations* (hosted by V-103)

Saturday, February 23 at 2 p.m.* - **Heart and Soul:** *Members Don't Get Weary / The Call, Juba / Revelations*

Saturday, February 23 at 8 p.m. – **Trailblazers:** *Lazarus / Revelations*

Sunday, February 24 at 3 p.m. - **Timeless Ailey:** Special Program of Ailey excerpts / *Revelations*

Sunday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. - **Trailblazers:** *Lazarus / Revelations* (hosted by KISS 104.1 FM)

**Family Matinee followed by free Q&A with the dancers*

Tickets

[Tickets for Ailey's 2019 Atlanta engagement](#) from February 21 to 24 are on sale starting at \$29 at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltix.com or by calling 855-285-8499.

- **Buy one get one 50% off** for Saturday matinee performance and Sunday evening performance (up to 8 tickets).
- Ailey audiences can bring their ticket to the **National Center for Civil and Human Rights** for **20% off admission** from 2/21-28, and Center visitors can **buy one ticket get one 50% off** for the Saturday matinee and Sunday evening performances with code CCHR.
- Receive \$10 off tickets to the Thu., Feb. 21 **WSB Family 2 Family** performance using code Fam2Fam.
- **Student tickets** are available for all performances except Saturday, February 23 at 2 p.m. for \$15 or two for \$25 with a valid student ID. Tickets must be purchased at the Fox Theatre box office (limit two per ID and subject to availability).
- **Groups of 10 or more can receive up to 30% off by calling 404-881-2000.**

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.

About Destination Dance

Using dance as the centerpiece for engagement, the partner organizations present performances, classes and workshops for the public, education programs in schools, conversations with artists and civic leaders, and more. Destination Dance “connects the dots” between these various activities, bringing together all aspects of the organization (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, Ailey Extension, and Ailey Arts In Education – including AileyCamp), and current partners AREA (Atlanta’s Resource for Entertainment & Arts), Atlanta Ballet & Atlanta Ballet Centre for Dance Education, Atlanta public and private schools, Cultural Experience Project / Atlanta’s Office of Cultural Affairs, Dance Canvas, ELEVATE Public Art Festival / Atlanta’s Office of Cultural Affairs, The Fox Theatre, The Gathering Spot, Hammonds House Museum, High Museum of Art, National Black Arts Festival, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Reigning Victory Dance Studio, and Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University. For more information, visit Destination.Dance.

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