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# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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

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

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Press Contacts

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

Tracy Severe: tsevere@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9032

## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON DECEMBER 4, 2019 – JANUARY 5, 2020

**Artistic Director Robert Battle Leads the Company in Five-Week Holiday Engagement Featuring  
More than Two Dozen Dynamic Works and a Series of Special Programs**

**Opening Night Gala Benefit on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Honors  
Elaine Wynn and the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation**

**World Premieres by Donald Byrd and Ailey's First Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts**

**Company Premieres of Aszure Barton's *BUSK* and Camille A. Brown's *City of Rain* and  
New Productions of Judith Jamison's *Divining* and Lar Lubovitch's *Fandango***

**Special Evenings Celebrate The Ailey School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and  
Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

***Tickets starting at \$29 are on sale now!***

**NEW YORK – UPDATED October 24, 2019 — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://www.alvinailey.org)**, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company, returns to the theater's stage from **December 4, 2019 – January 5, 2020**. Artistic Director **Robert Battle** leads Ailey's 32 extraordinary dancers during this annual five-week engagement, which has become a joyous holiday tradition. The repertory features more than two dozen diverse works by some of the world's preeminent choreographers, including world premieres by **Donald Byrd** and Ailey dancer and newly announced **Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts**, company premieres by **Aszure Barton** and **Camille A. Brown**, and new productions by **Judith Jamison** and **Lar Lubovitch**.

"I'm not only excited about this season's topical works and the range of choreographers, but also that Jamar Roberts is now Ailey's first-ever Resident Choreographer" **stated Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "Continuing the Company's legacy of excellence, works will be staged by three dance masters while we also showcase the artistry of some of today's most sought-after choreographers following in their footsteps. We will also celebrate Masazumi Chaya, the untiring and unmatched keeper of the flame whose dedication to Alvin Ailey's vision spans nearly five decades, as well as The Ailey School for fifty years of world-class training that has developed countless performing artists. And we're happy to kick off the season honoring Elaine Wynn at the Opening Night Gala, as her support led to our building's expansion, allowing the organization – especially The Ailey School – to grow and thrive."

Ailey's **December 4<sup>th</sup> Opening Night Gala Benefit** performance at New York City Center and party at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom honors philanthropist Elaine Wynn and the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation. Wynn's generous contributions have supported the creation of new works as well as the Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing, which added three floors – featuring four dance studios and two classrooms – to The Joan Weill Center for Dance in 2017. The evening raises funds to support the creation of new works and Ailey's extensive educational and training programs for young people. The one-night-only performance features two Merce Cunningham Centennial Solo – the

first time this landmark choreographer's work will be seen on the Ailey stage – special season excerpts, and an uplifting [Revelations](#) finale featuring live musicians and singers.

Celebrated choreographer **Donald Byrd**, an “unabashed eclectic” (*The New York Times*) known for his creation of compelling characters and exploring complex societal issues through dance, will present his fifth premiere for the Company on **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. A TONY nominee (*The Color Purple*), Bessie Award-winner (*The Minstrel Show*) and **2019 Doris Duke Artist Award** recipient, Byrd draws on the 1921 Tulsa riots as a main source for [Greenwood](#), a powerful ensemble work set to music by Israeli violist and composer Emmanuel Witzthum. Using dance to navigate through one of the worst incidents of racial violence in US history and explore the story through different lenses of those who were affected, builds upon Ailey's theatrical roots and legacy of shining a spotlight on social issues.

The following week, on **Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**, Ailey dancer **Jamar Roberts** will unveil [Ode](#), the first in a series of three works as he steps into the new role of **Resident Choreographer**. Like his critically-acclaimed *Members Don't Get Weary* (2017), this work for six dancers will feature a jazz score – Don Pullen's “Suite (Sweet) Malcolm (Part 1 Memories and Gunshots).” *Ode* offers a meditation on the beauty and fragility of life in a time of growing gun violence and will include Roberts' own costume designs. The work will be explored during a special [Works & Process](#) preview event at the Guggenheim on Monday, November 18. A member of the Company since 2002, Roberts has become renowned for his powerful performances on world stages, including at The White House and as a guest star with London's Royal Ballet, receiving the prestigious New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” award for Outstanding Performer.

The December 10<sup>th</sup> performance also celebrates **The Ailey School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. Founded in 1969, The program has served as a springboard for many notable artists, including season choreographers Camille A. Brown and Roberts, along with more than 70% of the dancers in the Company. In addition to *Ode*, the evening will also feature students from The Ailey School alongside the Ailey dancers in Alvin Ailey's [Memoria](#) and [Revelations](#). Ahead of the December 10<sup>th</sup> program, The Ailey School to perform in the 2019 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade®. Over 100 students from all programs of The Ailey School will answer the call of “Let's Have a Parade™,” the iconic phrase that has signaled the start of every Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade since 1924. Led by The Ailey School Co-Director Tracy Inman, the dancers from age nine to 25 will perform a dance inspired by the “Rocka My Soul” finale of Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece *Revelations*.

Opening on **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**, Award-winning choreographer **Aszure Barton's** dazzling [BUSK](#) is an episodic look at the nature of performance and the vulnerabilities that artists face in revealing themselves onstage. A group work spotlighting the Ailey dancers, Barton adapts the choreography for each new production, drawing on the individual strengths and personalities of each performer. The founder and director of Aszure Barton & Artists, an inter-disciplinary international dance project, she has collaborated with celebrated dance artists and companies including Mikhail Baryshnikov, American Ballet Theatre, Teatro alla Scala, Nederlands Dans Theater, Martha Graham Dance Company, National Ballet of Canada and Sydney Dance Company, among many others, and choreographed the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera*.

Premiering on **Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**, **Camille A. Brown's** quietly lyrical [City of Rain](#) honors the struggles and grace of a deceased friend, showing a different facet of the choreographer than Ailey audiences have seen in her previous works for the Company (*The Groove To Nobody's Business* and *The Evolution of a Secured Feminine*). Dedicated to Greg ‘Blyes’ Boomer, the work for 10 dancers is set to an original composition by Jonathan Melville Pratt entitled *Two Way Dream*. A recipient of numerous honors, including a 2014 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for the work *Mr. TOL E. RAnCE* (Camille A. Brown & Dancers), Ms. Brown choreographed Broadway's *Choir Boy* (TONY nominee for Best Choreography), the TONY Award-winning revival of *Once On This Island*, and the Emmy Award-Winning television special, “Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert.”

**New productions** taking the stage this season include **Judith Jamison's** [Divining](#) (1984) – a revival of her first major choreographic effort which incorporates African polyrhythms and complex movement – and **Lar Lubovitch's** [Fandango](#) (1995) – a sensually athletic duet set to Maurice Ravel's “Bolero” that explores the infinite possibilities of partnering.

The New York City Center engagement also marks the [final season as Associate Artistic Director for Masazumi Chaya](#), who will be celebrated with a special program on **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The tribute performance will feature over a dozen excerpts that highlight his extensive career of nearly five decades, a special piece d’occasion created by Matthew Rushing, and appearances and performances by former company members. Having joined the Company in 1972 as a dancer, Mr. Chaya performed under Alvin Ailey’s direction for 15 years, subsequently assumed responsibility for rehearsing the Company—a role for which Mr. Ailey had cultivated him—and for more than 28 years has been a creative associate and friend to Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison and Artistic Director Robert Battle, maintaining the repertory and guiding generations of Ailey dancers. Upon Mr. Chaya’s retirement, he will lead the Alvin Ailey Choreographic Legacy Project - a formalized licensing project that will bring ballets by Alvin Ailey into the repertoires of other dance companies around the world.

In addition, the engagement showcases a variety of 2018-19 season premieres: Darrell Grand Moultrie’s uplifting [Ounce of Faith](#); hip-hop innovator Rennie Harris’ acclaimed [Lazarus](#); Ronald K. Brown’s “love letter to Mr. Ailey,” [The Call](#); and Jessica Lang’s luminous [EN](#).

Special season programs include **All Ailey** performances comprised of four of Mr. Ailey’s most celebrated ballets, *Night Creature*, *Cry*, *Memoria*, and *Revelations* (December 12, 14 mat); **Three Visionaries** featuring ballets by each the Company’s artistic directors – Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, and Robert Battle (December 21 mat, 24, Jan 4 mat); **Ailey Classics** featuring excerpts of eight works by Mr. Ailey, from rarely-seen gems – including *Hidden Rites*, *Mary Lou’s Mass*, and *Phases* – to timeless favorites – like *Night Creature* and *Cry* (December 19, 22 mat, 28 mat, Jan 3); and **All New** programs of season premieres (December 14 eve, 20, 28 eve, Jan 1, Jan 4 eve).

The [Young New York](#) program, supported by Wells Fargo returns this season. The initiative engages people between the ages of 21 – 35 through a series of special events and ticket offers, introducing new audiences to modern dance and the Company’s inspiring legacy. For Young New York Night on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, all tickets will be specially priced at \$29. Discounted tickets are also available throughout the New York City Center engagement. Ticket buyers who are ages 21-35 can purchase up to 6 tickets at 50% off. This offer applies to all performances from Dec 4<sup>th</sup> to Jan 5<sup>th</sup> except the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Young New York Night. Offer is valid for seats normally priced at \$75 or higher. Click [here](#) for program details, and to sign up.

The engagement also includes **Family Matinee** performances each **Saturday at 2pm** (December 7, 14, 21, 28, Jan 4), followed by a Q&A session with Ailey’s revered dancers. Whether watching as a child for the first time, as a parent remembering his or her childhood experience with dance, or as a family that has made Ailey a holiday tradition, all can enjoy the magic of Ailey. Every Family Matinee program concludes with Alvin Ailey’s masterpiece *Revelations* – one of the most well-known and respected ballets in the history of dance, acclaimed as a must-see for all ages. Since its debut in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more people than any other modern dance work and has moved audiences around the world through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. *Revelations* will also bring an inspiring close to the performances on **Christmas Eve**, **Christmas Day**, **New Year’s Eve**, and a special **Season Finale** on **January 5**, what would have been Mr. Ailey’s 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Live music performances of *Revelations*** will take place on December 4, 6, and 7 (matinee and evening).

New Company members performing in their City Center debut with Ailey are [Patrick Coker](#), [James Gilmer](#), [Corrin Rachelle Mitchell](#) and [Brandon Woolridge](#). A detailed performance schedule is attached (subject to change). Following the New York City Center engagement, Ailey’s renowned dancers will travel coast-to-coast on a 21-city National Tour from February – May 2020. A tour schedule is below (subject to change).

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. More than 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 on sale now** at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID, and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$29 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or email [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information about Ailey's New York City Center season please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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

**American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and a major supporter of the company premiere of *City of Rain*.**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo, North America.**

**The creation of *Ode* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.**

**Generous support for the creation of *Ounce of Faith* is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.**

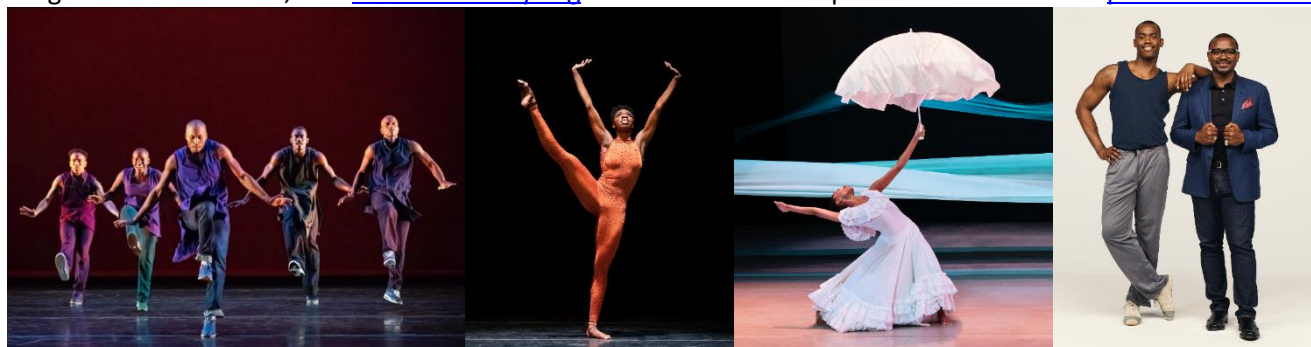
**Bank of America is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2020 North American Tour**

**The 2020 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

**Wells Fargo is the sponsor of Ailey Young New York.**

**The 2019 Winter 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.**

For more general information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). Press materials and photos are available at [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).



(L to R); AAADT in Rennie Harris' *Lazarus*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Khalia Campbell in Darrell G. Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts and Artistic Director Robert Battle. Photo by Andrew Eccles.

**Please credit photos. Ctrl+Click the photos for hi-res download.**

### **New York City Center 2019 Season Highlights:**

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will take the stage at New York City Center from December 4, 2019 – January 5, 2020 in a five-week season that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform an expansive repertory of more than two dozen works, including the world premieres by Jamar Roberts – the Company's newly announced Resident Choreographer – and Donald Byrd. The season also includes company premieres of Aszure Barton's *BUSK* and Camille A. Brown's *City of Rain*, and new productions of Judith Jamison's *Divining* and Lar Lubovitch's *Fandango*. The season begins on **December 4<sup>th</sup>** with an **Opening Night Gala Benefit honoring Elaine Wynn and the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation**, which includes a performance at New York City Center and party at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom to raise funds to support the creation of new works and Ailey's extensive educational and training programs for young people. Other highlights include special live music performances of *Revelations*; evenings celebrating The Ailey School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Masazumi Chaya; All Ailey, Three Visionaries, Ailey Classics, and All New programs; Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day performances; the Family Matinee Series with a post-performance Q&A with dancers; and a Special Season Finale.

## **WORLD PREMIERES**

[Greenwood](#) (World Premiere)

**Choreography by Donald Byrd**

**Music: Emmanuel Witzthum**

Celebrated choreographer **Donald Byrd**, an “unabashed eclectic” (*The New York Times*) known for his creation of compelling characters and exploring complex societal issues through dance, will present his fifth premiere for the Company on **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. A TONY nominee (*The Color Purple*), Bessie Award-winner (*The Minstrel Show*) and **2019 Doris Duke Artist Award** recipient, Byrd draws on the 1921 Tulsa riots as a main source for [Greenwood](#), a powerful ensemble work set to music by Israeli violist and composer Emmanuel Witzthum. Using dance to navigate through one of the worst incidents of racial violence in US history and explore the story through different lenses of those who were affected, builds upon Ailey’s theatrical roots and legacy of shining a spotlight on social issues.

[Ode](#) (World Premiere)

**Choreography by Jamar Roberts**

**Music: Don Pullen**

Ailey dancer Jamar Roberts offers a meditation on the beauty and fragility of life in a time of growing gun violence. Like his critically-acclaimed *Members Don’t Get Weary* (2017), this work will feature a jazz score – Don Pullen’s “Suite (Sweet Malcolm (Part 1 Memories and Gunshots))” – and Roberts’ own costume designs. A member of the Company since 2002, Roberts has become renowned for his powerful performances on world stages, including at The White House and as a guest star with London’s Royal Ballet, receiving the prestigious New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” award for Outstanding Performer. *Ode* is the first in a series of three works he is creating in his new role as Resident Choreographer.

[Ounce of Faith](#) (2019 Lincoln Center World Premiere)

**Choreography by Darrell Grand Moultrie** **Music: Wynton Marsalis & Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Chuck Harmony, Liquid Liquid**

The lasting impact of a teacher’s influence on a young child is at the heart of this exuberant work by Darrell Grand Moultrie. Using a mix of jazz standards, original music, and spoken word, Moultrie reflects on the legacies that we’re all a part of and the notion that “when someone has an ounce of faith in you, it can change the course of your life.”

## **COMPANY PREMIERES**

[BUSK](#) (2009 / 2019 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Aszure Barton** **Music: August Soderman, Camille Saint-Saëns, Daniel Belanger, Ljoyva, Moondog, Slava Grigoryan**

Aszure Barton’s dazzling *BUSK* is an episodic look at the nature of performance and the vulnerabilities that artists face in revealing themselves onstage. Though the ballet has previously been performed by other companies, Barton adapts the choreography for each new production, drawing on the individual strengths and personalities of each dancer. This is Barton’s second work for the Company, following 2013’s *LIFT*. The founder and director of Aszure Barton & Artists, an interdisciplinary international dance project, she has collaborated with celebrated dance artists and companies including Mikhail Baryshnikov, American Ballet Theatre, Teatro alla Scala, Nederlands Dans Theater, Martha Graham Dance Company, National Ballet of Canada and Sydney Dance Company, among many others, and choreographed the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera*.

[City of Rain](#) (2010 / 2019 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Camille A. Brown**

**Music: Jonathan Melville Pratt**

**Camille A. Brown’s** quietly lyrical *City of Rain* honors the struggles and grace of a deceased friend, showing a different facet of the choreographer than Ailey audiences have seen in her previous works for the Company (*The Groove To Nobody’s Business* and *The Evolution of a Secured Feminine*). Dedicated to Greg ‘Blyes’ Boomer, the work for 10 dancers is set to an original composition by Jonathan Melville Pratt entitled *Two Way Dream*. A recipient of numerous honors, including a 2014 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for the work *Mr. TOL E. RAnCE* (Camille A. Brown & Dancers), Ms. Brown choreographed Broadway’s *Choir Boy* (TONY nominee for Best Choreography), the TONY Award-winning revival of *Once On This Island*, and the Emmy Award-Winning television special, “Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert.” She is an alumna of The Ailey School.

## **Cunningham Centennial Solos**

### **Choreography by Merce Cunningham**

**Music: John King**

For the first time on the Ailey stage, Company members perform the work of modern dance giant Merce Cunningham. Jacquelin Harris and Chalvar Monteiro will perform solos that they danced in *Night of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event*, which was presented at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on April 16, 2019 on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Merce Cunningham's birth. The solos came from work spanning five decades: *Scramble* (1967), *Loops* (1971), *Landrover* (1972), *Change of Address* (1992), *Scenario* (1997), *Way Station* (2001), and *Nearly Ninety* (2009), and were arranged into a continuous sequence by Merce Cunningham Trust stager Jean Freebury. With this performance, the Ailey company joined in the worldwide celebration of the innovative choreographer's life and legacy.

## **NEW PRODUCTIONS**

**Divining** (1984 / New Production 2019)

### **Choreography by Judith Jamison**

**Music: Monti Ellison & Kimati Dinizulu**

Judith Jamison's first choreographic effort, created five years before her ascent to artistic director of the Ailey company, displays the musical sophistication and complexity of movement that marked her as a promising dancemaker. African and Latin rhythms lend the work an air of mystery and mysticism while the title suggests a search or quest. Jamison joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965 and quickly became an international star. Over the next 15 years, Mr. Ailey created some of his most enduring roles for her, most notably the tour-de-force solo *Cry*. In 1989, Mr. Ailey asked her to succeed him as Artistic Director, and in the 21 years that followed, she brought the Company to unprecedented heights.

**Fandango** (1990 / Company Premiere 1995 / New Production 2010)

### **Choreography by Lar Lubovitch**

**Music: Maurice Ravel**

In his sensually athletic duet, Lar Lubovitch explores the infinite possibilities of partnering, the dancers' bodies coming together as if propelled by the lush intensity of Ravel's "Bolero".

**Ailey Classics** (Special Program)

### **Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Various Artists**

This special program brings new vitality to treasures from Mr. Ailey's wonderfully rich body of work, including highlights of seldom-seen gems like *Hidden Rites*, *Mary Lou's Mass*, and *Phases* as well as perennial favorites like *Memoria*, *Night Creature*, and *Cry*. Act I excerpts: *Memoria* – first section (1979), *Night Creature* – second and third sections (1974); Act II excerpts: *Phases* – "Flight Time" (1980), *Mary Lou's Mass* – "Our Father" (1971), *For Bird – With Love* – "A Night in Tunisia" (1984), *Hidden Rites* – "of Love" (1973), *Love Songs* – "A Song for You" (1972), *Cry* – third section (1971). Act III: *Revelations*.

## **2018-2019 SEASON PREMIERES & NEW PRODUCTIONS**

**Lazarus** (World Premiere)

### **Choreography by Rennie Harris**

**Music: Darrin Ross, Nina Simon, Terence Trent D'Arby, Michael Kiwanuka, Odetta**

Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer Rennie (Lorenzo) Harris returns to Ailey this season with the Company's first two-act work, *Lazarus*. Inspired by the life and legacy of Mr. Ailey, Harris connects past and present in a powerful work that addresses the racial inequities America faced when Mr. Ailey founded this company in 1958 and still faces today. Harris' previous contributions to the Ailey repertory include *Exodus* (2015), *Home* (2011), and *Love Stories* (2004), an acclaimed collaboration with Judith Jamison and Robert Battle.

**The Call** (World Premiere)

### **Choreography by Ronald K. Brown**

**Music: Johan Sebastian Bach, Mary Lou Williams, Asase Yaa Entertainment Group**

Ronald K. Brown's joyous mix of modern and West African dance idioms – seen previously in *Grace* (1999), *Open Door* (2015), *Four Corners* (2013), and other works – fits the Ailey dancers perfectly, and his themes of spiritual awakening and redemption never fail to inspire. *The Call*, which is Brown's seventh work for the Company and a love letter to Mr. Ailey, promises to once again rouse audiences with Brown's infectious call for harmony and hope.

**EN** (2018-19 Season 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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."

## Season Repertory

In addition to the premieres, new productions, and special programs, the season repertory includes:

*A Case of You* – Judith Jamison (2004)

Music: Joni Mitchell, performed by Diana Krall

*Cry* – Judith Jamison (1971)

Music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, Voices of East Harlem

*Ella* – Robert Battle (2016)

Music: Ella Fitzgerald

*In/Side* – Robert Battle (2008)

Music: Nina Simone

*Mass* – Robert Battle (2017)

Music: John Mackey

*Memoria* – Alvin Ailey (1970)

Music: Keith Jarrett

*Night Creature* – Alvin Ailey (1974)

Music: Duke Ellington

*Revelations* – Alvin Ailey 1960

Music: Traditional Spirituals

## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### **Opening Night Gala Benefit (Dec. 4 at 7pm)**

The 2019 Opening Night Gala Benefit honoring Elaine Wynn and the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation includes a performance of special season excerpts, two Cunningham Centennial Solos and culminates with an uplifting *Revelations* finale featuring live musicians and singers. Followed by a dinner-dance at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom, the benefit raises support for the creation of new works and Ailey's extensive educational and training programs for young people.

### **Young New York Night (Dec. 5 at 7:30pm)**

On this one night, all seats are \$29 for people ages 21-35. The evening's program features Ailey's beloved works *Cry* and *Revelations*, Judith Jamison's *Divining* and Robert K Brown's *The Call*.

### **Family Matinee Series (Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Jan. 4)**

On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy the performance and stay for a free Q & A with the Ailey dancers in the theater following the inspiring finale of *Revelations*, which is acclaimed as a must-see for all ages.

### **Celebrating The Ailey School at 50 (Dec. 10 at 7:30pm)**

Join Ailey in celebrating The Ailey School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at this special performance, featuring former Ailey School student Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith*, and students performing alongside the Company in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* and *Revelations*.

### **Celebrating Masazumi Chaya (Dec. 22 at 7:30pm)**

Ailey celebrates longtime Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya during his final season with a tribute performance featuring over a dozen excerpts that highlight his extensive career, a special piece d'occasion created by Matthew Rushing, and appearances and performances by former company members.

### **Christmas Eve Performance (Dec. 24)**

Dance into the holidays with a festive the Three Visionaries program on Christmas Eve featuring Robert Battle's *Mass* and *In/Side*, Judith Jamison's *A Case of You* and *Divining*, and Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece *Revelations*.

### **Christmas Day Performance (Dec. 25)**

Celebrate the holidays with three joyful works – Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith*, Jessica Lang's *EN*, and Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*.

### **New Year's Eve Performance (Dec. 31 at 7pm)**

Join Ailey for a very special New Year's Eve performance, featuring Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith*, Donald Byrd's world premiere, and *Revelations*.

***Revelations* - performed with live music – November 29, December 1, and 2 (mat and eve)**

**"All Ailey" Programs – December 12, 14 mat**

**"Three Visionaries" Programs – December 21 mat, 24, Jan 4 mat**

**"Ailey Classics" Programs – December 19, 22 mat, 28 mat, Jan 3**

**"All New" Programs – December 14 eve, 20, 28 eve, Jan 1, Jan 4 eve**

## **Ticket to Dance**

The New York City Center season welcomes the return of “**Ticket to Dance**,” which invites audience members to try their first [Ailey Extension](#) class FREE with the presentation of a performance ticket stub (returning students receive a free class with the purchase of a 10-class card). The offer is valid for 60 days from the performance date. The Ailey Extension has fulfilled Alvin Ailey’s life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering “real classes for real people,” with over 90 classes per week in more than 25 different dance and fitness techniques.

### **FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE ATTACHED – TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**  
**December 4, 2019 – January 5, 2020 at New York City Center**  
**131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY**  
**(212) 581-1212 / [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org)**

### **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world’s most popular dance companies, returns to the New York City Center stage December 4, 2019 – January 5, 2020 for a season that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey’s extraordinary dancers will move audiences with premieres, new productions, repertory favorites and classics like the American masterpiece *Revelations*, acclaimed as a must-see for all. **Tickets starting at \$29 go on sale September 9** and can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID, and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$29 tickets). The Saturday Family Matinee series includes a post-performance Q&A with the Ailey dancers and an increased availability of \$29 tickets, but buy early for the best seat selection. For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

Performance Times:

Opening Night Gala (December 4)	7:00pm (note earlier curtain time)
Tuesday - Thursday evenings	7:30pm
Friday & Saturday evenings	8:00pm
Sunday evenings	7:30pm
Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm
New Year’s Eve (12/31)	7:00pm

### **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – 2020 United States Tour**

February 4 – 9	Washington, DC	Opera House, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
February 11 – 12	Chapel Hill, NC	Memorial Hall, University of North Carolina
February 14 – 16	Memphis, TN	Orpheum Theatre
February 18	Orlando, FL	Walt Disney Theater, Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
February 20 – 23	Atlanta, GA	The Fox Theatre
February 25 – 26	Charlotte, NC	Belk Theater, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center
February 28 – 29	Nashville, TN	Andrew Jackson Hall, Tennessee Performing Arts Center
March 4 – 8	Chicago, IL	Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University
March 10 – 11	Iowa City, IA	Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa
March 13 – 14	Dallas, TX	Winspear Opera House
March 18 – 22	Los Angeles, CA	Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA Music Center
March 25	Palm Desert, CA	McCallum Theatre
March 27 – 28	Las Vegas, NV	Reynolds Auditorium, The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
March 31 – April 5	Berkeley, CA	Zellerbach Hall, University of California at Berkeley
April 18 – 19	Seattle, WA	Paramount Theatre
April 22	San Antonio, TX	Tobin Center for the Performing Arts



April 24 – 25	Houston, TX	Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts
April 28	Amherst, MA	Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, University of Massachusetts
April 30 – May 3	Boston, MA	The Wang Theatre, Boch Center
May 5	Pittsburgh, PA	Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
May 8 – 10	Newark, NJ	Prudential Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

### **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 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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER - 2019 NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON *as of 8/1/19 (subject to change)*

TUES at 7:30pm	WED at 7:30pm	THURS at 7:30pm	FRI at 8pm	SAT at 2pm Family Matinee	SAT at 8pm	SUN at 3pm	SUN at 7:30pm
	DEC 4 at 7pm	DEC 5	DEC 6	DEC 7	DEC 7	DEC 8	DEC 8
	<i>OPENING NIGHT GALA</i>	<i>YOUNG NEW YORK NIGHT</i>	<i>PREMIERE NIGHT</i>	<i>LIVE MUSIC</i>	<i>LIVE MUSIC</i>		
	<i>LIVE MUSIC</i>	Divining N Cry The Call Revelations	<i>LIVE MUSIC</i> Night Creature Ella Greenwood W Revelations	Divining N Ella Ounce of Faith W Revelations	The Call In/Side Greenwood W Revelations	Ounce of Faith W Greenwood W Revelations	Lazarus Revelations
	Special Opening Night Program <i>including</i> Cunningham Solos C Revelations			Free Q&A w/ dancers			
DEC 10	DEC 11	DEC 12	DEC 13	DEC 14	DEC 14	DEC 15	DEC 15
<i>PREMIERE NIGHT</i>		<i>ALL AILEY</i>	<i>PREMIERE NIGHT</i>	<i>ALL AILEY</i>	<i>ALL NEW</i>		
<i>CELEBRATING THE AILEY SCHOOL AT 50</i>	Divining N Ella Lazarus	Night Creature Cry Memoria Revelations	The Call BUSK C Revelations	Night Creature Cry Memoria Revelations	Ounce of Faith W Ode W BUSK C	The Call Ella Ounce of Faith W Revelations	Lazarus Revelations
Memoria Ode W Revelations				Free Q&A w/ dancers			
DEC 17	DEC 18	DEC 19	DEC 20	DEC 21	DEC 21	DEC 22	DEC 22
<i>PREMIERE NIGHT</i>		<i>AILEY CLASSICS</i>	<i>ALL NEW</i>	<i>3 VISIONARIES</i>		<i>AILEY CLASSICS</i>	<i>CELEBRATING CHAYA</i>
City of Rain C Mass Ella Revelations	Divining N Cry Fandango N Revelations	Highlights from 8 Ailey favorites <i>including</i> Revelations	Greenwood W City of Rain C Fandango N BUSK C	Mass In/Side A Case of You Divining N Revelations	BUSK C City of Rain C A Case of You EN	Highlights from 8 Ailey favorites <i>including</i> Revelations	Special Tribute Program <i>including</i> Revelations
				Free Q&A w/ dancers			
DEC 24	DEC 25	DEC 26	DEC 27	DEC 28	DEC 28	DEC 29	DEC 29
<i>3 VISIONARIES</i>				<i>AILEY CLASSICS</i>	<i>ALL NEW</i>		
Mass In/Side A Case of You Divining N Revelations	Ounce of Faith W EN Revelations	Lazarus Revelations	BUSK C City of Rain C A Case of You EN	Ailey Classics Program <i>including</i> Revelations	Greenwood W Fandango N Busk C	Ounce of Faith W Ode W Revelations	EN The Call In/Side Revelations
				Free Q&A w/ dancers			
DEC 31 at 7pm	JAN 1	JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4	JAN 4	JAN 5	JAN 5
<i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i>	<i>ALL NEW</i>		<i>AILEY CLASSICS</i>	<i>3 VISIONARIES</i>	<i>ALL NEW</i>	<i>ALVIN AILEY'S BIRTHDAY</i>	
Ounce of Faith W Greenwood W Revelations	Ode W City of Rain C Fandango N Revelations	Ode W Mass Fandango N Revelations	Highlights from 8 Ailey favorites <i>including</i> Revelations	Mass In/Side A Case of You Divining N Revelations	Divining N Ode W Fandango N Greenwood W	BUSK C A Case of You City of Rain C EN	<i>SPECIAL SEASON FINALE</i> <i>including</i> Season Highlights Cunningham Solos C Revelations
				Free Q&A w/ dancers			

NYCC Debut - Season Premieres & New Production Performance = Red Title

1st Season Performance = Green Title

Live Music = Orange Highlight

World Premieres  
Greenwood (Donald Byrd)  
Ounce of Faith (Darell Grand Mouttrie)  
Ode (Jamar Roberts)

New Productions  
Divining (Judith Jamison)  
Fandango (Lar Lubovitch)

Company Premieres  
BUSK (Aszure Barton)  
City of Rain (Camille A. Brown)  
Cunningham Solos (Merce Cunningham)

Special Programs  
3 Visionaries  
All Ailey  
All New  
Ailey Classics