

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Divining (1984 – New Production 2019)

Choreography: Judith Jamison

Restaged by: Masazumi Chaya & Matthew Rushing

Music: Monti Ellison & Kimati Dinizulu

Original Costumes: Masazumi Chaya (*Redesigned by:* Andy Kay)

Original Lighting: Chenault Spence (*Redesigned by:* Timothy Hunter)

Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison's first choreographic effort, created five years before her ascent to artistic director of the Ailey company in 1989, displays the musical sophistication and complexity of movement that marked her as a promising dance maker. African polyrhythms lend the work an air of mystery and mysticism while the title suggests a search or quest. *Divining* is set to an original composition by Kimati Dinizulu and Monti Ellison, and builds on a variety of dance idioms from throughout Africa to create a pulsating, strikingly modern work.



AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Divining*.
Photo by Nan Melville.

“invention of movement shapes and movement quality that give the piece a **fascinating originality.**” *The New York Times*

“Judith Jamison embodies that spirit – **a spirit that is alive in all the dancers she’s inspired, in all the pieces she’s perfected, in all the audiences she has moved and uplifted.**” *Former First Lady, Michelle Obama*



Judith Jamison. Photo
by Andrew Eccles

Judith Jamison

Judith 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*. During the 1970s and 80s, she appeared as a guest artist with ballet companies all over the world, starred in the hit Broadway musical *Sophisticated Ladies*, and formed her own company, The Jamison Project. She returned to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1989 when Mr. Ailey asked her to succeed him as Artistic Director. In the 21 years that followed, she brought the Company to unprecedented heights – including two historic engagements in South Africa and a 50-city global tour to celebrate the Company’s 50th anniversary, before choosing Robert Battle to succeed her in 2011. Ms. Jamison is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them a prime-time Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, the Kennedy Center Honor, a National Medal of Arts, a “Bessie” Award, the Phoenix Award, and the Handel Medallion. She was also listed in “*TIME* 100: The World’s Most Influential People”, honored by First Lady Michelle Obama at the first White House Dance Series event, and became the 50th inductee into the Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance.

As a highly regarded choreographer, Ms. Jamison has created many celebrated works, including *Divining* (1984), *Forgotten Time* (1989), *Hymn* (1993), *HERE . . . NOW*. (commissioned for the 2002 Cultural Olympiad), *Love Stories* (with additional choreography by Robert Battle and Rennie Harris, 2004), *Reminiscent*’ (2005) and *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)* (2009). Ms. Jamison’s autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, was edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and published in 1993. In 2004, under Ms. Jamison’s artistic directorship, her idea of a permanent home for the Ailey company was realized and named after beloved chairman Joan Weill. Ms. Jamison continues to dedicate herself to asserting the prominence of the arts in our culture, and she remains committed to promoting the significance of the Ailey legacy – using dance as a medium for honoring the past, celebrating the present and fearlessly reaching into the future.

Divining

Music Credit Information

Original Composition by: Monti Ellison & Kimati Dinizulu