



CULTURAL
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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 2019 INTERNATIONAL TOUR BRINGS PASSION AND UPLIFTING ARTISTRY TO COPENHAGEN, LONDON & ROTTERDAM AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 22

International Premieres includes Rennie Harris' *Lazarus*- the Company's First Two-Act Ballet, Ronald K. Brown's *The Call* – "A Love Letter to Mr. Ailey," Jessica Lang's *EN* and Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith*

Every Performance Culminates with Alvin Ailey's American Masterpiece *Revelations*, Acclaimed as a Must-See for All

Bank of America is the International Tour Sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

(New York) – July 28, 2019 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congress as "a vital American cultural ambassador to the world," is uplifting audiences in Europe under the expansive vision of Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#), with programs packed with acclaimed classics, sensational new productions, and contemporary favorites from **August 28 – September 22**. Ailey's 2019 International Tour will consist of performances in **Copenhagen, Denmark** (August 28 – September 1); **London, England** (September 4 – 14); and **Rotterdam, Netherlands** (September 19 – 22). **Bank of America** is the lead sponsor of the Company's 2019 International Tour.

On the heels of a 21-city North American tour and a dynamic spring season at New York City's Lincoln Center, the unparalleled artistry of Ailey's 32 dancers will bring European audiences to their feet, with season premieres of Rennie Harris' [Lazarus](#), the Company's first ever two-act work inspired by Alvin Ailey's life and legacy; Ronald K. Brown's [The Call](#), "a love letter to Mr. Ailey;" Jessica Lang's luminous [EN](#); and Darrell Grand Moultrie's [Ounce of Faith](#), a ballet showcasing the lasting impact of a teacher's influence on a young child.

Additional repertory highlights include three ballets by Robert Battle; [Juba](#), a modern day "Rite of Spring" with an abstract twist set to an original score by John Mackey; [In/Side](#), a bold, gripping solo; and [Ella](#), a high-energy tribute to jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald. Ailey Dancer and Resident Choreographer [Jamar Roberts](#)' critically-acclaimed [Members Don't Get Weary](#), "a response to the current social landscape in America," is among the powerful works gracing the center stage.

"It's heartwarming to see Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspire European audiences, continuing Alvin Ailey's visionary legacy after six decades," said Artistic Director Robert Battle. "I couldn't be prouder to lead Ailey's 32 extraordinary dancers as they perform timely and topical works by today's most revered choreographers that shine a spotlight on social issues. Now more than ever, the world needs the power of dance to unite people of all backgrounds."

All performances on the tour will culminate with Alvin Ailey's must-see American masterpiece, *Revelations*. Seen by more people than any other modern dance work since its debut in 1960, *Revelations* has moved audiences around the world through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope and transcendence. 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.

In addition to the performances, the tour features an educational outreach component offering training opportunities for young people in conjunction with the Company's engagements. Continuing Mr. Ailey's mission of bringing dance to the people, the Company conducts weeklong residencies, master classes and workshops.

The sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2019 International Tour is Bank of America who supports major American performing arts organizations as part of their strategy to increase cultural understanding and open opportunities for dialogue through the arts.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. 60 years after its founding, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing once again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world's most beloved dance companies.

Detailed 2019 international tour programming information and schedule is below (subject to change). For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization's performances, training programs, and educational activities, visit www.alvinailey.org.

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(L to R) Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Rennie Harris' *Lazarus*. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacqueline Green and Solomon Dumas in Ronald K. Brown's *The Call*. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Jessica Lang's *EN*. All photos by Paul Kolnik.

(Ctrl+Click for hi-res download. Credit all photos.)

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

(Programs are subject to change)

Copenhagen, Denmark	The Tivoli Concert Hall	www.tivoligardens.com	+45 33151001
Wed 8/28 @ 7:30pm	<i>EN / Members Don't Get Weary / Revelations</i>		
Thu 8/29 @ 7:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Fri 8/30 @ 7:30pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / The Call, Juba / Revelations</i>		
Sat 8/31 @ 2:30pm	<i>EN / The Call, Juba / Revelations</i>		
Sat 8/31 @ 7:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Sun 9/1 @ 2:30pm	<i>Members Don't Get Weary / Ounce of Faith / Revelations</i>		
Sun 9/1 @ 7:30pm	<i>EN / Ounce of Faith / Revelations</i>		
London, England	Sadler's Wells Theatre	www.sadlerswells.com	020 7863 8000
Wed 9/4 @ 7:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Thu 9/5 @ 7:30pm	<i>EN / The Call, Juba / Revelations</i>		
Fri 9/6 @ 7:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Sat 9/7 @ 2:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Sat 9/7 @ 7:30pm	<i>EN / The Call, Juba / Revelations</i>		
Sun 9/8 @ 2:30pm	<i>EN / The Call, Juba / Revelations</i>		
Sun 9/8 @ 7:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Tue 9/10 @ 7:30pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / Members Don't Get Weary / Ella, Revelations</i>		
Wed 9/11 @ 7:30pm	<i>EN / The Call, Juba / Revelations</i>		
Thu 9/12 @ 2:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Thu 9/12 @ 7:30pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / Members Don't Get Weary / Ella, Revelations</i>		
Fri 9/13 @ 7:30pm	<i>EN / The Call, Juba / Revelations</i>		
Sat 9/14 @ 2:30pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / Members Don't Get Weary / Ella, Revelations</i>		
Sat 9/14 @ 7:30pm	<i>Lazarus / Revelations</i>		
Rotterdam, Netherlands	Nieuwe Luxor Theater	www.luxortheater.nl	010-484 33 33
Thu 9/19 @ 8:15pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / Juba, In/Side / Revelations</i>		
Fri 9/20 @ 8:15pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / Juba, In/Side / Revelations</i>		
Sat 9/21 @ 8:15pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / Juba, In/Side / Revelations</i>		
Sun 9/22 @ 3:00pm	<i>Ounce of Faith / Juba, In/Side / Revelations</i>		

2019 International Tour Program: Ailey's European Engagement Led By Artistic Director Robert Battle

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will inspire and unite audiences throughout Europe under the expansive vision of Artistic Director Robert Battle, with programs packed with acclaimed classics, sensational new productions, and contemporary favorites from August 28 – September 22. The tour includes engagements in Copenhagen, Denmark (August 28 – September 1); London, England (September 4 – 14); and Rotterdam, Netherlands (September 19 – 22). Bank of America is the lead sponsor of the Company's 2019 International Tour. Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory featuring the international premieres of Rennie Harris' *Lazarus*, Ronald K. Brown's *The Call*, Jessica Lang's *EN*, and Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith*. The tour will also feature a variety of new productions and repertory favorites, including Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece, *Revelations*.

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES

[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 100th 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." Artistic Director of Jessica Lang Dance since 2011, Lang has created original works for major companies around the world like American Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Joffrey Ballet and National Ballet of Japan. Lang's choreography has demonstrated a breathtaking range of influences, including interests in visual art, theatrical lyricism, the geometry of the human body, and the nuances of bodily gesture.

[Lazarus](#) (2018-19 Season 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 returned 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.

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

Choreography by Darrell Grand Moultrie

Music: Aisha Jackson & Dante Hawkins, Chuck Harmony, Wynton Marsalis & Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Liquid Liquid

The lasting impact of a teacher's influence on a young child is at the heart of this world premiere by Darrell Grand Moultrie, who *The New York Times* has called "someone to watch" for his "playful wit and uncommon skill." Using 12 dancers and an original score, Moultrie reflects on the legacies that we're all a part of and the universal journey that each person takes to find – and share – their passion.

[The Call](#) (2018-19 Season 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.

NEW PRODUCTIONS

[Juba](#) (2003 / New Production 2018)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: John Mackey

Juba, Artistic Director Robert Battle's first work for the Company, explores where ritual and folk traditions exist in today's society, as four dancers engage in a modern day "Rite of Spring" with an abstract twist. An original score by John Mackey for string quartet and percussion drives the mood of this edgy, ritualistic work, called "electrifying" by *The New York Times*.

RETURNING FAVORITES

[Ella](#) (2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Ella Fitzgerald

Originally created as a solo, this high-energy comical dance was reinvented as a duet by the Ailey company for its December 2016 Opening Night Gala benefit, "An Evening of Ailey and Jazz" – in anticipation of the legendary singer Ella Fitzgerald's centennial in April 2017. Using a live concert recording of Fitzgerald performing the song "Airmail Special," *Ella* matches the iconic singer's virtuosic scatting with lightning-fast, articulated movement in an irresistible tour-de-force that leaves audiences (and the dancers) breathless.

[Members Don't Get Weary](#) (2017)

Choreography by Jamar Roberts

Music: John Coltrane

Longtime Ailey dancer and recent "Bessie" Award winner Jamar Roberts made his choreographic debut on the Company in this world premiere inspired by the blues. Roberts says, "As a response to the current social landscape in America, *Members Don't Get Weary* takes an abstract look into the notion of one 'having the blues.'" Set to the powerful music of the legendary American jazz saxophonist and composer John Coltrane, the work aims to inspire the audience, allowing them to momentarily transcend their own personal blues.

[In/Side](#) (2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music by Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind" play out in Robert Battle's gripping solo. The bold, unrestrained style that has become his signature is evinced in this visceral cry of pure physicality. The piece, originally commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, was created as part of its annual series "In the Company of Men," a celebration of the spirit of male dancers in New York [in light of the AIDS epidemic].

SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE

[Revelations](#) (1960)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans. An American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all, Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage and genius. Using African-American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience, with audiences cheering, singing along and dancing in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive *I Been 'Buked* to the rousing *Wade in the Water* and the triumphant finale, *Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham*.

For additional press materials please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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 honour, 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, 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 theatres 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 Bank of America Environmental, Social and Governance

At Bank of America, our focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors is critical to fulfilling our purpose of helping make people's financial lives better. Our commitment to growing our business responsibly is embedded in every aspect of our company. It is demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our customers, and the impact we help create around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships across sectors – including community and environmental advocate groups, as well as non-profits – in order to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/about and connect with us on Twitter at @BofA_News.

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