ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES
21st ANNUAL WASHINGTON, D.C. OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT AT
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Opera House Performance Culminates in Alvin Ailey’s American Masterpiece
Revelations Followed by Dinner and Dancing on the Terrace Level

(Washington, D.C.) Updated November 1, 2019 – On Tuesday, February 4, 2020, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s 21st Washington, D.C. Opening Night Gala Benefit will launch the renowned Company’s week-long engagement at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and a 21-city United States tour. Following the 7pm opening program on the Opera House Stage – culminating with Alvin Ailey’s masterpiece Revelations – Artistic Director Robert Battle will join prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy, and politics for dinner and dancing on the Terrace Level.

The evening’s Co-Chairs are Lyndon K. Boozer, Sela Thompson Collins, DeDe Lea, and Yelberton R. Watkins; Vice Chairs are Joyce Brayboy, Lawrence Duncan III, Anthony A. Lewis, Tanya Leah Lombard, Vanessa Reed, Kim Sheftall Humphries, Nicole Venable and Katharine Weymouth; and the Corporate Chair is Southern Company President & CEO, Thomas A. Fanning.

Proceeds from the annual benefit will support Ailey’s Washington, D.C. programs, including the creation of new works, Arts in Education activities, and scholarships for talented young dance students in the Washington area to attend The Ailey School in New York City. Incredibly, a quarter of Ailey’s 32 renowned dancers have roots in the DMV area, including: Ghrai DeVore-Stokes, Samantha Figgins, Jacqueline Green, Michael Jackson, Jr., Corrin Rachelle Mitchell, Jessica Amber Pinkett, Courtney Celeste Spears, and Jermaine Terry.

For further information on tickets for the black-tie benefit performance and party, contact Ariel Metzger via e-mail: ariel@metzgerevents.com; or phone (888) 926-3836, or visit: www.alvinailey.org/dcgala. For more information on Ailey’s performances and programs, visit: www.alvinailey.org.

For additional photos and press materials, 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, 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.alvinaireiley.org.

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