



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO ATLANTA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH PERFORMANCES AT FABULOUS FOX THEATRE FROM FEBRUARY 20-23 AS PART OF 21-CITY UNITED STATES TOUR

“Ailey Revealed” Season Presents Celebrated Choreographer Donald Byrd’s *Greenwood* and Ailey Dancer and First Resident Choreographer Jamar Robert’s *Ode* are Topical World Premieres Shining a Spotlight on Social Issues

Company Premieres and New Productions by
Aszure Barton, Camille A. Brown, Judith Jamison and Darrell Moultrie

Alvin Ailey’s American Masterpiece *Revelations* is the Inspiring Finale of All Performances

Tickets Now on Sale!

ATLANTA – UPDATED February 18, 2020 – [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://www.alvinailey.org), beloved as one of the world’s most popular dance companies, returns to the **Fabulous Fox Theatre from February 20 – 23** for six dynamic performances featuring three separate programs that bring the “Ailey Revealed” 2020 season to Atlanta and 21 cities across the United States. Led by Artistic Director [Robert Battle](http://www.alvinailey.org), Ailey’s 32 extraordinary dancers will bring to life two topical world premieres that shine a spotlight on social issues – celebrated choreographer Donald Byrd’s [Greenwood](http://www.alvinailey.org) and Ailey Dancer and Resident Choreographer [Jamar Roberts’ Ode](http://www.alvinailey.org). Company premieres and new productions will be presented by preeminent choreographers Aszure Barton, Camille A. Brown, Judith Jamison and Darrell Moultrie. Alvin Ailey’s must-see American masterpiece [Revelations](http://www.alvinailey.org) will culminate each program.

“It is my pleasure to bring the unique perspectives of so many important choreographers to the Fox stage, especially the powerful voices of Donald Byrd examining the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts creating an ode to all those impacted by gun violence,” said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “I know the brilliance of Ailey’s dancers will bring Atlantans to their feet as they continue to further Alvin Ailey’s legacy of holding up a mirror to society while uplifting hearts and minds with their unparalleled artistry.”

The curtain for the engagement goes up on **Thursday, February 20 at 10:30am** with a **sold-out school-time performance for area students**. The hour-long program, moderated by one of Ailey’s dancers, introduces young audiences to the magic of Alvin Ailey’s must-see masterpiece *Revelations*.

The **opening night program on Thursday, February 20** unveils Ailey dancer and Resident Choreographer **Jamar Roberts’ Ode** - 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](http://www.alvinailey.org) (2017), this work for six dancers features his own costume designs and a jazz score – Don Pullen’s “Suite

(Sweet) Malcolm (Part 1 Memories and Gunshots).” 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. Other works gracing the opening program include Artistic Director Emerita [Judith Jamison’s *Divining*](#), a revival of her first major choreographic effort which incorporates African polyrhythms and complex movement, as well as Alvin Ailey’s timeless classic [Cry](#), the 16-minute tour-de-force solo choreographed as a birthday present to his mother and dedicated to “all black women everywhere – especially our mothers.” The opening performance is also **WSB-TV’s Family 2 Family Night, hosted by anchors Jovita Moore and Jorge Estevez**. This program repeats on **Radio One Night hosted by Majic’s Maria More and Praise’s Veda Howard** on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.

The Friday, February 21 program debuts Donald Byrd’s *Greenwood*, a riveting ensemble work that draws on the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre as a source. Set to music by Israeli violist and composer Emmanuel Witzthum, *Greenwood* navigates through one of the worst incidents of racial violence in US history and explores the story through different lenses of those who were affected. A TONY nominee (*The Color Purple*), Bessie Award-winner (*The Minstrel Show*), and 2019 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, Byrd is celebrated for exploring complex societal issues through dance. Along with Artistic Director Robert Battle and Fulton County Remembrance Coalition’s “Stories From the Soil” founder Allison Bantimba, Byrd will be part of a discussion moderated by CNN’s Fredricka Whitfield called [Greenwood & Stories from the Soil: Reveal, Remember, Reconcile](#) at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights on Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. The lasting impact of a teacher’s influence on a young child is at the heart of the exuberant opening work - Darrell Grand Moultrie’s [Ounce of Faith](#). This evening will be **hosted by V-103 with Ramona DeBreux**. The program also repeats on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

For two nights only Atlantans are invited to enjoy **exclusive artistic discussions in [The Fox Theatre’s Marquee Club](#) presented by Lexus** on select dates. On **Thursday, February 20 from 6:45pm – 7:30pm**, moderated by **WABE’S Rose Scott, Associate Artistic Director [Matthew Rushing](#)** and dancer and **Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts** will join in a conversation centered around Mr. Roberts’ new work *Ode*. On **Friday, February 21 from 6:45pm – 7:30pm**, moderated by **V103’s Ramona DeBreux, Artistic Director Robert Battle** and **Fulton County Remembrance Coalition’s *Stories from the Soil* Founder Allison Bantimba** share in a discussion that will feature **Donald Byrd’s *Greenwood***, shedding light on hidden chapter of our nation’s history. Marquee Club Access includes: early/expressed entry, starting 90 minutes before showtime, complimentary pre-show bites and dessert during intermission, private/expressed bar access including two rooftop terraces, and post show access to the club. Cost of admission to the club does not include a show ticket. A show ticket must accompany a club ticket for entry into the club. Marquee Club passes for these events and all other Alvin Ailey performances are available for purchase [here](#).

The matinee programs on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. (Family Matinee performance by a Q&A with Ailey dancers) and Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. feature the company premieres of **Aszure Barton’s** dazzling [BUSK](#), an episodic look at the nature of performance and the vulnerabilities that artists face in revealing themselves onstage, and **Camille A. Brown’s** quietly lyrical [City of Rain](#), a work honoring a close friend that passed away due to an illness that paralyzed him from the waist down. Brown uses the physicality and vulnerability of 10 dancers to share his story. This program also includes the return of repertory favorite [A Case of You](#), an emotional and sensual duet by Judith Jamison. Sunday’s matinee performance will be **hosted by WALR with Art Terrell, Toni Moore, Cory ‘Zooman’ Miller, and Neiko Flowers from The Morning Groove**.

In addition to the exciting premieres, the inspiring finale of all programs will be Alvin Ailey’s American masterpiece ***Revelations***, acclaimed around the world for sending hearts soaring and lifting audiences to their feet. 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. 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 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 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.

Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta

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

- [Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach residency](#), Monday, February 10 – Friday, February 14 at M. Agnes Jones Elementary and Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy. This innovative curriculum based initiative utilizes Alvin Ailey's signature work, *Revelations*, as the inspirational framework for a comprehensive study of language arts, social studies, and dance.
- [Ailey Experience](#), Saturday, February 15 – Sunday, February 16 at Charles R. Drew Charter School. Funded by Home Depot, the Ailey Experience workshops give dancers ages 8+ the opportunity to study with leading instructors and former Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater company members. Students will learn the rich history of Ailey's signature style and how he changed the perception of American modern dance.
- [The Ailey School Auditions](#), Saturday, February 22 at 6:15 p.m. (ages 11-15) and 8 p.m. (ages 16-25) at Atlanta Ballet. The mission of The Ailey School is to make dance accessible to outstanding students through a curriculum of rigorous and diversified dance training. Nearly 70% of current Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members received their pre-professional training from The Ailey School, including Georgia's own [Christopher Wilson](#).

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. The pilot season of the program worked to deepen Ailey's connection and commitment to the city's cultural organizations through diverse year-round programming, and included dance classes, workshops, a panel event, and the first-ever Atlanta performances by Ailey II.

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, and promotes them through the press, email, social media, and a website. The initiative brings 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 include AREA (Atlanta's Resource for Entertainment & Arts), Cultural Experience Project / Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs, Dance Canvas, ELEVATE Public Art Festival / Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs, The Gathering Spot, The Fox Theatre, High Museum of Art, National Black Arts Festival, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Reining Victory Dance Studio, Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University and Atlanta public and private schools, including M. Agnes Jones Elementary School. For more information, visit [Destination.Dance](#).

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 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's National Tour Sponsor.

Georgia Power and Hope Depot are Platinum Circle Sponsors of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.

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

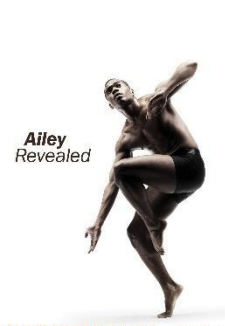
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is a Silver Circle Sponsor of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta.

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

The company premiere of *City of Rain* is made possible with support from American Express.

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.

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



(L to R); Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Donna Ward; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Solomon Dumas. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Donald Byrd's *Greenwood*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Jamar Roberts' *Ode*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. Please credit photos. [Ctrl+Click for high-res download.](#)

Calendar Listing Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's extraordinary dancers return to center stage at the Fox Theatre February 20-23 with world 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 2020 Atlanta Engagement Performance Dates and Times:

Thursday, Feb. 20 at 10:30 a.m. – Student Performance
Thursday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. – *Divining, Cry / Ode / Revelations*
Friday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. – *Ounce of Faith / Greenwood / Revelations*
Saturday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.* – *BUSK / City of Rain, A Case of You / Revelations*
Saturday, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. – *Divining, Cry / Ode / Revelations*
Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. – *BUSK / City of Rain, A Case of You / Revelations*
Sunday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. – *Ounce of Faith / Greenwood / Revelations*
*Family Matinee followed by free Q&A with the dancers

Tickets

[Tickets for Ailey's 2020 Atlanta engagement](#) from February 20 to 23 are on sale starting at \$29 at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltx.com or by calling 855-285-8499. Atlantans can take advantage of a variety of special offers:

- **Receive \$10 off tickets \$39 or higher** to the Thursday, February 20 **WSB Family 2 Family** performance using code FAM2FAM (limit 8 tickets per order).
- **Student tickets** are available for all performances except Saturday, February 22 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).
- **\$10 tickets are available for the student field trip performance** on Thursday, February 20 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Fox Group Sales.
- **Groups of 10 or more can receive up to 30% off by calling 404-881-2000** (discounts applied to tickets regularly priced \$39 or higher).
- **Buy one, get one 50% off tickets** are available for the Family Matinee on Saturday, February 22 at 2 p.m. (limit 8 tickets).

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.

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