



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

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

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES EXCITING PROGRAMS FOR 2013 ATLANTA ENGAGEMENT FROM FEBRUARY 14 TO 17 LED BY DYNAMIC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE

Inspiring Performances Feature Ailey's Extraordinary Dancers in Premieres and New Productions by Renowned Choreographers and Farewell Appearances of the Acclaimed Renee Robinson After Over Three Decades of Lighting Up the Stage

Tickets Start at \$25 – Special Discounts for Opening Night, Saturday Family Matinee & Students

ATLANTA – (Jan. 16, 2013) – [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to The Fabulous Fox Theatre for their highly anticipated 2013 Atlanta engagement from February 14th to 17th for five performances only. After a record-breaking New York season, Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) will continue to surprise and delight Atlanta audiences with premieres and new productions that expand his vision for the company and further showcase the unparalleled artistry and technique of 30 extraordinary dancers. In addition to presenting exciting choreographic voices from rising star Kyle Abraham to the innovative Ohad Naharin and acclaimed Ronald K. Brown, as well as legendary dance master Garth Fagan, the performances will mark the historic final appearances by the celebrated Renee Robinson after over three decades of lighting up the stage.



Artistic Director Robert Battle and members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Andrew Eccles [\[CTRL + CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR DOWNLOAD\]](#)

"Atlanta and Ailey have developed a special relationship that continues to blossom," said Robert Battle. "As the curtain goes up for our opening night on Valentine's Day, I know the dancer's passion and generosity will inspire all at the Fox Theatre as we share new choreographic treasures, invite audience members to join in the dance onstage, and celebrate the much-admired Renee Robinson as she leads a must-see performance of the American masterpiece *Revelations*."

Known for her radiant performances, [Renee Robinson](#) will take center stage on Thursday and Friday night only, in the iconic role carrying the umbrella in the "Wade in the Water" section of [Revelations](#). A revered dancer for over 30 years,

she is the last remaining company member selected by founder Alvin Ailey, the female dancer with the longest tenure in the Company's history, and the only dancer to have performed under all three Artistic Directors.

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The opening night program (repeated on Saturday evening) features: in-demand young choreographer Kyle Abraham's [Another Night](#) set to Art Blakey and The Jazz Messenger's rendition of Dizzy Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia"; Robert Battle's [In/Side](#), a vivid and emotional male solo; and Ohad Naharin's eclectic and memorable [Minus 16](#). An alternate program on Friday night, repeated on the Saturday and Sunday matinees, includes: [From Before](#) a classic work by Tony award-winning *The Lion King* choreographer Garth Fagan; Robert Battle's [Strange Humors](#), a thrillingly intense duet with unexpected leaps and falls; and Ronald K. Brown's [Grace](#), a rapturous, spiritually-charged blend of modern and African-influenced dance set to Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday" and the powerful rhythms of Fela Kuti's Afro-Pop. The always uplifting [Revelations](#) will end all performances in a hand-clapping climax.

Prior to Ailey's performances at the Fox, Robert Battle has been honored with the invitation to speak at THE DREAM@50 event at the Martin Luther King International Chapel at Morehouse on Saturday, January 19th at 2:30pm. At this memorable event Battle will read a section of the famous "I Have a Dream" speech and the esteemed Ailey dancer Briana Reed will perform the finale of Alvin Ailey's [Cry](#), a dance of celebration and triumph.

Join the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for the ground-breaking 2013 engagement in Atlanta, as Ailey's breathtaking artists celebrate the human spirit and inspire all people through the dance. To purchase tickets, starting at \$25, call +1(855) 285-8499 or visit www.alvinailey.org or www.foxtheatre.org.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's
Alicia Graf Mack.

Photo by Andrew Eccles

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Visit pressroom.alvinailey.org for additional images, video & press materials.

Ailey's 2013 Performance Schedule at the Fabulous Fox Theatre

Thursday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. Student Performance (*Another Night, Revelations*)

Thursday, Feb. at 8 p.m. (*Another Night, In/Side, Minus 16, Revelations*)

Friday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. (*From Before, Strange Humors, Grace, Revelations*)

Saturday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. (*From Before, Strange Humors, Grace, Revelations*)

Saturday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. (*Another Night, In/Side, Minus 16, Revelations*)

Sunday, Feb. 17 at 3 p.m. (*From Before, Strange Humors, Grace, Revelations*)

Calendar Listing Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's extraordinary dancers return to center stage at the Fox Theatre from February 14th to 17th with premieres, new productions, and *Revelations* for five audience-captivating performances only.

Tickets

Tickets are currently available for purchase at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.foxatltix.com, www.alvinailey.org or by calling +1(855) 285-8499. Prices start at \$25. Groups of 10 or more may call (404) 881-2000 to save up to 20 percent on group tickets. The Family Matinee on Saturday Feb. 16, offers buy one, get one half price and will include a special Q&A with the dancers following the performance.

Special Offers

Opening Night Performance: Receive \$10 off any ticket.

In partnership with WSB-TV's Family2Family, those interested to attend the opening night performance can receive \$10 off any ticket. To receive, enter the "FAMILY" discount code at checkout. Limit 6 tickets, cannot be combined with other offers, no retroactive discounts, subject to availability.

Student Tickets: \$10 tickets for Thursday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. only.

Students can enjoy opening night for only \$10 by showing a valid student ID. (*Student rate tickets must be purchased at the Fox Theatre box office prior to 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 14; limit two tickets per ID.*)*Family Matinee:*

Buy one, get one 50 percent off

On Saturday, Feb. 16, families are encouraged to spend an afternoon in the city and attend the family matinee at 2 p.m. For each full-price ticket purchased, a second ticket can be purchased for half-price. Following the performance, the entire audience is welcome to join in a free Q&A session with select Ailey dancers.

Group Discounts: Receive up to 20 percent off

Groups of ten or more may call (404) 881-2000 to save up to 20 percent on group tickets.

Georgia Power provides support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Atlanta Season.

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REPERTORY FOR ATLANTA ENGAGEMENT

World and Company Premieres

[Another Night](#) (2012) choreographed by Kyle Abraham

Music: Dizzy Gillespie

The world premiere of *Another Night* by in-demand young choreographer Kyle Abraham innovatively fuses the many dynamic facets of American dance and showcases the artistry and versatility of the Ailey dancers. Set to **Art Blakey & The Jazz Messenger's** rendition of one of Dizzy Gillespie's seminal compositions, "A Night in Tunisia," the new work for ten dancers was created with the support of commissioning funds from New York City Center and the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, in celebration of the Center's 50th Anniversary. Over the past few years, Abraham has received numerous accolades and awards for his dancing and choreography including the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, which honors outstanding, visionary dance artists; a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show*; a Princess Grace Award for Choreography; and recognition as one of *Dance Magazine's* 25 To Watch. A recipient of a BFA from SUNY Purchase and a MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, he currently teaches his unique approach to post-modern dance throughout the United States, in addition to performing, choreographing and leading his own company, Abraham.In.Motion. Robert Battle comments: "Kyle Abraham is someone I've known and watched for quite some time. His work is provocative, with a diverse dance vocabulary that embodies a variety of traditions and styles. It is the right time for him to create a new work on the dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and I'm proud to be able to provide this platform for him."

[Strange Humors](#) (1998) by Robert Battle

Music: John Mackey

Artistic Director Robert Battle's *Strange Humors* is a thrillingly intense duet set to a propulsive score for strings and African drum by composer John Mackey, a fellow Juilliard classmate of Mr. Battle. This riveting company premiere pits two men against each other in surprising sequences that ignite with aggression and discord, mischievousness and humor, as the relationship between the two dancers builds to an exciting crescendo. Robert Battle comments: "*Strange Humors* is a physically challenging duet containing influences of tango, Martha Graham and hints of hip hop and martial arts, with unexpected leaps and falls, that break the viewer's false sense of security. The title of this work was inspired by the writings of Maya Angelou – 'When I think of death, and of late the idea has come with alarming frequency, I seem at peace with the idea that a day will dawn when I will no longer be among those living in this valley of strange humors.'"

From Before (1978) by Garth Fagan

Music: Ralph MacDonald

From Before is an ensemble piece blending the rhythms of African dance with Caribbean influences beautifully crafted by Jamaican-born Garth Fagan, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of *The Lion King*. The Ailey company premiere is the first time this revered, quintessential work, which distills movement to its purest form and features a jazzy percussive score by Trinidadian Grammy winner Ralph MacDonald, will be staged for a company other than Garth Fagan Dance. Mr. Fagan attributed its popularity with audiences all across the world to “the fluidity of Caribbean dance, the polyrhythms of African, the precision of ballet and the strength and weight of modern dance.” His many honors include the prestigious 1998 Tony Award for Best Choreography for *The Lion King*, as well as an Astaire Award, and a Laurence Olivier Award, and he holds an honorary doctorate from the Juilliard School. Fagan recently collaborated with Grammy-winning musician and composer Wynton Marsalis on the world premiere of his newest work, *Lighthouse/Lightning Rod* at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in celebration of BAM’s 150th anniversary and Garth Fagan Dance’s 40th anniversary. Robert Battle comments: “Garth Fagan has a unique and, in a way, abstract approach to movement. There is an element of purity in his work - he taps into his West African and Caribbean roots and fuses them in surprising ways. Fagan is a true original and *From Before* is a quintessential representation of his artistry.”

New Production Grace (1999) by Ronald K. Brown **Music: Duke Ellington, Roy Davis Jr., Paul Johnson & Fela Anikulapo Kuti**

Ronald K. Brown’s landmark *Grace*, created for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1999, returns to the repertory in a rapturous, spiritually-charged new production. Infused with Brown’s signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms, this moving journey acknowledging the grace that surrounds us all is set to Duke Ellington’s classic “Come Sunday,” Roy Davis’ hit “Gabriel,” and the powerful rhythms of Fela Kuti’s Afro-Pop. Born in Brooklyn, Brown has created and presented dances since 1985 with his company Evidence and has received the Bessie Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Dance Festival Humphrey/Weidman/Limon Award, among others. Most recently he received accolades for his Astaire award-winning choreography for the Broadway revival of *The Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess*. Robert Battle comments: “Brown’s choreography uses African dance in a unique and potent way. *Grace* is a brilliant work, and an important part of the Ailey repertory. From the beautiful opening solo set to Duke Ellington’s “Come Sunday,” there are elements that represent both the religious and secular. The strong tension between these two opposites, and how they sometimes reflect one another, remains gripping right to the very end when the dancers exit upstage in white.”

Repertory Favorites

Minus 16 (1999) by Ohad Naharin

Music: Various Artists

A delightfully eclectic score ranging from Dean Martin to mambo, techno to traditional Israeli music, propels Ohad Naharin’s phenomenally inventive piece. Using Naharin’s acclaimed “Gaga” method to overcome old habits and make room for new movement and new experiences, this expansive ensemble work is unlike any other in the Ailey repertory in the way it challenges the dancers to improvise and breaks down barriers between audience and performers.

In/Side (2008) by Robert Battle

Music: Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of Nina Simone’s Oscar-nominated song “Wild is the Wind” play out in Robert Battle’s gripping solo offering an intimate look at a man’s most private struggles through a 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]. The ballet was incorporated into the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater repertory in 2009.

Revelations (1960) by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional

Using African-American spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues, *Revelations* fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Alvin Ailey said that one of America’s richest treasures was the cultural heritage of the African-American – “sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful.” This enduring classic is a tribute to that heritage and to Ailey’s genius.

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, 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 23 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 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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