



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Robert Battle, *Artistic Director* Masazumi Chaya, *Associate Artistic Director* Sharon Gersten Luckman, *Executive Director*  
Alvin Ailey, *Founder* Judith Jamison, *Artistic Director Emerita*

## **Press Contacts:**

Christopher Zunner

[czunner@alvinailey.org](mailto:czunner@alvinailey.org) / 212-405-9028

Emily Hawkins

[ehawkins@alvinailey.org](mailto:ehawkins@alvinailey.org) / 212-405-9083

Beth Garcia

[beth.garcia@mcsaatchi.com](mailto:beth.garcia@mcsaatchi.com) / 646-619-2829

## **ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER - 2012 NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON**

### **Robert Battle Adds Dynamic New Choreographic Voices with Premieres and New Productions Expanding the Company's Diverse Repertory for His Second Season as Artistic Director**

***Another Night* by Rising Young Choreographer Kyle Abraham  
Fuses the Many Dynamic Facets of American Dance**

**Breathtaking *Petite Mort* Marks the First Time a Work  
By the Renowned European Choreographer Jiří Kylián Appears in Ailey Repertory**

**Ground-Breaking Modern Dance Master Garth Fagan's *From Before* is the First Staging of this Revered Work  
for a Company Other than Garth Fagan Dance**

**Robert Battle's *Strange Humors* and New Productions of Ronald K. Brown's *Grace* and Highlights of Historic  
Ailey Ballets Featured in Five-Week Holiday Season**

**Opening Night Gala Benefit with Academy Award-Winner Mo'Nique as Honorary Chair  
and *Revelations* with Live Music Performed On-Stage by Special Guest Vocalists**

**November 28 – December 30, 2012**

**NEW YORK – November 7, 2012 — Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies and New York City Center's Principal Dance Company, returns for the 41<sup>st</sup> consecutive year to the New York City Center stage from November 28, 2012 – December 30, 2012 with exciting performances that have become a joyous holiday tradition.

Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) will continue to surprise and delight audiences with premieres and new productions that expand his vision for the company, adding dynamic choreographic voices to the repertory that challenge Ailey's extraordinary artists in new ways.

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 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.

[Petite Mort](#), a ballet of breathtaking sensuality and visual surprises, premieres on the Company this season marking the first time a work by renowned European choreographer **Jiří Kylián** will appear in the Ailey repertory. Set to two of **Mozart's** most popular piano concertos, the theatrical work blends a classical sensibility with a bold, modern wit with fencing foils and elaborate ball gowns in an unforgettable duel featuring six couples.

-more-

[From Before](#) is an ensemble piece blending the rhythms of African dance with Caribbean influences beautifully crafted by **Garth Fagan**, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of *The Lion King*. The Ailey company premiere is the first time this revered work, which distills movement to its purest form and features a jazzy percussive score by Grammy winner **Ralph MacDonald**, will be staged for a company other than Garth Fagan Dance.

**Artistic Director Robert Battle's** [Strange Humors](#) is a thrillingly intense duet set to **John Mackey's** propulsive score for strings and African drum. 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.

**Ronald K. Brown's** landmark work [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.

A new production of [Ailey Classics](#) will be staged, which features a vibrant anthology of highlights from founder Alvin Ailey's prolific 30-year career — including audience favorites and classics such as *Cry, Love Songs* and *For 'Bird' With Love* — culminating with his signature masterpiece *Revelations*, performed in its entirety.

"I'm thrilled to be further expanding Ailey's diverse repertory with new voices and talented contemporary choreographers that showcase the depth and breadth of the dancers' artistry. Audiences will experience new treasures, along with encores of last season's notable works and beloved pieces from Ailey's rich history, including a program that highlights our founder Alvin Ailey," said Artistic Director Robert Battle. "Between our Opening Night Gala Benefit and the Season Finale, there will be a variety of special programs that feature live music, all new works and a celebration of two much-admired Ailey family members who will be taking a bow - Sharon Gersten Luckman and Renee Robinson."

Academy Award-winning actress and comedienne **Mo'Nique will serve as Honorary Chair and Honored Guest** of the **November 28<sup>th</sup> Opening Night Gala Benefit** performance and party that launches the season with a fundraiser to support Ailey's extensive educational and training programs for young people. The curtain rises to an encore performance of **Ohad Naharin's** [Minus 16](#), an eclectic dance and musical excursion that delights audiences with improvisation that breaks down barriers between audience and performers. *Revelations* with live music performed on-stage by special guest vocalists presents an inspiring finale for the memorable opening. Corporate honoree Macy's and Bloomingdale's will be recognized for their many years of wonderful support for the Ailey company.

A special performance will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> celebrating [Sharon Gersten Luckman](#), who will step down in 2013 after over two decades of accomplishments with the Ailey organization—17 of them as the organization's esteemed Executive Director. Ms. Luckman has strategized and overseen the dramatic growth and success of the entire Ailey organization, including the creation of the organization's state-of-the-art home - The Joan Weill Center for Dance – and has established one of the most remarkable records in American arts management.

On Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, friends and fans will pay tribute to [Renee Robinson](#) in her farewell season with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. A revered dancer for over three decades, 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. A former student of The Ailey School and member of Ailey II, Robinson is beloved for both her radiant performances and for her mentorship and generosity in sharing the Ailey legacy with generations of performers. Renee will be leading all performances of *Revelations* during the first two weeks of the season, from November 28<sup>th</sup> until her final New York season performance on December 9<sup>th</sup>. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> Ms. Robinson will be receiving the prestigious 2012 Dance Magazine Award, honoring great artists who have made major contributions to the field, in a ceremony at The Ailey Citigroup Theater.

-more-

In addition to performances of Ohad Naharin's unique and innovative **Minus 16** throughout the month, premieres from Ailey's celebrated 2011 inaugural season led by Robert Battle will appear in the repertory, including modern dance master **Paul Taylor's Arden Court** and hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris' soul-lifting Home**.

A variety of 19 premieres, new productions, repertory favorites and classic works will be performed, such as Robert Battle's explosive **The Hunt** and Alvin Ailey's sparkling **Night Creature** and **Memoria**, a moving homage to the renowned teacher Joyce Trisler performed with an exuberant cast spotlighting talented young dancers from The Ailey School.

Mr. Ailey's beloved **Revelations**, an American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all and recognized by a U.S. Senate resolution, will also be performed with live music on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, and with an expanded cast of 50 dancers including members of Ailey II and The Ailey School on Saturday and Sunday matinees through December 16<sup>th</sup>. **Revelations** will be the finale of each **Family Matinee Series** program – performances every Saturday at 2pm in December followed by a question-and-answer session with Ailey's acclaimed dancers.

A special 2012 season highlights finale program will bring an exciting finish to the season on December 30<sup>th</sup>. The full season schedule is attached (subject to change).

In addition to the season, Mr. Battle has also scheduled the second year of the **New Directions Choreography Lab**, a major program launched last year to serve the entire field of dance. Assisting choreographers in developing their work, the program will again grant resident fellowships to four emerging and mid-career artists, offering a stipend, the use of gifted dancers from The Ailey School, creative mentorships and rehearsal time at The Joan Weill Center for Dance. Unlike other programs that require the production and presentation of a final performance or commission, Ailey's lab enables choreographers to focus solely on the process of choreography as a creative experience, free from all restricting expectations or deadlines. Choreography fellowships have been awarded to Samantha Speis, Loni Landon, Jennifer Archibald and Thang Dao, with creative mentorship from Ronald K. Brown, Lar Lubovitch, Gus Solomons, Jr. and Sylvia Waters respectively.

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. Having embarked on an exciting new era in Ailey history, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will move audiences in a diverse repertory of premieres, new productions and repertory classics by a variety of choreographers, revealing once again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world's most beloved dance companies!

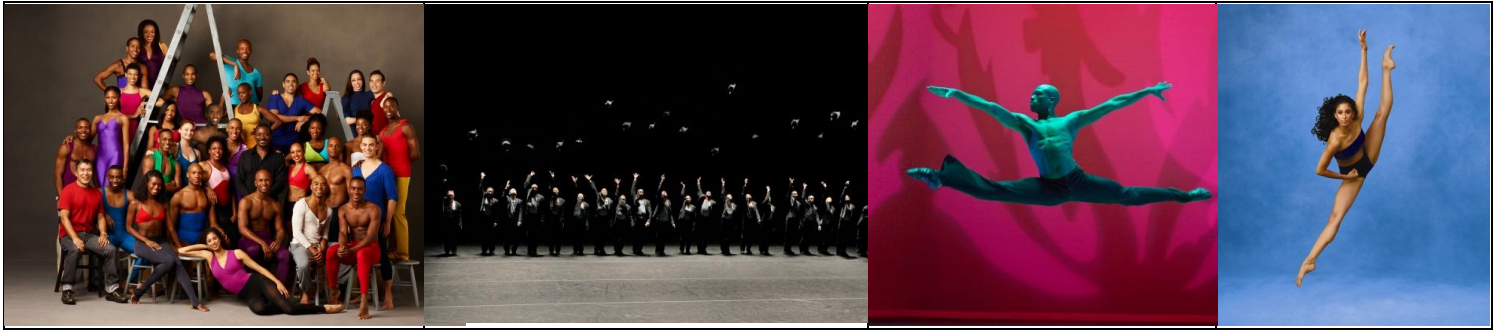
**Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale** and can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance. Additional discounts are available for the Saturday Family Matinee series, for students with an appropriate ID and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$25 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information about the Alvin Ailey New York City Center season please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

***Wells Fargo is the sponsor of  
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Season.***

For further information, the public may visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

Click here for [2012 New York City Center Season digital brochure](#).

For additional press materials or photos, members of the media may visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org) or [Ctrl+Click Photos for High Resolution Download](#).



(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT in Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Antonio Douthit in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Gert Krautbauer; AAADT's Alicia Graf Mack. Photo by Andrew Eccles  
[\(CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD\)](#)

### The 2012 Season Program: Highlights

For his second season as Artistic Director, Mr. Battle has chosen to add dynamic new choreographic voices to expand Ailey's diverse repertory. The premieres and new productions provide a platform for a rising young voice with multi-faceted choreography representing the broad range of American dance, celebrates a revered work by an American modern dance master, and exposes Ailey audiences and dancers to a renowned international choreographer whose work is being performed by Ailey for the first time. The new season presents a special program featuring eight of the founder's works, a compelling piece by the company's new leader, and a new production of a beloved repertory classic.

### World Premiere

[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."

### Company Premiere

[Petite Mort](#) (1991) choreographed by Jiří Kylián

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The company premiere of *Petite Mort*, a ballet of visual surprises that showcases the sensuality, humor and technical prowess of Ailey's dancers, marking the first time a work by renowned European choreographer **Jiří Kylián** will appear in the Ailey repertory. Set to two of **Mozart's** most popular piano concertos (Piano Concerto in A Major – Adagio, and Piano Concerto in C Major – Andante), it blends a classical sensibility with a bold, modern wit in an unforgettable duel featuring six couples. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1947, Kylián was a long-time Artistic Director of Nederlands Dans Theater who became recognized as one of the most influential choreographers of the past three decades, receiving many international awards and honors. **Robert Battle comments:** "Jiří Kylián is one of the top international choreographers and *Petite Mort*, one of his best works, will be his first piece set on the Company. I was introduced to him when I was a student at Juilliard. I find Kylián's partnering and his movement vocabulary reflective of some of the modern dance pioneers. This exquisite work will stretch the dancers and the way people see Ailey."

**From Before (1978) choreographed 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.”

**Strange Humors (1998) choreographed 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.*’”

**New Production**

**Grace (1999) choreographed 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.”

**Ailey Classics (1971-1988) choreographed by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Various Artists**

A new production will be staged of **Ailey Classics**, a vibrant anthology of highlights from **founder Alvin Ailey’s** prolific 30-year career — including audience favorites and classics such as *Memoria*, *Night Creature*, *Phases*, *Opus McShann*, *Love Songs*, *For ‘Bird’ - With Love*, and *Hidden Rites* — culminating with the beloved classic *Revelations*, performed in its entirety. **Robert Battle comments:** “I remember being that 12-year-old boy from Miami who was bused from my school to see Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* for the first time and now I have the opportunity to present an evening dedicated to his work, so that others can have that transformative experience while we celebrate his genius and generosity. Mr. Ailey said it so well: ‘Dance comes from the people and should always be delivered back to the people.’ He wanted people to be in awe of what these dancers are able to do, along with the variety of great musicians who also inspired him, but he wanted audiences to see reflections of themselves on stage.”

## **OTHER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### **Opening Night Gala Benefit (Nov. 30 @ 7pm)**

A one-night-only performance and gala party on November 28<sup>th</sup> with Honorary Chair and Honored Guest Mo'Nique will support Ailey's extensive educational and training programs for young people. *Revelations* with live music will be performed on-stage by special guest vocalists. Gala Co-Chairs are Simin and Herb Allison, Kathryn and Kenneth Chenault, Daria L. Foster, Agnes and Gerald Hassell, Debra L. Lee and Joan and Sandy Weill.

### **Family Matinee Series (Dec. 1 mat, 8 mat, 15 mat, 22 mat, 29 mat)**

On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy the performance (tickets start at \$25) and stay afterward for a free Q & A with the Ailey dancers in the theater. An increased number of \$25 tickets are available, but buy early for the best seat selection. Offer subject to availability and maximum purchase limit (6 tickets). Not available online.

### **Celebrating Sharon Gersten Luckman (Dec. 4 @ 7:30pm)**

A special performance celebrating [Sharon Gersten Luckman](#), who is planning to step down in 2013 after over two decades of accomplishments with the Ailey organization—17 of them as the organization's esteemed Executive Director.

### **Renee Robinson Farewell (Dec. 9 @ 7:30pm)**

Join with generations of dancers and fans to pay tribute and bid farewell to [Renee Robinson](#), a revered company member for over 3 decades, in her final performances with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

### **Special Season Finale Program (Dec. 30 @ 7:30pm)**

A special 2012 season highlights finale program will bring an exciting finish to the season.

### ***Revelations***

- performed with a cast of 50 - Dec 1 mat, 2 mat, 8 mat, 9 mat, 15 mat, 16 mat
- performed with live music – Nov 28, Dec 14, Dec 15 mat & eve

"ALL NEW" Programs — Dec 13, 16 eve, 19, 26 eve, 30 mat

### **Season Repertory**

In addition to the premieres, new productions, and special programs, the season repertory will include:

*Arden Court* – Paul Taylor

Music: William Boyce

*Episodes* - Ulysses Dove

Music: Robert Ruggieri

*The Evolution Of A Secured Feminine* –

Camille A. Brown

Music: Ella Fitzgerald, Betty Carter and Nancy Wilson

*Home* – Rennie Harris

Music: Dennis Ferrer, Raphael Xavier

*The Hunt* - Robert Battle

Music: Les Tambours du Bronx

*In/Side* - Robert Battle

Music: Nina Simone

*Memoria* - Alvin Ailey

Music: Keith Jarrett

*Minus 16* – Ohad Naharin

Music: Various Artists

*Night Creature* - Alvin Ailey

Music: Duke Ellington

*Revelations* - Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

*Streams* - Alvin Ailey

Music: Miloslav Kabelac

*Takademe* – Robert Battle

Music: Sheila Chandra

*Urban Folk Dance* - Ulysses Dove

Music: Michael Torke

*Vespers* - Ulysses Dove

Music: Mikel Rouse

**FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE ATTACHED - (All programming is subject to change)**

## **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to the New York City Center stage from November 28, 2012 – December 30, 2012, led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, with premieres, new productions and exciting performances by Ailey's acclaimed dancers that have become a joyous holiday tradition. **Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale** and can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance. Additional discounts are available for the Saturday Family Matinee series, for students with an appropriate ID and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$25 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further details on Ailey's New York City Center season, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – November 28 – December 30, 2012  
New York City Center - 131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY  
(212) 581-1212 / [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org)

Performance Times:

Opening Night Gala (November 28 <sup>th</sup> )	7:00pm (note earlier curtain time)
Tuesday & Wednesday evenings	7:30pm (note new curtain time)
Thursday – Saturday evenings	8:00pm
Sunday evenings	7:30pm
Wednesday & Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm

**Wells Fargo is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Season.**

**American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
and the lead funder of *From Before*.**

**The creation of *Another Night* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center and by the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, in celebration of the Center's 50th Anniversary.**

**Simin & Herb Allison, American Express, BET Networks, BNY Mellon, Daria L. Foster, and Joan & Sandy Weill and The Weill Family Foundation are Co-Sponsors of Ailey's Opening Night Gala.**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo  
during the New York City Center Season.**

**American Airlines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.**

**The 2012-2013 season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts,  
and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.**

## **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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

**###**