



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 2012 INTERNATIONAL TOUR IS FINALE OF ROBERT BATTLE'S INAUGURAL SEASON

AMERICA'S CULTURAL AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD VISITS GENEVA, BARCELONA, COPENHAGEN,
JERUSALEM, AND TEL AVIV WITH VARIED REPERTORY OF 13 WORKS

Home by Bold Hip-Hop Choreographer Rennie Harris Inspired by the Stories of People Affected by HIV

Arden Court Marks the First Time a Work by American Dance Master Paul Taylor Appears in Ailey Repertory

Minus 16 by American-Israeli Choreographer Ohad Naharin Features Improvisation Improvisation by the Ailey Dancers
Artistic Director Robert Battle's Bravura Solo *Takademe* and Alvin Ailey's *Streams*

Repertory Favorites Include Robert Battle's *The Hunt* and *In/Side*

Judith Jamison, Rennie Harris and Robert Battle's *Love Stories*, and Alvin Ailey's Classics *Night Creature* and *Revelations*

(New York) – September 6, 2012 - Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congress as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” will inspire, enlighten and entertain audiences throughout Europe and the Middle East this September and October during a five-city tour marking the end of Robert Battle's first acclaimed season as Alvin Ailey's Artistic Director. Ailey's 2012 International Tour will consist of performances in **Geneva, Switzerland**, on September 4-9; **Barcelona, Spain**, on September 13-15; **Copenhagen, Denmark**, on September 18-23; **Jerusalem, Israel**, on September 29; and **Tel Aviv, Israel**, on October 2-6. This will be Ailey's first visit to Geneva and Barcelona in nearly a decade. The tour program will include a mix of 13 season premieres, repertory favorites, and Ailey classics.

Among the tour's International season premieres are **Paul Taylor's classic *Arden Court* (1981)**, **Rennie Harris's *Home***, and **renowned American-Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16* (1999)**, a work unlike any other in the Ailey repertory in the way it challenges the dancers to improvise and break down barriers between audience and performers. *Minus 16* features Naharin's acclaimed “Gaga” method and a delightfully eclectic score ranging from Dean Martin to cha-cha, and techno-pop to traditional Israeli music. *Arden Court*, the first work by American modern dance master Paul Taylor performed by the renowned Ailey dancers, features a sumptuous baroque score by William Boyce and technically challenging and striking duets, solos, and a men's sextet that showcases the dancers' skill and musicality. ***Home*, a new work set to a soul-lifting score of gospel house music**, is inspired by stories submitted to the “*Fight HIV Your Way*” contest for people living with or affected by HIV, an initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater presented the New York premiere on a day of major significance, December 1, both World AIDS Day and the day Alvin Ailey passed away from the disease 22 years ago.

The Company will also present choreography by Artistic Director Robert Battle; *In/Side*, a gripping solo to the vivid emotions of Nina Simone's “Wild is the Wind”; *The Hunt*, an explosive tour-de-force for six men that runs the gamut from modern sports to the rituals of the gladiators driven by a thundering percussion soundtrack by **Les Tambours du Bronx**; and *Takademe*, a savvy deconstruction and abstraction of the tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance. Containing humor, fast-paced movements and propulsive jumps, this international season premiere is set to Sheila Chandra's syncopated vocal score.

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Tour highlights include Ailey classics and repertory favorites such as *Memoria*, Mr. Ailey's moving tribute to the life of Joyce Trisler, friend and fellow dancer and choreographer; *Night Creature*, Alvin Ailey's enduring homage to the exuberance of Duke Ellington's music; and *Love Stories*, **Judith Jamison's** dynamic 2004 collaboration with Robert Battle and hip-hop pioneer **Rennie Harris** set to the soundscape of engineer Darrin Ross and the music of the legendary **Stevie Wonder**. Audiences in Jerusalem will experience an homage to the artistry of Alvin Ailey through **this season's staging of *Streams (1970)*, Mr. Ailey's first full-length dance without a plot**. A gorgeous exploration of the architecture of bodies in space, the landmark work contains stunning solos, duets, and group passages that reflect the powerful score by Miloslav Kabelac.

"Building upon the cherished legacy of Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison, this season has been the beginning of another exciting adventure for the Company and our audiences," stated **Robert Battle**, who became Artistic Director on July 1, 2011. "Mr. Ailey said it so well: 'Dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people.' As we continue to share this new chapter with international viewers, after an incredible month-long engagement this summer in Paris, I'm excited for new audiences to witness the world's most amazing dancers carrying on Ailey's inspiring journey."

In addition to electrifying performances, Ailey dancers will conduct **a number of special master classes in Israel, coordinated by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the American Consulate in Jerusalem**.

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. Ailey's moving performances are renowned for bringing audiences around the globe to their feet night after night with an incomparable sense of joy, freedom, and spirit. Since its founding in 1958 by legendary choreographer and dancer Alvin Ailey, the company has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 48 states, in over 71 countries and across six continents.

Tickets are now on sale for [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's return to New York City Center](#) from November 28, 2012 – December 30, 2012 for an annual holiday season with premieres and new productions, along with a variety of repertory favorites and special programs. **Tickets starting at \$25 go on sale September 4th** and can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at www.alvinailey.org or www.nycitycenter.org.

Detailed 2012 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

[Press – Ctrl+Click on Hyperlinks in document for photos, video & other materials available at pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)



(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. AAADT's Alicia Graf Mack in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria*. AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims & Antonio Douthit in Paul Taylor's *Arden Court*. AAADT's Kirven James Boyd in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*.
All Photos by Andrew Eccles.

(CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD)

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE
(Programs are subject to change)

Geneva, Switzerland	Théâtre du Léman	For tickets: 022 908 97 66; www.ch.fnacspectacles.com
Tues 9/4 @ 8:00pm	ARDEN COURT / HOME / REVELATIONS	
Wed 9/5 @ 8:00pm	LOVE STORIES / TAKADEME, HOME / REVELATIONS	
Thurs 9/6 @ 8:00pm	ARDEN COURT/ HOME / REVELATIONS	
Fri 9/7 @ 8:00pm	LOVE STORIES / TAKADEME, HOME / REVELATIONS	
Sat 9/8 @ 3:00pm	ARDEN COURT / HOME / REVELATIONS	
Sat 9/8 @ 8:00pm	LOVE STORIES / TAKADEME, HOME / REVELATIONS	
Sun 9/9 @ 3:00pm	ARDEN COURT / HOME / REVELATIONS	
Barcelona, Spain	Gran Teatre del Liceu	For tickets: 93 485 99 00; www.liceubarcelona.cat/en.html
Thurs 9/13 @ 8:00pm	FESTA BAROCCA / LOVE STORIES, REVELATIONS	
Fri 9/14 @ 8:00pm	FESTA BAROCCA / LOVE STORIES, REVELATIONS	
Sat 9/15 @ 5:00pm	FESTA BAROCCA/ LOVE STORIES, REVELATIONS	
Sat 9/15 @ 9:00pm	FESTA BAROCCA / LOVE STORIES, REVELATIONS	
Copenhagen, Denmark	Tivoli Concert Hall	For tickets: 45 33 15 10 12; tivoli.dk
Tues 9/18 @ 7:30pm	LOVE STORIES / TAKADEME, THE HUNT / REVELATIONS	
Wed 9/19 @ 7:30pm	ARDEN COURT / MINUS 16 / REVELATIONS	
Thurs 9/20 @ 7:30pm	ARDEN COURT/ MINUS 16 / REVELATIONS	
Fri 9/21 @ 7:30pm	LOVE STORIES / TAKADEME, THE HUNT / REVELATIONS	
Sat 9/22 @ 2:30pm	LOVE STORIES / TAKADEME, THE HUNT / REVELATIONS	
Sat 9/22 @ 7:30pm	ARDEN COURT / MINUS 16 / REVELATIONS	
Sun 9/23 @ 2:30pm	LOVE STORIES / TAKADEME, THE HUNT / REVELATIONS	
Sun 9/23 @ 7:30pm	ARDEN COURT / MINUS 16 / REVELATIONS	
Jerusalem, Israel	Jerusalem Centre for Performing Arts	For tickets: 972-02- 560 5755; jerusalem-theatre.co.il
Sat 9/29 @ 8:30pm	STREAMS, IN/SIDE / UNFOLD, NIGHT CREATURE / REVELATIONS	
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israeli Opera Performing Arts Center	For tickets: 03 6927777; http://israel-opera.co.il/Eng/
Tues 10/2 @ 8:00pm	ARDEN COURT / HOME / REVELATIONS	
Wed 10/3 @ 8:00pm	MEMORIA / TAKADEME, THE HUNT / REVELATIONS	
Thurs 10/4 @ 8:00pm	ARDEN COURT/ HOME / REVELATIONS	
Fri 10/5 @ 1:00pm	MEMORIA / TAKADEME, THE HUNT / REVELATIONS	
Fri 10/5 @ 9:00pm	ARDEN COURT / HOME / REVELATIONS	
Sat 10/6 @ 4:00pm	MEMORIA / TAKADEME, THE HUNT / REVELATIONS	
Sat 10/6 @ 8:00pm	ARDEN COURT / HOME / REVELATIONS	

2012 International Tour Program: Finale of Inaugural Season led by Robert Battle

For his first season as Artistic Director, Mr. Battle has chosen to add to the repertory a rich array of premieres and new productions that express his vision for the company while honoring some of his most significant artistic influences. The new season celebrates an American modern dance master, addresses an important social issue through hip hop and also includes a variety of Ailey classics and repertory favorites. The programming includes the revival of an iconic Alvin Ailey masterpiece, presents a signature work by the company's new leader, and takes the company in new directions through improvisation and audience participation.

World and Company Premieres

HOME (2011) - (World Premiere)

Choreographer: Rennie Harris

Music: Dennis Ferrer and Raphael Xavier

Bold hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris, who worked alongside Judith Jamison and Robert Battle to create *Love Stories* for the company in 2004, is choreographing a new work set to a soul-lifting score of gospel house music. The work is inspired by stories submitted to the "*Fight HIV Your Way*" contest of people living with or affected by HIV, an initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb. **Robert Battle comments:** "I think Rennie is great in the way he takes a conceptual approach to hip-hop. He is bringing a unique perspective to stories that absolutely have to be told, and that ought to be realized in a dance vocabulary that comes from a new generation. The December 1st world premiere in New York City was on a day of major significance as, in addition to World AIDS Day, it is the day we lost our founder Alvin Ailey to the disease 22 years ago."

ARDEN COURT (1981) - (2011 - Company premiere)

Choreographer: Christopher L. Huggins

Music: William Boyce

Modern dance master Paul Taylor supervised the staging of this technically challenging work (rarely performed by companies other than his own) on the Ailey company (**the first of his works to enter the Ailey repertory**). Set to a sumptuous baroque score by William Boyce, *Arden Court* is a richly dynamic dance featuring striking duets, solos and a men's sextet showcasing the dancers' skills. **Robert Battle comments:** "We are celebrating a lineage by adding *Arden Court* to the repertory since Paul came out of Martha Graham's company, and Alvin was so influenced by Martha Graham. Alvin was also a fan of Paul's work, and the two of them started their companies at about the same time. It is important that we honor this American modern dance tradition—and *Arden Court* gives us the opportunity to explore the physicality of the dancers in a very different way."

TAKADEME (1999) - (2011- Company premiere)

Choreographer: Robert Battle

Music: Sheila Chandra

The complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted in this percussive, fast-paced work by Artistic Director Robert Battle. Clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score in this fiery work called "...[a] fast-moving excursion into rhythmic exotica" by *The New York Times*. This work was first set on Ailey II in 2000 and has since been performed by the Company each subsequent year. **Robert Battle comments:** "*Takademe* is near and dear to me as one of my first creations. It's a work I made in the tiny living room of my old apartment in Queens. As I begin as Artistic Director, I want to acknowledge my journey, look back on what I did with so little and recognize having so very much now. Also, the work has a sense of humor, and some of my other works that have been done at Ailey were in a more serious vein. I wanted to share another aspect of myself with the Ailey audience."

MINUS 16 (1999) - (2011 - Company premiere)

Choreographer: 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. **Robert Battle comments:** "With *Minus 16* we are expanding the Ailey repertory with **a work unlike any other we have done**. It has an edge and offers

surprising new experiences for the Company and our audience. It will be both a great joy and a challenge for the dancers to improvise and break the fourth wall between performer and audience.”

New Production

STREAMS (1970)

Choreographer: Alvin Ailey

Music: Miloslav Kabelac

In homage to the legacy and artistry of Alvin Ailey, Mr. Battle selected the landmark work *Streams*, the first full-length dance Mr. Ailey created without a plot. A major success when it premiered in 1970, *Streams* reflects the formal, meditative mood of Miloslav Kabelac’s music using a pure Ailey idiom, in an abstract, highly structured yet fluid compilation of stunning solos, duets and group passages. The work features images inspired by bodies of water from gentle brook to turbulent ocean, which correlate to the changing emotional tides within us. **Robert Battle comments:** “There is a position in *Streams* where Alvin would say to the dancers, ‘Think Paul Taylor at this moment.’ This is a crucial link in our lineage, as members of the Ailey company and as American dance artists.”

Repertory Favorites and Classics

REVELATIONS (1960)

Choreographer: Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional

This season celebrates five decades of **Alvin Ailey’s** timeless masterpiece, *Revelations*, an American classic called a must-see for all people. 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. Using African-American religious music – spirituals – this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

NIGHT CREATURE (1975)

Choreographer: Alvin Ailey

Music: Duke Ellington

Combining modern dance, classical ballet and jazz, and juxtaposed within Ellington's jazz idiom, *Night Creature* captivates with Ailey's sexy nocturnal rituals that propel the movement into a fast paced climatic catharsis. **Duke Ellington** first composed the phenomenal, "Suite For Orchestra" in 1955, later adding the second and third movements in 1963. **Night Creature is the definitive Ailey homage to the exuberance of The Duke's jazz, and remains one of Mr. Ailey’s most popular works.**

MEMORIA (1979)

Choreographer: Alvin Ailey

Music: Keith Jarrett

Mr. Ailey's tribute to the life of Joyce Trisler, his memories and image of her Alvin Ailey wrote: "It's interesting how my personal relationships affect my creativity. It seems as though nearly all of my dances have some basis in an event or a feeling I've had that I can usually trace." In the tumultuous time of 1979 when Mr. Ailey's great, perennial friend from his Lester Horton days, the choreographer Joyce Trisler, died prematurely, he began choreographing *Memoria*. The ballet is structured in two parts - "In Memory" and "In Celebration" - to the sublime music of Keith Jarrett. **Memoria marked the first time** Mr. Ailey combined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater with Ailey II, and advanced students from The Ailey School.

FESTA BAROCCA (2008)

Choreographer: Mauro Bigonzetti

Music: Georg Friedrich Handel

Acclaimed **Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti** brings his highly dramatic style, complex partnering and seamless integration of classical and modern techniques to the Ailey repertory in his first work for an American modern dance company. Bigonzetti explains, “I discovered choreography when I met Alvin” as a young dancer with Aterballetto performing classic Ailey works such as *Escapades*, *Night Creature*, and *The River*. Bigonzetti was so inspired by the Ailey dancers’ emotional intensity and technical prowess he cast the entire company in this work - a rare and special occurrence.

THE HUNT (2001) (2010 – joined Ailey repertory)

Choreographer: Robert Battle

Music: Les Tambours du Bronx

Artistic Director **Robert Battle**'s athletic work for six men reveals the predatory side of human nature and the primitive thrill of the hunt. A thundering percussion soundtrack by **Les Tambours du Bronx** drives the explosive movement that runs the gamut from modern sports to the rituals of the gladiators. This is Mr. Battle's sixth work for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

UNFOLD (2005) (2007 - joined Ailey repertory)

Choreographer: Robert Battle

Music: Gustave Charpentier

Artistic Director Robert Battle's sensuous, swirling duet evokes the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria, sung by the exquisite diva Leontyne Price. With its **fluid grace**, this gem exemplifies the choreographer's skill for nuanced gesture and vivid imagery.

IN/SIDE (2008) (2009 – joined Ailey repertory)

Choreographer: Robert Battle

Music: Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind" play out in Robert Battle's gripping solo using his bold, unrestrained signature style. A visceral cry of pure physicality.

LOVE STORIES (2004)

Choreographer: Judith Jamison, Rennie Harris, Robert Battle

Music: Stevie Wonder

Inspired by Sankofa, the Akan word which means "go back" (Sanko) and "take" (fa), **Judith Jamison's** dynamic collaboration with hip-hop pioneer **Rennie Harris** and **Robert Battle** examines the technique, energy, movement and rhythm of African-American social dances on a journey through past, present and future. Under Jamison's direction, the unique styles, expressive voices and no-limits choreography of these artists draw on variations on the lindy-hop, Philly-bop, hip-hop and eclectic modern dance techniques to explore a love of movement, all set to the soundscape of engineer Darrin Ross and the music of the legendary **Stevie Wonder**.

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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