



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

THE JOAN WEILL CENTER FOR DANCE 405 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019-4402

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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 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE ANNOUNCES CASTING AND NEW COMPANY MEMBERS FOR LINCOLN CENTER'S DAVID H. KOCH THEATER ENGAGEMENT FROM JUNE 12 TO 16, 2013

**Performance Highlights Include the Acclaimed 20-year Veteran Matthew Rushing Leading the World Premiere of *Four Corners* by Celebrated Dance Maker Ronald K. Brown and Saturday Family Matinee with Free Post-Performance Dancer Q&A**

*Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale*

**New York – June 3, 2013 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#)** has announced casting for the Company's return to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts at the David H. Koch Theater from June 12-16, 2013. He has also invited three new dancers to join and perform with the acclaimed 30 member Company during the seven-performance engagement.

Becoming a member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater this season are **Jeroboam Bozeman** (Brooklyn, NY) and **Fana Tesfagiorgis** (Madison, WI), much-admired former members of Ailey II, and **Elisa Clark** (Brandywine, MD), who previously performed with Battleworks Dance Company, Mark Morris Dance Group, and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company.

During the spring engagement, the renowned [Matthew Rushing](#) will celebrate the completion of 20 years with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and lead the cast of Ronald K. Brown's newest work, ***Four Corners***. Set to the music of [Carl Hancock Rux](#), Yacoub, and various other artists, the work brings to life the vision of four angels standing on the four corners of the earth holding the four winds. The Ailey dancers have become known as inspiring interpreters of Brown's unique dance storytelling and the opening night world premiere cast will include Linda Celeste Sims, Belen Pereyra, Glenn Allen Sims, Demetia Hopkins, Hope Boykin, Fana Tesfagiorgis, Jacqueline Green, Kirven James Boyd, Daniel Harder, and Michael Francis McBride.

Other casting highlights include the successful on stage partnerships of Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims and Alicia Graf Mack and Jamar Roberts in striking duets during *Petite Mort* and the "Fix Me, Jesus" section of *Revelations*. Kirven James Boyd and Jamar Roberts are scheduled to perform the fast-paced movements and propulsive jumps of the dynamic solo *Takademe*, Robert Battle's humorous and savvy deconstruction and abstraction of the tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance.

A free question-and-answer session with Ailey's much-admired dancers will follow the inspiring finale of *Revelations* at the **Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2pm Family Matinee** performance.

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“I’m looking forward to seeing the curtain rise on the unparalleled combination of Ailey’s amazing dancers and the choreography of masters Ronald K. Brown, Alvin Ailey, Garth Fagan, Jiří Kylián, and Ohad Naharin, stated Robert Battle. “The engagement is a momentous occasion for Ailey and so personally meaningful to me. Lincoln Center is where I started my journey in the New York dance world, first experiencing the genius of Garth Fagan and so many others while a student at The Juilliard School.”

Ailey’s historic return to Lincoln Center after 13 years is the culmination of Artistic Director Robert Battle’s second season. Though it is the first visit under his leadership, the Company made special appearances at Lincoln Center in 1976, 1996 and 2000 at the then New York State Theater, as well as in 1984 at the Metropolitan Opera House.

In addition to *Four Corners* and *Revelations*, the opening night program (also scheduled for Friday evening, Saturday matinee, and Sunday evening), includes an encore performance of [Petite Mort](#) - a ballet of visual surprises that showcases the sensuality, humor and virtuosity of Ailey’s dancers by renowned European choreographer **Jiří Kylián**. Danced to two of **Mozart’s** most popular piano concertos, it blends a classical sensibility with a bold, modern wit in an unforgettable duel of the sexes featuring six couples.

The alternate program on Thursday evening (repeating on Saturday evening and Sunday matinee) features Garth Fagan’s [From Before](#), Ronald K. Brown’s [Grace](#), and Robert Battle’s [Takademe](#). *From Before* is a revered work blending the rhythms of African dance with Caribbean influences to a score by Grammy winner **Ralph MacDonald**. *Grace* is infused with Brown’s signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms and set to **Duke Ellington’s** classic "Come Sunday," **Roy Davis’** hit "Gabriel," and the powerful rhythms of **Fela Kuti’s** Afro-Pop. *Takademe* is a percussive, fast-paced, propulsive male solo mimicking the vocalized rhythmic syllables of **Sheila Chandra’s** jazzy song.

Saturday evening’s program will conclude with **Ohad Naharin’s** phenomenally inventive [Minus 16](#), danced to an eclectic score ranging from Dean Martin to mambo, techno to traditional Israeli music. 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.

All programs, except for Saturday evening, will end with the inspiring [Revelations](#), Alvin Ailey’s signature piece that is a tribute to his heritage and a testament to his genius. Using African-American religious music – spirituals – this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

**Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale.** [Program, casting \(subject to change\) and ticket information](#) is available at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). **Detailed schedule and additional details below.**

***Toyota Avalon is the Official Vehicle Partner of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater***

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

***Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo during the Lincoln Center Engagement***

***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***

**PRESS: For additional materials or photos, members of the media may visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)**



(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT in Ronald K. Brown's *Grace* & Glenn Allen Sims & Linda Celeste Sims in Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*. Photos by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Jamar Roberts. Photo by Andrew Eccles  
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## **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

**June 12 – 16, 2013 at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater**

### ***Programming – Subject to Change***

Wednesday, June 12, 7:30pm - *Four Corners, Petite Mort, Revelations*

Thursday, June 13, 7:30pm - *From Before, Takademe, Grace, Revelations*

Friday, June 14, 8:00pm - *Four Corners, Petite Mort, Revelations*

\*Saturday, June 15, 2:00pm - *Four Corners, Petite Mort, Revelations*

*\*Family Matinee – followed by a Post-Performance Q&A session with the dancers*

Saturday, June 15, 8:00pm - *From Before, Takademe, Grace, Minus 16*

Sunday, June 16, 3:00pm - *From Before, Takademe, Grace, Revelations*

Sunday, June 16, 7:30pm - *Four Corners, Petite Mort, Revelations*

### **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, **will present a seven-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater from June 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory featuring ***Four Corners***, **a world premiere by the celebrated dance maker Ronald K. Brown**, along with encores of this season's premieres and repertory favorites, including Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece *Revelations*. **Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale** at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org). Preferred seating will be available for AmEx Gold, Platinum and Centurion Card members. Student tickets *may* be available on the day of the performance for \$15 at the box office with a valid student ID (one per student – subject to availability). On Saturday afternoon, bring the whole family to enjoy the matinee and stay afterward for a free Q & A with the Ailey dancers in the theater. Additional discounts for groups of 10 or more are now available by phone 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information about Ailey's performances, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

### **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

**June 12 – 16, 2013 - David H. Koch Theater, Lincoln Center**

20 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY (Columbus Avenue at 63rd Street)

(212) 496-0600 / [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org)

### **The 2013 Lincoln Center Engagement: Highlights**

Artistic Director Robert Battle and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will present a seven-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater from June 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory featuring *Four Corners*, a world premiere by the celebrated dance maker Ronald K. Brown, along with encores of this season's premieres and repertory favorites, including Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece *Revelations*.

## World Premiere

***Four Corners* (2013) choreographed by Ronald K Brown**      **Music: Carl Hancock Rux, Yacoub & Various Artists**  
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Lincoln Center after more than a decade with a world premiere by **celebrated choreographer Ronald K. Brown**. ***Four Corners***, set to the music of **Carl Hancock Rux**, along with various artists, brings to life the vision of four angels standing on the four corners of the earth holding the four winds. Drawing inspiration from the lyrics of Rux's "Lamentations," ***Four Corners*** trails eleven dancers as they rise to seek a life of peace on the "mountaintop;" a powerful and hope-filled journey of tribulation, devotion and triumph.

Ronald K. Brown is renowned for his signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms in works that often stimulate deeper examinations of issues of spirituality, community responsibility and liberation. This is Brown's first collaboration with the critically-praised Carl Hancock Rux, but his fifth work set on Ailey's extraordinary dancers, who have become known as inspiring interpreters of his unique dance storytelling.

## 2012-13 Season Premieres and New Productions

***Petite Mort* (1991) choreographed by Jiří Kylián**      **Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Last year marked 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** appeared 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 has become recognized as one of the most influential choreographers of the past three decades, receiving many international awards and honors.

***From Before* (1978) choreographed by Garth Fagan**      **Music: Ralph MacDonald**

***From Before*** beautifully blends the rhythms of African dance and Caribbean influences, with movements distilled to their purest form by Jamaican-born **Garth Fagan**, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of *The Lion King*. The Ailey company premiere was the first staging of this revered work, which features a jazzy percussive score by Grammy winner **Ralph MacDonald**, 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.

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

**Ronald K. Brown's** landmark and rapturous ***Grace***, created for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1999, returned to the repertory in 2012. 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, and 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*.

## Repertory Favorites

### Minus 16 (1999) choreographed 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.

### Revelations (1960) choreographed by Alvin Ailey

**Music: Traditional Spirituals**

An American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all, Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage and a testament to his genius. Using African-American religious music – spirituals – this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

### Takademe (1999) choreographed by Robert Battle

**Music: Sheila Chandra**

The complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted in this percussive, fast-paced work, where clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score.

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## **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 forever changed 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 coincided 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).

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