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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AILEY'S OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE & PARTY ON DECEMBER 4th at 7PM MUSIC ICON QUINCY JONES AND ACTRESS GABRIELLE UNION AS HONORARY CHAIRS

Details on Special Season Programs Including New Year's Eve Performance with Former Stars of Ailey

Tickets for Gala Benefit and Entire Five-Week Season On Sale Now!

(New York) October 16, 2013 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will kick off a five-week holiday season on December 4th with a star-studded gala benefit performance at New York City Center and party at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom. 27-time Grammy award-winning music icon **Quincy Jones** and actress **Gabrielle Union** will serve as the evening's Honorary Chairs.

The evening begins with the Company premiere of ***Chroma***, **Wayne McGregor's** ballet filled with layered, beautiful dancing and astonishing lifts. The Ailey company premiere, made possible with generous support from New York City Center, marks the first time a work by this multi award-winning British choreographer will appear in the Ailey repertory. Following the inspiring finale of ***Revelations***, performed with live music, prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy and politics will join Artistic Director **Robert Battle** and dancers for a dinner-dance in the Hilton New York Grand Ballroom.

The event's co-chairs are **Simin Allison & in memory, Herb Allison, Kathryn & Kenneth Chenault, Daria L. Foster & Erich J. Wallach, Agnes & Gerald Hassell, Debra L. Lee, and Joan & Sandy Weill**. Call 212-405-9031 for tickets to the benefit supporting the creation of new works and Ailey's extensive educational programs, including scholarships for the performing artists of the future.

In addition to the one-night-only opening gala benefit, Ailey enthusiasts are encouraged to ring in 2014 with an exceptional **New Year's Eve performance** featuring ***Revelations*** danced by beloved Ailey stars of the past and present, including **Linda Denise Fisher-Harrell, Renee Robinson, Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrich, Dudley Williams and Donna Wood Sanders**.

Along with a variety of premieres, Ailey's 2013 – 2014 season will include a number of special programs throughout the five-week run. On **Tuesday, December 17th** the Company will celebrate **renowned Guest Artist Matthew Rushing**, who has been inspiring Ailey audiences for over two decade and is acclaimed as one of the great male concert dancer artists.

"**All New**" programs (Dec 20, 22 eve, 26, 28 eve, and Jan 2) feature premieres of Ronald K. Brown's ***Four Corners***, Azure Barton's ***LIFT***, the Bessie Award-winning work ***D-Man in the Waters (Part I)*** by Bill T. Jones, and the groundbreaking ***Chroma***.

In a program aptly titled ***Ailey/Ellington*** (playing **Dec 13, 15 mat, 18, 21 mat**), ballets showcasing the marriage of Ailey's choreography and Ellington's music will be presented, including ***Night Creature***, ***Pas de Duke***, and ***The River***.

The ***Ailey Classics*** program (**Dec 14 mat, 24, 29 mat, Jan 4 mat**) is a vibrant anthology of highlights from Mr. Ailey's prolific 30-year career—including such audience favorites as ***Cry, A Song for You***, and ***For 'Bird'—With Love*** — and the beloved classic ***Revelations***. Alvin Ailey's iconic ***Memoria*** will include performances by talented young students from **The Ailey School** and his signature American masterpiece ***Revelations*** will be performed with **live music** on December 4, 6, and 7 mat & eve.

The **January 5th finale performance** marks the close of the 25th season since the passing of the Company's legendary founder and will celebrate what would have been **Alvin Ailey's 83rd birthday** with a season highlights program and ***Revelations*** in its entirety.

Tickets starting at \$25 are now on sale for all season **[performances from December 4th through January 5th](#)**. Visit **www.alvinailey.org**, **www.citycenter.org**, call CityTix (212-581-1212), or the New York City Center box office.

Opening Night Gala Benefit Sponsors:

Simin Allison & in memory, Herb Allison, American Express, BET Networks, BNY Mellon, Daria L. Foster & Eric J. Wallach, Joan & Sandy Weill and The Weill Family Foundation

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 D-Man in the Waters (Part I).

The company premiere of Chroma is made possible in part by the generous support of New York City Center.

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 2013-2014 season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

For further information, the public may visit www.alvinailey.org.

PRESS: For photos, videos, materials, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org or [click here](#) for full details on the season or **Ctrl+Click Photos for High Resolution Download.**



(L to R) AAADT's Alicia Graf Mack & Jamar Roberts; Artistic Director Robert Battle & Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; AAADT's Antonio Douthit-Boyd; AAADT's Rachael McLaren, Glenn Allen Sims, & Jacqueline Green. All photos by Andrew Eccles.
(CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD)

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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 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.