

AILEY

Arts In Education & Community Programs

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AILEY LEADS ACCLAIMED *REVELATIONS* RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN ADVANCE OF ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S PERFORMANCES AT THE ARSHT CENTER, FEBRUARY 20-23, LED BY MIAMI NATIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE

WEEK-LONG WORKSHOPS AT YOUNG MEN'S PREPARATORY ACADEMY, MARKING THE FIRST TIME AT AN ALL BOYS SCHOOL, AND BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 10-14 WITH NASHA THOMAS SCHMITT, MASTER TEACHER AND FORMER AILEY COMPANY MEMBER

NEW YORK (February 5, 2014) – The Ailey organization is proud to share its mission with the Miami community by using dance as a vehicle to educate, inspire and enlighten people of all ages through the acclaimed ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*** program, the week before Arsht Center performances, February 20-23, led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, a Miami native. This innovative curriculum-based initiative for public school students utilizes Alvin Ailey's ***Revelations*** as the inspirational framework for an in-depth study of language arts, social studies and dance. The acclaimed residency program will serve Miami students from **February 10-14 at Booker T. Washington High School and Young Men's Preparatory Academy, the first time ever implementation at an all boys school.**

"This season marks 25 years since the passing of our legendary founder, whose belief that 'dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people' continues to flourish across the country and around the world," said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "As we return to Miami, I'm reminded how significant it was for me as a Liberty City middle-school student to see Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, and how that experience motivated me to pursue my passion. I'm proud to continue sharing Mr. Ailey's powerful legacy through this unique program and strive to ensure that other young people can have that same transformative experience."

Created in 1999, ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*** engages students' analytic and creative thinking skills while exploring the life story of Alvin Ailey and *Revelations*; Mr. Ailey's beloved 1960 masterpiece. Led by master teacher and former Ailey Company member Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, along with Ailey teaching artists and local teachers, students connect this story to their academic studies, life experiences, community, and the broader world around them using customized lesson plans. Students will experience a live performance by members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater while the company is in town for **Ailey's Miami engagement in the Ziff Ballet Opera House, February 20-23**, co-presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County as part of the Knight Masterworks Season – Sanford and Beatrice Ziff Signature Dance Series.

"Alvin Ailey recognized that dance could inspire young people in life-changing ways and our *Revelations* Residency program provides students across the country with new methods of learning academic subjects, as well as cultivating self-esteem, and creativity," explains **Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, Master Teacher and former Ailey Company member**. "This is the first time the residency will be held at an all boys school and I'm excited to teach these young men new ways to express themselves and tell their life story through the arts. I've seen the positive impact this program has on students development and how the experience is one they carry with them into adulthood."

In addition to the ***Revelations Residencies***, there are a variety of educational activities that are being offered for Miami area students. **On Friday, February 21st at 11am**, Ailey and the Arsht Center will present a special **one-hour student performance** featuring *Revelations* **free of charge to public school students in the Miami-Dade County area**, including the Liberty City neighborhood where Robert Battle grew up. Moderated by one of the dancers, this

hour-long educational performance of Ailey Classics gives students a taste of all the elements that compose an Ailey experience. In addition, the performances will be attended by alumni from AileyCamp Miami, a nationally-acclaimed summer program produced by the Arsht Center that uses dance as a vehicle for helping middle school students ages 11-14 to reach their full potential. On **Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 PM**, a free community master class for professional dancers will take place at the Arsht Center's Peacock Foundation Studio.

Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and lives of people of all ages. Programs include special student performances; lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; and AileyCamp, a full scholarship summer camp for underserved inner-city youth, now in 8 cities nationwide. In fall 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama hosted "The White House Dance Series: A Tribute to Judith Jamison" that featured a *Revelations* Residency involving students from across the country led by Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, Ailey's Arts In Education spokesperson, master teacher and former Company member. The curriculum has been profiled on CNN and has earned enthusiastic responses from participants in New York City, Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago, Washington, D.C, and London.

For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Ailey organization's performances and Ailey Arts In Education activities, visit www.alvinailey.org.

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PRESS

Open house for press will be at Young Men's Preparatory Academy on Thursday, February 13th at 9:45am led by Nasha Thomas-Schmitt. For information, contact Amanda Householder, (212) 405-9032 / ahouseholder@alvinailey.org.

For photos, video and press materials:

- [Ailey Arts In Education Revelations Residency](#)
- Miami engagement, February 20-23, [press release](#)
Press Representative: Rosie Castro, (305) 303-3944 / rosie@rockorange.com
- [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

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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.