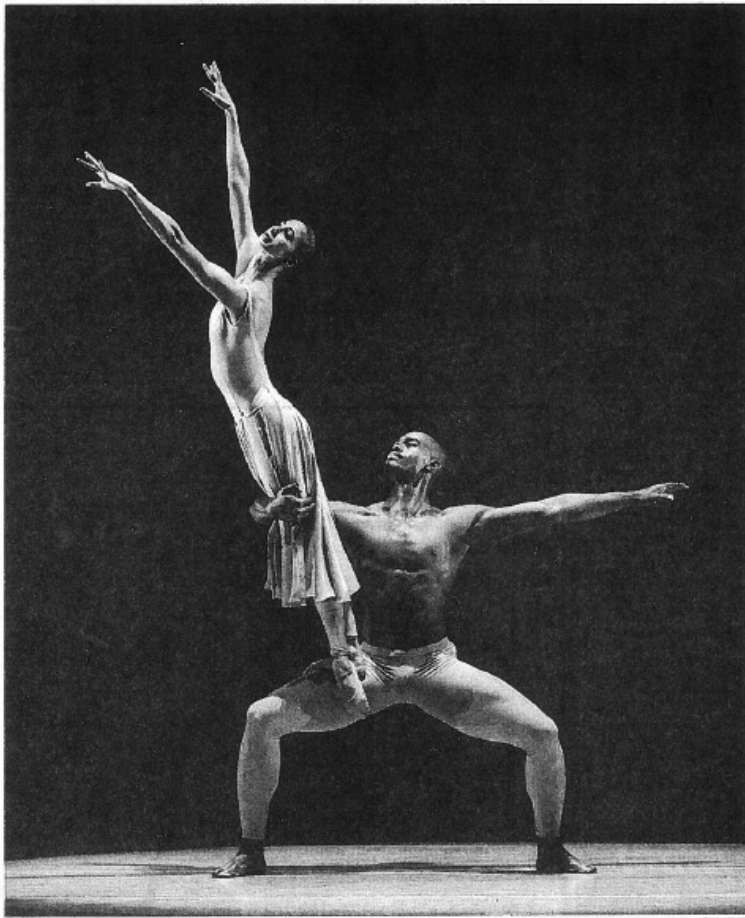


{ DANCE } SPRING ARTS PREVIEW

FEB. 4-9



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

The venerable dance company, known as a cultural ambassador to the world, returns to the Kennedy Center Opera House with new works and enduring classics, including "Chroma," "D-Man in the Waters (Part I)," "Revelations," "Four Corners," "LIFT," "Petite Mort" and "The River," seen above.

THE GATE

The February run of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Kennedy Center has long been a social and artistic highlight of the new year. Along with the company's signature piece, "Revelations," a three-part journey through African American spirituality created by Alvin Ailey in 1960, this year's repertory features both company- and world-premiere pieces. It marks the continuation of a decades-long Kennedy Center engagement and of a winning 54-year-old formula that, in keeping with resonant parts of African American tradition, affirms, even as it dances higher.

1st

The White House Dance Series: A Tribute to Judith Jamison in September 2010 was hosted by first lady Michelle Obama, with a celebratory performance in the East Room, and a "Revelations" workshop led by Ailey's Nisha Thomas-Schmitt.

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Artistic directors since the company's 1958 founding. A Texas native, the legendary Alvin Ailey began his formal training with an introduction to Lester Horton's classes by famed ballerina Carmen de Lavallade. He was succeeded in 1989 by Judith Jamison, whose tenure was marked by two historic South African engagements and a 50-city global tour in honor of the company's 50th anniversary. Robert Battle, who became artistic director in 2012, had created ballets for the Ailey company since 1999.

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Premiere pieces from the Ailey 2013-2014 season performed at the Kennedy Center. "Lift," a world premiere by choreographer Azure Barton, features a cast of 19 and an original percussive score by Curtis Macdonald. "Chroma," a company premiere, marks the first appearance of British choreographer Wayne McGregor in the Ailey repertory. "D-Man in the Waters (Part I)" is a company premiere and an award-winning work by choreographer Bill T. Jones set to Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings in E-flat, Op. 20 (1825). "Four Corners," a world premiere and Ronald K. Brown's fifth work for Ailey dancers, is set to the music of Carl Hancock Rux and various artists, and renders the vision of four angels, standing on the four corners of the Earth, holding the four winds.

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Engagements Alvin Ailey has been presented by the Kennedy Center, including for the center's 1971 opening.

21

million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on six continents have seen Alvin Ailey performances.

— Lonnae O'Neal Parker