

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Night Creature (1974)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey
Music: Duke Ellington
Costumes: Jane Greenwood
Costumes recreated by Barbara Forbes
Fabric dyeing of costumes by Elissa Tatigikis Iberti
Lighting Design: Chenault Spence

“Night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night-- they come ON, each thinking that before the night is out he or she will be the star.”

-Duke Ellington

In *Night Creature*, Alvin Ailey’s classically influenced choreography juxtaposes with Duke Ellington’s jazz idiom. One of Mr. Ailey’s most popular works, the dance captivates with Ailey’s sensual nighttime rituals, propelling the movement into a fast-paced climatic catharsis using slow jazz walks, boogie woogie and ballet arabesques to create prowling patterns and communal configurations.

The ballet first premiered on the 1974 television special “Ailey Celebrates Ellington,” and two years later the buoyant ballet was included in a stage version of the program in August 1976 for a two-week New York season at Lincoln Center. *Night Creature* is the definitive Ailey homage to the exuberance of The Duke’s jazz - a joyful and kinetic celebration of Ellington’s music. With stunning brilliance, the ensemble undulates and rejoices in the nocturnal beat of Ellington’s jazz.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey’s *Night Creature*.
Photo by Gert Krautbauer

“One of Mr. Ailey’s happiest works. It has a joyful pulse, a sophisticated entente with its sophisticated music that carries on the best of the Ellington tradition.”

The New York Times

“delectably sassy”

The New York Times

“This remains one of Ailey’s best curtain raisers, and the company throw themselves into its elf-like spirit with only rhythmic measure containing their dance abandon.”

The New York Post

Night Creature

Music Credit Information

Music: **Night Creature**

Movement I: Blind Bug

Movement II: Stalking Monster

Movement III: Dazzling Creature

Composed by: Duke Ellington

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