



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

THE JOAN WEILL CENTER FOR DANCE 405 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019-4402 PH 212.405.9000 FX 212.405.9001 WWW.ALVINAILEY.ORG

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

Press Contacts:

Christopher Zunner

czunner@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9028

Emily Hawkins

ehawkins@alvinailey.org / 212-405-9083

CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO LINCOLN CENTER'S DAVID H. KOCH THEATER WITH FOUR PROGRAMS DURING A TWO-WEEK 15-PERFORMANCE ENGAGEMENT FROM JUNE 11 to 22, 2014

Artistic Director Robert Battle Presents Diverse Repertory Featuring World Premiere by Robert Moses, Company Premiere of Asadata Dafora's *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich*, New Productions of Hans Van Manen's *Polish Pieces* and David Parson's *Caught* Plus Encore Performances of 2013 – 2014 Season Premieres and Repertory Favorites

Exceptional Opening Includes Free *Revelations Celebration on the Plaza* Workshop and Ailey Spirit Gala Benefit with Honorary Chair Vanessa Williams and Performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School and AileyCampers Together For First Time Ever on Koch Stage

Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale

New York – June 4, 2014 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, will return to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts with four different programs for a 15-performance engagement at the David H. Koch Theater June 11 – 22, 2014. Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) is presenting Ailey's acclaimed dancers in diverse repertory highlighted by the world premiere *The Pleasure of the Lesson* – a first-time collaboration with Robert Moses - new productions of Hans van Manen's *Polish Pieces* and David Parsons' signature work *Caught*, along with the company premiere of Asadata Dafora's groundbreaking 1932 solo *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich*. The two-week spring season kicks off in an exceptional way with a free workshop - *Revelations Celebration on the Plaza* - followed by The Ailey Spirit Gala, a one-night-only benefit performance and party.

In 2013, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's seven-performance engagement at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts was the Company's first appearance there in 13 years. "To culminate the 25th season since the passing of our legendary founder, it gives me great pride to lead the Company back to Lincoln Center for an extended two-week engagement with four programs that showcase the range and artistry of Ailey's unparalleled dancers," said Artistic Director Robert Battle. "Alvin Ailey was a pioneer in creating an American modern dance repertory company and I'm thrilled to extend his vision through an expansive variety of new and acclaimed works by a wide array of choreographers. It is also incredible to kick-off the engagement with a joyous and very meaningful celebration."

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Beginning on Wednesday, June 11th at 5:30pm on the Josie Robertson Plaza, *Revelations Celebration on the Plaza* will give participants of all ages a rare opportunity to experience a free grand dance workshop celebrating Alvin Ailey's signature American masterpiece, and marking the 25th season since the legendary founder's passing. The special activity will be led by Ailey master teacher and former Company member [Nasha Thomas-Schmitt](#) who will teach movements from three distinctive sections of *Revelations*: "I've Been 'Buked," "Wade in the Water," and "Rocka My Soul." Live music with drummer and singers will be featured at the event.

Renowned actress, singer, and multi-faceted entertainer [Vanessa Williams](#) is the Honorary Chair for the **inaugural Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit sponsored by **FedEx Corporation**. The one-night-only performance at 7pm includes the world-renowned Ailey dancers in excerpts of **Wayne McGregor's *Chroma***, **Aszure Barton's *LIFT***, and a new production of **David Parsons' signature solo, *Caught***. The rising stars of [Ailey II](#) will perform an excerpt of **Jennifer Archibald's *Wings***, gifted young dancers from [The Ailey School](#) (ages 6 to 23) will showcase their talents and the breadth of the program's training in ***Synthesis II***, and talented students from [AileyCamp](#) will perform a work inspired by **Ronald K. Brown's *Grace***. An expanded cast of 50 of the present and future stars of Ailey will come together for a memorable finale of **Alvin Ailey's timeless, *Revelations***. Following the performance, a dance party on the promenade will feature the musical stylings of deejay to the stars, **DJ M.O.S.** For tickets call 212-405-9031.

[The Pleasure of the Lesson](#), Robert Moses' world premiere on Thursday, June 12th at 7:30pm, is being created with a cast of 10 dancers especially for the Company's Koch Theater engagement and marks his first collaboration with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Known for sexy, sophisticated choreography that makes audiences want to dance too, he has choreographed for film, theater and opera, exploring topics ranging from oral African-American traditions, urban culture and the nuanced complexities of parentage and identity.

This program (also scheduled for 6/14 eve, 6/18 eve, & 6/22 matinee) includes an encore performance of ***Chroma***, a 2013 company premiere filled with layered, beautiful dancing and astonishing lifts by multi award-winning British choreographer **Wayne McGregor**. Created in 2006 for The Royal Ballet, the piece has a driving score by **Joby Talbot** and orchestrations of music by **Jack White III of The White Stripes** and a luminous set by minimalist architect **John Pawson**. The performance will end with Alvin Ailey's always inspiring must-see American classic ***Revelations***.

The **Friday, June 13th 8pm performance marks the company premiere of [Awassa Astrige/Ostrich](#)** by Sierra Leone-born choreographer **Asadata Dafora**, who blended his vision of a traditional African dance with Western staging in this groundbreaking 1932 solo set to Carl Riley's score of African drumming and flute. With arms flapping like wings, torso rippling and head held high, a warrior is transformed into the proud, powerful ostrich — the king of birds. Dafora is recognized as one of the first to present African dance on the concert stage, influencing many future artists like Pearl Primus and Katherine Dunham.

Along with ***Awassa Astrige/Ostrich***, this program (repeated on 6/15 eve & 6/21 eve) will include **Ronald K. Brown's** landmark and spiritually-charged ***Grace***, **Ohad Naharin's** unique and innovative ***Minus 16*** and ***D-Man in the Waters (Part I)***, **Bill T. Jones' "Bessie"** Award-winning modern dance classic celebrating life and the resiliency of the human spirit that embodies loss, hope and triumph with non-stop movement set to Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 20 (1825).

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The **Ailey/Ellington** program (6/14 matinee, 6/15 matinee, 6/20 eve) showcases [Night Creature](#), *Pas de Duke*, and *The River*, three of the 14 ballets founder Alvin Ailey created that celebrate the musical genius of the eminent American composer Duke Ellington, along with *Revelations*. [The River](#), originally choreographed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre to Ellington's first symphonic score written specifically for dance, combines classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz in sections suggesting tumbling rapids and slow currents on a voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of life. [Pas de Duke](#), commemorates America's two great art forms – modern dance and jazz music – in Alvin Ailey's translation of a classical pas de deux created for the renowned Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov. It was originally presented in 1976 as part of the "Ailey Celebrates Ellington" festival at Lincoln Center's New York State Theater for the nation's bicentennial.

The engagement's second week of performances begins on **Tuesday, June 17th at 7:30pm with new productions of Hans van Manen's Polish Pieces and David Parson's Caught**. In [Polish Pieces](#), Dutch choreographer van Manen displays his mastery for building dazzling creations from simple motifs and geometric patterns. Driven by the rhythms of Henryk Górecki's score, the 12 dancers in this colorful ensemble work create a brilliant kaleidoscope through endlessly shifting formations that culminate in two sensual pas de deux. The dancer in Parsons' signature work [Caught](#) defies gravity as he flies through the air in a bravura display of athletic stamina and a breathtaking fusion of art and technology using split-second timing. Flashing lights capture the dancer in more than 100 leaps, suspending him in flight as he magically moves across the stage.

Also repeated on 6/19 eve, 6/21 mat., and 6/22 eve, this program ends with *Revelations* and begins with [LIFT](#), a 2013-14 season world premiere by in-demand choreographer **Azure Barton** in collaboration with the cast of 19 dancers who inspired the process, movement and composition, as well as the original percussive score by **Curtis Macdonald**.

A free question-and-answer session with Ailey's much-admired dancers will follow the inspiring finale of *Revelations* on the **Family Matinee** performances scheduled for **Saturday, June 14th and 21st at 2pm**.

New dancers joining Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for the Lincoln Center performances are **Jacquelin Harris (Charlotte, NC)** and **Collin Heyward (Newport News, VA)**, both accomplished former members of Ailey II and honors graduates from the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. program in Dance, as well as **Danica Paulos (Huntington Beach, CA)** who also trained at The Ailey School.

Tickets starting at \$25 can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, and online at www.alvinailey.org. For further information about Ailey's performances and discounts for groups and students, please visit www.alvinailey.org. **Detailed schedule below.**

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.

The Ailey Spirit Gala is sponsored by FedEx Corporation.

Wine and spirits for The Ailey Spirit Gala generously provided by Diageo.

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(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT in Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Antonio Douthit-Boyd and Akua Noni Parker in Hans van Manen's *Polish Pieces*. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT's Rachael McLaren. Photos by Andrew Eccles

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CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, **will present a two-week 15-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater from June 11th to 22nd, 2014.** Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory featuring the **world premiere *The Pleasure of the Lesson*** – a first-time collaboration with **Robert Moses** – new productions of Hans van Manen's *Polish Pieces* and David Parsons' signature work *Caught*, along with the company premiere of Asadata Dafora's groundbreaking 1932 solo *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich*. Other highlights include encores of this season's premieres and repertory favorites, including Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*, the "Ailey/Ellington" program, and Alvin Ailey's must-see American masterpiece *Revelations*. **Tickets starting at \$25** can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at www.alvinailey.org. 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 afternoons, 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. For further information about Ailey's performances, please visit www.alvinailey.org.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
June 11 – 22, 2014 at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater
20 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY (Columbus Avenue at 63rd Street)
(212) 496-0600 / www.lincolncenter.org

Programming – Subject to Change

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00pm - The Ailey Spirit Gala - including *Caught* and *Revelations*
 Thursday, June 12, 7:30pm - *Chroma* / *The Pleasure of the Lesson* / *Revelations*
 Friday, June 13, 8:00pm - *Grace* / *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich*, *D-Man in the Waters (Part I)* / *Minus 16*
 *Saturday, June 14, 2:00pm - "Ailey/Ellington" - *Night Creature*, *Pas de Duke* / *The River* / *Revelations*
 *Family Matinee - followed by a Post-Performance Q&A session with the dancers
 Saturday, June 14, 8:00pm - *Chroma* / *The Pleasure of the Lesson* / *Revelations*
 Sunday, June 15, 3:00pm - "Ailey/Ellington" - *Night Creature*, *Pas de Duke* / *The River* / *Revelations*
 Sunday, June 15, 7:30pm - *Grace* / *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich*, *D-Man in the Waters (Part I)* / *Minus 16*
 Tuesday, June 17, 7:30pm - *LIFT* / *Polish Pieces*, *Caught* / *Revelations*
 Wednesday, June 18, 7:30pm - *Chroma* / *The Pleasure of the Lesson* / *Revelations*
 Thursday, June 19, 7:30pm - *LIFT* / *Polish Pieces*, *Caught* / *Revelations*
 Friday, June 20, 8:00pm - "Ailey/Ellington" - *Night Creature*, *Pas de Duke* / *The River* / *Revelations*
 *Saturday, June 21, 2:00pm - *LIFT* / *Polish Pieces*, *Caught* / *Revelations*
 *Family Matinee – followed by a Post-Performance Q&A session with the dancers
 Saturday, June 21, 8:00pm - *Grace* / *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich*, *D-Man in the Waters (Part I)* / *Minus 16*
 Sunday, June 22, 3:00pm - *Chroma* / *The Pleasure of the Lesson* / *Revelations*
 Sunday, June 22, 7:30pm - *LIFT* / *Polish Pieces*, *Caught* / *Revelations*

PRESS: For additional press materials please visit the links below or pressroom.alvinailey.org
[Season Images](#) [Sizzle Reel For Broadcast](#) [Electronic Press Kit](#)

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The 2014 Lincoln Center Engagement: Highlights

Artistic Director Robert Battle and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will present an extended two-week 15-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater from June 11th to 22nd, 2014. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory including the **world premiere *The Pleasure of the Lesson*** – a first-time collaboration with **Robert Moses**, new productions of **Hans van Manen's *Polish Pieces*** and **David Parsons' signature work *Caught***, along with the company premiere of **Asadata Dafora's groundbreaking 1932 solo *Awassa Astrige/Ostrich***. Other highlights include encores of this season's premieres and repertory favorites, such as Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*, the "*Ailey/Ellington*" program, and Alvin Ailey's must-see American masterpiece *Revelations*.

World Premiere

[The Pleasure of the Lesson](#) (2014)

Choreography by Robert Moses

Original Music by Robert Moses

Robert Moses's world premiere *The Pleasure of the Lesson* is being created on a cast of 10 dancers especially for the Company's Koch Theater engagement and marks his first collaboration with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Known for sexy, sophisticated choreography that makes audiences want to dance too, he has created numerous works of varying styles and genres for his highly praised dance company Robert Moses' Kin, founded in 1995 in San Francisco. His work explores topics ranging from oral traditions in African American culture (*Word of Mouth*, 2002), the life, times, and work of author James Baldwin (*Biography of Baldwin*, 2003), and the dark side of contemporary urban culture (*Cause*, 2004), to the nuanced complexities of parentage and identity (*The Cinderella Principle*, 2010), and the simple joys of the expressive power of pure movement (*Toward September*, 2009). Since 2008, Moses has composed original scores for several of his dances. In addition, Moses has choreographed for film, opera, theater and other dance companies, including: San Francisco Opera (*La Forza del Destino*, 2005), Philadanco, Cincinnati Ballet, African Cultural Exchange (UK), Oakland Ballet, the Lorraine Hansberry Theater, and Olympic Arts Festival, among others. In 2005, Moses was named Choreographer-in-Residence and Artistic Director of the Committee on Black Performing Arts at Stanford University, where he has been on the dance faculty since 1995. An alumni of California State University Long Beach and a highly regarded master teacher, Moses has taught on campuses and at festivals throughout the United States, including Bates Dance Festival, Colorado Dance Festival, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, University of Texas, and University of Nevada. He conducts movement and performance workshops internationally, most recently for artists of African descent with State of Emergency Limited in the United Kingdom.

Company Premieres and New Productions

[Awassa Astrige/Ostrich](#) (1932)

Choreography by Asadata Dafora

Music by Carl Riley

Sierra Leone-born choreographer **Asadata Dafora** blended his vision of a traditional African dance with Western staging in ***Awassa Astrige/Ostrich*** - a groundbreaking 1932 solo set to Carl Riley's score of African drumming and flute. With arms flapping like wings, torso rippling and head held high, a warrior is transformed into the proud, powerful ostrich – the king of birds. Dafora is recognized as one of the first to present African dance on the concert stage, influencing many future artists like Pearl Primus and Katherine Dunham. Asadata Dafora, a native of free town Sierra Leone, West Africa, was 40 years old when he came to New York in 1929. Earlier, he had been in Europe teaching African dance while studying music, and for a time, sang at La Scala. However his true interest was always the rich heritage of African art and culture. Not only did he study the folklore of his own country, but he traveled extensively throughout Africa seeking additional knowledge. His unique talents burst upon the New York entertainment scene with a short run of the Opera Kykunkor, subtitled the Witch Women. Kykunkor not only shattered many myths concerning the potential of Black ethnic materials as themes for concert dance, but proved that black dancers could be successful on the American concert stage. His company Shologa Oloba, was made up of 25 Africans and African Americans whose dancing was acclaimed by critics and audiences.

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[Polish Pieces](#) (1995)

Choreography by Hans van Manen

Music by Henryk Mikolaj Górecki

In *Polish Pieces*, Dutch choreographer **van Manen** displays his mastery for building dazzling creations from simple motifs and geometric patterns. Driven by the rhythms of Henryk Górecki's score, the 12 dancers in this colorful ensemble work create a brilliant kaleidoscope through endlessly shifting formations that contrasts with two sensual pas de deux. Hans van Manen began his ballet career in 1951 as a member of Sonia Gaskell's Ballet Recital. He created his first ballet for the Nederlandse Opera Ballet in 1957 and created over 50 ballets for the Nederlands Dans Theater, where he was also the artistic director and a dancer. He has created over 120 ballets and his works have been staged by companies all over the world including the Stuttgart Ballet, Berlin Opera, the National Ballet of Canada, Pennsylvania Ballet, the Royal Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet and the State Opera in Vienna. In 1992, the year of his 35th anniversary as a choreographer, he was given a Knighthood in the Order of Orange Nassau by the Queen of The Netherlands. He has been honored for his work many times, including the prestigious German Dance Prize for his influence on German dance, the much-heralded Erasmus Prize for his outstanding achievements in Dutch dance, and the Benois de la Danse for Lifetime Achievement. At the occasion of his 75th birthday at the gala premiere of the Hans van Manen festival, Amsterdam's mayor honored him with the Commandeur in de Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw.

[Caught](#) (1982)

Choreography by David Parsons

Music by Robert Fripp

David Parsons' signature solo *Caught* is a breathtaking fusion of art and technology demanding split-second timing and athletic stamina. The concept behind *Caught* is amazingly simple but wonderfully unexpected, with the dancer executing a continual series of over 100 leaps synchronized to the flashes of a strobe light to a soundtrack by English guitarist **Robert Fripp**. The effect is a stunning suspension of weight in which the dancer appears to fly through the air, devouring space as he magically moves across the stage. At the root of the piece is humankind's fascination with flight, something that Parsons believes is universal. Born near Chicago and raised in Kansas City, Parsons received an MFA from Jacksonville University under the Howard Gilman fellowship and an honorary Doctorate from the University of Kansas City. From 1978-1987, Parsons was a leading dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company, where Taylor created many roles for him in works such as *Arden Court*, *Last Look*, and *Roses*. Parsons founded Parsons Dance in 1985 with lighting designer Howell Binkley. Since then, he has created more than 70 works, both for the company and through commissions from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York City Ballet, Paul Taylor Dance Company, and the Spoleto Festival, among others. He is a recipient of the 2000 Dance Magazine Award, the 2001 American Choreography Award and the 2011 Dance Masters of America Award.

2013-14 Season Premieres and New Productions

[Chroma](#) (2006)

Choreography by Wayne McGregor

Music by Joby Talbot and Jack White

Wayne McGregor's Chroma is a ballet filled with layered, beautiful dancing and astonishing lifts. The Ailey company premiere, made possible in part by the generous support of **New York City Center**, marked the first time a work by this multi award-winning British choreographer appeared in the Ailey repertory. Set to an amalgam of original music by **Joby Talbot** and orchestrations of music by **Jack White III of The White Stripes**, the work explores McGregor's curiosity of a concept freed from whiteness and the drama of the human body. Created in 2006 for The Royal Ballet, a luminous, minimalist set designed by architect **John Pawson** uses motifs of inside and outside, entrance and exit, light and shadow, void and plenitude, to create a spatially charged environment explored through the medium of the ten dancers' bodies. Wayne McGregor CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) is a multi-award-winning British choreographer, renowned for his physically testing choreography and ground-breaking collaborations. He is the Artistic Director of Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, Resident Company at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, Resident Choreographer of The Royal Ballet (appointed 2006) and frequent creator of new work for La Scala, Milan, Paris Opera Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theatre, Stuttgart Ballet and New York City Ballet; as well as movement director for theatre, film (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*) and music video (Radiohead's *Lotus Flower*). His recent productions include new work for the Royal Ballet and National Gallery Titan Metamorphosis project (July 2012), a large-scale public dance work, *Big Dance Trafalgar Square*, in celebration of the London 2012 Olympics (July 2012), and a new work for San Francisco Ballet, *Borderlands*, which premiered in January 2013.

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[**D-Man In The Waters \(Part I\)**](#) (1989, revised 1998)

Choreography by Bill T. Jones

Music by Felix Mendelssohn

Bill T. Jones' joyful tour-de-force, *D-Man in the Waters (Part I)* is a true modern dance classic and a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award-winning work. It is a celebration of life and the resiliency of the human spirit that embodies loss, hope and triumph. Set to Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 20 (1825), the work is one of the finest examples of the post-modern aesthetic and was featured in PBS's landmark film *Dancing in the Light: Six Dances by African-American Choreographers*. *D-Man in the Waters* is dedicated to Demian Acquavella. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater first performed choreography by Bill T. Jones in 1983 when Alvin Ailey invited him to create *Fever Swamp* for the Company. Jones choreographed and performed worldwide with his late partner, Arnie Zane, before forming the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982, for which he has created more than 140 works. Bill T. Jones is the recipient of numerous recognitions, including the Kennedy Center Honors; Tony Award (*FELA! And Spring Awakening*); Obie Award; the 2010 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award; the 2005 Wexner Prize; the 2005 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement; the 2003 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize; and the 1994 MacArthur "Genius" Award. In 2011, Jones was named Executive Artistic Director of New York Lives Arts.

[**LIFT \(2013\)**](#)

Choreography by Aszure Barton

Original Music by Curtis Macdonald

This propulsive season world premiere by in-demand choreographer **Aszure Barton**, her first commission for Ailey, accentuates the vitality and physical prowess of the Ailey company. Driven by the dancers' passion, skill and collective power, *LIFT* was created over a five-week developmental process with the entire Company. The original percussive score, composed by **Curtis Macdonald**, is infused with the infectious energy and heart that she observed in her initial encounters with the Ailey dancers. With a collaborative stylistic approach that is constantly evolving like no other, Barton's exhilarating new work celebrates and challenges the dancers with its markedly intricate rhythmic patterns and mercurial structure. "*LIFT* embodies an atmosphere and energy created by our time spent together in collaboration," stated Barton. "I feel very welcomed by the Ailey family and am honored to be working with such a wonderful group of artists." *Dance Magazine* described her work as "vulnerable and feisty, brightly adept yet peculiar, witty and impetuously wild." Born and raised in Alberta, Canada, Barton received her formal training at the National Ballet School in Toronto. Barton has created works for Mikhail Baryshnikov, The National Ballet of Canada, Nederlands Dans Theater, American Ballet Theatre, the Martha Graham Dance Company, Sydney Dance Company, and Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal (Resident Choreographer 2005-08), and also choreographed the Broadway revival production of *The Threepenny Opera*. She recently received the Banff Centre's 2012 Koerner Award for Choreography and Canada's prestigious Arts and Letters Award for her outstanding choreographic achievements.

[**Pas de Duke \(1976\)**](#)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Duke Ellington

Pas de Duke was **Alvin Ailey's** modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux honoring two of the most renowned dancers in the world, Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov and celebrating the musical genius of the late **Duke Ellington** (1899-1974). Last staged for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater during the 2006-2007 season, it was originally presented as part of the festival "Ailey Celebrates Ellington" at Lincoln Center's New York State Theater in 1976, commemorating the nation's bicentennial with America's two great art forms – modern dance and jazz music. Ailey choreographed five sections capturing the sassy sophistication of "The Duke's" jazz music: the introduction to "Such Sweet Thunder" (1957); the pas de deux to "Sonnet for Caesar" (1975); the male solo to "Sonnet for Hank Cinq" (1957); the female solo to "Unclothed Woman" (1948); and the finale to "Old Man's Blues" (1930), which captured the exuberance of the star dancers' qualities and techniques as the male and female soloists mirror each other toe-to-toe and line-for-line in this playful, good-natured competition.

[The River](#) (1970)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Duke Ellington

The River is **Alvin Ailey's** acclaimed collaboration with the late musical genius **Duke Ellington**, choreographed and composed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre and first performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1980. One of 14 dances Ailey created to Ellington's music, *The River* was Ellington's first symphonic score written specifically for dance. Combining classical ballet, modern dance and jazz, the suite suggests tumbling rapids and slow currents on its voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of life. *The River* has been restaged by **Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya** for several companies in addition to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. With Ailey's mixture of light and fun yet dark and romantic choreography balanced with Ellington's score, the work is an abstract celebration of birth, life, and rebirth.

Repertory Favorites

[Grace](#) (1999)

Choreography by Ronald K. Brown

Music by Duke Ellington, Roy Davis Jr., Paul Johnson & Fela Anikulapo Kuti

This landmark creation for Ailey returned to the Ailey repertory in a rapturous, spiritually-charged new production for the 2012-13 season. 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.

[Minus 16](#) (1999)

Choreography by Ohad Naharin

Music by 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.

[Night Creature](#) (1975)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Duke Ellington

A bubbly champagne cocktail of a dance that perfectly fuses **Alvin Ailey's** buoyant choreography and **Duke Ellington's** sparkling music in a definitive homage to The Duke's jazz that remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works. Ellington said "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." The large ensemble work is full of stars - strutting, leaping and slinking using modern dance, classical ballet and jazz.

[Revelations](#) (1960)

Choreography 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.

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 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, 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.

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