



CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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AILEY ANNOUNCES SATURDAY FAMILY MATINEE SERIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Each Performance Includes a Must-See *Revelations* Finale

and is Followed by FREE Post-performance Q & A with Ailey's Extraordinary Dancers

New Simon & Schuster Picture Book Based on the Life of Artistic Director Robert Battle Available for Purchase at Every Performance December 2, 2015 – January 3, 2016

(New York – November 10, 2015) Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) invites audiences of all ages to The Family Matinee series – performances on Saturdays at 2pm featuring a rousing *Revelations* finale, followed by Q & A with Ailey's acclaimed dancers. Young readers can learn how Robert was first inspired by *Revelations* through Simon & Schuster's new picture book biography *MY STORY, MY DANCE*, available for purchase at every performance. Whether watching for the first time, or as a family that has made seeing the Company at New York City Center a joyous holiday tradition, all will be inspired from the stage to the page by Robert Battle's heart-warming story and the magic of Ailey.

Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece *Revelations* – the signature work of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – has moved audiences around the world through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music. Set to spirituals that the young Alvin Ailey first heard as a child attending Southern Baptist services, the piece evokes the timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. Since its premiere in 1960, more people have seen *Revelations* than any other modern dance work. The work has been enjoyed by over 25 million people in 71 countries across six continents, and continues to bring audiences all around the world to their feet.

MY STORY, MY DANCE: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey tells the story of how seeing *Revelations* for the first time while growing up in Miami catapulted Robert's successful journey into the dance world. When Robert has a young boy wearing leg braces, he never dreamed he'd study at Julliard, become an acclaimed choreographer, or lead Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater around the world. Today, Robert Battle's expansive vision continues to further the Company's inspirational celebration of the human spirit and African American culture; he is proud to be sharing his story and the uplifting magic of *Revelations* with the next generation. *MY STORY, MY DANCE: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey* is available for purchase at all Ailey performances, at the Ailey boutique, at bookstores nationwide, and at www.AileyShop.com.

Highlights from The Family Matinee Series include:

- Dec. 5: *Revelations* performed to live music
- Dec. 12th: *Awakening*, the first World Premiere by Robert Battle since becoming Artistic Director
- Dec. 19th: The aptly named **All Ailey** program featuring four classic pieces choreographed by the Company's founder – *Blues Suite* (performed to live music), *Night Creature*, *Cry*, and *Revelations*
- Dec. 26th: *Exodus*, the 2015 Spring Season Premiere by renowned hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris
- Jan. 2: *No Longer Silent*, the Company Premiere choreographed by Artistic Director Robert Battle, set to a percussive score by Jewish composer Erwin Schulhoff

Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or online at www.alvinailey.org or www.nycitycenter.org. Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID, and for groups of ten or more (discounts do not apply to \$25 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail groupsales@alvinailey.org. For further information about [Ailey's New York City Center season](http://www.alvinailey.org) please visit www.alvinailey.org.

FAMILY MATINEE PERFORMANCES – Schedule and Programming

Saturday, Dec 5, 2pm – *LIFT, Open Door, Revelations*

Saturday, Dec 12, 2pm – *Polish Pieces, Untitled America, Awakening, Revelations*

Saturday, Dec 19, 2pm – *Blues Suite (Live Music), Night Creature, Cry, Revelations*

Saturday, Dec 26, 2pm – *Exodus, Four Corners, After the Rain Pas de Deux, Revelations*

Saturday, Jan 2, 2pm – *Grace, No Longer Silent, Revelations*

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – December 2, 2015 – January 3, 2016

New York City Center - 131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY

(212) 581-1212 / www.nycitycenter.org

[FOR FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE CLICK HERE](#) - (All programming is subject to change)

For further information, the public may visit www.alvinailey.org. For additional press materials or photos, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org or **Ctrl+Click Photos for High Resolution Download**.



(L to R); AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT with Artistic Director Robert Battle, Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, and Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist Matthew Rushing. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT's Rachael McLaren. Photo by Andrew Eccles.; AAADT members in Alvin Ailey's *Blues Suite*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. **(CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD)** – Please credit photos.

Wells Fargo is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Winter Season.

American Airlines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Winter Season.

American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the lead funder of the New Production of *Blues Suite*.

Major support for the creation of *Awakening* is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

The creation of *Awakening* is supported in part by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County with lead sponsor support from Ira and Carole Hall.

The creation of *Open Door* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

The World premiere of *Untitled America: First Movement* is made possible by Denise O. Sobel.

The 2015-2016 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.

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, recent posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation’s highest civilian honor, 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 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents – as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms - 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, 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.

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