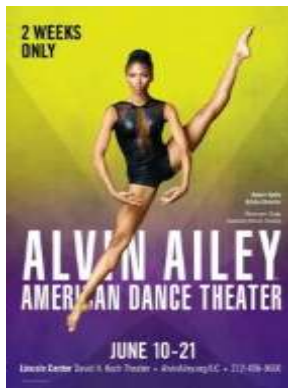


**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER KICKS OFF TWO-WEEK LINCOLN CENTER SEASON WITH AILEY SPIRIT GALA ON JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> & FREE HOUSE DANCE EVENT TO PREVIEW THE WORLD PREMIERE OF HIP-HOP CHOREOGRAPHER RENNIE HARRIS' *EXODUS* ON JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>**



(Right to Left ) Company members with Artistic Director Robert Battle and Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, photo by Andrew Eccles; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacqueline Green, photo by Andrew Eccles; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, photo by Gert Krautbauer.

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Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, who began the 2014-15 season by receiving for Alvin Ailey the nation's highest civilian honor – the Presidential Medal of Freedom – Ailey's acclaimed dancers return to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts for a two-week engagement at the David H. Koch Theater June 10<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Highlights of the first week include the June 10<sup>th</sup> opening night [Ailey Spirit Gala](#), and the June 11<sup>th</sup> [FREE House Dance Event on the Lincoln Center Plaza](#) in conjunction with the world premiere of hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris' *Exodus*. The June 11<sup>th</sup> performance is also dedicated in loving memory to long-time Ailey Company member Dudley Williams (1938-2015), and will include a special performance of Alvin Ailey's *A Song for You*. For the comprehensive season press release, with details on the repertory, the Saturday Ailey Family Matinee Series, and the "Ticket to Dance" Ailey Extension free class offer, click [here](#).

**PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS – Week 1**

**Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm**

**Ailey Spirit Gala**

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's two-week spring engagement at [Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater](#) kicks off on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> with the second annual [Ailey Spirit Gala](#), a one-night-only benefit performance and party **honoring the Ford Foundation**. The benefit, **sponsored by FedEx**, features supermodel and actor **Tyson Beckford** as Honorary Chair. The 7:00pm performance includes the world-renowned Ailey dancers in excerpts of Matthew Rushing's *ODETTA* and in Robert Battle's *Takademe*. The rising stars of [Ailey II](#) will perform an excerpt of Manuel Vignouille's *Breakthrough*, gifted young dancers from [The Ailey School](#) (ages 6 to 23) will showcase their talents and the breadth of the program's training in a work called *Synergy*, and talented students from [AileyCamp](#) will perform a work inspired by Christopher Huggins' *Anointed*. An expanded cast 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 be driven by the musical stylings of deejay to the stars, DJ M.O.S. Attended by prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy, and politics, expected guests include **Tamron Hall, Naturi Naughton, Condola Rashad, Janet Mock and Tituss Burgess**; Gala Co-Chairs **Gina F. Adams, Ricki Lander, Almaz & Marc S. Strachan, Pamela Zilly & John Schaefer** and **Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach**; and Gala Vice Chairs **Michele & Timothy Barakett, Dr. N. Anthony & Robyn Coles**, and **Leslie & Tom Maheras**, joining Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#) and dancers for the gala performance and dinner-dance that follows. Click [here](#) for full Ailey Spirit Gala release.

**Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**House Dance Event on the Plaza – 6:00pm**

All ages are invited to participate in a free House dance class in connection with the world premiere of Rennie Harris' *Exodus*. Led by Ailey Extension House instructor [Eddie Stockton](#), with live music by DJ C-Boogie, the event takes place on Lincoln Center's Josie Robertson Plaza, with support provided by the General Motors Foundation.

\*Rain date: Friday, June 12 at 6:30pm

**7:30 Performance Includes:**

**Exodus – World Premiere**

Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer [Rennie \(Lorenzo\) Harris](#) creates a highly-anticipated world premiere that explores the idea of "exodus" – from one's ignorance and conformity – as a necessary step toward enlightenment. Set to gospel and house music along with poetic narration, the work underscores the crucial role of action and movement in effecting change. Exemplifying his view of hip hop as a "celebration of life," *Exodus* marks Harris' latest invitation to return to spiritual basics and affirm who we are. Mr. Harris' previous contributions to the Ailey repertory include *Home*

(2011) and *Love Stories* (2004), the latter of which was a collaboration with Judith Jamison and Robert Battle.

**Performance Dates:** Jun 11, Jun 13 mat, Jun 14 eve, Jun 19, Jun 20 mat, Jun 21 eve

### **Toccata – New Production**

In episode from **Talley Beatty's** longer work *Come and Get the Beauty of it Hot*, *Toccata* is “set in streets of New York” and incorporates nuances of classic and other dance styles in a jazz idiom. Set to music by Grammy Award-winning Argentine composer **Lalo Schifrin**, the piece contains a sequence of ensembles, duets and trios that are danced in an almost declamatory manner, as the dancers project their movements toward the audience and seldom toward themselves. *Toccata* is being restaged 20 years after Beatty's passing, and 25 years after its last performance by The Company, which has performed a number of Beatty's major works, including *The Road of the Phoebe Snow* (1959), *Come and Get the Beauty of it Hot* (1960), *The Stack-Up* (1983), and *Blueshift* (1984).

**Performance Dates:** Jun 11, Jun 13 mat, Jun 14 eve, Jun 20 mat

### **A Song for You (excerpt from Love Songs)**

To celebrate his renowned career of artistry, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> performance at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater will be dedicated to Dudley Williams. In his honor there will be a special performance of “A Song for You” from *Love Songs*, the solo that Alvin Ailey created for him in 1972. In 1964, Mr. Williams joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater where he performed many iconic roles until 2005, becoming the longest tenured dancer in the Company's history. He continued to teach at The Ailey School until his recent passing.

### **Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> – 8:00pm**

#### **ODETTA – Season Premiere**

**Odetta Holmes**—one of the most influential singers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—is rediscovered as renowned Ailey dancer **Matthew Rushing** marries soul-stirring movement to songs by the artist anointed “the queen of American folk music” by Martin Luther King, Jr. This world premiere, created during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, pays tribute to Holmes' life as a singer, songwriter, actress, activist, and “the voice of the Civil Rights Movement.” *ODETTA* is Rushing's third ballet created for Ailey, following *Acceptance In Surrender* (2005), a collaboration with Hope Boykin and Abdur Rahim-Jackson, and *Uptown* (2010), a celebration of the Harlem Renaissance.

**Performance Dates:** June 12, Jun 13 eve, Jun 14 mat, Jun 21 mat

## **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS – Week 1**

### **Ailey Family Matinee Series—Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**

On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy the matinee, and stay afterward for a FREE Q&A session with the acclaimed Ailey dancers in the theater. All Family Matinee performances conclude with Alvin Ailey's masterpiece, *Revelations*, a must-see for all! The Ailey Family Matinee Series continues the following Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ticket to Dance**

“Ticket to Dance” welcomes audience members to try their first [Ailey Extension](#) class FREE with the presentation of a performance ticket stub (returning students receive a free class with the purchase of a 10-class card). The offer is valid for a year from the performance date. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, The Ailey Extension has fulfilled Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering “real classes for real people,” with over 80 classes per week in more than 25 different dance and fitness techniques.

## **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**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 for a two-week season at the David H. Koch Theater June 10 – 21, 2015. The 15-performance engagement kicks off with the Ailey Spirit Gala benefit on Wednesday, June 10 at 7PM, where rising stars of Ailey II, The Ailey School and AileyCamp will join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for a special one-night-only performance, including the American masterpiece **Revelations**. On Thursday, June 11 at 6PM, a free dance class for the public on Lincoln Center's Josie Robertson Plaza, sponsored by General Motors, will introduce that evening's world premiere of **Exodus**, by bold hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris. Other season highlights include the company premiere of Robert Battle's **No Longer Silent**, which brings to life the music of Erwin Schulhoff, a composer silenced by the Nazis, and new productions of Talley Beatty's vibrant **Toccata** and Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison's sensual **A Case of You** duet from **Remiscin'**.

Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). There will be **family matinees** on Saturday, June 13 and Saturday, June 20 at 2:00 p.m., followed by a free Q&A with the dancers. 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, not offered opening night). Additional discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by phone 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For more information about Ailey's performances, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

For additional photos and video, please visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)  
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater press kit available [here](#).  
2015 Season Images are available [here](#).

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