

AILEY II

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AILEY II PERFORMS IN 26 CITIES ON 2015-2016 US TOUR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TROY POWELL COMMISSIONS FOUR WORLD PREMIERES BY RAY MERCER, JEAN EMILE, KYLE 'JUSTSOLE' CLARK, AND AILEY DANCER JAMAR ROBERTS

(New York) September 22nd, 2015 – This Friday, Ailey II will embark on a [26-city US tour](#) running through March 13th (full schedule on page two). The tour will take the stellar 12 member ensemble to **Towson, MD; Memphis, TN; Pittsburgh, PA; Albuquerque, NM; New Orleans, LA;** and **Durham, NC** among many others. After the tour, Ailey II will return home to New York for its annual two week season at The Ailey Citigroup Theater, **March 30th – April 10th**.

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Ailey II is one of the most popular dance companies in the country, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. After three record-breaking seasons as Artistic Director under his belt, Troy Powell announces four richly diverse new commissions in his fourth year at the helm of the Company.

"This is the first time in over two decades that Ailey II has presented four world premieres during a performance season. The premieres are richly diverse and they perfectly complement the eleven returning favorites that make up our repertoire. Audiences are in for a treat on this tour - our young professional dance artists and rising choreographers have come together to create a special experience for one and all. Ailey II is at the forefront of cutting edge and exciting dance and we look forward to bringing our distinctive vibrancy and energy to theaters around the country," Troy Powell said.

Inspired by everyday emotions that awaken and bring color to the human spirit, in ***Something Tangible***, choreographer **Ray Mercer** leads the ensemble cast into a series of vignettes that reflect sensations of love, passion, fear, and self-doubt. The work features a wide range of musical styles that include artists Max Richter, Ólafur Arnalds, Geoff Bennett, and an original score by Bongji Duma.

Choreographer and Ailey School alumnus **Jean Emile's *In & Out*** is a poignant work for eight dancers giving an unflinchingly honest view of the ups and downs of contemporary life. Drawing on a mix of dance techniques, Emile brings a fresh approach, which is amplified by a varied score that includes music by Alva Noto, Alberto Iglesias, and Jun Miyake.

In the pulsating ensemble work, ***I Am The Road***, hip-hop choreographer **Kyle "JustSole" Clark** treats audiences to a glimpse into his life as a dancer. Capturing the struggles and triumphs of a young ambitious artist finding his place in the world, Clark presents his personal journal in dance form. House dance music by Vikter Duplaix, Jeff Samuel, Nuyorican Soul, and Markus Enochson illuminate Clark's depictions of risk taking, falling in love, and remaining true to one's self.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer **Jamar Roberts** makes his Ailey II choreographic debut with his work ***Gêmeos*** (Portuguese for twins). Loosely based on the relationship of Roberts and his brother growing up as children – one a dancer, the other an athlete – Roberts illustrates the dynamic between contrasting personalities and how they evolve from hostility to harmony. Using music with heavy percussion, brassy horns, groovy bass guitar, and the commanding singing style of Afrobeat star Fela Kuti, Roberts perfectly captures the energy of youth.

This season, six new dancers - **Lloyd Boyd, Gabriel Hyman, Jacob Lewis, Jacoby Pruitt, Courtney Celeste Spears, and Terri Ayanna Wright** - join the six returning members. In addition to Powell's four new commissions, Ailey II's touring repertory will include favorites such as [Breakthrough](#), [Divining \(solo excerpt\)](#), [The External Knot](#), [Hissy Fits](#), [The Hunt](#), [Revelations](#), [Streams](#), [Takademe](#), [Virtues](#), [We](#), and [Wings](#). For more information visit www.alvinailey.org.

Please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org for bios, hi-res downloadable photos and broll, and [Ailey II's electronic press kit](#).

AILEY II

Troy Powell Artistic Director

2015-2016 Tour Schedule

(As of 01.07.2016)

SUMMER / FALL 2015

*Sept. 18-20	Bari, Italy	Teatro Petruzzelli
Sept. 26	Towson, MD	Stephens Hall Theatre
Oct. 8-10	Kansas City, MO	Folly Theater
Oct. 15	Memphis, TN	Buckman Performing and Fine Arts Center
Oct. 18	Glen Ellyn, IL	McAninch Arts Center at College of Dupage
Oct. 21	Grayslake, IL	James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts at the College of Lake County
Oct. 23	Clinton Township, MI	Macomb Center for the Performing Arts
Oct. 24	Midland, MI	Midland Center for the Arts
Oct. 29	Richmond, KY	Eastern Kentucky University Center for the Arts
Oct. 30	Carmel, IN	The Palladium
Nov. 1	Toledo, OH	Valentine Theatre
Nov. 4	Englewood, NJ	Bergen Performing Arts Center
Nov. 5	Toms River, NJ	The Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts
Nov. 7	Lewisburg, PA	Weis Performing Arts Center
Nov. 8	Germantown, MD	Black Rock Center for Arts
Nov. 10	Pittsburgh, PA	August Wilson Center

WINTER / SPRING 2016

Jan. 28	Rochester, NY	NTID Robert F. Panara Theatre (Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall)
Feb. 20	Albuquerque, NM	Popejoy Hall
Feb. 22	Midland, TX	Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
Feb. 25	Temple, TX	Cultural Activities Center – Frank W. Mayborn Auditorium
Feb. 27	New Orleans, LA	Dixon Hall
Mar. 1-2	Greensboro, NC	Harrison Auditorium
Mar. 3	Pembroke, NC	Givens Performing Arts Center
Mar. 5	Durham, NC	Reynolds Industries Theater / Duke Divinity School
Mar. 9	Springfield, OH	Clark State Performing Arts Center
Mar. 10	Kalamazoo, MI	Miller Auditorium
Mar. 13	York, PA	Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center

Mar. 30-Apr. 10	New York, NY	Ailey Citigroup Theater
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*May 12-13 Fort-de-France, Martinique Atrium