



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

CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

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
Dawn Parker: dawn.parker@porternovelli.com / 404-995-7913

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR FABULOUS FOX THEATRE PERFORMANCES FROM FEBRUARY 10 – 14, 2016

Atlanta Engagement Record of Eight Premieres and New Productions Including
Artistic Director Robert Battle's First World Premiere since Becoming Artistic Director

Tickets Start at \$25 – Special Offers for Ailey Fan Night, Saturday Family Matinee & Students

Atlanta – January 13, 2016 – [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) returns to the Fabulous Fox Theatre February 10 -14, 2016 for six inspired performances featuring new productions of Ailey classics and premieres by some of America's most celebrated dance-makers. Alvin Ailey's perennial crowd pleaser ***Revelations*** will provide the inspiring finale of all programs.

Led by **[Robert Battle](#)** in his fifth season as Artistic Director, Ailey's extraordinary dancers will bring to life a repertory of nine works that will engage Atlanta audiences in a celebration of the human spirit. **[No Longer Silent](#)** and **[Awakening](#)**, two of Mr. Battle's most powerful pieces, are among the exciting works taking center stage at the Fox Theatre for the first time.

In **[Awakening](#)**, Robert Battle's first world premiere as artistic director, a dozen dancers lead audiences on a cathartic journey of hope that expertly balances chaos and resolution, dissonance and harmony. **Robert Battle's** acclaimed **[No Longer Silent](#)** is a large ensemble work stirring the imagination with powerful phrases evoking a complex and mysterious ritual to Erwin Schulhoff's percussive score "Ogelala." Recently staged on the Ailey company 70 years after the liberation of the concentration camps, it was originally created in 2007 as part of a concert of choreography that brought to life long-forgotten scores by composers whose work and lives were silenced by the Nazis.

"It is an honor to share with Atlanta my *Awakening*, new works by visionary choreographers like Ronald K. Brown and Rennie Harris, as well as enduring classics by Paul Taylor and Alvin Ailey," stated **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "At this year's Fox Theatre engagement, 31 acclaimed dancers will reveal important voices that enrich our society and stir our souls, building upon Ailey's proud legacy of inspiring, enlightening and uniting audiences."

Highly-anticipated world premieres by world-renowned choreographers **Ronald K. Brown and Rennie Harris** have also been bringing audiences to their feet in a magnificent intersection of culture and dance traditions. The timely Cuban-inspired **[Open Door](#)** guides viewers on a pathway informed by Ronald K. Brown's travels to Cuba over the years and driven by vibrant music from Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra's latest album *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*. Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris'** recent world premiere of **[Exodus](#)**, set to gospel and house music along with the spoken word, underscores the crucial role of action and movement in effecting change.

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Select programs will also feature the Company premiere of [Piazzola Caldera](#), modern dance master **Paul Taylor's** sizzling ballet capturing the essence of tango culture, as well as new productions of three classics by Alvin Ailey. [Blues Suite](#), created for the Company's first performance in 1958 at the 92nd Street Y, conjures Alvin Ailey's "blood memories" of the barrelhouses and fields of rural, Depression-era southern Texas to the blues music he called "hymns to the secular regions of the soul." [Cry](#) is the physically and emotionally demanding solo created on Judith Jamison in 1971 as a birthday present for Alvin Ailey's mother and dedicated to "all black women everywhere – especially our mothers." [Love Songs](#), choreographed in 1972 to music by Donny Hathaway and Nina Simone, is a three-part technical and dramatic tour-de-force displaying both the power and gentleness of the male soloist.

The five day engagement of captivating live performances will kick off with Ailey Fan Night on Wednesday, February 10 at 8 p.m. offering Atlantans the opportunity to experience the Ailey magic with all tickets at only \$25! Ailey also extends an invitation to bring a loved one to the **Valentine's Day** performance on Sunday, February 14 at 3 p.m. or the whole family to the Family Matinee program on Saturday, February 14 at 2 p.m. , which includes a post-performance Q&A with the dancers and special ticket prices that are buy one, get one at 50% off.

Tickets, starting at \$25, are available at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltix.com or by calling 855-285-8499.

The 2016 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Atlanta engagement is made possible by Bank of America.

Local support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2016 Atlanta engagement is provided by Georgia Power.

American Express is a major supporter of the new production of Blues Suite.

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

Commission support for Awakening is provided by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County with lead support from Ira and Carole Hall.

Awakening is supported by commissioning funds from Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley.

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

Major support for Ailey's Arts In Education & Community Programs is provided by Southern Company



Left to right: AAADT in Robert Battle's *Awakening*. AAADT's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in Alvin Ailey's *Blues Suite*. Photos by Paul Kolnik. **CTRL + CLICK on photos for hi-res download. Please credit photos.**

PRESS: For additional press materials please visit the links below or pressroom.alvinailey.org

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2015-2016 Atlanta Programs

ATLANTA, GA

FOX THEATRE

Wednesday, 2/10@ 8:00pm	Blues Suite / No Longer Silent / Love Songs, Revelations
Thursday, 2/11@ 8:00pm	Open Door, Cry / Awakening / Revelations
Friday, 2/12@ 8:00pm	Exodus / Piazzola Caldera / Revelations
Saturday, 2/13@ 2:00pm	Open Door, Cry / Awakening / Revelations
Saturday, 2/13@ 8:00pm	Exodus / No Longer Silent / Revelations
Sunday, 2/14@ 3:00pm	Open Door, Cry / Awakening / Revelations

2015-2016 Atlanta Highlights

World Premieres

[Awakening](#)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: John Mackey

Using his signature taut, ritualistic choreographic style and a score by composer **John Mackey**, Battle's first world premiere since becoming artistic director follows a community on a cathartic journey from lamentation to peace. Buoyed by the complex rhythmic quality of Mackey's music ("Turning" and "The Attentions of Souls", the third movement from the symphony "Wine-Dark Sea") and a cast of over a dozen of Ailey's extraordinary dancers, Battle's eagerly-anticipated work is a powerful dance of dissonance and harmony, chaos and resolution.

[Open Door](#)

Choreography by Ronald K. Brown

Music: Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra

Ronald K. Brown is renowned for his signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms in works that often lead into deeper examinations of issues of spirituality, community responsibility, and liberation. *Open Door* is a new work set to the music of **Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra**, adding a new flavor to his signature style. The title hints at the power of dance and music in opening pathways to culture and compassion.

[Exodus](#)

Choreography by Rennie Harris

Music: Original compositions by Raphael Xavier, "A New Deal" by Ost & Kjex

Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer **Rennie (Lorenzo) Harris** created a recent 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 spoken word, 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. His previous contributions to the Ailey repertory include *Home* (2011) and *Love Stories* (2004), an acclaimed collaboration with Judith Jamison and Robert Battle.

Company Premieres

[Piazzolla Caldera](#)

Choreography by Paul Taylor

Music: Astor Piazzolla and Jerzy Peterburshsky

Set to music by **Astor Piazzolla** and **Jerzy Peterburshsky**, *Piazzolla Caldera* is a finely wrought work sizzling with erotic energy by modern dance master Paul Taylor that captures the essence of tango culture. Men and women engage in a series of fiery encounters, in turns playful and predatory, in vivid duets and trios through the work's four sections in this passionate homage to tango's Argentinian working class roots.

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[No Longer Silent](#)

Choreography: Robert Battle

Music: Erwin Schulhoff

No Longer Silent is a large ensemble work featuring the imaginative interplay of four groups of dancers evoking a complex and mysterious ritual to Erwin Schulhoff's percussive score "Ogelala." Originally created in 2007 for The Juilliard School, Robert Battle's alma mater, it was part of a concert of choreography that brought to life long-forgotten scores by composers whose work the Nazis had banned. Powerful phrases stir the imagination with images of flight and fatigue, chaos and unity, and collectivity and individualism as dancers travel in military rows. Created between 1922-1924, the music tells the story of a pre-Columbian Mexican warrior and its ever-shifting mechanical cadence is the backdrop against which the dancers, dressed in all black, dramatically build to the work's piercing conclusion. Lamentably, the composer was denied employment after the Germans occupied Czechoslovakia and, after being prevented from emigrating, died of tuberculosis in the Wülzburg concentration camp in 1942.

New Productions

[Blues Suite](#)

Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional (All Performances with Live Music)

"Blood memories" of rural, Depression-era southern Texas, come to life in Alvin Ailey's hugely popular *Blues Suite*, his first masterpiece that launched the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the inaugural 1958 performance. With the rumble of a train and the toll of distant bells, a cast of vividly-drawn characters from the barrelhouses and fields of Alvin Ailey's southern childhood are summoned to dance and revel through one long, sultry night. Ailey's first masterpiece poignantly evokes the sorrow, humor and humanity of the blues, those heartfelt songs that he called "hymns to the secular regions of the soul." All season performances will be to music from a live, on-stage band.

[Cry](#)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, Voices of East Harlem

In 1971, Alvin Ailey choreographed the ballet *Cry*, as a birthday present for his mother Mrs. Lula Cooper, and created the dance on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison. It was an instant sensation and went on to become an enduring work of American art. This physically and emotionally demanding 16-minute solo is dedicated to "all black women everywhere – especially our mothers." The solo is made up of three parts – the first set to **Alice Coltrane's** "Something about John Coltrane," the second to **Laura Nyro's** "Been on a Train" and the last has the **Voices of East Harlem** singing "Right On, Be Free." Ms. Jamison, who has since taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women, wrote of the work in her autobiography *Dancing Spirit*: "In my interpretation, she represented those women before her who came from the hardships of slavery, through the pain of losing loved ones, through overcoming extraordinary depressions and tribulations. Coming out of a world of pain and trouble, she has found her way-and triumphed."

[Love Songs](#)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Donny Hathaway, Nina Simone

Love Songs, a three-part technical and dramatic tour-de-force originally created for the legendary Dudley Williams, is often viewed as the male counterpart to *Cry*, the famous woman's solo that Mr. Ailey originally choreographed for his muse, Judith Jamison. The suite opens with Donny Hathaway's tender "A Song For You," followed by Nina Simone's rendition of "A Field of Poppies," an anti-narcotics song in which the audience witnesses the man's descent into self-destruction, and closes with Hathaway singing "He Aint Heavy" as the dancer travels around the stage bearing an imaginary load with resolve. The work gives the soloist a unique opportunity to display both the power and gentleness of the male dancer while digging deep into all the aspects of his relationships – with himself, his fellow man, his brother.

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Calendar Listing Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's extraordinary dancers return to center stage at the Fox Theatre February 10 - 14 with premieres, new productions and *Revelations* for six audience-captivating performances only. Highlights include a Wednesday night Ailey Fan program with every single seat in the house priced at only \$25, a Family Matinee on Saturday afternoon with a Q&A with the dancers, and a Valentine's Day performance on Sunday afternoon for audiences to enjoy with their loved ones. Tickets, starting at \$25, are available at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltix.com or by calling 855-285-8499.

Ailey's 2015 Atlanta Engagement Performance dates and times:

Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Student Performance; Thursday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 13 at 2 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. ; Sunday, Feb. 14 at 3 p.m.

Tickets

[Tickets for Ailey's 2016 Atlanta engagement](#) from February 11 to 15 are on sale starting at \$25 at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, www.alvinailey.org, www.foxatltix.com or by calling 855-285-8499. Groups of 10 or more can save by calling 404-881-2000.

- **Student tickets** are available for Thursday, February 11 at 8 p.m. for \$10 with valid student ID. Tickets must be purchased at the Fox Theatre box office prior to 5:30 p.m. on February 12 (Limit two per ID and subject to availability).
- The **Ailey Fan** program tickets for Wednesday, February 10 at 8 p.m. are all \$25.
- Tickets for the one-hour **Student Performance** on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. are available by calling group sales at (404) 881-2000.
- The Saturday **Family Matinee** tickets are buy one, get one 50 percent off with a free post-performance Q&A with the dancers.

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, a 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, 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). The Company also appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive annual 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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