



CULTURAL  
AMBASSADOR  
TO THE WORLD

# 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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## JUNE 8<sup>th</sup> AILEY SPIRIT GALA BENEFIT OPENS TWO-WEEK LINCOLN CENTER SEASON WITH ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE AND PARTY SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS AND ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Gala Benefit sponsored by FedEx features Anthony Anderson and Roland S. Martin as Honorary Chairs. Rising stars of Ailey II, The Ailey School and AileyCamp join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on David H. Koch Theater stage followed by dance party with musical stylings of DJ M.O.S.

(NEW YORK, NY) May 12, 2015 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's two-week spring engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater kicks off on **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** with **The Ailey Spirit Gala**, a one-night-only benefit performance and party.

The **Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit performance at 7pm includes the world-renowned Ailey dancers in excerpts of Alvin Ailey's [Cry](#) and Robert Battle's [Awakening](#). The rising stars of [Ailey II](#) will perform Ray Mercer's [Something Tangible](#), 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 new work, and talented students from [AileyCamp](#) will perform a work inspired by Talley Beatty's [The Stack-up](#). An expanded cast of the present and future stars of Ailey will come together for a memorable finale of Alvin Ailey's timeless [Revelations](#). A soiree on the promenade follows with dancing to the musical stylings of deejay for the stars – DJ M.O.S.

The benefit, sponsored by FedEx, features actor **Anthony Anderson** of *black-ish* and *Barbershop: The Next Cut* and journalist **Roland S. Martin** of TV One and the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* as Honorary Chairs. Gala Co-Chairs are Gina F. Adams, Lynne & Anthony M. Carvette, Leslie & Tom Maheras, Almaz & Marc S. Strachan and Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach.

Attendees will have the opportunity to witness the impact of their charitable giving firsthand as Ailey's talented young students take the stage. Gala proceeds support scholarships to The Ailey School and Ailey's Arts In Education & Community Programs—including AileyCamp, an innovative, full-scholarship summer program that uses the art of dance as a means to help young people stretch their minds, bodies and spirits. In all, these programs serve more than 100,000 young people annually. For more information on benefit tickets starting at \$500 call 212-405-9031.

[Ailey's 15-performance engagement](#) runs through June 19<sup>th</sup> and includes the **world premiere** of *Deep* by Mauro Bigonzetti and *Untitled America: Second Movement* by Kyle Abraham. The season will also include new productions of Robert Battle's *The Hunt* and Ulysses Dove's *Vespers*. For further information, and to purchase tickets starting at \$25, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

The Ailey Spirit Gala is sponsored by FedEx.

Spirits for The Ailey Spirit Gala are generously provided by Diageo.

Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Spring Season.

## CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
June 8–19, 2016 at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater  
20 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY (Columbus Avenue at 63rd Street)  
(212) 496-0600 / [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) / [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org)

### Programming – Subject to Change

*The Ailey Spirit Gala: Performances by AileyCamp, The Ailey School, Ailey II & Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, incl. Revelations*

Wednesday, 6/8 at 7:00pm

*21<sup>st</sup> Century Voices: Open Door, Untitled America: Second Movement / No Longer Silent / Exodus*  
Thursday, 6/9 at 7:30pm, Saturday, 6/11 at 8:00pm, Friday, 6/17 at 8:00pm, Sunday, 6/19 at 3:00pm

*Dance Trailblazers: Deep / Piazzolla Caldera / Revelations*

Friday, 6/10 at 8:00pm, Saturday, 6/11 at 2:00pm\*, Sunday, 6/12 at 7:30pm

*All Ailey: Blues Suite / Love Songs, Cry / Revelations*

Sunday, 6/12 at 3:00pm, Thursday, 6/16 at 7:30pm

*Bold Visions: Deep / Vespers, The Hunt / Revelations*

Tuesday, 6/14 at 7:30pm, Saturday, 6/18 at 2:00pm\*, Sunday, 6/19 at 7:30pm

*Musical Inspirations: Open Door / Awakening, A Case of You / Revelations*

Wednesday, 6/15 at 7:30pm, Saturday, 6/18 at 8:00pm

\*Family Matinee - followed by a post-performance Q&A session with the dancers

### PRESS:

For additional press materials please visit the links below or [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)

[Photo/Video Document](#)

[Sizzle Reel For Broadcast](#)

[Electronic Press Kit](#)

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.

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 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 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 bring 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](http://www.alvinailey.org).