



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

AILEY II | THE AILEY SCHOOL | AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS | AILEY EXTENSION

The Joan Weill Center for Dance 405 West 55th St, New York NY 10019-4402 (212) 405-9000 AlvinAiley.org

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director  
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

## AILEY SPIRIT GALA BENEFIT AT LINCOLN CENTER ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16 CELEBRATES ROBERT BATTLE'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE & PARTY

**Grammy® Emmy® and Tony® Award-winning actress, singer and producer Cynthia Erivo  
to Serve as Honorary Chair**

**Gala Benefit Honoring Verizon Brings Together Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Rising Stars of  
Ailey II, The Ailey School and AileyCamp – All Performing Works by Robert Battle**

**Soirée on the Promenade Follows with Music Stylings of DJs Angel + Dren**

**New York – May 24, 2022** – The centerpiece of [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's](#) Lincoln Center engagement is the [Ailey Spirit Gala](#) on **Thursday, June 16**. The one-night-only benefit honors **Verizon**, one of the nation's leading and largest technology companies, for their generous funding and steadfast support of Ailey's vital community and education programs, including [AileyCamp](#), a transformative, full-scholarship summer day camp that uses dance as a means to help youth stretch their minds, bodies, and spirits. Verizon's Vice President of Public Policy and longstanding member of Ailey's Board of Trustees **Anthony A. Lewis** will accept the honor during an onstage presentation by Ailey Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#).

The evening's **Honorary Chair** is Grammy® Emmy® and Tony® Award-winning actress, singer and producer **Cynthia Erivo**, most recently seen in Apple TV+'s anthology series *Roar*. Erivo will star in Netflix's forthcoming feature film *Luther* alongside Idris Elba and Andy Serkis as well as bring to life the iconic Blue Fairy in Disney's live-action retelling of *Pinocchio*. She will also star in Universal's film adaptation of the hit musical *WICKED*.

The Ailey Spirit Gala benefit performance at **7pm** brings together **all parts of the organization performing works by Artistic Director Robert Battle capping the celebration of his decade-long leadership at Ailey**. The evening features the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Robert Battle's [Unfold](#), evoking the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria "Depuis Le Jour" sung by the incomparable Leontyne Price; and [Love Stories](#) finale, a joyful ballet portraying a luminous future built on the lessons and legacy of the past. The rising stars of [Ailey II](#) present a special amplified version of Battle's [Takademe](#), where clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score in this percussive, fast-paced work; gifted young dancers from [The Ailey School](#) showcase their talents and breadth of the program's training in an excerpt of [Awakening](#), a dance that expertly balances chaos and resolution, dissonance and harmony; and talented students of [AileyCamp](#) perform an excerpt of [The Hunt](#), Battle's dynamic work revealing the robust side of human nature and the thrill of the hunt. A memorable finale of Alvin Ailey's masterpiece, [Revelations](#) inspire attendees before a soirée on the promenade for dancing to the musical stylings of DJs [Angel + Dren](#).

Proceeds support scholarships to The Ailey School and Ailey's uplifting [Arts In Education & Community Programs](#). Guests witness the power of their charitable giving firsthand as talented students from these programs grace the stage. Gala Co-Chairs are **Michele & Timothy Barakett, Anthony A. Lewis, Stephen J. Meringoff, Dr. Danielle Robinson & Reverend Dwayne McClary, Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach** and **Dennis Williams**. For tickets and information, visit [alvinailey.org/support/ailey-spirit-gala](http://alvinailey.org/support/ailey-spirit-gala) or call 212-405-9029.

[Ailey's six-performance engagement](#) at Lincoln Center from **Wednesday, June 15 to Sunday, June 19** includes the world premiere of [In a Sentimental Mood](#) by Ailey Resident Choreographer [Jamar Roberts](#) and the Company Premiere of Paul Taylor's [DUET](#), as well as a Saturday Family Matinee **Battle 10th Anniversary Program** featuring a performance of his works set to the music of Ella Fitzgerald, Wynton Marsalis, Leontyne Price, Nina Simone, and Stevie Wonder followed by a Q&A with Battle. Other highlights of the season include the Friday evening **Masterful Movement** program **Celebrating [Jacqueline Green](#)**, which pays tribute to the artistry of the acclaimed dancer who lit up the Ailey stage for more than a decade as she bids farewell to the Company. For more information, and to purchase tickets starting at \$29, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

Your health and safety are our top priority. All audience members are required to provide proof of vaccination and wear a mask inside the theater. [Read more here](#) about performance COVID-19 protocols.



Left to right: 2022 Ailey Spirit Gala Honorary Chair Cynthia Erivo headshot. Photo by Mark Seliger; 2022 Lincoln Center Image. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Corrin Rachel Mitchell and Michael Jackson Jr. in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

[Ctrl + Click for hi-res download. Please credit photos](#)

The Ailey Spirit Gala is sponsored by Diageo.

The 2022 Spring Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

The WNET Group is the Media Partner for the 2022 Spring Season.

*Love Stories* was created through the Ailey New Works Fund, supported by Altria Group, Inc.

*Love Stories* was supported by the Ailey New Choreography Initiative, sponsored by AT&T.

Major support for *Love Stories* was provided by Ford Foundation.

Generous support was also received from The Fred Eychaner New Works Endowment Fund and

The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey – Sara & Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund.

Additional funding for *Love Stories* was provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance, NJPAC Alternate Routes, Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation and Laren & Jesse Brill.

Support for the original production of *Unfold* was received from Elma Linz Kanefield.

Leadership support for this production of *Unfold* is provided by The Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer Endowment Fund.

This production of *Unfold* was made possible with generous support from Judith McDonough Kaminski & Joseph Kaminski.

All performances of *Revelations* are permanently endowed by a generous gift from Donald L. Jonas in celebration of the birthday of his wife, Barbara, and her deep commitment to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Generous support for *Takademe* was provided by The Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer New Works Endowment Fund and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey through the generosity of the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation and individual donors.

## **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, **presents a six-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater, June 15 – 19, 2022**. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers perform a diverse repertory featuring the world premiere of **Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts's *In a Sentimental Mood***, repertory favorites, and classics across four captivating programs highlighting the best of modern dance. In addition to *In a Sentimental Mood*, the ***Contemporary Creators*** program spotlights the work of contemporary choreographer Aszure Barton's ***BUSK***. ***Masterful Movement*** showcases the works of 20th century modern dance masters—with the Company debut of Paul Taylor's ***DUET*** and Alvin Ailey's ***The River***. **Robert Battle's 10th Anniversary program** culminates a celebratory year marking his decade-long leadership. **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit performance on **Thursday, June 16** features the world-renowned Ailey dancers and appearances by the rising stars of Ailey II, gifted dancers from The Ailey School, and talented students from AileyCamp, followed by a soiree on the promenade. Alvin Ailey's masterpiece ***Revelations*** provides the uplifting finale of each program. **Performance tickets start at \$29 and go on sale on Tuesday, April 26** at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at [alvinailey.org/LC](http://alvinailey.org/LC). Student tickets may be available on the day of the performance for \$17 at the box office with a valid student ID (one per student, subject to availability). On **Saturday, June 18**, bring the whole family to enjoy the matinee and stay for a free, post-performance Q&A with Artistic Director Robert Battle. 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 further information about Ailey performances, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**  
**June 15-19, 2022, at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater**  
**20 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY (Columbus Avenue at 63rd Street)**  
**212-496-0600 / [www.davidhkochtheater.com](http://www.davidhkochtheater.com)**

### **Programs – Subject to Change**

**Contemporary Creators:** *BUSK / In a Sentimental Mood / Revelations*

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

**The Ailey Spirit Gala:** Celebrating Robert Battle's 10th Anniversary

Performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, and AileyCamp, incl. *Revelations*  
Thursday, 6/16 at 7 pm

**Masterful Movement:** *The River / DUET, Mass / Revelations*

Friday, 6/17 at 8 pm (**Celebrating Jacqueline Green**) | Sunday, 6/19 at 3 pm

**Robert Battle 10th Anniversary:** *Mass, In/Side, Ella / For Four, Unfold, Takademe, Love Stories finale / Revelations*  
Saturday, 6/18 at 2 pm\*

+ Ailey Pride Night includes Dancers Responding to AIDS appeal to raise funds essential for those battling the illness

\*Family Matinee - followed by a post-performance Q&A with Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle

### **PRESS:**

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

[Photo/Video Document](#)

[Electronic Press Kit](#)

[Sizzle Reel for Broadcast](#)

## **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 six 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), 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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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