

AILEY II

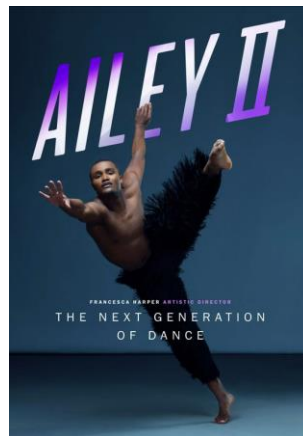
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AILEY II, THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE, SETS OUT ON U.S. TOUR LED BY FRANCESCA HARPER IN HER SECOND SEASON AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**2022-2023 Season Repertory Features Robert Battle's *Alleluia*,
William Forsythe's *Enemy in the Figure*,
Francesca Harper's *Freedom Series* and
World Premiere of Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrich's *mediAcation***



Ailey II 2022-2023 Season Image. Christopher Taylor. Photo by Nir Arieli.

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NEW YORK – UPDATED January 18, 2023 — [Ailey II](#), the next generation of dance, will embark on a **22-city United States tour October 7 - February 25** stretching from Miami, Florida to South Bend, Indiana to Tacoma, Washington. Following the tour, the renowned ensemble of 12 rising stars will **return home for an annual New York season at The Ailey Citigroup Theater March 22 – April 2, 2023.**

Ailey II, the celebrated second company to [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best early-career dance talent with the passion and creative vision of outstanding and emerging choreographers. One of the most popular dance companies in the country, Ailey II combines a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. The company continues to expand the bridge from the studio to the stage for talented young performers from [The Ailey School](#) under the wings of Artistic Director [Francesca Harper](#), who took her first dance steps at the school where her mother was director from 1984-2010.

"I am excited for audiences far and near to experience the power and grace of these 12 superbly gifted dancers in remarkable works by a variety of powerful choreographic voices," said Artistic Director Francesca Harper. "It's an honor to lead Ailey II into its next era, keeping Alvin Ailey's legacy of artistry and generosity moving forward while nurturing the next generation of performing artists on a journey of discovery."

In the **world premiere** work [mediAcation](#), former Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater member **Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrich** explores relationships and the nuances of communication. Six dancers use ropes and move in synch, creating intricate twists and beautiful lines before breaking away into three duets. Coupled with music by various artists, including Nicholas Britell and Alberto Iglesias, Roxas-Dobrich aims to capture the angst of a social media construct while also revealing the intense need to connect.

Robert Battle seamlessly meshes the foot stomping and hand gestures of the Baptist Church with classical Baroque idioms, setting seven dancers robed in white in a sustained burst of motion that builds to an ecstatic finale in [Alleluia](#). Like Alvin Ailey before him, Battle takes inspiration from his church background in this dance of rebirth that parallels the new life Ailey II is embarking on in its next era.

[Enemy in the Figure](#) (excerpt) is the propulsive central section of **William Forsythe's** eponymous work. Originally created in Germany (1989) for his ensemble, Ballet Frankfurt, the full work has been performed in major venues across the globe. Thom Willem's percussive electronic score was an inspiration for the work's choreographic invention and the radical use of light and shadow in the original stage design. This excerpt puts the formidable dance skills of the Ailey II dancers on fine display, giving their craft and vitality an invigorating framework.

Francesca Harper's [Freedom Series](#) travels through a landscape of memories creating a series of vignettes that embody and imagine a hybrid world where memory strives to influence the future. Depicted through this futuristic lens, and developed in collaboration with the Ailey II dancers, Harper's work examines identity and community. With costumes by designer Elias Gurrola and a score featuring a blend of acoustic and electronic sounds, *Freedom Series'* unexpected twists and turns bridge tender moments to its intrinsic ferocity.

This season, eight new dancers—[Andrew Bryant](#), [Spencer Everett](#), [Jaryd Farcon](#), [Maya Finman-Palmer](#), [Patrick Gamble](#), [Kali Marie Oliver](#), [Tamia Strickland](#) and [Maggy van den Heuvel](#), who all trained at The Ailey School—join the five returning members [Nicholas Begun](#), [Meagan King](#), [Travon M. Williams](#), [Amar Smalls](#) and [Rachel Yoo](#). Along with a world premiere and 2021-2022 returning favorites, Ailey II's touring repertory also includes [Psūkhe](#) by Andrea Miller, [Saa Magni](#) by Yannick Lebrun, Robert Battle's [Takademe](#) and [The Hunt](#), as well as [Revelations](#)—the must-see masterpiece by Alvin Ailey himself.

Please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org/ailey-ii for bios, hi-res downloadable photos and b-roll, and [Ailey II's electronic press kit](#). To enjoy a variety of digital content, follow Ailey II on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

2022-2023 Ailey II Tour Dates and Venues (as of 1.18.23 - subject to change)

October 7-8	South Bend, IN	Patricia George Decio Theatre, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center 100 Performing Arts Center, Notre Dame, IN
October 11	Columbus, OH	Jo Ann Davidson Theater, Riffe Center 77 S High St, Columbus, OH
October 13	Charleston, IL	Doudna Fine Arts Center 1860 7th St, Charleston, IL
October 15	University Park, IL	Center for Performing Arts, Governors State University 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL
October 17	Youngstown, OH	Ford Theater, Youngstown State University 1 University Plaza, Youngstown, OH
October 19	Lynchburg, VA	Historic Academy Theatre, Academy Center of the Arts 600 Main Street, Lynchburg, VA
October 23	New Haven, CT	Shubert Theatre 247 College Street, New Haven, CT
October 25	Williamsport, PA	Community Arts Center 220 West 4th Street, Williamsport, PA
October 26	Syracuse, NY	Landmark Theatre 362 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY
October 30	Hopkinsville, KY	Alhambra Theatre, Pennyroyal Arts Council 507 South Main Street, Hopkinsville, KY
November 5	Decorah, IA	Center for Faith and Life, Luther College 700 College Drive, Decorah, IA
November 6	Cedar Falls, IA	Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center 8201 Dakota Street, Cedar Falls, IA

November 10	New Brunswick, NJ	State Theatre New Jersey 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ
January 28	Tacoma, WA	Tacoma Arts Live, Pantages Theater 901 Broadway, Tacoma, WA
January 31	Olympia, WA	Washington Center for the Performing Arts 512 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA
February 3-4	Sun Valley, ID	The Argyros Performing Arts Center 120 Main Street South, Ketchum, ID
February 6	Orem, UT	Scott and Karen Smith Theatre at the UVU Noorda Center for Performing Arts 800 W. University Drive, Orem, UT
February 16	Tampa, FL	Straz Center for the Performing Arts 1010 N. WC Macinnes Place, Tampa, FL
February 18	Lake Worth, FL	Duncan Theatre, Palm Beach State College 4200 Congress Avenue, Lake Worth, FL
February 21	Jacksonville, FL	Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts, Moran Theater 300 Water St., Jacksonville, FL
February 23	Sarasota, FL	Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL
February 25	Miami, FL	Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL
March 22 – April 2	New York, NY	Ailey Citigroup Theater 405 West 55 th Street, New York, NY

The safety of our audiences, artists, crew, and staff is our top priority. To foster an environment of safety and comfort, please reference each venue's website for the latest COVID-19 safety protocols.

Ailey II is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, as well as by American Express.

About Ailey II

Ailey II—Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's second company—is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best early-career dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding and emerging choreographers. Founded in 1974 as a bridge between The Ailey School and the professional dance world, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Ailey II flourished into one of the most popular dance companies in the country under the leadership of Sylvia Waters from 1974-2012, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. With Artistic Director Francesca Harper at the helm, Ailey II continues to thrive as she brings a fresh dimension to this beloved company. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org/ailey-ii.

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