



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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

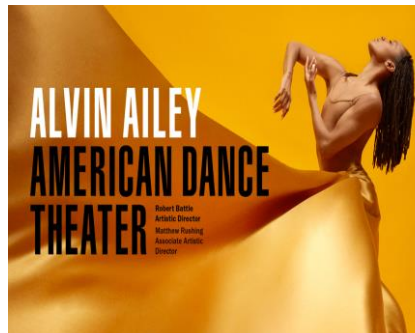
Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER 2023 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR KICKS OFF DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND REACHES 22 CITIES FROM FEBRUARY 3 – MAY 14

**Ailey's Extraordinary Dancers Inspire Audiences with Exciting New Works and
Alvin Ailey's American Must-See Masterpiece *Revelations***

**World Premieres Include Kyle Abraham's *Are You in Your Feelings?* and
Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood***

**Other Highlights Include Company Premiere of Acclaimed Choreographer Twyla Tharp's *Roy's Joys* and
New Production of *Survivors* – Alvin Ailey's 1986 Tribute to Nelson and Winnie Mandela**



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Kyle Abraham's *Are You in Your Feelings?*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; 2022-2023 Season Image. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacquelin Harris. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Dario Calmese.

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NEW YORK – JANUARY 25, 2023 – After an acclaimed [four-week holiday season](#) in New York, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, will continue to grace stages from coast-to-coast during a **22-city North American tour starting February 3 in Toronto, Ontario during Black History Month**. Led by Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#), the passionate spirit and extraordinary technique of Ailey's dancers will be showcased in a diverse repertoire of new works, repertoire favorites and Ailey classics. **On February 7**, a week-long engagement at **The Kennedy Center** launches with the **annual Washington, D.C. Gala Benefit to support Ailey's D.C. programs**, including the creation of new works, Arts-In-Education activities, and scholarships to talented young area dancers to attend The Ailey School in New York. Other stops on the 22-city tour include **Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit**, culminating with a **Mother's Day performance in Newark on May 14**.

National audiences will have the opportunity to experience **acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham's [Are You in Your Feelings?](#)**, a celebration of Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a "mixtape" of soul, hip-hop, and R&B from featuring beloved musical artists like Jhené Aiko, Drake, Lauryn Hill, Kendrick Lamar, Jazmine Sullivan, and Summer Walker, the critically applauded work explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory. The tour also welcomes **[In a Sentimental Mood](#) by Jamar Roberts**, an intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple that becomes an exploration of love and desire. The work is set to an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia.

Twyla Tharp's silky and sultry **[Roy's Joys](#)** (1997), embodying the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge, will also take the stage. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, *Roy's Joys* exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Tharp at her rollicking best. The tour also includes a new production of **[Survivors](#)** (1986), **Alvin Ailey's** impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, which will be seen this season for the first time since 1988. A soundtrack of Max Roach's richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln's powerful vocals sets the emotional tone for a work that presents a portrait of people transformed by injustice and lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

Performances of **Alvin Ailey's** must-see American masterpiece **[Revelations](#)** will inspire audiences in every city on the tour. Since its creation in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more people around the world than any other modern dance work moving audiences with its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the south and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African American and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

Additional Tour Activities

The Ailey Organization continues its mission of using dance to educate young people through special activities, including **master classes, student performances, lecture-demonstrations** throughout the tour, and innovative **curriculum-based residencies** for public school students. **[Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach residency](#)** utilizes Alvin Ailey's signature work, *Revelations*, as the inspirational framework for a comprehensive study of language arts, social studies, and dance. The innovative program actively engages participants in a process of reflecting, discussing, creating, performing, and assessing, while exploring the life story of Alvin Ailey and *Revelations*. This year, residencies will be implemented in **Atlanta and Los Angeles**. In addition, students from **[AileyCamp](#)** – a free summer program that helps youth reach their full potential – will experience the magic of the Company's live performances. The award-winning program is implemented in 10 cities across the country: **Atlanta, Baltimore, Berkeley/Oakland, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City (KS and MO), Miami, New York City (Bronx), Newark, and Seattle**.

[The Ailey School](#), the official school of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater offering world-class dance training to students ages 3-25, **will conduct auditions for the 2023-2024 academic programs as well as the 2023 summer intensive** at tour cities including **Atlanta, Washington D.C., Boston, and Dallas**. The mission of The Ailey School is to make dance accessible to outstanding students through a curriculum of rigorous and diversified dance training. Nearly 80% of current Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members received their pre-professional training from The Ailey School. For further information regarding the audition schedule, please click **[here](#)**.

In conjunction with the tour, **[Ailey Extension](#)** will also step out of New York City and into select cities across the country to offer dance workshops to teens and adults of all backgrounds and levels. Designed to expand Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone, **Ailey Experience** workshops teach students the rich history of Ailey's signature style, which changed the perception of modern American dance around the world. From January through April, former Ailey dancers and world class instructors will lead Ailey Experience workshops in several cities, including **Atlanta, Chicago, Charlotte, Philadelphia, and Washington DC**. Click **[here](#)** for more information.

In 1958, Alvin Ailey and a small group of dancers took the stage in New York and forever changed American dance and culture. One of the country's groundbreaking greats, his Company earned a reputation as one of the finest international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of American modern dance. Now in its seventh decade, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues to move forward under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Battle, along with Associate Artistic Director [Matthew Rushing](#), a renowned former dancer who is marking his 30th anniversary with Ailey this season. In 2014, Robert Battle accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, on behalf of the late Alvin Ailey, a trailblazing artist who is the subject of the acclaimed documentary [Ailey](#), currently streaming on Hulu.

Following the tour, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater brings its passionate energy and dazzling technique back to the [Brooklyn Academy of Music \(BAM\) on June 6 – 11](#) for the first time since 2010 with a program of recent works and classic audience favorites, including Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece *Revelations*. Ailey's long-standing relationship with BAM began in 1969 when the trailblazing choreographer established The Ailey School in Brooklyn and presented his company's first BAM performances. Tickets starting at \$35 are on sale now. For more information, visit [here](#).

For more information on Ailey's upcoming performances, visit www.alvinailey.org. For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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Calendar Listing Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the world's most beloved dance companies, embarks on a national tour February 3 – May 14, 2023. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's extraordinary dancers will move audiences with world premieres, new productions, repertory favorites, and classics like the American masterpiece *Revelations*, acclaimed as a must-see for all. Other highlights include world premieres of acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham's *Are You in Your Feelings?* and Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*; the Company premiere of Twyla Tharp's *Roy's Joys*; and new production of Alvin Ailey's *Survivors*. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

Bank of America is Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's North American Tour Sponsor.

The 2023 National Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Major support of this new production of *Survivors* is made possible by Judith McDonough Kaminski & Joseph Kaminski, and Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach.

Major support of the Company premiere of *Roy's Joys* is made possible by Elaine & Larry Rothenberg.

The creation of *Are You in Your Feelings?* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

The world premiere of *Are You in Your Feelings?* is made possible with major support from Michele & Timothy Barakett, Melinda & Paul Pressler, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn & Nicolas S. Rohatyn New Works Endowment Fund, and The Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer Endowment Fund.

Additional support was provided by an Anonymous supporter, The Fred Eychaner New Works Endowment Fund, and The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey—Sara and Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund.

The world premiere of *In a Sentimental Mood* is made possible with support from Maury & Joseph Bohan, Peter S. Croncota, The Ellen Jewett & Richard L. Kauffman New Works Endowment Fund, Tarell Alvin McCraney, the Red Moose Charitable Fund, and Denise Littlefield Sobel.

Leadership support for the world premiere of *For Four* is provided by Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer.

The world premiere of *For Four* is made possible with major support from Melinda & Paul Pressler, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn & Nicolas S. Rohatyn, The Ellen Jewett & Richard L. Kauffman New Works Endowment Fund, Elaine & Lawrence J. Rothenberg, Denise Littlefield Sobel, and the Red Moose Charitable Fund.

For Four is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Generous support for this production of *The River* was provided by Celestine & Howard Campbell, the Red Moose Charitable Fund, Denise Littlefield Sobel, and The Jaharis Family Foundation.

The original Ailey production was made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and by a grant from Ford Foundation.

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.

2023 Tour Dates and Venues (subject to change)

Feb 3-4	Toronto, ON	Meridian Hall
Feb 7-12	Washington, DC	Opera House, John F. Kennedy Center for the Perf. Arts
Feb 16-19	Atlanta, GA	The Fox Theatre
Feb 21-22	Charlotte, NC	Belk Theater, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center
Feb 24-26	Philadelphia, PA	Academy of Music, Kimmel Cultural Campus
Feb 28-Mar 1	Blacksburg, VA	Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech
Mar 3-5	Memphis, TN	Orpheum Theatre
Mar 8-12	Chicago, IL	Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University
Mar 17-19	Detroit, MI	Detroit Opera House
Mar 21	Lincoln, NE	Lied Center for the Performing Arts
Mar 24-25	Kansas City, MO	Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
Apr 4-5	San Diego, CA	San Diego Civic Theatre
Apr 7-8	Mesa, AZ	Mesa Arts Center
Apr 11-16	Berkeley, CA	Zellerbach Hall, Univ. of CA at Berkeley

Apr 18-19	Davis, CA	Mondavi Center for the Perf. Arts, Univ. of CA at Davis
Apr 22-23	Dallas, TX	Music Hall at Fair Park
Apr 25	Newport News, VA	Virginia Arts Festival / Ferguson Center for the Arts
Apr 28-30	Norfolk, VA	Chrysler Hall
May 2	Burlington, VT	The Flynn
May 4-7	Boston, MA	Boch Center Wang Theatre
May 9	Pittsburgh, PA	Benedum Center for the Performing Arts
May 12-14	Newark, NJ	Prudential Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

WORLD PREMIERES

[***Are You in Your Feelings?***](#) (2022 World Premiere)

Choreography by Kyle Abraham

Acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham's newest work is a celebration of Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a "mixtape" of soul, hip-hop, and R&B it explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory. "A lot of these songs are the songs that I play when I'm at my lowest and at my highest. I wanted to find a way to thank those artists for their music and thank our culture for their contributions to this world in which we live." -Kyle Abraham, choreographer of *Are You in Your Feelings?*

[***In a Sentimental Mood***](#) (2022 World Premiere)

Choreography by Jamar Roberts

Music: Duke Ellington and Rafiq Bhatia

An intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple becomes an exploration of love and desire in the world premiere by Jamar Roberts. Using an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia, Roberts bridges the past and present, making these musical classics freshly relevant and timely.

COMPANY PREMIERES

[***DUET***](#) (1964 / 2022 Company Premiere)

Choreography by Paul Taylor

Music: Franz Josef Haydn

Paul Taylor's 1964 *DUET*, set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn, is a testament to the simplicity and clarity of Taylor's craft. Brief and beautifully shaped, it portrays a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true.

[***Roy's Joys***](#) (1997 / 2022 Company Premiere)

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

This silky, sultry work embodies the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, it exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Tharp at her rollicking best.

NEW PRODUCTION

Survivors (1986/ New Production 2022)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey and Mary Barnett

Music: Max Roach, strings orchestrated by Peter Phillips

Alvin Ailey's impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela is, more broadly, a portrait of people transformed by injustice. Max Roach's richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln's vocals set the emotional tone for this powerful work that lifts those who resist oppression in any form.

RETURNING FAVORITES

Cry (1971)

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 on his stunning muse, the legendary Judith Jamison, who has taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women. This physically and emotionally demanding tour-de-force 16-minute solo—dedicated to “all black women everywhere—especially our mothers”—went on to become an enduring work of American art. Made up of three parts—the first is 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.”

For Four (2021)

Choreography: Robert Battle

Music: Wynton Marsalis

Take four amazing Ailey dancers and add in Wynton Marsalis' delicious jazz score—written in 4/4 time—and you'll understand why Robert Battle cheekily titled this exuberant short work *For Four*. Capturing the pent-up energy of a world cooped up during the pandemic, Battle expresses the drive to perform and the electricity of dancers coming together to create.

Night Creature (1975)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Duke Ellington

A bubbly champagne cocktail of a dance, *Night Creature* perfectly fuses Alvin Ailey's buoyant choreography and Duke Ellington's sparkling music in a definitive homage to The Duke's jazz that remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works. Ellington said “night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night—they come ON, each thinking that, before the night is out, he or she will be the star.” The large ensemble work is full of stars - strutting, leaping and slinking using modern dance, classical ballet and jazz.

Reflections in D (1962)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Music: Duke Ellington

Alvin Ailey originally created this stunning, masterful expression of Duke Ellington's music (“Reflections in D”) as a strong yet serene solo for himself in 1962. Known to highlight the grace, artistry, and power of the male dancer, it has been performed over the years by some of the most formidable of Ailey dancers, including Dudley Williams and Matthew Rushing.

The River (1970)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Original Score: Duke Ellington

Alvin Ailey's acclaimed collaboration with Duke Ellington was choreographed and composed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre and first performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1980. One of 14 dances Ailey created to Ellington's music, *The River* is set to Ellington's only symphonic score written specifically for dance. Combining classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz, the suite suggests tumbling rapids and slow currents on its voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of life. With Ailey's mixture of light and playful yet also dark and romantic choreography balanced with Ellington's score, the work is an abstract celebration of birth, life, and rebirth. Robert Battle commented: “*The River* shows Alvin Ailey's range as a choreographer, and certainly the versatility of the dancers. Mr. Ailey always seemed to have a passport through all the different genres of dance while still retaining his essence.”

[Unfold](#) (2007)

Choreography: Robert Battle

Music: Gustave Charpentier

Alvin Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle's sensuous, swirling duet evokes the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria ("Louise, Act III, Depuis Le Jour") sung by the incomparable Leontyne Price. With its fluid grace, this gem exemplifies Robert Battle's skill for nuanced gesture and vivid imagery.

SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE

[Revelations](#) (1960)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audience's cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

****All Programming – Subject to Change***

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 6 continents—as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms—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 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 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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