

AILEY II

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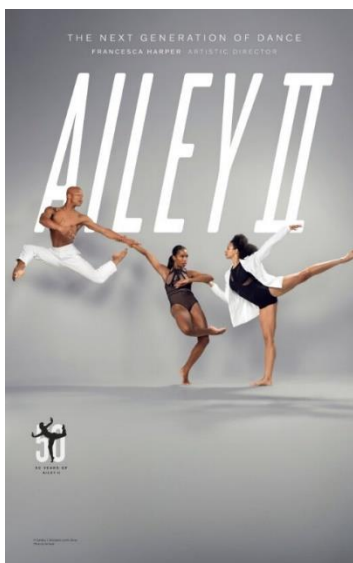
AILEY II, THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE, LEAPS INTO ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A WORLD TOUR AND NEW YORK SEASON

International and U.S. Tour January 20 – May 19

New York Season at The Joyce Theater April 9 – 14

2024 Season Repertory Features World Premieres of
Artistic Director Francesca Harper's *Luminous* and Baye & Asa's *John 4:20*

Tickets on Sale Now for Eight-Performance Engagement at The Joyce



Ailey II in Francesca Harper's *Luminous*; Ailey II 2024 Season Image: Patrick Gamble, Tamia Strickland and Kali Marie Oliver; Ailey II's Maggy van den Heuvel and Tamia Strickland in Baye & Asa's *John:4:20*. All Photos by Nir Arieli.

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NEW YORK – January 4, 2024 — [Ailey II](#), the next generation of dance, will mark its 50th anniversary of bringing “off-the-charts energy” to the stage by **embarking on a world tour from January 20 – May 19**, inspiring audiences from Rotterdam, Netherlands to Kansas City, Missouri. The gifted ensemble of rising stars will then **return home for a celebratory [New York season at The Joyce Theater, April 9 – 14, 2024](#)**. The second company of [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) will present a diverse repertory including two world premieres, by Artistic Director [Francesca Harper](#) and the dynamic duo of Baye & Asa, alongside repertory favorites and revered classics during the 2024 tour and New York City engagement.

For half a century, Ailey II has merged 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, the company embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Under the leadership of [Sylvia Waters](#), who served as artistic director for 38 seasons, Ailey II flourished into one of the most popular modern dance companies, providing a bridge between [The Ailey School](#) and the professional dance world. On its golden anniversary, Ailey II continues to thrive, with artistic director Francesca Harper bringing a fresh dimension to the company as she propels a beloved tradition forward.

“As we celebrate this monumental 50th anniversary, I am honored to continue Alvin Ailey’s mission of fostering and nurturing the next generation of bright young artists,” Francesca Harper said. “From world premieres to repertory favorites, this season’s programming offers something for everyone. These 12 exceptional dancers look forward to sharing their artistry, vitality, and virtuosity at theaters across the nation and throughout the world, in works that will move our audiences deeply and leave them forever transformed.”

Stages will spring to life with **Francesca Harper’s [Luminous](#)**, a work paying homage to five decades of Ailey II and the artists who have paved the way for future generations. Underscored by an original composition and vocals by Nona Hendryx, the work weaves iconic moments of the past into a tapestry of the periods when the company influenced the cultural landscape. These stories and memories testify to the continuing commitment of Ailey II under Harper to break boundaries, push artistic limits, advocate for social change, and highlight the power of community.

Baye & Asa’s [John 4:20](#) expands a duet the choreographers originally created in 2018 to explore their shared history and divergent identities. In a fusion of dance styles that incorporates hip hop, African, and contemporary modern, this new iteration features a cast of six, depicting various relationships and groups of people struggling to uncover the reality of cruelty that is around us and the necessity for empathy.

In addition to these exciting premieres, the season will include new productions of **[Ailey Highlights](#)**, a collection of excerpts from three classics choreographed by **Alvin Ailey** between 1958 and 1972, and **Judith Jamison’s [Divining](#)**, a solo excerpted from her first major work as a choreographer for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, created in 1984 at the request of her mentor, Alvin Ailey. Set to a score of North African, Central African, and Latin rhythms, *Divining* builds on African dance idioms to create a striking, pulsating modern dance work.

Ailey II’s touring repertory also features **[Freedom Series](#)** by Francesca Harper, **[Enemy in the Figure](#)** (excerpt) by William Forsythe, as well as **[Revelations](#)**—the must-see American masterpiece by Alvin Ailey.

After the conclusion of the first leg of the 2024 tour, Ailey II returns to New York to join legendary companies whose founders made **the 92nd Street Y their homes for a landmark 150th Anniversary celebration on March 12** at the Kaufmann Concert Hall. Ailey II will perform an Ailey Classics program which includes excerpts of **[Blues Suite](#)**, the ballet that launched the sensational Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. When Alvin Ailey and a small group of African-American dancers took the stage at the 92nd Street Y on March 30, 1958, the engagement was for one night only, but it turned out to be the start of a new era in the arts. Tickets for this once-in-a-lifetime, only-at-92NY event, inspired by the past and transforming the future, can be purchased [here](#).

The 92NY performance is followed by a **highly anticipated 50th anniversary New York City engagement of eight awe-inspiring performances from April 9 – 14 at The Joyce Theater**, spotlighting the premieres, new productions, and fan favorites of the season. **Tickets starting at \$10* are on sale now and** can be purchased online at www.joyce.org or by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800. *\$10 tickets are available by phone only. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org/engagement/ailey-ii-joyce.

This season, four new dancers—**[Alfred L. Jordan II](#)**, **[Kiri Moore](#)**, **[Corinth Moulterie](#)** and **[Kayla Mei-Wan Thomas](#)**, who all trained at The Ailey School—join the eight returning members **[Andrew Bryant](#)**, **[Spencer Everett](#)**, **[Jaryd Farcon](#)**, **[Maya Finman-Palmer](#)**, **[Patrick Gamble](#)**, **[Kali Marie Oliver](#)**, **[Tamia Strickland](#)** and **[Maggy van den Heuvel](#)**.

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

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.

Francesca Harper’s *Luminous* has been made possible, in part, by a commissioning grant from the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation.

– See page 3 for Ailey II’s complete 2024 tour schedule –

2024 Ailey II Tour Dates and Venues (as of 12.15.23, subject to change)

Jan. 20	St. Pölten, Austria	Festspielhaus St. Pölten, Main Hall
Jan. 24-26	Den Haag, Netherlands	Amare
Jan. 27-28	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Nieuwe Luxor Theater
Feb. 6	Indiana, Indianapolis	Butler University / Schrott Center for the Arts
Feb. 9	Oklahoma City, OK	Black Liberated Arts Center / OCCC Visual & PAC Theater
Feb. 13	Tulsa, OK	Tulsa Performing Arts Center
Feb. 16	Temple, TX	Central Texas Orchestral Society / Azalee Marshall Cultural Activities Center
Feb. 18	Victoria, TX	Victoria Ballet Theatre / Victoria Fine Arts Center
Feb. 22	Luling, LA	Lafon Performing Arts Center
Feb. 23	Lafayette, LA	Heymann Performing Arts Center
Feb. 27	Fayetteville, AR	Walton Arts Center, Baum Walker Hall
Mar. 1-2	St. Louis, MO	Dance St. Louis / Touhill Performing Arts Center
Mar. 7	Ft. Wayne, IN	Embassy Theatre
Mar. 8	Toledo, OH	Valentine Theatre
Mar. 12	New York, NY	92nd Street Y 150th Anniversary performance
Apr. 9-14	New York, NY	The Joyce Theater
Apr. 19-20	Kansas City, MO	Folly Theater
May 18-19	Terrassa, Spain	Centro Cultural de Terrassa

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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