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# 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

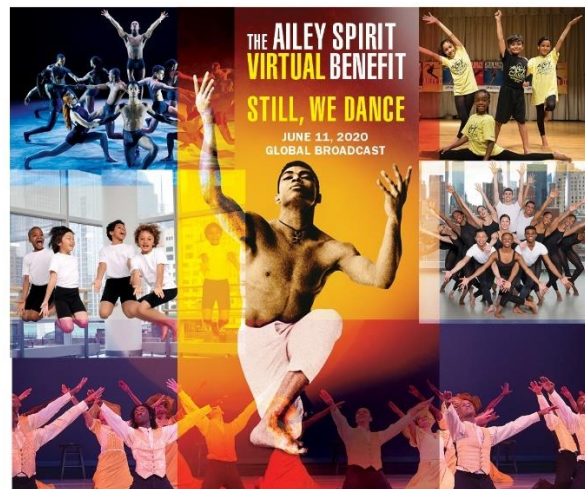
## THE AILEY SPIRIT BENEFIT, *STILL, WE DANCE*, TO BE PRESENTED FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A GLOBAL BROADCAST THURSDAY, JUNE 11 AT 7:30PM ET

Special Program Featuring Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Rising Stars of Ailey II, The Ailey School, and AileyCamp Supports Ailey's Offerings for Young People, Free Online Programming, and Upcoming Season Marking 60 Years of *Revelations*

Guest Appearances by Angela Bassett, Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom, Jr., Timothy Shriver, Lorraine Toussaint and Bryan Stevenson, Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative

Post-Performance Dance Celebration Hosted by Dapper Dan with Music by DJ D-Nice and Ms. Nix

Still, We Dance Virtual Benefit Made Possible by WarnerMedia



**New York – Updated June 10, 2020** – The Ailey organization continues its mission of using dance to uplift and unite all people with the **first-ever Ailey Spirit Benefit global broadcast on Thursday, June 11 at 7:30pm ET** featuring the [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), rising stars of [Ailey II](#), young dancers from [The Ailey School](#) and students from [AileyCamp](#). The [Ailey All Access](#) special program will include guest appearances by Angela Bassett, Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom, Jr., Timothy Shriver, Lorraine Toussaint and remarks by Bryan Stevenson, who has been at the forefront of confronting injustice, poverty and discrimination. “Just Mercy,” his bestselling book that was recently adapted into a feature film, tells the powerful true story of his creation of the [Equal Justice Initiative](#), which will receive a designated donation from the evening’s proceeds.

The free broadcast, viewable on Ailey's [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#) and [Facebook](#), is made possible through the generous support of [WarnerMedia](#), a leading media and entertainment company that creates and distributes premium and popular content from a diverse array of talented storytellers and journalists to global audiences. Benefit Co-Chairs are **Joy Allen-Altmare, Michele & Timothy Barakett, Pascal Desroches, Lucinda Martinez, Stephen Meringoff, Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach** and **Dennis Williams**; and Vice Chairs are **Jaishri & Vikas Kapoor** and **Leslie & Tom Maheras**.

"In the spirit of our visionary founder, we welcome everyone to be lifted up by Ailey's artistry as we honor the strength of the human spirit to overcome and offer reassurance to all those facing adversity," stated Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#). "Now more than ever, it is important to share our stories through dance, holding up a mirror to society while being reminded of our connection. We're here to provide the space, the balm, the strength and the revelations we all need to move forward together."

Unable to welcome audiences into the theater at this time, the organization is reaching out in new ways to share the Ailey spirit, showcasing the beauty and transcendent power of dance to not only entertain, but to unite, empower, honor, uplift and educate. Introduced by an interview with Alvin Ailey, the presentation will include vintage footage of *Blues Suite*, Alvin Ailey's classic ballet that launched Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at its first performance in 1958, along with a premiere of a new work by Artistic Director Robert Battle entitled *Variation*. Ailey's dancers will come together while apart for a memorable finale paying homage to Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece, *Revelations*, inspired by their initial [video](#) at the start of the pandemic that reminded us of our [connection despite distancing circumstances](#).

Now marking 60 years of inspiring and impacting audiences around the world, the soul-stirring [Revelations is needed more than ever during these trying times](#). Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the south during the depression and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African-American on a journey from struggle to surrender to salvation that ultimately speaks to our common humanity and the power of faith and hope.

Afterwards, a celebration of unity hosted by Dapper Dan will continue with an invitation for everyone to join in the dance with music by DJ D-Nice and Ms. Nix.

The Ailey Spirit Benefit raises funds to support important programs for young people, like scholarships to The Ailey School and Ailey's [Arts In Education & Community Programs](#), including AileyCamp – an innovative, full-scholarship summer day camp that uses dance as a means to help inner-city youth stretch their minds, bodies, and spirits. Proceeds will also move Ailey forward during this challenging time with the [Still, We Dance](#) campaign, which helps the organization offer a variety of free programming through Ailey All Access and prepare for the upcoming 2020-21 season paying tribute to six decades of *Revelations*.

To register for a reminder to enjoy the free Ailey Spirit Benefit global broadcast, please visit [here](#). The broadcast will be livestreamed for one week starting Thursday, June 11 at 7:30pm ET on Ailey's [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. [Ailey All Access](#), a free online initiative featuring a series of weekly performance broadcasts, original short films created by the Ailey dancers, Ailey Extension dance and fitness classes and more, has reached almost 18 million people in 64 countries since it kicked off on Monday March 30, the date of the first performance of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



Left to right: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Ailey dancers performing 'I Been 'Buked' from Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo courtesy of Ailey; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Blues Suite* from Timeless Ailey 60th Anniversary program. Photo by Paul Kolnik

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**The Ailey Spirit Virtual Benefit is sponsored by WarnerMedia**

**Ailey Spirit Virtual Benefit Sponsors: Diageo and EHE Health.**

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

**The 2020 National Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

### **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 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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