



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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Alvin Ailey, Founder Robert Battle, Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director  
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## TICKETS NOW ON SALE: ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO ATLANTA'S FABULOUS FOX THEATRE FEB. 15-19, 2017 FOR SPECTACULAR STOP ON NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

*2016-2017 SEASON FEATURES WORLD PREMIERE OF "R-EVOLUTION, DREAM." INSPIRED BY THE WRITINGS OF DR.  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.*

**ATLANTA – October 18, 2016 –Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** announces a return to the **Fabulous Fox Theatre, February 15 – 19, 2017** as part of a 19-city North American tour that will astound and uplift returning and new audiences alike. Tickets are now on sale for six breathtaking performances that will feature a wide variety of classics, favorites and timely premieres.

Atlantans will be dazzled and moved by this new season, highlighted by *r-Evolution, Dream.*, a world premiere staged by **Hope Boykin**. The veteran Ailey dancer drew inspiration from the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during a visit to Atlanta's National Center for Civil and Human Rights. The large ensemble work pays homage to the city's greatest peacemaker and civil rights leader through creative storytelling and new music composed by **Ali Jackson** (Jazz at Lincoln Center) and historic and original writings narrated by **Leslie Odom, Jr.** (*Hamilton*).

In addition to the exciting premieres, the inspiring finale of each program will be Alvin Ailey's perennial crowd-pleasing masterpiece *Revelations*, known to send hearts soaring and lift audiences to their feet. Ailey's 32 extraordinary dancers will delight and captivate audiences with a range of dynamic premieres and repertory favorites. The full program will be announced by January 2017.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires in all a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. Nearly 60 years after its founding, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing once again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world's most beloved dance companies.

As a tribute to Atlanta's Ailey fans, Ailey Fan Night will kick off the five-day engagement on Wednesday, February 15 at 8 p.m. The Ailey Fan program offers Atlantans the opportunity to experience the Ailey magic at an exclusive price of only \$25 or \$39! Ailey also extends an invitation to bring the whole family to the Family Matinee program on Saturday, February 18 at 2 p.m., which includes a post-performance Q&A with the dancers and special ticket prices that are buy one, get one at 50% off (limit 8 tickets per order).

Tickets, starting at \$25, are available at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org), [www.foxatltix.com](http://www.foxatltix.com) or by calling 855-285-8499.

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In addition to their captivating live performances, the Company boasts a groundbreaking year of opportunities to reach the hearts, minds and spirits of Ailey fans across Atlanta via the screen and the page.

## **AILEY LAUNCHES PILOT “DESTINATION DANCE” PROGRAM IN ATLANTA**

A long-beloved member of the Atlanta community with a 41-year history in the city, Ailey recently announced it will extend its position as a cultural ambassador by piloting the “Destination Dance” initiative, which will focus on collaborations with arts and civic organizations across the country to use dance as a centerpiece for engagement. Building upon existing and newly developed partnerships with several cultural institutions in the city, diverse year-round programming will be offered, ranging from performances to dance classes to educational programs for students.

Long-time partner and presenter of AileyCamp in Atlanta the Atlanta Ballet will host a joint training intensive for Georgia-area dancers offered with The Ailey School, in addition to annual auditions. The Ailey Extension’s “Ailey Experience” workshops, open to the general public, will be scheduled at AREA dance studio. There is the potential for public and school-time performances by Ailey II at Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University, as well as additional outreach and participation in ELEVATE, the multi-arts festival which was started by the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs in 2011 to activate the downtown Atlanta area through visual art, performances and cultural events. The Ailey organization also looks forward to realizing additional collaborative initiatives with Dance Canvas; the High Museum of Art; the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, including an annual panel discussion led by Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle; Spelman College Atlanta; and local artists and scholars, such as author Pearl Cleage.

## **CAN’T WAIT UNTIL FEBRUARY? TUNE IN NOVEMBER 4 TO SEE ALVIN AILEY PERFORMANCE BROADCAST FROM LINCOLN CENTER**

The magic of Ailey, one of the world’s most popular dance companies, will reach one and all when [Lincoln Center at the Movies](#) presents Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in a **PBS television national broadcast on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m. EST** (check your local listings). Atlanta audiences can whet their appetites for Ailey’s live performances at the Fox in February through the broadcast featuring Ailey’s spectacular dancers in *Chroma* by Wayne McGregor, *Grace* by Ronald K. Brown, *Takedeme* by Artistic Director Robert Battle, and culminating with Alvin Ailey’s beloved must-see signature work *Revelations*.

## **INSPIRATION FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON – ROBERT BATTLE’S INSPIRING CHILDREN’S BOOK *MY STORY, MY DANCE***

A perfect gift for loved ones this holiday season, the children’s book [My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle’s Journey to Alvin Ailey](#) by **Paula Wiseman Books**, a division of **Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing**, is an inspiring testament to the benefits of perseverance and devotion to one’s craft, despite challenges along the way. Based on Battle’s life, it is the unique story of a young boy who, despite physical and other challenges, has a life filled with music, church and movement – first martial arts, and then, after seeing Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations*, dance. Husband-and-wife team **James Ransome** and **Lesla Cline-Ransome** created the vibrant illustrations and wrote the inspiring narrative. The book is for ages 5 – 10, and is a success story that is sure to inspire all. *My Story, My Dance* is available for purchase at Ailey performances and at [www.aileyshop.com](http://www.aileyshop.com).

For further information, the public may visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

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Wells Fargo is a Proud Ailey Partner for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2017 engagement in Atlanta, GA.

The Home Depot is a Platinum Circle Member of Destination Dance Atlanta.

The creation of *r-Evolution, Dream*. is supported by commissioning funds from The Music Center.

The 2017 U.S. Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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(L to R); AAADT in Kyle Abraham's *Untitled America: Second Movement*. AAADT's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, Photo by Paul Kolnik. AAADT's Yannick Lebrun. Photo by Andrew Eccles. AAADT in Mauro Bigonzetti's *Deep*, Photo by Paul Kolnik. Please credit photos.

### Calendar Listing Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's breathtaking and beloved dancers return to center stage at the Fox Theatre February 15 – 19, 2017, with premieres, new productions and *Revelations* for six audience-captivating performances only. Highlights include the premiere of Hope Boykin's *r-Evolutions*, based on the speeches and sermons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and narrated by Tony Award-winning actor Leslie Odom, Jr. with original music by Ali Jackson of Jazz at Lincoln Center. Tickets, starting at \$25, are available at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org), [www.foxatltix.com](http://www.foxatltix.com) or by calling 855-285-8499.

### Ailey's 2017 Atlanta Engagement Performance dates and times:

Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 16 at 10:30 a.m. Student Performance; Thursday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. ; Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m.

### Tickets

[Tickets for Ailey's 2017 Atlanta engagement](#) from February 15 to 19 are on sale starting at \$25 at The Fox Theatre box office, 660 Peachtree Street NE, [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org), [www.foxatltix.com](http://www.foxatltix.com) or by calling 855-285-8499. Groups of 10 or more can save by calling 404-881-2000.

- **Student tickets** are available for Thursday, February 16 at 8 p.m. for \$10 with valid student ID. Tickets must be purchased at the Fox Theatre box office prior to 5:30 p.m. on February 16 (Limit two per ID and subject to availability).
- The **Ailey Fan** program tickets for Wednesday, February 15 at 8 p.m. are all \$25 and \$39.
- Tickets for the one-hour **Student Performance** on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. are available by calling group sales at (404) 881-2000.
- The Saturday **Family Matinee** tickets are buy one, get one 50 percent off with a free post-performance Q&A with the dancers (limit 8 tickets per order).
- **Groups of 10 or more can receive up to 25% off by calling 404-881-2000.**

## **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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