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# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO NEW YORK CITY CENTER NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 31, 2016

Artistic Director Robert Battle Leads the Company in Five-Week Holiday Engagement Featuring  
Over Two Dozen Diverse Works and a Variety of Special Programs

**“An Evening of Ailey and Jazz” Opening Night Gala Benefit on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**World Premieres of Ailey Dancer Hope Boykin’s *r-Evolution, Dream.* &  
MacArthur “Genius” Kyle Abraham’s Completed Three-Part *Untitled America* Series**

**Company Premiere of Johan Inger’s *Walking Mad* and New Productions of Billy Wilson’s *The Winter in  
Lisbon* & Alvin Ailey’s *Masekela Langa* to Showcase the Artistry of 32 Exceptional Dancers**

***Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale!***

**NEW YORK – UPDATED October 27, 2016** — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://www.alvinailey.org), New York City Center’s Principal Dance Company, returns to the New York City Center stage from **November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. In his sixth season as Artistic Director, [Robert Battle](#) leads Ailey’s 32 renowned dancers during this annual five-week engagement, which has become a joyous holiday tradition. An expansive repertory of over two dozen works by some of the world’s most celebrated dance-makers will feature world premieres by **Kyle Abraham** and Ailey dancer **Hope Boykin**, a Company premiere by **Johan Inger**, and new productions by **Billy Wilson** and **Alvin Ailey**.

The season will launch on **November 30<sup>th</sup>** with an **Opening Night Gala Benefit** performance at New York City Center and party at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom to raise support for Ailey’s extensive educational and training programs for young people. **“An Evening of Ailey and Jazz”** will feature Robert Battle’s *Ella* – a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald preceding the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth – along with a variety of one-night-only performances set to jazz music and the uplifting finale of [Revelations](#) with live musicians and singers.

On **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, MacArthur “Genius” **Kyle Abraham** will unveil the completed three-part suite [Untitled America](#), which shines a light on the impact of the prison system on African-American families. Developed over three seasons, the haunting production features interviews by those impacted by incarceration and Abraham’s signature avant-garde aesthetic.

Veteran company member **Hope Boykin** was inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to create *r-Evolution, Dream.*, following a visit to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta during Ailey’s annual U.S. tour. She is creating a large ensemble work to premiere on **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** in which the Ailey dancers will be joined by members of Ailey II. Boykin melds creative storytelling, new music composed by **Ali Jackson** (Jazz at Lincoln Center), and historic and original writings narrated by Tony Award winner **Leslie Odom, Jr.** (*Hamilton*).

The **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** company premiere of [Walking Mad](#) (2001) brings revered Swedish choreographer **Johan Inger**'s daring contemporary take on **Maurice Ravel**'s *Bolero* and his choreography to the Ailey repertory for the first time. With additional music by minimalist master Arvo Pärt, the riveting work brings waves of emotion – first laughter, then tears – and employs a long, movable wall that can also be viewed as a symbol of the barriers people construct in their relationships.

Returning to the Ailey stage this season are vibrant new productions of **Billy Wilson**'s *The Winter in Lisbon* (**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**) and **Alvin Ailey**'s *Masekela Langage* (**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**). *The Winter in Lisbon* (1992) pays tribute to consummate jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie, evoking an atmosphere in which the dancers challenge, tease and romance against a backdrop of rhythm, color and four decades of his brilliant music. *Masekela Langage* (1969) is Alvin Ailey's searing portrait of oppression that draws parallels between the era of South African apartheid and the race-induced violence in Chicago during the 1960s. Trumpeter and composer Hugh Masekela's driving music propels the dancers through a string of theatrical tableaux, as the commanding choreography speaks of passivity, militancy, despair and defiance anywhere, at any time.

“Now more than ever, I'm proud to have a platform to share the power of dance with New Yorkers – inspiring and bringing them together while shining a spotlight on important issues,” **stated Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “This season, Ailey's passionate artists will transport audiences with over two dozen works, including timely and relevant premieres by Kyle Abraham and Hope Boykin that follow in the powerful footsteps of Alvin Ailey's *Masekela Langage*. We will also revel in the marriage of America's two great art forms – modern dance and jazz – from the one-night-only opening to a variety of dances throughout the season that move to music by Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, and Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra.”

Among the over two dozen works showcased are 2015-16 season premieres: [Awakening](#), Robert Battle's 2015 world premiere – his first since becoming Artistic Director; [Open Door](#), Ronald K. Brown's Cuban-inspired work set to Grammy Award-winning music by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra; Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti's soulful ensemble work [Deep](#) set to the music by rising global music stars Ibeyi; and Paul Taylor's sizzling [Piazzolla Caldera](#).

Recent new productions coming to life onstage are Robert Battle's thrilling [The Hunt](#) for six men and Ulysses Dove's raw and dramatic [Vespers](#) for six women, as well as three of Alvin Ailey's most beloved classics: [Cry](#), the signature female solo made famous by Judith Jamison and dedicated to “all black women everywhere;” [Love Songs](#), set to music by Nina Simone and Donny Hathaway and often considered the male counterpart to *Cry*; and [Blues Suite](#) Ailey's original masterpiece that launched the Company during its first performance in 1958. Conjuring Alvin Ailey's “blood memories” of the barrelhouses and fields of rural, Depression-era southern Texas, the work is danced to heartfelt blues music that will be performed with a live, on-stage band.

Special season programs include a special performance on **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** “**Celebrating Ronald K. Brown**,” who first began choreographing for the Ailey organization 20 years ago; **All Ailey** performances comprised entirely of works by Alvin Ailey (December 3 mat, 10 eve, 13, 16, 18 eve, 21 mat, 28 mat, 31 mat); and **All New** programs containing season premieres (December 11 eve, 15, 17 eve, 21 eve, 30 eve).

This season also welcomes the launch of the [Young New York](#) program, supported by The Wallace Foundation as part of a multi-year audience development project. This initiative will engage people between the ages of 21 – 30 through a series of special events and ticket offers, introducing new audiences to the great American art form of modern dance and the Company's inspiring legacy. The program kicks off on **Young New York Night (Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>)**, which features **\$25 tickets for every seat in the house**. Free post-performance parties take place on December 2, 16, and 29), and a pre-performance Ailey Extension class takes place on December 9. Click [here](#) for program details, and [here](#) to sign up (all participants must be between ages 21 – 30).

Other season highlights consist of **Family Matinee Series** performances presented on Saturday December 3, 10, 17, 24, and Friday December 30 at 2pm with a question-and-answer session featuring Ailey's revered dancers following the finale of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, which is acclaimed as a must-see for all ages. *Revelations* will bring an uplifting close to performances on **Christmas Eve** (December 24 mat and eve) and **Christmas** night (December 25 eve), as well as a **Special Season Finale on New Year's Eve**. Live music performances of Alvin Ailey's signature *Revelations* will take place on November 30, December 2, and 3 (matinee and evening), and of *Blues Suite* on December 13, 16 and 18 (evening). **A detailed performance schedule is attached (subject to change).**

In addition, Robert Battle has curated the sixth year of the **New Directions Choreography Lab**, launched in 2011 to serve the entire field of dance. The program assists choreographers in developing their craft by granting resident fellowships to four emerging and mid-career artists. The selected choreographers receive a monetary stipend, creative mentorships, the opportunity to utilize dancers from The Ailey School, and rehearsal time at Ailey's home – The Joan Weill Center for Dance. Unlike other programs that require the production and presentation of a final performance or commission, Ailey's lab enables choreographers to focus solely on the process of choreography as a creative experience, free from restricting expectations or deadlines. This year, fellowships have been awarded to **Jonathan Lee, Esme Boyce, Laurie Taylor, and Sekou McMiller**, with creative mentorship from **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Christine Dakin, Charmaine Warren, and Gus Solomons, Jr.**, respectively.

Prior to the season, **Battle** will also share his insight and experiences when he and **Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison** join host **Susan Fales-Hill** for **[Icons & Innovators live at The Greene Space on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm](#)**. This intimate conversation series welcomes groundbreaking thinkers and artists whose work has shaped our cultural landscape, and those who will define its future. For tickets, visit **[www.thegreenspace.org](http://www.thegreenspace.org)**.

The 2016-2017 season continues when Ailey embarks on a **[19-city North American Tour from February 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup>](#)**, 2017. The Company will travel from coast to coast, sharing its unparalleled artistry with audiences in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Miami, Los Angeles, Boston, and more.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in 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.

**Tickets starting at \$25 are on sale** at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or online at **[www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)** or **[www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org)**. Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$25 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail **[groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org)**. For further information about Ailey's New York City Center season please visit **[www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)**.

For further information, the public may visit **[www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)**. For additional press materials or photos, members of the media may visit **[pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)** or **Ctrl+Click the photos below for high resolution download**.



(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.

**Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Winter Season.**

**American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and was the lead funder of the productions of *Masekela Langage* and *Blues Suite*.**

**The World Premiere of *Untitled America* is made possible by Denise R. Sobel and Tikkun Olam Foundation, Inc.**

**The creation of *Untitled America* and *Open Door* are supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.**

**Generous support for *Untitled America* is also provided, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.**

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

**Major support for the creation of *Awakening* was provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.**

**The creation of *Awakening* was supported in part by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County with lead sponsor support from Ira and Carole Hall.**

***Awakening* was supported by commissioning funds from Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley.**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo, North America during the New York Winter Season.**

**Opening Night Gala Benefit Sponsors: BET Networks; Emily & Len Blavatnik;  
BNY Mellon; Diageo, North America; Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach;  
Joan & Sandy Weill and The Weill Family Foundation.**

**New York Winter Season programs for Young New Yorkers are supported by a generous grant through The Wallace Foundation's Building Audiences for Sustainability initiative.**

**The 2016 New York Winter Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.**

**The 2017 US Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

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

### **New York City Center 2016 Season Highlights:**

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will take the stage at New York City Center from November 30 – December 31, 2016 in a five-week season that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform an expansive repertory of over two dozen works, including the world premieres of Ailey dancer Hope Boykin's *r-Evolution, Dream* and Kyle Abraham's *Untitled America* three-part series in its entirety. The season also includes the Company premiere of Johan Inger's *Walking Mad*, and new productions Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon* and Alvin Ailey's *Masekela Langage*. The marriage of the American art forms of jazz and modern dance will be highlighted throughout the season, from the "**An Evening of Ailey and Jazz**" **Opening Night Gala** to dances set to music by Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie and Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. Other highlights include an evening Celebrating Ronald K. Brown, special live music performances of *Revelations* and *Blue Suite*, Young New York events, All Ailey and All New programs, a Season Finale on New Year's Eve, the Ticket to Dance free class offer, and the Family Matinee Series with a post-performance Q&A with Ailey dancers.

## **WORLD PREMIERES**

**Untitled America** (World Premiere)

**Choreography by Kyle Abraham**

**Music: Laura Mvula, Raime, Traditional**

In this haunting three-part suite, MacArthur “Genius” Kyle Abraham shines a light on the impact of the prison system on African-American families. Developed over three seasons, the work features interviews by those impacted by incarceration. Laura Mvula’s touching “Father, Father,” the traditional spiritual “No More My Lord,” contemporary music by Raime, and other musical compositions underscore Abraham’s distinct movement style and signature avant-garde aesthetic. Wendy Perron of *Dance Magazine* praised the first installment of *Untitled America* by saying, “This is something our culture should be looking at...Kudos to Ailey—and Abraham—for keeping the revelations relevant.”

***r-Evolution, Dream.*** (World Premiere)

**Choreography by Hope Boykin**

**Music: Ali Jackson**

Veteran Company member Hope Boykin has been inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to create *r-Evolution, Dream.*, in which the Ailey dancers will be joined by members of Ailey II. Ms. Boykin began to immerse herself in this historical material after a visit to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, during Ailey’s U.S. tour. Convinced of the timely relevance of the messages, she is staging a large ensemble work that melds creative storytelling, new music composed by Ali Jackson (Jazz at Lincoln Center), and historic and original writings narrated by Tony Award winner Leslie Odom, Jr. (*Hamilton*).

**Deep** (2016 Season World Premiere)

**Choreography by Mauro Bigonzetti**

**Music: Ibeyi, Bernard Hanighen, Theolonious Monk,**

**Sakamoto Ryuichi, Cootie Williams, Performed by Ibeyi**

Mauro Bigonzetti’s elegant and soulful melding of European, American, and African cultures set to songs by Ibeyi, twin sisters who sing in English and Yoruba and are rising global music stars. Last at Ailey with 2008’s *Festa Barocca*, the newly appointed director of La Scala Ballet is known for his seamless integration of classical and modern techniques, and has been praised for his fresh and inventive sensibility.

## **COMPANY PREMIERE**

**Walking Mad** (Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Johan Inger**

**Music: Maurice Ravel, Arvo Pärt**

Revered Swedish choreographer Johan Inger’s *Walking Mad* is his first work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Set to the driving sounds of Ravel’s much-loved *Boléro* as well as music by minimalist master Arvo Pärt, the rousing 28-minute work for 9 dancers grips audiences throughout, bringing waves of emotion – first laughter, then tears. Full of wit and laced with an unsettling edge of madness, the piece employs a long, movable wall that can also be viewed as a symbol of the barriers people construct in their relationships. According to the choreographer, “The famous *Boléro* from Ravel, with its sexual, almost kitschy history, was the trigger point to make my own version. I quickly decided that it was going to be about relationships in different forms and circumstances. I came up with the idea of a wall that could transform the space during this minimalistic music and create small pockets of space and situations. *Walking Mad* is a journey in which we encounter our fears, our longings and the lightness of being.”

## **NEW PRODUCTIONS**

***The Winter in Lisbon*** (1992)

**Choreography by Billy Wilson**

**Music: Dizzy Gillespie**

*The Winter in Lisbon* is a sizzling, sensuous ballet celebrating four decades of Dizzy Gillespie’s brilliant music. Choreographed in 1992 by Billy Wilson, the work pays tribute to Mr. Gillespie, the consummate jazz musician, creating an atmosphere in which the dancers challenge, tease and romance against a backdrop of rhythm and color. Wilson’s exuberant, playful ballet was conceived in celebration of Gillespie’s birthday after Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison was approached by the musician’s management to create a dance for his music. Confident in Wilson’s ability to blend his eclectic ballet and modern dance training with the boisterous sound of Gillespie’s music, Jamison commissioned him to bring the project to life. “It’s a celebration of life,” explains Ailey’s Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, who restaged the work. “It’s fun, it’s full of energy, it’s about life going on.”

### ***Masekela Langage* (1969)**

#### **Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Hugh Masekela**

*Masekela Langage*, a rarely-seen Ailey masterwork, which premiered at Connecticut College in 1969, was last performed at BAM during the Company's 50th anniversary. Set in a shebeen (a South African beer house) and danced to the driving score of South African jazz composer and trumpeter Hugh Masekela, Ailey's choreography speaks of passivity, militancy, despair and defiance in a searing portrait of oppression during the apartheid era, drawing parallels between events in South Africa and those in Chicago.

### **[The Hunt](#) (2001 / New Production 2016)**

#### **Choreography by Robert Battle**

**Music: Les Tambours du Bronx**

Artistic director Robert Battle's athletic work for six men reveals the predatory side of human nature and the primitive thrill of the hunt. A thundering percussion score by Les Tambours du Bronx drives the ritualized movement and pushes the dancers to their physical limits.

### **[Vespers](#) (1987 / New Production 2016)**

#### **Choreography by Ulysses Dove**

**Music: Mikel Rouse**

The phenomenal Ailey women embody Ulysses Dove's bold choreographic voice and daring athleticism in *Vespers*, a dramatic work full of raw energy and profound grace. Mikel Rouse's percussive score matches the dancers' insistent drive as they propel themselves across the stage, in a piece inspired by Dove's memories of his grandmother's place of worship.

## **2015 SEASON WORLD PREMIERES**

### **[Awakening](#) (2015 World Premiere)**

#### **Choreography by Robert Battle**

**Music: John Mackey**

Using his signature taut, ritualistic choreographic style and a score by composer **John Mackey**, Battle's first world premiere since becoming artistic director follows a community on a cathartic journey from lamentation to peace. Buoyed by the complex rhythmic quality of Mackey's music ("Turning" and "The Attentions of Souls", the third movement from the symphony "Wine-Dark Sea") and a cast of over a dozen of Ailey's extraordinary dancers, Battle's eagerly-anticipated work is a powerful dance of dissonance and harmony, chaos and resolution.

### **[Open Door](#) (2015 World Premiere)**

#### **Choreography by Ronald K. Brown**

**Music: Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra**

Acclaimed choreographer Ronald K. Brown's Cuban-inspired *Open Door* is a work for 10 dancers set to the music of Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, including their recent Grammy Award-winning album *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*. Brown's travels to Cuba inspired much of the movement, from the salsa partnering to the references to Elegba – the Santería god who opens pathways. *Open Door* marks Brown's sixth Ailey world premiere, and is a testament to the power of dance and music as vehicles for culture and compassion.

## **2015 Season Premieres & New Productions**

### **[Blues Suite](#) (1958 / New Production 2015)**

#### **Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Traditional**

"Blood memories" of rural, Depression-era southern Texas, come to life in Alvin Ailey's hugely popular *Blues Suite*, his first great work that launched the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the inaugural 1958 performance. With the rumble of a train and the toll of distant bells, a cast of vividly-drawn characters from the barrelhouses and fields of Alvin Ailey's southern childhood are summoned to dance and revel through one long, sultry night. The work poignantly evokes the sorrow, humor and humanity of the blues, those heartfelt songs that he called "hymns to the secular regions of the soul."

[Cry](#) (1971 / New Production 2015)

**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 Mrs. Lula Cooper, and created the dance on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison. It was an instant sensation and went on to become an enduring work of American art. This physically and emotionally demanding 16-minute solo is dedicated to “all black women everywhere – especially our mothers.” The solo is made up of three parts – the first 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.” Ms. Jamison, who has since taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women, wrote of the work in her autobiography *Dancing Spirit*: “In my interpretation, she represented those women before her who came from the hardships of slavery, through the pain of losing loved ones, through overcoming extraordinary depressions and tribulations. Coming out of a world of pain and trouble, she has found her way-and triumphed.”

[Love Songs](#) (1972 / New Production 2015)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Donny Hathaway, Nina Simone**

*Love Songs*, a three-part technical and dramatic tour-de-force originally created for the legendary Dudley Williams, is often viewed as the male counterpart to *Cry*, the famous woman’s solo that Mr. Ailey originally choreographed for his muse, Judith Jamison. The suite opens with Donny Hathaway’s tender “A Song For You,” followed by Nina Simone’s rendition of “A Field of Poppies,” an anti-narcotics song in which the audience witnesses the man’s descent into self-destruction, and closes with Hathaway singing “He Aint Heavy” as the dancer travels around the stage bearing an imaginary load with resolve. The work gives the soloist a unique opportunity to display both the power and gentleness of the male dancer while digging deep into all the aspects of his relationships – with himself, his fellow man, his brother.

[Piazzolla Caldera](#) (1997/ Company Premiere 2015)

**Choreography by Paul Taylor**

**Music: Astor Piazzolla and Jerzy Peterburshsky**

Set to music by Astor Piazzolla and Jerzy Peterburshsky, *Piazzolla Caldera* is a finely wrought work sizzling with erotic energy by modern dance master Paul Taylor that captures the essence of tango culture. Men and women engage in a series of fiery encounters, in turns playful and predatory, in vivid duets and trios through the work’s four sections in this passionate homage to tango’s Argentinian working class roots.

## Season Repertory

In addition to the premieres, new productions, and special programs, the season repertory includes:

*A Case of You* – Judith Jamison (2005)

Music: Joni Mitchell performed by Diana Krall

*After the Rain Pas de Deux* – Christopher Wheeldon (2005)

Music: Arvo Pärt

*Exodus* – Rennie Harris (2015)

Music: Raphael Xavier, Ost & Kjex

*Four Corners* – Ronald K. Brown (2013)

Music: Carl Hancock Rux, Rahsaan, Roland Kirk, Yacoub

*Grace* – Ronald K. Brown (1999)

Music: Duke Ellington, Roy Davis, Fela Kuti

*Ife/My Heart* – Ronald K. Brown (2005)

Music: Solomon G. Ilori, Art Blakey, Nikki Giovanni, Ursula Rucker, Ballet Folklórico Cutumba de Santiago

*Memoria* – Alvin Ailey (1970)

Music: Keith Jarrett

*Night Creature* – Alvin Ailey (1974)

Music: Duke Ellington

*No Longer Silent* – Robert Battle (2007)

Music: Erwin Schulhoff

*ODETTA* – Matthew Rushing (2014)

Music: Odetta Holmes

*Revelations* – Alvin Ailey 1960

Music: Traditional Spirituals

*Toccata* – Talley Beatty (1960)

Music: Lalo Schifrin, performed by Dizzy Gillespie and his Orchestra

## SEASON HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### “An Evening of Ailey and Jazz” Opening Night Gala Benefit (Nov. 30 at 7pm)

The 2016 Opening Night Gala Benefit performance will be “An Evening of Ailey and Jazz,” featuring Robert Battle’s *Ella* – a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald preceding the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth – along with a variety of one-night-only performances set to jazz music and Alvin Ailey’s [Revelations](#) with live musicians and singers. Followed by a dinner-dance at the New York Hilton Midtown Grand Ballroom, the benefit raises support for Ailey’s extensive educational and training programs for young people.

### **Young New York Program (Dec. 1, 2, 9, 16, 29)**

Supported by The Wallace Foundation, the Young New York initiative gives audiences between ages 21 – 30 special access to classes, parties, \$25 tickets, and more. The festivities kick off on Young New York Night (December 1), featuring \$25 tickets for every seat in the house. Click [here](#) for the complete Young New York press release.

### **Family Matinee Series (Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 30)**

On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy the performance and stay for a free Q & A with the Ailey dancers in the theater following the inspiring finale of *Revelations*, which is acclaimed as a must-see for all ages.

### **Celebrating Ronald K. Brown (Dec. 14)**

Join in Celebrating Ronald K. Brown, on his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of choreographing for Ailey, with an evening of his works: *Open Door* (2015), and *Four Corners* (2013), along with the season's only performances of an excerpt of *Ife/My Heart* (2005) and *Grace* (1999) in its entirety.

### **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Performances (Dec. 24 mat and eve & 25 eve)**

Dance into the spirit of the holidays with Ailey at the Company's matinee and evening performances on Christmas Eve, and evening performance on Christmas Day. All performances include a variety of inspiring works and close with Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*.

### **New Year's Eve Season Finale (Dec. 31)**

Join Ailey for a very special New Year's Eve Season Finale with season highlights and a *Revelations* finale.

***Revelations* - performed with live music** – December 2, 4, 5 mat and eve

**"All Ailey" Programs** – December 3 mat, 10 eve, 13, 16, 18 eve, 21 mat, 28 mat, 31 mat

**"All New" Programs** – December 11 eve, 15, 17 eve, 21 eve, 30 eve

### **Ticket to Dance**

The New York City Center season welcomes the return of **"Ticket to Dance,"** which invites audience members to try their first [Ailey Extension](#) class FREE with the presentation of a performance ticket stub (returning students receive a free class with the purchase of a 10-class card). The offer is valid for 60 days from the performance date. The Ailey Extension has fulfilled Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering "real classes for real people," with over 80 classes per week in more than 25 different dance and fitness techniques.

### **ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

***Icons & Innovators: Judith Jamison and Robert Battle of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at The Greene Space***

**Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**Robert Battle** and Artistic Director **Emerita Judith Jamison** join host **Susan Fales-Hill** for [Icons & Innovators live at The Greene Space](#). This intimate conversation series welcomes groundbreaking thinkers and artists whose work has shaped our cultural landscape, and those who will define its future. For tickets, visit [www.thegreenspace.org](http://www.thegreenspace.org).

***MY STORY, MY DANCE: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey***

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 a perfect holiday gift. 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. This heart-warming story is for ages 5 – 10.

## **FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE ATTACHED – TICKETS ON SALE**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**  
**November 30 – December 31, 2016 at New York City Center**  
**131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY**  
**(212) 581-1212 / [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org)**



## **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to the New York City Center stage November 30 – December 31, 2016 for a season that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's extraordinary dancers will move audiences with premieres, new productions, repertory favorites and classics like the American masterpiece *Revelations*, acclaimed as a must-see for all. **Tickets starting at \$25** can be purchased at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$25 tickets). The Saturday Family Matinee series includes a post-performance Q&A with the Ailey dancers and an increased availability of \$25 tickets, but buy early for the best seat selection. For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

### Performance Times:

Opening Night Gala (November 30)	7:00pm (note earlier curtain time)
Tuesday - Thursday evenings	7:30pm
Friday & Saturday evenings	8:00pm
Sunday evenings	7:30pm
Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm
Wednesday (12/21 & 12/28) matinees	2:00pm
New Year's Eve (December 31)	7:00pm

## **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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# Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 2016 New York City Center Season - as of 8/1/16 (programs subject to change)

TUE 7:30PM	WED 2:00PM	WED 7:30PM	THUR 7:30PM	FRI 8:00PM	SAT 2:00PM FAMILY MATINEE	SAT 8:00PM	SUN 3:00PM	SUN 7:30PM
	NOV. 30		DEC. 1	DEC. 2	DEC. 3		DEC. 4	
	No matinee performance	<b>7PM OPENING NIGHT GALA</b> <i>LIVE MUSIC</i> <b>AN EVENING OF AILEY &amp; JAZZ</b> <i>includes</i> <b>Ella</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>Deep W</b> <b>Awakening</b> <b>A Case of You</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<i>LIVE MUSIC</i> <b>Night Creature</b> <b>After the Rain</b> <b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>ALL AILEY</b> <i>LIVE MUSIC</i> <b>Night Creature</b> <b>Cry</b> <b>Memoria</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<i>LIVE MUSIC</i> <b>Four Corners</b> <b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>Memoria</b> <b>Awakening</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>Toccata</b> <b>Cry</b> <b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>Revelations</b>
DEC. 6		DEC. 7	DEC. 8	DEC. 9	DEC. 10		DEC. 11	
<b>Exodus</b> <b>Piazzolla Caldera</b> <b>Revelations</b>	No matinee performance	<b>Four Corners</b> <b>Untitled America W</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>Exodus</b> <b>No Longer Silent</b> <b>The Winter in Lisbon N</b>	<b>Four Corners</b> <b>r-Evolution, Dream W</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>Open Door</b> <b>The Winter in Lisbon N</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>ALL AILEY</b> <b>Memoria</b> <b>Night Creature</b> <b>Cry</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>r-Evolution, Dream W</b> <b>No Longer Silent</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>ALL NEW</b> <b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>Untitled America W</b> <b>Deep W</b>
DEC. 13		DEC. 14	DEC. 15	DEC. 16	DEC. 17		DEC. 18	
<b>ALL AILEY</b> <i>LIVE MUSIC</i> <b>Blues Suite</b> <b>Masekela Langage N</b> <b>Revelations</b>	No matinee performance	<b>CELEBRATING RONALD K. BROWN</b> <b>Open Door</b> <b>Ife/My Heart</b> <b>Four Corners</b> <b>Grace</b>	<b>ALL NEW</b> <b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>Untitled America W</b> <b>The Winter in Lisbon N</b>	<b>ALL AILEY</b> <i>LIVE MUSIC</i> <b>Blues Suite</b> <b>Masekela Langage N</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>r-Evolution, Dream W</b> <b>Vespers N</b> <b>The Hunt N</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>ALL NEW</b> <b>Deep W</b> <b>r-Evolution, Dream W</b> <b>The Winter in Lisbon N</b>	<b>Exodus</b> <b>Untitled America W</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>ALL AILEY</b> <i>LIVE MUSIC</i> <b>Blues Suite</b> <b>Masekela Langage N</b> <b>Revelations</b>
DEC. 20		DEC. 21	DEC. 22	DEC. 23	DEC. 24		DEC. 25	
<b>r-Evolution, Dream W</b> <b>Vespers N</b> <b>The Hunt N</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>ALL AILEY</b> <b>Night Creature</b> <b>Love Songs</b> <b>Masekela Langage</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>ALL NEW</b> <b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>r-Evolution, Dream W</b> <b>Deep W</b>	<b>Piazzolla Caldera</b> <b>Vespers N</b> <b>The Hunt N</b> <b>ODETTA</b>	<b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>Awakening</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>Four Corners</b> <b>ODETTA</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>Untitled America W</b> <b>Awakening</b> <b>A Case of You</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>No matinee performance</b>	<b>Open Door</b> <b>After the Rain</b> <b>Deep W</b> <b>Revelations</b>
DEC. 27		DEC. 28	DEC. 29	DEC. 30		DEC. 31		
<b>Four Corners</b> <b>Vespers N</b> <b>The Hunt N</b> <b>ODETTA</b>	<b>ALL AILEY</b> <b>Blues Suite</b> <b>Love Songs</b> <b>Cry</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>r-Evolution, Dream W</b> <b>No Longer Silent</b> <b>The Winter in Lisbon N</b>	<b>Piazzolla Caldera</b> <b>A Case of You</b> <b>Awakening</b> <b>Exodus</b>	<b>FRI 2:00PM</b> <b>Toccata</b> <b>Love Songs</b> <b>Open Door</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>FRI 8:00PM</b> <b>ALL NEW</b> <b>Walking Mad C</b> <b>Untitled America W</b> <b>Deep W</b>	<b>SAT 2:00PM FAMILY MATINEE</b> <b>ALL AILEY</b> <b>Blues Suite</b> <b>Night Creature</b> <b>Cry</b> <b>Revelations</b>	<b>SAT 8:00PM</b> <b>SEASON FINALE</b> <b>Season Highlights</b> <i>including Revelations</i>	No performance

**NYCC Debut Performance = Red Title**  
**Season Premieres & New Productions**  
**1st Season Performance = Green Title**  
**Live Music = Yellow Highlight**

**W = World Premiere**  
**r-Evolution, Dream - Hope Boykin**  
**Untitled America - Kyle Abraham**  
**Deep - Mauro Bigonzetti**

**C = Company Premiere**  
**Walking Mad - Johan Inger**

**N = New Production**  
**Masekela Langage - Alvin Ailey**  
**The Winter in Lisbon - Billy Wilson**  
**The Hunt - Robert Battle**  
**Vespers - Ulysses Dove**