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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

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S OPENING NIGHT VIRTUAL BENEFIT, "REVELATIONS REIMAGINED" LAUNCHES SEASON CELEBRATION OF *REVELATIONS* AT 60 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 7:30PM ET

Special Celebrity Guests Slated to Appear Include Sterling K. Brown, Jasmine Guy, Jillian Hervey of Lion Babe, Nigel Lythgoe, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Phylicia Rashad, Shonda Rhimes, Lynn Whitfield, Vanessa Williams, Jeffrey Wright and More

Post-Benefit Dance Celebration with Music by Elan Artists Entertainment

Ailey Salutes Dove® for its Commitment to Real Beauty and Racial Equality

New York – November 25, 2020 – [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's](#) holiday [virtual season *Ailey Forward*](#) celebrating six decades of the beloved American masterpiece, [Revelations](#), will launch on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:30pm ET with a "[Revelations Reimagined](#)" Opening Night Virtual Benefit. The joyous program will feature a series of **pièce d'occasion performances by Ailey's extraordinary dance artists**, along with planned appearances by special celebrity guests **Sterling K. Brown, Jasmine Guy, Jillian Hervey of Lion Babe, Nigel Lythgoe, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Phylicia Rashad, Shonda Rhimes, Lynn Whitfield, Vanessa Williams, Jeffrey Wright and more**. It will surely be a night to remember — one of celebration, dance, and love shared with people around the world.

The benefit will salute Dove®, the No. 1 personal wash brand nationwide, for its groundbreaking commitment to real beauty and racial equality. Dove continues to make a measurable difference in redefining beauty through various initiatives including the [Dove Self-Esteem Project](#), established to ensure a positive beauty experience is accessible to every woman and girl, and the CROWN Coalition, an alliance Dove co-founded to create a more equitable and inclusive experience for Black people through the advancement of anti-hair discrimination legislation, known as [the CROWN Act](#). The CROWN Act is law in 7 states – California, Colorado, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Washington – and was recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. Join Dove to end hair discrimination and sign the petition at [dove.com/crown](#).

It is fitting that the Benefit Honoree is Dove®, a company with a six-decade history and a tradition of embracing personal empowerment and positive change. "Tonight, we pay tribute to a profound work of genius that gave birth to sixty years of powerful inspiration," stated **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "Against all odds, Alvin Ailey used his artistry to bring light to the world, opening hearts and minds and uplifting spirits. All of us are witnesses to this life-changing work as we join in a celebration like no other for a masterpiece like no other."

“*Revelations Reimagined*” program highlights include Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in their signature work filmed at [Wave Hill Public Garden & Cultural Center](#), a spectacular jewel overlooking the Hudson River. 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 tribute to the African-American heritage – “sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful” — and to the power of faith, hope and the human spirit, which is needed more than ever during these trying times.

Since its creation in 1960, *Revelations* has been performed continuously around the globe, transcending barriers of faith and nationality and appealing to universal emotions, making it the most widely seen modern dance work in the world - acclaimed as a must-see for all. It was part of the Opening Ceremonies of the 1968 Olympics and has been presented at the White House on numerous occasions, including at the inaugurations of Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. The piece has had many film and television broadcasts, beginning with the 1962 CBS special *Lamp Under my Feet*. Hailed by *The New York Times* as “modern dance’s unquestionable greatest hit,” *Revelations* has proved to be a cultural landmark in the world of dance, maintaining its astonishing originality and powerful elegance while continuing to inspire and enthrall audiences everywhere.

A post-benefit dance party will continue the celebration with an invitation for everyone to join in the dance to music by Elan Artists Entertainment.

Through the Opening Night Virtual Benefit our commitment remains to raising the vital funds Ailey needs to sustain its important programs for young people, especially during this challenging time when other sources of funding, such as from the live theater performances, aren’t possible. Proceeds will also move Ailey forward with the [Still, We Dance](#) campaign, which is making it viable to share a free virtual season paying tribute to six decades of *Revelations* globally. Benefit Co-Chairs are **Emily & Len Blavatnik, Paulette Mullings Bradnock & Howard Bradnock, Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach, Joan & Sandy Weill**, and **Elain P. Wynn**; and Vice Chairs are **Jill & Gunther Bright, Anthony S. Kendall**, and **Stephen J. Meringoff**.

To register for a reminder to enjoy the free “*Revelations Reimagined*” Opening Night Benefit, please visit [here](#). The broadcast will be livestreamed through [Ailey All Access](#) for one week starting Wednesday, December 2 at 7:30pm ET on Ailey’s [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Thanks to **EHE Health**, the celebration of *Revelations* kicked off with an invitation for the world to join in the dance with a **free *Revelations Celebration* interactive workshop led by Ailey Arts-In-Education Master Teacher [Nasha Thomas](#) currently available on EHE Health’s Facebook page**. Ailey’s free virtual engagement will further a cherished legacy of uplifting and uniting audiences across the globe from December 2 – December 31, featuring world premieres of ***Testament***, a tribute to Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* that follows a community of people turning pain into power and lament into hope by Associate Artistic Director [Matthew Rushing](#), in partnership with Company member and Assistant to the Rehearsal Director [Clifton Brown](#) and former Company member **Yusha-Marie Sorzano**, and [Jamar Roberts’s *A Jam Session for Troubling Times*](#), marking the centennial of jazz revolutionary Charlie “Bird” Parker. A variety of other special offerings extend throughout the holidays, including Family Programs for *Revelations* and *Ailey & Ellington*; a celebration of acclaimed dancers [Glenn Allen Sims](#) and [Linda Celeste Sims](#) with a farewell tribute performance; and Artistic Director **Robert Battle** will moderate a series of ***BattleTalk*** conversations with Ailey artists and special guests like **Wynton Marsalis, Toshi Reagon, Bryan Stevenson, and Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman**. Click [here](#) for more information.



Left to right: Filming Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in a reimagining of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* at Wave Hill Wave Hill Public Garden and Culture Center. Photo by Nicole Tintle. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in a reimagining of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* at Wave Hill Public Garden and Culture Center. Photo by Nicole Tintle.

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Ailey Opening Night Virtual Benefit Honoree: Dove

Ailey Opening Night Virtual Benefit Sponsors: BNY Mellon, Diageo and EHE Health.

Bank of America is the Revelations at 60 Sponsor during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2020 virtual season.

The 2020 virtual 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.

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, 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.

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