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Alvin Ailey Announces December Season

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NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL WORLD

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is the latest company to move ahead with new work while performing arts spaces remain almost completely shut down in New York.

The troupe's monthlong December season will include a world premiere from Jamar Roberts, Ailey's choreographer in residence, and the debut of a collaborative response to Alvin Ailey's "Revelations" by Matthew Rushing, Clifton Brown and Yusha-Marie Sorzano.

"We're deciding to look at the possibilities rather than focus on what we can't do," Robert Battle, the company's artistic director, said in an interview.

Roberts's new "A Jam Session for Troubling Times" was created as a contribution to this year's Charlie Parker centennial and will feature Parker's music. Jazz is a source of inspiration for Roberts, who has used it for earlier dances, including last year's "Ode."

Duke Ellington will also be the focus of a program. During his career, Ailey choreographed more than a dozen dances to Ellington's music. Among the dances that will be highlighted is "Pas de Duke," which was recently performed for the camera by Jacqueline Green and Yannick Lebrun at the top of the Woolworth Building.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of "Revelations," the company's signature work, the troupe is preparing a special digital presentation for opening night, Dec. 2, which will include commentary and analysis by Ailey experts and former dancers. "Testament," the new dance by Rushing, Brown and Sorzano, will weave together their personal experiences with "Revelations," input from current dancers and an original score by Damien Sneed. Above, a scene from a 2018 performance of "Revelations."

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