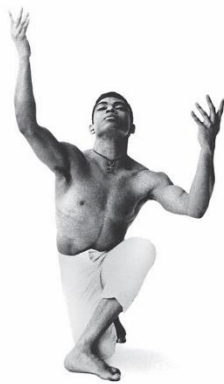


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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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 #REUNITEDWEDANCE OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT KICKS OFF HOMECOMING SEASON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 7PM

One-Night-Only Program Features Robert Battle's *Ella* with Live Music, *Love Stories* Finale Set to Stevie Wonder's "Fingertips" and Finale of Alvin Ailey's American Masterpiece *Revelations*

Tickets on Sale Now for Gala Benefit and Three-Week New York City Center Winter Engagement

NEW YORK – November 22, 2021 — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) will launch a three-week homecoming season on December 1 with a star-studded gala benefit performance at New York City Center and party at the Ziegfeld Ballroom. As Ailey's extraordinary dancers return to their home stage for the first time in two years, the curtain will go up on a joyous celebration "honoring our audience, our inspiration."

The one-night only performance at 7pm will feature Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#)'s tour-de-force duet [Ella](#) with the added thrill of live music by GRAMMY®-nominated vocalist Jazzmeia Horn, the forward-looking [Love Stories finale](#) portraying a luminous future built on the lessons and legacy of the past, and [Clifton Brown](#) and talented students from [The Ailey School](#) in ['Bird' Lives!](#), an excerpt from Alvin Ailey's dance tribute to jazz legend Charlie "Bird" Parker. Following the inspiring finale of [Revelations](#), prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy and politics will join in a festive dinner-dance in the Ziegfeld Ballroom.

The event's co-chairs are Emily & Len Blavatnik, Paulette Mullings Bradnock & Howard Bradnock, Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach, Joan & Sandy Weill and Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer; vice chairs are Jill & Gunther Bright and Anthony A. Lewis. Proceeds from the annual benefit will support the creation of new works, scholarships to The Ailey School, and Ailey's educational programs for children. Call 212-405-9031 or visit [alvinailey.org/support/opening-night-gala](#) for tickets.

Ailey's December season includes a variety of special programs, including *Battle 10th Anniversary*, *50 Years of Cry*, a *Celebrating Jamar Roberts* farewell (Ailey Resident Choreographer's farewell performance as a dancer) and hip-hop pioneer Rennie Harris' powerful [Lazarus](#), featured in the acclaimed ["AILEY" documentary](#) in advance of a national broadcast premiere January 11 on PBS American Masters.

Tickets for the three-week engagement from December 1 through 19, starting at \$29, are on sale now at the New York City Center Box Office, by phone at (212) 581-1212, or at [www.alvinailey.org](#) or [www.nycitycenter.org](#).

Your health and safety are our top priority, which is why both venues (New York City Center and Ziegfeld Ballroom) will operate a fully vaccinated venue. Masks will be required inside the theater and at the dinner-dance except when you are seated at your table. [Read more here](#) about performance COVID-19 protocols.

PRESS: For photos, videos, materials, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org or [click here](#) for full details on the 2021 New York City Center season.



(L to R); Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacquelin Harris in Robert Battle's *Ella*. Photo © Teresa Wood, taken at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik
CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD) – Please credit photos.

Opening Night Gala Benefit Sponsor is BNY Mellon.

This season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor 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, 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 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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