ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022 NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 24

Celebratory Opening Night Gala Launches Four Week Season with World Premiere by Kyle Abraham, Company Premiere of Twyla Tharp’s Roy’s Joys, and New Production of Alvin Ailey’s Survivors

New York City Center Premieres include Ailey performing Paul Taylor’s DUET and Jamar Roberts’ In a Sentimental Mood

Tickets Starting at $29 On Sale Tuesday, October 11

Announcement Comes as Ailey Moves NYC! Summer Dance Celebration for All Presents Free Performances, Classes, and More in New York City’s Five Boroughs July 23 – August 1

NEW YORK – July 21, 2022 — Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center’s Principal Dance Company and America’s cultural ambassador to the world, announces highlights of its always-anticipated annual season at New York City Center. Returning to its “home” theater for four weeks from November 30 - December 24, 2022, the Ailey company will present a world premiere by Kyle Abraham, the company premiere of Twyla Tharp’s Roy’s Joys, and a new production of Alvin Ailey’s Survivors. Programs will also feature the Company’s City Center premieres of Paul Taylor’s DUET and Jamar Roberts’ In a Sentimental Mood. Beginning with a one-night-only Opening Night Gala special program on November 30, the season showcases over a half dozen classic works by founder Alvin Ailey, including the always-inspiring must-see masterpiece Revelations.

Artistic Director Robert Battle said, “The repertory I have chosen for this season puts audiences back in touch with some of the richest, deepest works Alvin Ailey ever choreographed, shows off the brilliance of our dancers in pieces by great contemporaries of Mr. Ailey, Twyla Tharp and Paul Taylor, and introduces everyone to amazing new works by Kyle Abraham and Jamar Roberts that find reservoirs of love and resilience in our complicated lives and times. This is going to be a season overflowing with the joy of connections—eclectic, surprising, moving connections—between eras, between dancemakers, and between people.”

In his third commission for the Ailey company, acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham creates a work that celebrates Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a “mixtape” of soul, hip-hop and R&B, the work explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory.

Continuing to expand its renowned repertory, the company will offer its premiere of Twyla Tharp’s silky and sultry Roy’s Joys (1997), embodying the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, Roy’s Joys exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Tharp at her rollicking best.
A new production of Alvin Ailey’s *Survivors* (1986) revives this impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, and more broadly presents a portrait of people transformed by injustice. Max Roach’s richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln’s vocals set the emotional tone for this powerful work that lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

Following critically acclaimed premieres earlier this year, the Company will present Paul Taylor’s 1964 *DUET*, set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn and portraying a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true; and Jamar Roberts’ *In a Sentimental Mood*, an intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple that becomes an exploration of love and desire. The work is set to an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia. Along with Alvin Ailey’s classic *Cry*, *Memoria*, and *Revelations*, the performances will also feature a number of the founder’s works set to the music of the great Duke Ellington, including *Night Creature, Reflections in D, Pas de Duke*, and *The River*.

During the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will welcome four new dancers, three of whom trained in the Ailey organization. Alisha Rena Peek (Upper Marlboro, MD) and Deidre Rogan (Fort Myers, FL) are both graduates of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program and former members of Ailey II, while Hannah Alissa Richardson (Toronto, Ontario Canada) is a former member of Aliey II and a graduate of The Ailey School Certificate Program. Xavier Mack (Washington, D.C.) previously performed for five years with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

The announcement of the season highlights comes as Ailey prepares to kick off *Ailey Moves NYC!* a summer celebration with free outdoor events throughout all five New York boroughs, Saturday, July 23 - August 1, 2022. Embracing people everywhere in the city that is Ailey’s home, *Ailey Moves NYC!* offers performances, dance classes, *Revelations* workshops, and screenings of Jamila Wignot’s acclaimed 2021 documentary *Ailey*, with events featuring *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Ailey Extension* — which provides dance and fitness classes for all experience levels — and *Ailey Arts In Education*. For details and information, visit alvinailey.org/ailey-moves-nyc.

Full New York City Center program details will be announced before tickets go on sale October 11. For further information about season schedule and to purchase tickets, starting at $29, please visit www.alvinailey.org/nycc.

*The 2022 Winter 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.*

*Ailey Moves NYC! is supported, in part, by Con Edison’s Arts Al Fresco Series and the Rockefeller Foundation.*

For more general information, visit www.alvinailey.org. Press materials and photos are available at pressroom.alvinailey.org.

*Ailey Moves NYC! photo & video available: Ailey Moves NYC Images & Sizzle Reel (For Broadcast)*
CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world’s most popular dance companies, returns to New York City Center November 30 – December 24, 2022, for a season that has become a joyous winter tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey’s extraordinary dancers will move audiences with world and company premieres by Kyle Abraham, Jamar Roberts, Paul Taylor, and Twyla Tharp. In addition to repertory favorites, founder Alvin Ailey’s choreography is spotlighted with a new production of Survivors and the staging of over a half dozen classic works, including the must-see American masterpiece Revelations. Tickets starting at $29 go on sale October 11 at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or online at www.alvinailey.org or www.nycitycenter.org. For further information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

TICKETS ON SALE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Nov 30 – Dec 24, 2022, at New York City Center
131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY
(212) 581-1212 / www.nycitycenter.org

WORLD PREMIERE
New Work Choreographed by Kyle Abraham (2022 World Premiere)
Acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham’s newest work is a celebration of Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a “mixtape” of soul, hip-hop, and R&B, it explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory.

COMPANY PREMIERE
Roy’s Joys (1997 / 2022 Company Premiere)
Choreography by Twyla Tharp
This silky, sultry work embodies the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, it exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Tharp at her rollicking best.
NEW PRODUCTION

**Survivors** (1986 / New Production 2022)
Choreography by Alvin Ailey and Mary Barnett
Music: Max Roach (“Survivors” and “Triptych”), Strings orchestrated by Peter Phillips

Alvin Ailey’s impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela is, more broadly, a portrait of people transformed by injustice. Max Roach’s richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln’s vocals set the emotional tone for this powerful work that lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

CITY CENTER PREMIERES

**In a Sentimental Mood** (2022 World Premiere)
Choreography by Jamar Roberts
Music: Duke Ellington and Rafiq Bhatia

An intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple becomes an exploration of love and desire in Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts’s world premiere. Using an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia, Roberts bridges the past and present, making these musical classics freshly relevant and timely.

**DUET** (1964 / 2022 Company Premiere)
Choreography by Paul Taylor
Music: Franz Josef Haydn

Paul Taylor’s 1964 DUET, set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn, is a testament to the simplicity and clarity of Taylor’s craft. Brief and beautifully shaped, it portrays a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true.

RETURNING FAVORITES

**Night Creature** (1974 / Ailey Company Premiere 1975)
Choreography by Alvin Ailey
Music: Duke Ellington

In Night Creature, Alvin Ailey’s classically influenced choreography juxtaposes with Duke Ellington’s jazz idiom. One of Mr. Ailey’s most popular works, it captivates with Ailey’s sensual nighttime rituals, propelling the movement into a fast-paced climatic catharsis using slow jazz walks, boogie woogie, and ballet arabesques to create prowling patterns and communal configurations.

**Pas de Duke** (1976 / New Production 2021)
Choreography by Alvin Ailey
Music: Duke Ellington

Pas de Duke was Alvin Ailey’s modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux honoring two of the most renowned dancers in the world, Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov, and celebrating the musical genius of Duke Ellington (1899-1974). It was originally presented as part of the festival “Ailey Celebrates Ellington” at Lincoln Center’s New York State Theater in 1976, commemorating the nation’s bicentennial with America’s two great art forms—modern dance and jazz music. Ailey choreographed five sections reflects the sassy sophistication of Ellington’s music: the introduction to “Such Sweet Thunder” (1957); the pas de deux to “Sonnet for Caesar” (1975); the male solo to “Sonnet for Hank Cinq” (1957); the female solo to “Unclothed Woman” (1948); and the finale to “Old Man’s Blues” (1930), which captured the exuberance of the star dancers’ qualities and techniques as the male and female soloists mirror each other toe-to-toe and line-for-line in this playful, good-natured competition.

**Reflections in D** (1962 / New Production 2021)
Choreography by Alvin Ailey
Music: Duke Ellington

Alvin Ailey originally created this stunning, masterful expression of Duke Ellington’s music as a strong yet serene solo for himself in 1962. Known to highlight the grace, artistry, and power of the male dancer, the three-minute ballet has been called by Judith Jamison “a tone poem, a quiet, sparkling jewel.” It has been performed over the years by some of the most formidable of Ailey dancers, including Dudley Williams and Matthew Rushing.
**The River** (1970 / New Production 2021)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Original Score: Duke Ellington**

Alvin Ailey’s acclaimed collaboration with Duke Ellington was choreographed and composed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre and first performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1980. One of 14 dances Ailey created to Ellington’s music, *The River* was Ellington’s first symphonic score written specifically for dance. Combining classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz, the suite suggests tumbling rapids and slow currents on its voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of life. With Ailey’s mixture of light and playful yet also dark and romantic choreography balanced with Ellington’s score, the work is an abstract celebration of birth, life, and rebirth. Robert Battle comments: “*The River* shows Alvin Ailey’s range as a choreographer, and certainly the versatility of the dancers. Mr. Ailey always seemed to have a passport through all the different genres of dance while still retaining his essence.”

**SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE**

**Revelations** (1960)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Traditional Spirituals**

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. Alvin Ailey’s signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audiences cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive “I Been ‘Buked” to the rousing “Wade in the Water” and the triumphant finale, “Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham.”

*Additional Repertory to be announced. All Programming – Subject to Change*

**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 six continents, 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 the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, 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 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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