Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Annual Gala
March 2023 Issue

The Kennedy Center | PHOTOS BY TONY POWELL

CELEBRATING TALENT AND BEAUTY: Gala committee members and corporate sponsors including Southern Company joined 500 individual patrons to raise over $1 million to support the Alvin Ailey company’s programs and scholarships for local students to attend The Ailey School in New York City. Following a dinner for major benefactors, 32 talented dancers dazzled audiences with Kyle Abraham’s acclaimed world premiere of “Are You in Your Feelings?,” a celebration of Black culture and music set to a “mixtape” of soul, hip-hop and R&B. Artistic Director Robert Battle’s tender duet “Unfold,” with live vocals by acclaimed soprano Brandie Sutton; and Alvin Ailey’s timeless masterpiece, “Revelations,” which is the inspiring finale of every performance. The event kicked off Aliley’s week-long run at the Kennedy Center. A testament to Aliley’s presence in the nation’s capital is that one-quarter of its dancers have roots here. Events by André Wells produced the festive post-performance party with live music and yes, beautiful people dancing late into the night.

Artistic Director Robert Battle and Rep. Maxine Waters

Lawrence Duncan and Joyce Brayboy

Nicole Yenagle and Gem Adams

Dancers perform in Kyle Abraham’s “Are You in Your Feelings”

Guests dancing

Robert Battle, Carla Sims and Frédéric Yvonnet

Leon and Phyllis Rhineheart