



BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater presents two thrilling programs at BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), Jun 4—9

“All Ailey” and “Contemporary Visions” which features new 65th anniversary season productions of works by Alonzo King, Jamar Roberts, and Hans van Manen

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Jun 4—9

Program A

“Contemporary Visions”

Jun 4, 6, & 7 at 7:30pm

Jun 8 at 2pm

Ode (2019, new production 2023) by Jamar Roberts

Solo (1997, new production 2023) by Hans van Manen

Following the Subtle Current Upstream (2000, new production 2023) by Alonzo King

Program B

“All Ailey”

Jun 5 & 8 at 7:30pm

Jun 9 at 3pm

Memoria (1979) by Alvin Ailey

A Song For You (1972) by Alvin Ailey

Cry (1971) by Alvin Ailey

Revelations (1960) by Alvin Ailey

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets start at \$35

****For press tickets please contact Sarah Garvey, sgarvey@bam.org.****

Critics are welcome to review “Contemporary Visions” on June 4 & 6 and “All Ailey” on June 5. Alternative dates may be possible.

Revelations Celebration Community Workshop

Jun 1 at 2pm

Plaza at 300 Ashland (Rain location: Peter Jay Sharp Building The Adam Space / BAM Café)
FREE

“Nothing prepares you for the totality of Alvin Ailey: the aural, visual, physical, spiritual beauty”—*The New York Times*

May 15, 2024/Brooklyn, NY—BAM is excited to welcome back the iconic [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) celebrating its 65th anniversary, June 4—9, bringing its kinetic energy and dazzling technique with two exuberant programs: “Contemporary Visions”—featuring pieces by renowned choreographers Alonzo King, [Jamar Roberts](#), and Hans van Manen; and “All Ailey”—which includes Ailey’s must-see masterpiece *Revelations*.

The trailblazing choreographer made his debut on the BAM stage as a dancer in 1956 and established close ties to the community when in 1969 the company began a residency at BAM and he established The Ailey School in Brooklyn. Today, the company that changed American dance forever remains a vital force in New York City—and around the globe.

Program A: “Contemporary Visions”

[Ode](#) (2019, new production 2023) by Jamar Roberts

[Solo](#) (1997, new production 2023) by Hans van Manen

[Following the Subtle Current Upstream](#) (2000, new production 2023) by Alonzo King

The Ailey company performs three works by visionary choreographers Jamar Roberts, Hans van Manen, and Alonzo King in a dynamic program of renegade modern dance. With *Ode*, Jamar Roberts offers a meditation on the beauty and fragility of life in a time of growing gun violence, featuring a score by the illustrious jazz pianist Don Pullen. Legendary Dutch choreographer Hans van Manen divides his dynamic *Solo* among three dancers in one explosive display of virtuosity and wit. Completing the evening, Alonzo King’s *Following the Subtle Current Upstream*—abstract and steeped in meaning—finds the Ailey dancers in constant, joyful flow to an eclectic score by Zakir Hussain, Miguel Frasconi, and Miriam Makeba.

Program B: “All Ailey”

[Memoria](#) (1979) by Alvin Ailey

[A Song For You](#) (1972) by Alvin Ailey

[Cry](#) (1971) by Alvin Ailey

[Revelations](#) (1960) by Alvin Ailey

This stunning return to BAM's opera house stage by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater offers a program of signature Ailey works, honoring and celebrating the man who forged a revolutionary path for American dance. Members of Ailey II and talented students of The Ailey School come together with the Company in *Memoria*, the choreographer's heartfelt elegy to his dear friend and colleague Joyce Trisler, while *A Song for You* takes us on an emotional journey with a male soloist through love and longing, set to Donny Hathaway's somber tune of the same name. Also included in the program is the tour-de-force female solo *Cry*, created as a birthday present from Ailey to his mother that is dedicated "to all Black women everywhere, especially our mothers." The evening concludes with the signature masterpiece *Revelations*, a fervent, transcendent exploration of the soul's deepest grief and holiest joy.

Prior to the BAM engagement, dance fans are invited to join the free ***Revelations Celebration Community Workshop*** on Saturday, June 1 at 2pm. Learn excerpts from Alvin Ailey's iconic *Revelations*—in this exciting Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs workshop. Led by former Ailey company members Amos Machanic and Cheryl Rowley-Gaskins, with live music by Ailey percussionist Roderick Jackson, this all-ages workshop invites you to celebrate movement and Alvin Ailey's must-see signature work with those who shared this inspiring masterpiece with audiences in performances around the world.

In conjunction with this 65th anniversary engagement, the compelling story of the life, work, and legacy of Alvin Ailey is the focus of a large-scale museum exhibition and a short film series. Presented at the Whitney Museum of American Art, [*Edges of Ailey*](#) (Sep 25, 2024 – Feb 9, 2025) will be a multifaceted presentation encompassing a multimedia exhibition, daily performance program, and scholarly catalogue to offer a richly layered experience for understanding the artist anew. ***Portrait of Ailey***, a new eight-part documentary series, was created by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita [Sylvia Waters](#) using rare historical film and still images as well as contemporary footage to create a sweeping narrative of Mr. Ailey as a performer, choreographer, celebrity, teacher, social activist, arts advocate, and creator of an enduring institution. *Portrait of Ailey*'s first two chapters are available on PBS Learning ([Alvin Ailey's Texas Roots](#); [Alvin Ailey's California Inspirations](#)) with additional episodes rolling out by June and September.

About the choreographers:

Alvin Ailey was born on January 5, 1931, in Rogers, Texas. His experiences of life in the rural South would later inspire some of his most memorable works. He was introduced to dance in Los Angeles by performances of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, and his formal dance training began with an introduction to Lester Horton's classes by his friend Carmen de Lavallade. Horton, the founder of one of the first racially-integrated dance companies in the United States, became a mentor for Mr. Ailey as he embarked on his professional career. After Horton's death in 1953, Mr. Ailey became director of

the Lester Horton Dance Theater and began to choreograph his own works. In the 1950s and 60s, Mr. Ailey performed in four Broadway shows, including *House of Flowers* and *Jamaica*. In 1958, he founded Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to carry out his vision of a company dedicated to enriching the American modern dance heritage and preserving the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience. He established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center (now The Ailey School) in 1969 and formed the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble (now Ailey II) in 1974. Mr. Ailey was a pioneer of programs promoting arts in education, particularly those benefiting underserved communities. Throughout his lifetime, he was awarded numerous distinctions, including the Kennedy Center Honor in 1988 in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to American culture. In 2014, he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, in recognition of his contributions and commitment to civil rights and dance in America. When Mr. Ailey died on December 1, 1989, *The New York Times* said of him, "you didn't need to have known [him] personally to have been touched by his humanity, enthusiasm, and exuberance and his courageous stand for multi-racial brotherhood."

Alonzo King has been called a visionary choreographer, who is altering the way we look at ballet. King calls his works "thought structures" created by the manipulation of energies that exist in matter through laws, which govern the shapes and movement directions of everything that exists. King has works in the repertoires of the world's leading ballet and modern companies and has collaborated with distinguished visual artists, musicians, and composers across the globe. His work has been recognized for its impact on the cultural fabric of the company's home in San Francisco, as well as internationally by the dance world's most prestigious institutions. King was honored with a *Dance Magazine* Award in 2020. He received Honorary Doctorates from The Juilliard School, Dominican University of California, and California Institute of the Arts in recognition of his significant contribution to the field of dance. Renowned for his skill as a teacher, King was also honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Corps de Ballet International Teacher Conference in 2012. Joining historic icons in the field, King was named one of America's "Irreplaceable Dance Treasures" by the Dance Heritage Coalition. An internationally acclaimed guest ballet master, his training philosophy undergirds the educational programming at the Alonzo King LINES Dance Center of San Francisco, which includes the pre-professional Training Program, Summer Program, and the BFA Program at Dominican University of California. Named as a choreographer with "astonishing originality" by *The New York Times*, Alonzo King LINES Ballet has been guided by his unique artistic vision since 1982.

Jamar Roberts was the Resident Choreographer of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 2019-2022 when Mr. Roberts made five critically acclaimed works: *Members Don't Get Weary* (2016), *Ode* (2019), *A Jam Session for Troubling Times* (2020), *Holding Space* (2021), and *In a Sentimental Mood* (2022). He also set *Gemeos* on Ailey II. Mr. Roberts is a graduate of the New World School of the Arts and The Ailey School and has danced for Alvin Ailey

American Dance Theater, Ailey II, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Mr. Roberts won the 2016 Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer and has performed as a guest artist with the Royal Ballet in London. Commissions include Miami City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, ABT Studio Company, Martha Graham Dance Company, LA Dance Project, Vail Dance Festival, Fall for Dance, The Juilliard School, BalletX, MoveNYC, New York City Ballet, and Works and Process at the Guggenheim where he created the films *Cooped* and *A Chronicle of a Pivot at a Point in Time*. The March on Washington Film Festival invited Mr. Roberts to create a tribute to John Lewis and he has also made a film for the LA Opera entitled *The First Bluebird in the Morning*. Mr. Roberts was a Director's Fellow at NYU's Center for Ballet and the Arts and he is currently a Creative Associate at Juilliard. He has been featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine*, multiple times including the issue which named him one of "25 to Watch". He first joined the Ailey company in 2002 and retired from dancing in 2021.

Hans van Manen is internationally recognized as one of the grand masters of contemporary ballet. Including his works for television, he has created more than 150 ballets, which all bear his distinct signature. Clarity in structure, refined simplicity, and an aversion to decorative frills form the key elements in his extremely musical ballets, which always concern human relationships, without becoming anecdotal. After establishing himself as a dancer, in 1955 he made his debut as a choreographer with *Olé, Olé, la Margarita*. From 1960 onwards, Van Manen has worked alternately with the two main dance companies of the Netherlands. After co-directing Nederlands Dans Theater for ten years, he became a resident choreographer—first with the Dutch National Ballet (1973-1987), and then with Nederlands Dans Theater (1988-2003). Since 2005, he has once again held the post of resident choreographer with the Dutch National Ballet. For his individual ballets and for his great contribution to the arts in general, Van Manen has received numerous awards, including the Erasmus Prize, the Prix Benois de la Danse Life Achievement Award, the Grand Prix à la Carrière, the VSCD Oeuvre Prize, and the German Musikpreis for his brilliant musicality. At the Hans van Manen Festival organized by Dutch National Ballet in celebration of his seventy-fifth birthday in 2007, the master choreographer was appointed a Commander in the Order of the Netherlands Lion. This was followed in 2017 by his appointment as a Commander in the French Ordre des Lettres et des Arts, and in 2018 King Willem-Alexander presented him with the Honorary Medal for Arts and Science of the Order of the House of Orange for his 'enormous contribution to the arts in the Netherlands and to ballet in particular'. Since 2013, Van Manen has been the patron of the Dutch National Ballet Academy and he became a member of the Society of Arts in 2015. Besides being a choreographer, he is a successful photographer whose work has been published in book form and shown at international exhibitions.

About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a now-fabled performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, that performance changed forever the perception of American dance.

The Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 25 million people at theaters in 48 states and 71 countries on six continents – as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms.

In 2008, a U.S. Congressional resolution designated the Company as “a vital American cultural ambassador to the world” that celebrates the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance heritage. When Mr. Ailey began creating dances, he drew upon his “blood memories” of Texas, the blues, spirituals, and gospel as inspiration, which resulted in the creation of his most popular and critically acclaimed work, *Revelations*. Although he created 79 ballets over his lifetime, Mr. Ailey maintained that his company was not exclusively a repository for his own work.

Today, the Company continues Mr. Ailey's mission by presenting important works of the past and commissioning new ones. In all, more than 235 works by over 90 choreographers have been part of the Ailey company's repertory. Before his untimely death in 1989, Alvin Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and over the next 21 years, she brought the organization to unprecedented success before designating Robert Battle, who served as Artistic Director from 2011 to 2023. During the 65th anniversary season, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is being led by Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing.

For press information, contact Sarah Garvey at sgarvey@BAM.org.

For press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

Credits

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