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# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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## 2009 NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON

### Celebrating Judith Jamison's 20<sup>th</sup> Year as Artistic Director

Ronald K. Brown Pays Tribute with World Premiere *Dancing Spirit*

Live Performances by Anna Deavere Smith in *Hymn*,  
Judith Jamison's Emmy Award-Winning Homage to Alvin Ailey

Judith Jamison's New Work *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*,  
to Eric Lewis' Original Jazz Compositions

"Best of 20 Years" Program Highlights Ballets Jamison Welcomed into the Ailey  
Repertory and Launches Week-Long Tribute Series

AAADT's Matthew Rushing Invites Audiences to Visit the Harlem Renaissance with  
the Premiere of *Uptown*

Company Premiere of Robert Battle's *In/Side*

DECEMBER 2, 2009 – JANUARY 3, 2010

(New York) November 6, 2009 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congress as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," returns to the stage of New York City Center from December 2, 2009 – January 3, 2010 with exciting performances that have become a joyous holiday tradition.

Complete programming was recently announced for the Company's five-week season celebrating the renowned Judith Jamison as she embarks on her 20<sup>th</sup> year as Artistic Director. It will begin on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at an Opening Night Gala Benefit, with Honorary Chairs and Honored Guests **Pauletta and Denzel Washington**, to support Ailey's scholarship fund and educational programs for children.

Among the series of special programs and performances, **Ronald K. Brown** pays tribute to Judith Jamison's profound influence with the world premiere of *Dancing Spirit*, set to music by **Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis and War**. The multi-talented actor/playwright **Anna Deavere Smith** will appear **live onstage** with the Company in select performances, to deliver the narrative recollections she arranged for *Hymn*, **Judith Jamison's** Emmy Award-winning homage to Alvin Ailey.

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**Judith Jamison's** new ballet, ***Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)***, examines the joys and complications of human relationships. Inspired by a series of her own drawings, it has original jazz compositions by musical iconoclast **Eric Lewis** and costumes by the award-winning designer **Paul Tazewell**.

Other season highlights include a new **Best of 20 Years** program with excerpts from thirteen of the nearly 100 ballets that Jamison has commissioned or revived in the Ailey repertory during her tenure. The program will premiere on December 13<sup>th</sup> during a **special performance honoring Judith Jamison** featuring *Best Of*, *Treading*, and *Revelations*. **The following week of the season, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, will feature a variety of programs celebrating Jamison** with the “Best of 20 Years” highlights in conjunction with a variety of other ballets, including live onstage appearances by Anna Deavere Smith in *Hymn* and Jamison’s new ballet ***Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)***.

AAADT’s acclaimed 18-year veteran **Matthew Rushing** invites audiences to visit the boisterous, swinging glory and meet the legends of the Harlem Renaissance in ***Uptown***, a new work to the music of **Fats Waller, Eubie Blake, Nat “King” Cole** and more. The Company will also premiere **Robert Battle’s *In/Side***, a gripping solo that plays out to the vivid emotions of **Nina Simone’s** “Wild is the Wind”.

In addition, throughout the season, Ailey’s extraordinary artists will move audiences with a diverse repertory that represents over 40 ballets by 20 choreographers, including favorites such as **Alvin Ailey’s** signature masterpiece ***Revelations***, a must-see for all people.

***The Prudential Foundation is the sponsor of AAADT’s New York Season.***

## **WORLD PREMIERES**

### ***Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*, choreographed by Judith Jamison**

Characters from all walks of life come together in **Judith Jamison’s** new collection of vignettes examining the joys and complications of human relationships. Original jazz compositions by the musical iconoclast **Eric Lewis** and costumes by the award-winning designer **Paul Tazewell** are inspired by a series of Jamison’s own drawings that depict these characters’ ordinary and sometimes extraordinary lives.

**DEC 4, 5 eve, 10, 16, 18, 19 eve, 20 mat, 22, 29, JAN 1, 3 mat**

### ***Dancing Spirit*, choreographed by Ronald K. Brown**

**Ronald K. Brown** pays tribute to Judith Jamison’s profound influence with a new work that echoes the title of Jamison’s autobiography. Set to music by **Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis** and **War**, Brown’s evocative choreography uses movement from Cuba, Brazil and the United States to conjure dancing spirits who embody Jamison’s elegance, vision, dignity and generosity.

**DEC 11, 12 mat, 22, 27 mat, 29, 30, JAN 3 mat**

### ***Uptown*, choreographed by Matthew Rushing**

Take a vibrant tour through the Harlem Renaissance era in all its boisterous, swinging glory. In this new ballet by the beloved, 18-year Company veteran **Matthew Rushing**, legends like Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Josephine Baker and their contemporaries come alive to the music of **Fats Waller, Eubie Blake, Nat “King” Cole** and more.

**DEC 9, 12 eve, 13 mat, 22, 26 mat, 27 mat, 29, 30, JAN 1**

**COMPANY PREMIERE**

### ***In/Side*, choreographed by Robert Battle**

The vivid emotions of **Nina Simone’s** “Wild is the Wind” play out in **Robert Battle’s** gripping solo. The bold, unrestrained style that has become his signature is evinced in this visceral cry of pure physicality.

**DEC 23, 26 eve, 29**

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## **NEW PRODUCTIONS**

### **Hymn, choreographed by Judith Jamison**

Judith Jamison's moving, Emmy Award-winning 1993 homage to Alvin Ailey uses explosive, full company dances and quiet solos to illuminate Ailey's humanity and the dancers' unique qualities. Narrative recollections from dancers are arranged by the multi-talented actor/playwright **Anna Deavere Smith**, who will appear **live onstage** with the Company at select performances.

**DEC 16\*, 18\*, 19 eve\*, 20 mat\*, 27 mat, 30, JAN 2 eve**

*\* with Anna Deavere Smith*

### **"BEST OF 20 YEARS" highlights program**

Over the last two decades, Judith Jamison has commissioned or revived nearly 100 works, providing unparalleled opportunities for choreographers both renowned and newly discovered. This season, a "Best of 20 Years" program features highlights from popular ballets she has brought to or revived in the Ailey repertory, representing the wide range of styles and voices that have contributed to the Ailey canon. The December 13<sup>th</sup> premiere opens a week-long performance series tribute.

**DEC 13 eve, 15, 17, 19 mat, 20 eve, 31 - Excerpts of:**

***The Stack-Up*** (1982) (1997 – New Production)

**Choreographer:** Talley Beatty

**Music:** Phillip Bailey, Larry Dunn, Maurice White, & Verdine White (*Earth, Wind, & Fire* - "Faces")

Talley Beatty's fast and furious jazz choreography sends dancers whizzing across the stage while throbbing to the pulsating beats of Earth, Wind, and Fire. *The Stack-Up* is a tough, brutal, yet lyrical examination of what happens when life causes a coming together of disparate social and cultural elements, offering a glimpse of urban L.A. life.

***Grace*** (1999)

**Choreographer:** Ronald K. Brown

**Music:** Duke Ellington sung by Jimmy McPhail ("Come Sunday")

Ron Brown's signature fusion of African and modern dance styles illuminates the soloist in this excerpt of his spiritual piece about acknowledging the 'grace' within individuals' everyday lives.

***North Star*** (1978) (1990 – joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Lar Lubovitch

**Music:** Philip Glass ("Ange des Orages")

Lar Lubovitch's rippling, fluid choreography uniquely complements Philip Glass' avant-garde repetitive score in this quartet from *North Star*.

***Following the Subtle Current Upstream*** (2000)

**Choreographer:** Alonzo King

**Music:** Miguel Frasconi ("Bowed Glass, Thunder & Glass, Bells")

Alonzo King's riveting choreographic combination of modern and ballet dance styles creates a piece that is both austere and evocative, as seen in this excerpted solo.

***Shelter*** (1988) (1992 - joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

**Music:** Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn

**Text:** "Belongo" by Laurie Carlos read by Carl Hancock Rux

Ailey dancers conquer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's intense and complex movement style in *Shelter*, an intensely moving and passionate work about homelessness and poverty set to the percussion of Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn, and spoken poetry.

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**Frames** – (1992)

**Choreographer:** Dwight Rhoden

**Music:** Music/Vocalist: Kemp Harris, Words: Dwight Rhoden (“Moonlight”)

Complexions Contemporary Ballet Co-Founder and Artistic Director Dwight Rhoden’s first work for AAADT in 1992, while a dancer with the company, is an abstract exploration into the depictions of relationships with angular choreography, and, in this solo, “Stanza 5 - Moonlight,” gestural movements inspired by intimate emotions.

**Bad Blood** (1984) (1986 – joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Ulysses Dove

**Music:** Laurie Anderson (“Gravity’s Angel”)

Dancing at an extremely athletic and emotionally visceral level, the dancers in this excerpted duet of *Bad Blood* reveal the power and magnetic pull of courtship rites with a ruthless and sharp movement vocabulary.

**Rainbow Round My Shoulder** (1959) (1972 – joined Ailey repertory, 2003 –New Production)

**Choreographer:** Donald McKayle

**Music:** Traditional, Arranged by Robert de Cormier & Milton Okun

This modern dance classic by Donald McKayle is a portrait of the grueling life of men on the chain gang, punctuated by the dreams of love, joy, and passion that sustain them. The woman’s solo, “The Dream...” is the representation of the men’s vision of their mothers, wives, and sweethearts.

**Dance at the Gym** (1991)

**Choreographer:** Donald Byrd

**Music:** Mio Morales

Inspired by the group dances in Jerome Robbins’s production of *West Side Story*, *Dance at the Gym* depicts the complexity, intensity and competitiveness of teenage relationships, offering an exploration into the struggles and challenges of young people seeking companionship.

**Jukebox for Alvin** (1993)

**Choreographer:** Garth Fagan

**Music:** Antonin Dvorak

The poignant male solo from *Jukebox for Alvin* introduces this introspective homage to Garth Fagan’s teacher, mentor, and friend, Alvin Ailey.

**Lettres d’Amour** (1998)

**Choreographer:** Redha

**Music:** Banco de Gaia (“Drippy”) and Ryuichi Sakamoto (“Nuages”)

A dynamic piece about human desire and seduction choreographed by French choreographer, Redha, shows the Ailey dancers have no limits, as they conquer his edgy and theatrical choreography.

**Polish Pieces** (1995) (1996 - joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Hans van Manen

**Music:** Henryk-Mikolaj Górecki

Leading European choreographer Hans van Manen set *Polish Pieces* on the Ailey Company for its United States premiere in 1996. This excerpted duet is a highlight from the abstract work, set to a classical score by Henryk-Mikolaj Górecki.

**The Winter in Lisbon** (1992)

**Choreographer:** Billy Wilson

**Music:** Dizzy Gillespie (“Manteca”)

This festive excerpt, from the piece celebrating the extraordinary talent of jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie by dance and Broadway choreographer Billy Wilson, is a vibrant party on-stage.

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## **OTHER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

**Opening Night Gala Benefit** (Dec. 2 @ 7pm)

**Pauletta & Denzel Washington, Honorary Chairs and Honored Guests**

A one-night-only program celebrates Judith Jamison on her 20<sup>th</sup> year as artistic director with special performance excerpts and Alvin Ailey's classic *Revelations*, featuring live musical performances. All proceeds will go directly to Ailey's scholarship fund and educational programs for children.

**Target 20 Night** (Dec. 3)

In celebration of Judith Jamison's 20<sup>th</sup> season as artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Target will sponsor a one-night-only performance with all tickets at a special price to help encourage access and participation.

**Family Matinee Series** (Dec. 5 mat, 12 mat, 19 mat, 26 mat, Jan 2 mat)

Bring your family to meet ours at a Saturday afternoon Family Matinee series performance. Following each Saturday matinee performance, the entire audience is invited to engage in a free question and answer session with the Ailey dancers in the theater. A limited number of specially-priced \$25 tickets are available, but buy early for the best seat selection. Offer subject to availability and maximum purchase limit (6 tickets). Not available online.

**Celebrating Judith Jamison** (Dec. 13 @ 7:30pm)

Artistic Director Judith Jamison, whose vision has led the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to new heights, will be honored at a special performance featuring *Best of 20 Years, Treading, and Revelations*.

**New Year's Eve Celebration** (Dec. 31 @ 7pm)

Dance in the New Year with Ailey in a celebratory performance that culminates with the inspiring *Revelations*.

**Season Finale** (Jan. 3 @ 7:30pm)

The season finale program includes specially staged excerpts highlighting the season along with the quintessential *Revelations* in its entirety.

## **LIVE MUSIC**

*Revelations* (Dec. 2, 5 eve)

*Blues Suite* (Dec. 23, 26 mat & eve)

Two of Alvin Ailey's signature ballets will be performed with live music. The legendary **Ella Mitchell** and members of the **Riverside Church Inspirational Choir** will sing two stirring performances of *Revelations*. **Kenny Brawner and the Brawner Brothers Band** will perform live onstage for three performances of *Blues Suite*, remounted for last season's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**AILEY HIGHLIGHTS** (Dec. 8 eve, 25 eve, Jan 2 mat)

Encore performances of a special program staged for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season that features excerpts from many of Alvin Ailey's most popular and beloved ballets. Spanning each decade of Ailey's phenomenal career, from *Blues Suite*, the dance that launched the Company in 1958, to *Opus McShann*, his final piece thirty years later, this stunning retrospective demonstrates the tremendous range and resonance of one man's genius (includes *Revelations* (1960) in its entirety).

## **Season Repertory**

In addition to the premieres, new productions, and special programs, the Company repertory will include:

*Blues Suite* (Alvin Ailey)

*Divining* (Judith Jamison) - excerpt

*Episodes* (Ulysses Dove)

*Festa Barocca* (Mauro Bigonzetti)

*Love Stories* (Judith Jamison, Robert Battle, Rennie Harris)

*Memoria* (Alvin Ailey)

*Night Creature* (Alvin Ailey)

*Revelations* (Alvin Ailey)

*Solo* (Hans van Manen)

*Suite Otis* (George Faison)

*Treading* (Elisa Monte)

*Unfold* (Robert Battle)

**See attached calendar for full performance schedule. (All programming is subject to change)**

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## **PERFORMANCE TIMES**

Opening Night Gala	7:00pm - <b>Note earlier curtain time-</b>
Tuesday evenings	7:00pm - <b>Note earlier curtain time-</b>
Wednesday – Saturday evenings	8:00pm
Sunday evenings	7:30pm - <b>Note earlier curtain time-</b>
Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm
New Year’s Eve	7:00pm - <b>Note earlier curtain time-</b>

## **TICKETS**

New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Tickets are available starting September 8<sup>th</sup> at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). **Great seats are available in the orchestra and most sections of the theater starting at \$25.** Discount tickets are available when purchasing tickets for more than one performance, for the family matinee series, students with an appropriate ID and groups of 10 or more.

For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org).

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*The Prudential Foundation is the sponsor of AAADT’s New York Season.*

*Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. is the Official Vehicle Partner of AAADT.*

*J.P. Morgan is the Art of Learning Sponsor.*

*American Express is the Official Card, sponsor of “Best of 20 Years”  
and the Corporate Honoree of the Opening Night Gala.*

*Target is the sponsor of Target 20 Night.*

*BNY Mellon is a Co-Sponsor of Ailey’s Opening Night Gala.*

*American Airlines is the Official Airline of AAADT.*

*The 2009-2010 season is sponsored, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.*

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** (AAADT), 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. Led by Artistic Director Judith Jamison since 1989, and has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc. is the umbrella organization which includes **AAADT**; **Ailey II** (1974) a junior 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**, a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public that began with the opening of **Ailey’s permanent home** – the nation’s largest building dedicated to dance - named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, located at 55<sup>th</sup> Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Evening 7pm	Evening 8pm	Evening 8pm	Evening 8pm	Family Matinee 2pm	Evening 8pm	Matinee 3pm	Evening 7:30pm
<b>PLEASE NOTE EARLIER CURTAIN TIME ON TUESDAYS</b>	<b>DEC 2 - 7PM</b> <b>LIVE MUSIC *</b> Opening Night Gala Program Revelations *	<b>DEC 3</b> <b>TARGET 20 NIGHT</b> Festa Barocca Divining ( <i>excerpt</i> ) Revelations	<b>DEC 4</b> Memoria Among Us W Revelations	<b>DEC 5</b> Festa Barocca Solo Suite Otis <b>LIVE MUSIC *</b> Night Creature Unfold Among Us W Revelations *		<b>DEC 6</b> Memoria Suite Otis Revelations Festa Barocca Treading Revelations	
	<b>DEC 8</b> <b>ALL AILEY</b> <b>Ailey Highlights</b> includes Revelations	<b>DEC 9</b> Episodes Uptown W Revelations	<b>DEC 10</b> Love Stories Among Us W Suite Otis	<b>DEC 11</b> Suite Otis Dancing Spirit W Revelations	<b>DEC 12</b> Memoria Dancing Spirit W Revelations Suite Otis Uptown W Love Stories		<b>DEC 13</b> Episodes Uptown W Revelations Proceeds benefit Ailey Dancers' Resource Fund <b>Best of 20 Years N</b> Unfold Revelations <b>Celebrating Judith Jamison</b>
<b>DEC 15</b> <b>Best of 20 Years N</b> Treading Suite Otis	<b>DEC 16</b> <b>Hymn N</b> with Anna Deavere Smith Among Us W Revelations	<b>DEC 17</b> <b>Best of 20 Years N</b> Unfold Love Stories	<b>DEC 18</b> Hymn N with Anna Deavere Smith Among Us W Revelations	<b>DEC 19</b> <b>Best of 20 Years N</b> Solo Love Stories Among Us W Hymn N with Anna Deavere Smith Revelations		<b>DEC 20</b> Among Us W Hymn N with Anna Deavere Smith Revelations <b>Best of 20 Years N</b> Treading Revelations	
<b>DEC 22</b> <b>ALL NEW</b> Dancing Spirit W Among Us W Uptown W	<b>DEC 23</b> <b>LIVE MUSIC *</b> Blues Suite * In/Side C Suite Otis Revelations	<b>DEC 24</b> <b>ALL AILEY</b> <b>Ailey Highlights</b> includes Revelations Proceeds benefit Dancers Responding to AIDS	<b>DEC 25</b> Festa Barocca Suite Otis Revelations	<b>DEC 26</b> <b>LIVE MUSIC *</b> Blues Suite * Uptown W Revelations <b>LIVE MUSIC *</b> Blues Suite * In/Side C Suite Otis Revelations		<b>DEC 27</b> <b>ALL NEW</b> Dancing Spirit W Uptown W Hymn N Love Stories Episodes Revelations	
<b>DEC 29</b> <b>ALL NEW</b> Dancing Spirit W In/Side C Among Us W Uptown W	<b>DEC 30</b> <b>ALL NEW</b> Uptown W Dancing Spirit W Hymn N	<b>DEC 31 - 7PM</b> <b>Best of 20 Years N</b> Solo Revelations	<b>JAN 1</b> Uptown W Among Us W Revelations	<b>JAN 2</b> <b>ALL AILEY</b> <b>Ailey Highlights</b> includes Revelations Festa Barocca Treading Hymn N		<b>JAN 3</b> Dancing Spirit W Among Us W Revelations <b>SEASON FINALE</b> Special Season Highlights Revelations	

W = World Premiere C = Company Premiere N = New Production

Premiere= red title

1st Season Perf.= blue title

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