

Press Contacts:

Emily Hawkins
W: 212-405-9083
ehawkins@alvinailey.org

Christopher Zunner
W: 212-405-9028 / M: 347-322-8755
czunner@alvinailey.org



10th ANNUAL AILEY AT THE APOLLO - Tuesday, May 8, 2012

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Ailey School Students & AileyCampers
Perform at Historic Apollo Theater to Benefit Scholarships and
Ailey Arts In Education Programs Serving New York Youth**

Gala Dance Party Moves to the Sounds of DJ Ruckus

Event Honorees: Leslie & Tom Maheras

Honorary Chair: Toni Braxton

Gala Sponsor: FedEx Corporation

(New York) April 16, 2012 - Stars of **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, gifted young dancers from **The Ailey School** and, for the first time ever, talented students from AileyCamp will come together for a spectacular one-night performance on **Tuesday, May 8th at 7pm** on the world famous Apollo stage. Led by new Artistic Director Robert Battle, the **Spring Gala Benefit** performance will be at the **Apollo Theater** (253 W 125th Street, between 7th & 8th Avenues). A gala party with festive dress, décor and dancing to music by the famed **DJ Ruckus** will conclude the 10th annual celebration.

Ailey At The Apollo will honor **Leslie Maheras, a member of Ailey's Board of Trustees**, and her husband **Tom Maheras** for their wonderful support and commitment to the Ailey organization, and for their leadership in the broader cultural and educational community. The **Honorary Chair is R&B sensation and six-time Grammy winner, Toni Braxton**. With more than 40 million albums sold worldwide, Toni Braxton is recognized as one of the most outstanding voices of this generation. Today, she is enjoying huge success with her *Braxton Family Values* reality show on the WE network. Sponsored by FedEx Corporation, gala co-chairs are Lynne and Anthony M. Carvette, David E. Monn, and Almaz and Marc Strachan and vice chairs are Judith Byrd, Catherine Davis, and Pamela Zilly and John Schaefer.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will perform highlights from **Home**, hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris' bold new work inspired by stories of people living with or affected by HIV; Artistic Director Robert Battle's **Takademe**, which mixes humor and high-flying movement in a savvy deconstruction of Indian Kathak dance rhythms; and repertory classic, **Escapades**, by Alvin Ailey. Students, ages 6 to 23, will also showcase their talents and the breadth of The Ailey School's program in performance excerpts before they join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in the finale of Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece, **Revelations**.

Gala proceeds will support The Ailey School's Scholarship Program, for promising young students who would otherwise be unable to pursue professional training, and **Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs**, which annually serve more than 100,000 young people, including **AileyCamp**- the innovative, full-scholarship program that uses the art of dance as a means to help

young people stretch their minds, bodies and spirits. In celebration of the 10th annual Spring Gala Benefit, attendees will witness the impact of their charitable donations firsthand through a special performance by AileyCamp. Youthful talent from AileyCamp Washington Heights and Newark will move guests with a performance inspired by Robert Battle's explosive work, **The Hunt**, complete with live drums and original choreography.

After the performance, the present and future stars of Ailey will join guests to dine and dance the night away at a festive gala party with music provided by **DJ Ruckus – America's most in-demand celebrity deejay**. A superstar deejay for the better part of a decade, DJ Ruckus has routinely performed at private parties hosted by the world's biggest stars, including Diddy, Kanye West, Christina Aguilera, Magic Johnson, and Steven Tyler.

Benefit tickets, starting at \$350, may be purchased by calling (212) 405-9031.

Sponsored by FedEx Corporation

Wine & Spirits generously provided by Diageo

Honorary Chair Toni Braxton



Photo by The Chamber Group

Event Honorees Leslie and Thomas Maheras



Photo by Julie Skarratt

ALL PHOTOS ARE CONTROL + CLICK DOWNLOADABLE IN HIGH RESOLUTION

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

**10th Annual Ailey At The Apollo Spring Gala Benefit
Tuesday, May 8th 2012 at 7:00pm**

A spectacular one-night only benefit performance on the world famous Apollo stage featuring stars of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and gifted young dancers from The Ailey School will be followed by a gala benefit party with festive dress, décor and dancing to music by famed DJ Ruckus. Led for the first-time by new Artistic Director Robert Battle, proceeds from the 10th annual celebration will provide vitally needed scholarships for talented students of The Ailey School as well as Ailey's innovative Arts In Education and Community Programs.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Robert Battle

EVENT HONOREES

Leslie & Tom Maheras

HONORARY CHAIR

Toni Braxton

GALA CO-CHAIRS

Lynne & Anthony M. Carvette

David E. Monn

Almaz & Marc Strachan

GALA VICE CHAIRS

Judith Byrd

Tickets:

To purchase benefit tickets, starting at \$350.00, or for more information, call 212.405.9031 or visit www.alvinailey.org

Location: Apollo Theater, 235 W. 125th street (Between 7th and 8th Avenues) via Subways- A,B,C,D or 2/3 to 125th Street

Press: for additional photos and other materials, visit: pressroom.alvinailey.org

ABOUT THE AILEY ORGANIZATION

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 1958 New York performance that changed American dance. Founded by Alvin Ailey, 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 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. The Ailey organization also includes; **Ailey II** (1974), a second company of young dancers and choreographers; **The Ailey School** (1969), extensive dance training programs; **Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs**, bringing dance into classrooms and communities; and **The Ailey Extension**, dance and fitness classes for the general public at Ailey’s home – **The Joan Weill Center for Dance** in New York City—New York’s largest building for dance.

For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.