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# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

### FIVE-WEEK NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON CELEBRATING *REVELATIONS AT 50* CONTINUES WITH SPECIAL COLLABORATIONS AND GUEST PERFORMANCES

#### Announcing One-Night-Only Program and Special Guest Artists Performances for Judith Jamison Farewell Season Closer on January 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis Live Onstage in *Ailey/Jazz* Featuring the Music of Legends Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie

#### New Year's Eve Guest Performance by Grammy Award-Winning Vocal Ensemble *Sweet Honey In the Rock*

(New York) – December 15, 2010 - **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's** upcoming performances at **New York City Center** feature special collaborations and guest performances with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, *Sweet Honey In The Rock*, and **special guest artists** in a Judith Jamison Farewell performance closing the season on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm.

During one extraordinary week, from December 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis** will join the Ailey dancers onstage for ***Ailey/Jazz***, a joyous live music celebration of America's two great art forms – modern dance and jazz music – and two great jazz artists – **Duke Ellington** and **Dizzy Gillespie**. The program features the first full production of ***Three Black Kings*** in over 30 years, resulting from **Alvin Ailey's** legendary collaboration with the great Duke Ellington, and ***The Winter In Lisbon***, **Billy Wilson's** tribute to Dizzy Gillespie and the four-decade career of this consummate jazz musician.

Continuing the celebration of **five decades of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations***, an American classic called a must-see for all people, the Grammy Award-Winning ***Sweet Honey In The Rock*** will bring their soulful harmonies and intricate rhythms to ***Revelations*** on **New Year's Eve**.

In an exciting finish to the season, a **Judith Jamison Farewell Program on January 2<sup>nd</sup>** will pay tribute to Ailey's leading woman with surprise guest artists and a one-night-only program highlighting a variety of much-loved works, including **David Parson's gravity-defying, strobe-lit showstopper *Caught*** in its entirety. **Choreographers George Faison, Camille A. Brown, and Ronald K. Brown** will make special guest appearances in excerpts of their works, performing alongside Ailey's extraordinary dancers. **Notable former Company members Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish, Toni Pierce-Sands, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, and Alicia Graf Mack** will return to the New York City Center stage to join this celebration. (*see program and casting details below*).

For over two decades, Judith Jamison has been artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, leading the Company to new heights around the world and into a permanent home – the nation’s largest building dedicated to dance. Named to **TIME’s 2009 list of the world’s 100 most influential people**, Ms. Jamison is the recipient of the **Kennedy Center Honors, the BET Honors, and the National Medal of Arts**. In 2010, she was honored by First Lady Michelle Obama at the first **White House Dance Series: A Tribute to Judith Jamison**; received the 2010 **Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s prestigious Phoenix Award**, The NYC Handel Medallion (the city’s highest official honor) and the **2010 National Award for Citizen Diplomacy**.

Throughout the season, Ailey’s extraordinary artists will move audiences with a diverse repertory that represents 23 ballets by 15 choreographers, inspiring all in a universal celebration of the human spirit, using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. Share in the incomparable sense of joy, freedom, and spirit that bring audiences around the globe to their feet night after night – you don’t just see an Ailey performance, you feel it!

For further information on tickets and performance schedule, visit: [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)

Visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org) for photos and press materials.

***The Prudential Foundation is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s New York Season.***

## **TICKETS**

New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues.

Tickets, starting at \$25, are available 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). Discount tickets are available when purchasing tickets for more than one performance, for the family matinee series, for students with an appropriate ID and for groups of 10 or more.

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

## **Season Finale – Celebrating Judith Jamison (Jan. 2 @ 7:30pm)**

The season finale program includes a special one-night-only program with performance excerpts and surprise guest artists joining in a loving tribute to Judith Jamison, whose vision has led the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to new heights, in her final season as artistic director.

### **Act One**

**Festa Barocca** (Opening Section) by Mauro Bigonzetti  
Hope Boykin & The Company

**Suite Otis** ('Lover's Prayer duet') by George Faison  
Linda Celeste Sims & George W. Faison

**Carmina Burana** ('In Trutina' quartet) by John Butler  
Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish, Toni Pierce-Sands, Glenn Allen Sims, Antonio Douthit

**The Groove To Nobody's Business** ('What'd I Say') by Camille A. Brown  
*Camille A. Brown, Matthew Rushing, Jamar Roberts, Kirven James Boyd, Hope Boykin,  
Olivia Bowman Jackson*

**Firebird** (1<sup>st</sup> solo) by Maurice Bejart  
Clifton Brown

**Pas De Duke** (Female solo) by Alvin Ailey  
Linda Celeste Sims

**Cry** (performed in its entirety by 3 different women) by Alvin Ailey  
Renee Robinson, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Nasha Thomas-Schmitt

### **Act Two**

**Bad Blood** (Opening solo, Group & Duet) by Ulysses Dove  
*Matthew Rushing, Linda Celeste Sims, Constance Stamatiou, Rosalyn Deshauteurs,  
Amos J. Machanic, Jr., Guillermo Asca, Clifton Brown*

**Reminiscin'** ('A Case Of You' duet) by Judith Jamison  
Alicia Graf Mack, Jamar Roberts

**Love Stories** (2<sup>nd</sup> section excerpt) by Jamison, Harris, Battle  
Constance Stamatiou, Megan Jakel, Ghrai DeVore, Demetia Hopkins, Khilea Douglass,  
Yannick Lebrun, Michael Francis McBride, Jermaine Terry, Daniel Harder, Samuel Lee Roberts

**Grace** (Quartet section) by Ronald K. Brown  
Ronald K. Brown, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Asha Thomas, Renee Robinson, Matthew Rushing

**Caught** (in its entirety) by David Parsons  
Clifton Brown

### **Act Three**

*Revelations* film

**Revelations** (in its entirety) by Alvin Ailey

## **AILEY/JAZZ: A CELEBRATION WITH JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA AND WYNTON MARSALIS**

For one extraordinary week only, **Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** will join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater onstage for a joyous live music celebration of America's two great art forms - modern dance and jazz music – and two great jazz artists – Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie. The program features rare performances of **Alvin Ailey's *Three Black Kings***, along with **Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon***. The great **Duke Ellington** composed ***Three Black Kings*** and some of the most exuberant orchestrations ever set to dance - sophisticated, sexy, lush and alluring, his music inspired some of Alvin Ailey's most memorable works. Dizzy Gillespie's brilliant music sets the tone for Billy Wilson's sizzling, sensuous tribute to four decade career of this consummate jazz musician.

### ***Three Black Kings (1976)***

**Choreographer: Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Duke Ellington**

**Alvin Ailey's** three-part ballet, set to **Duke Ellington's** last major score, brings to life Balthazar, the Black king of the Nativity; Solomon, King of Israel; and Martin Luther King, Jr., Ellington's friend whose triumphs are celebrated in the inspiring finale. Sophisticated, lush and alluring, Ellington's music became part of a legendary collaboration with Alvin Ailey and left an indelible mark on American dance. At its premiere, *The New York Times* noted "...with its crescendo of gospel rhythms and its expressionist symbols of marches and martyrdom...moves the spectator" and *The Daily News* hailed the work as "An intensely moving vision..."

### ***The Winter in Lisbon (1992)***

**Choreographer: Billy Wilson**

**Music: Dizzy Gillespie**

**Dizzy Gillespie's** brilliant music sets the tone for this sizzling, sensuous ballet celebrating four decades of his work. Choreographer **Billy Wilson** pays tribute to Mr. Gillespie as the consummate jazz musician, in an atmosphere where the dancers challenge, tease and romance against a backdrop of rhythm and color in "A joyful dance that gives an emotional lift," according to the Associated Press.

## **CELEBRATING REVELATIONS AT 50!**

### ***Revelations (1960)***

**Choreography: Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Traditional**

Starting with the opening night gala, this season **kicks off a year-long celebration of 5 decades of Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece, *Revelations***, an American classic called a must-see for all people. **Alvin Ailey** said that one of America's richest treasures was the cultural heritage of the African-American—"sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful." **This enduring classic is a tribute to that heritage and to Ailey's genius.** Using African-American religious music – spirituals - this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

**A documentary short film** will set the stage for *Revelations*, beginning each performance with an introduction to a half century of history, meaning and significance of this modern dance work of genius that is a tribute to the resolve and determination of a people and the human spirit. **Directed by Judy Kinberg**, winner of seven primetime Emmy Awards, it will include exclusive footage of Alvin Ailey and interviews with Judith Jamison and others. Audience members are invited to join in the exchange too, sharing their memories through **My Revelations Story**, via the blog of the **AlvinAiley.org** website, which will also feature **Rediscovering Revelations**, a dedicated section with historical context, background, and interactive features. Also, a **commemorative souvenir program**, that includes historic *Revelations* photos and more, will be on sale for those interested in a keepsake to bring the enduring artistry home from the theater.

### **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* performed **with live on-stage music** by the Grammy award winning group ***Sweet Honey In The Rock***.

## **PERFORMANCE TIMES**

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>
Wednesday & Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm
New Year’s Eve	7:00pm - <b>Note earlier curtain time-</b>

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***The Prudential Foundation is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s New York Season.***

*Target is the sponsor of Target 1960 Night.*

*American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the sponsor of “Three Black Kings”.*

*Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of DIAGEO during the New York City Center Season.*

*Southwest Airlines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.*

*The 2010-2011 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.*



**(CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD)**

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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. Now led by Judith Jamison, joined by artistic director designate Robert Battle, the Company has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, celebrating the African-American cultural experience and 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—the nation’s largest building for dance. For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).