

Alvin Ailey dancers bring "Memoria" to Copenhagen

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COPENHAGEN, Sept 15 (Reuters Life!) - When dancers from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater kick off a week-long guest performance at Tivoli's Concert Hall in the Danish capital on Tuesday, they will help carry on a tradition.

The group will perform on three nights with dancers from Tivoli's Pantomime Theatre, the only pantomime in the world to have survived in its original form, as well as Tivoli's Big Band.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the group and pantomime dancers will perform "Memoria", a piece choreographed by Ailey in 1979.

"It's all about bridging cultures, and what better way of doing such a thing than with jazz music, Duke Ellington, and by having a piece where dancers get a chance to actually perform something of Alvin Ailey, which is a rarity," dancer Glenn Allen Sims told Reuters.

Ailey, credited with popularising modern dance and bringing African-American dancers into dance theatre, lived from 1931 to 1989.

The same three nights the Alvin Ailey dancers will perform Ailey's "Night Creatures" from 1972 with Duke Ellington's music by Tivoli's Big Band.

The dance company's signature work "Revelations" will be on the programme on all seven performance dates.

It is the 12th time the Alvin Ailey group has visited the concert hall of the famous Copenhagen amusement park -- the first time was in 1981 and the recent visit was in 2006.

"The audience is really special here because it's one of the only places we actually perform inside an amusement park," said Sims. "I always remember Tivoli because of all the rides." (Reporting Karin Jensen, editing by Paul Casciato)

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