



CULTURAL
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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT PERFORMANCE & PARTY ON NOVEMBER 28TH

Academy Award-Winner Mo’Nique Serves as Honorary Chair

Revelations Sung Live by Jessye Norman, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Anika Noni Rose

Corporate Honoree: Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s

Tickets for Gala Benefit and Entire Five-Week Season On Sale Now!

(New York) September 6, 2012 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will kick-off a five-week holiday season on November 28th with a star-studded gala benefit performance at New York City Center and party at the Hilton New York. Academy award-winning actress and comedienne **Mo’Nique** will serve as the evening’s Honorary Chair and Alvin Ailey’s timeless masterpiece [Revelations](#) will be sung live with special celebrity guests onstage.

“Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is a cultural treasure that ignites your spirit each time you see them,” said Mo’Nique, the evening’s Honorary Chair. “I take my family to experience the Ailey company whenever I have the opportunity and I am looking forward to taking part in this special night.”

The evening begins with [Minus 16](#), Ohad Naharin’s eclectic dance and musical excursion that delights audiences with improvisation that breaks down barriers between audience and performers. The inspiring finale of [Revelations](#) will be performed live on-stage by special guest musicians. Featured vocalists will include opera singer **Jessye Norman** and Tony Award-winning actors and singers **Brian Stokes Mitchell** and **Anika Noni Rose** who will sing *Fix Me, Jesus; I Wanna Be Ready* and *Sinner Man* respectively.

The corporate honoree at the Gala Benefit will be Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s in recognition of their many years of wonderful support for the Ailey company. The event’s co-chairs are **Simin & Herb Allison, Kathryn & Kenneth Chenault, Daria L. Foster, Agnes & Gerald Hassell, Debra L. Lee** and **Joan & Sandy Weill**. **Proceeds from the Gala will benefit Ailey’s extensive educational programs, including scholarships for the performing artists of the future.** For benefit tickets to the gala performance and dinner-dance in the Hilton New York Grand Ballroom, attended by prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy and politics, please call (212) 405-9031.

“Our opening night gala benefit is a one-night-only event that should not be missed, thanks to the electrifying audience favorites *Minus 16* and *Revelations*, performed by a truly special combination of great musical and dance artists,” said Robert Battle, who last year became only the third Artistic Director in the Company’s 54-year history. “I can’t wait to see audiences at the opening and throughout the season experience all the treasures we will be sharing this December.”

Beloved as one of the world’s most popular dance companies, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will continue to surprise and delight audiences through December 30th with premieres and new productions that add dynamic choreographic voices to the repertory and give Ailey’s extraordinary dancers more ways to inspire. Premieres and new productions include rising young choreographer Kyle Abraham’s [Another Night](#), renowned European choreographer Jiří Kylián’s [Petite Mort](#), Tony Award-winning *The Lion King* choreographer Garth Fagan’s [From Before](#), Artistic Director Robert Battle’s thrillingly intense duet [Strange Humors](#), Ronald K. Brown’s landmark work [Grace](#) and [Ailey Classics](#), a vibrant anthology of highlights from founder Alvin Ailey’s prolific 30-year career.

In addition to encore performances of Ohad Naharin's unique and innovative [Minus 16](#), premieres from Robert Battle's celebrated 2011 inaugural season will appear in the repertory, including modern dance master Paul Taylor's [Arden Court](#) and hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris' soul-lifting [Home](#). Mr. Ailey's beloved [Revelations](#), an American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all and recognized by a U.S. Senate resolution, will also be performed with live music on December 15th and 16th, and with an expanded cast of 50 dancers including members of Ailey II and The Ailey School, on Saturday and Sunday matinees through December 16th.

Tickets are now on sale! For a detailed schedule of the performances from November 28th through December 30th, or for tickets, starting at \$25, visit www.alvinailey.org, www.citycenter.org, call CityTix (212-581-1212), or visit the New York City Center box office.

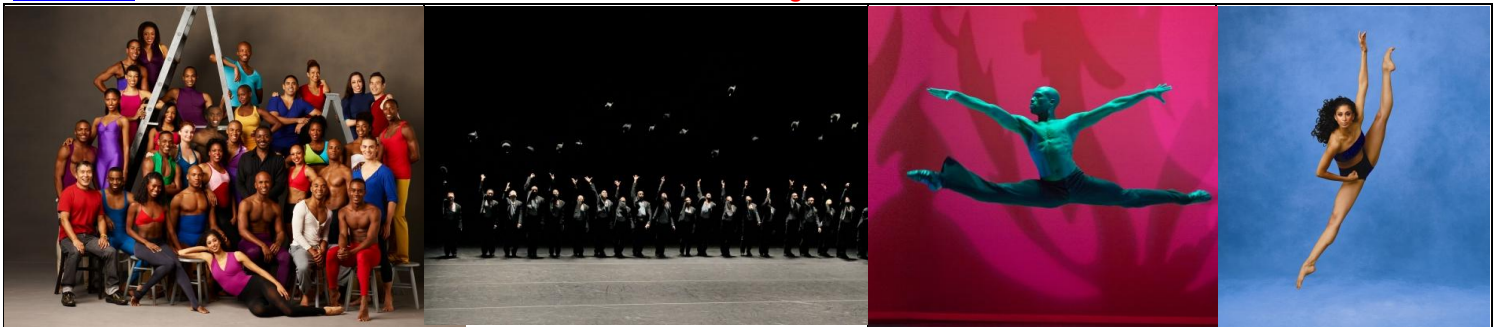
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, acclaimed by U.S. Congressional Resolution as a vital "American Cultural Ambassador to the World," is currently bringing audiences around the world to their feet with [2012 international performances](#) that continue through October in **Geneva, Switzerland; Barcelona, Spain; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel**. Having embarked on an exciting new era in Ailey history, this is the time for New York audiences to plan a visit with Ailey's acclaimed dancers this holiday season for an unforgettable and inspiring celebration of the human spirit.

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Opening Night Gala Benefit Sponsors:
Simin & Herb Allison; American Express; BET Networks; BNY Mellon; Daria L. Foster;
and Joan & Sandy Weill and The Weill Family Foundation.

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation acknowledges the following for the special support of the Opening Night Gala Benefit:
Wells Fargo is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's season at New York City Center
Diageo for providing the spirits for the Gala dinner-dance following the performance

For further information, the public may visit www.alvinailey.org. **PRESS:** For photos, videos, materials, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org or [click here](#) for full details on the season or **Ctrl+Click Photos for High Resolution Download**.



(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Andrew Eccles; AAADT in Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Antonio Douthit in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Gert Krautbauer; AAADT's Alicia Graf Mack. Photo by Andrew Eccles

ABOUT ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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 March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of 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. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second 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 (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey's permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world —named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.