

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Press Representative: Charlie Cinnamon 305.672.1324 / ccinnamon1@aol.com
Ailey Public Relations: Christopher Zunner 212.405.9028 / czunner@alvinailey.org

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director Sharon Gersten Luckman, Executive Director Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

Adrienne Arsht Center FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR FIRST MIAMI ENGAGEMENT LED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE FROM FEBRUARY 23 - 26

FIVE PERFORMANCES ONLY AT ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FEATURE AILEY'S EXTRAORDINARY DANCERS IN ACCLAIMED PREMIERES THAT LAUNCH A NEW ERA

Home by Bold Hip-Hop Choreographer Rennie Harris Inspired by the Stories of People Affected by HIV
 Arden Court Marks the First Time a Work by American Dance Master Paul Taylor Appears in Ailey Repertory
 Minus 16 by American-Israeli Choreographer Ohad Naharin Features Improvisation by The Ailey Dancers
 Artistic Director Robert Battle's Bravura Solo Takademe

Repertory Favorites Include Robert Battle's *The Hunt* and Alvin Ailey's Classic *Revelations*

(Miami, FL) — January 18, 2012 - Led by Miami native Robert Battle in his inaugural season as Artistic Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the world's favorite dance companies, returns to the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County from February 23 through 26 as part of a 27-city North American Tour. Following critically-acclaimed sold out performances in New York City, Ailey's extraordinary dancers will move audiences in two special programs containing a series of premieres and new productions that launch an exciting new era in Ailey history. Ailey's Miami engagement in the Ziff Ballet Opera House is co-presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County as part of the Knight Masterworks Season, Sanford and Beatrice Ziff Dance Series.

"This is the beginning of a new adventure—for the company, for me and for our audiences," stated <u>Robert Battle</u>, who on July 1, 2011 became Artistic Director — only the third in the Company's history. "I'm excited for Arsht audiences to witness the world's most amazing dancers in this season's premieres as we take the next step in Ailey's inspiring journey." Honored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005 as one of the "Masters of African-American Choreography," Robert Battle is a fast-rising choreographer and visionary who, over the past decade, has created ballets for the Ailey Company and Ailey II.

The Thursday, February 23rd opening night program (also seen on Saturday evening and Saturday matinee) features the season premieres of Paul Taylor's classic Arden Court and Ohad Naharin's innovative Minus 16. <u>Arden Court</u> (1981) marks the first time a work by this American modern dance master is performed by the renowned Ailey dancers. Set on the company under the supervision of Mr. Taylor, Arden Court features a sumptuous baroque score by William Boyce and technically challenging choreography with striking duets, solos and a men's sextet that showcases the dancers' skill and musicality.

<u>Minus 16</u> (1999), by the renowned American-Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin, will feature the Company in a work unlike any other in the Ailey repertory as it challenges the dancers to and breaks down barriers between

audience and performers. Using Naharin's acclaimed "Gaga" method, *Minus 16* features a delightfully eclectic score ranging from Dean Martin to cha-cha, from techno-pop to traditional Israeli music.

The Friday, February 24th evening program, as well as the Saturday matinee performance, will include: bold hiphop choreographer Rennie Harris' *Home*, Robert Battle's bravura solo *Takademe* and his explosive dance for six men called *The Hunt*, an audience favorite from last season. *Home*, a new work set to a soul-lifting score of gospel house music is inspired by stories submitted to the "Fight HIV Your Way" contest for people living with or affected by HIV, an initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater presented the New York premiere on a day of major significance, both World AIDS Day and the day Alvin Ailey passed away from the disease in 1989.

<u>Takademe</u> (1999), one of Mr. Battle's first creations and a pivotal work in his career, is a savvy deconstruction and abstraction of the tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance. Containing humor, fast-paced movements and propulsive jumps, this company premiere is set to Sheila Chandra's syncopated vocal score.

Alvin Ailey's beloved masterpiece <u>Revelations</u>, an American classic acclaimed as a must-see and recognized by a U.S. Senate resolution, will provide the inspiring finale of each performance.

"It gives me great pride to build upon the inspiring legacy of Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison," reiterated Robert Battle. "It is especially poignant for me to be leading Ailey on its return to Miami, where I grew up and was inspired as a student by seeing a performance of *Revelations*."

Ailey's mission of using dance to educate, inspire and entertain people of all ages will reach young Miami students through *Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Thanks to the support of Chase, the Miami residency will be held February 6-10 at Charles Drew Middle School and Northwestern Senior High School. This innovative curriculum-based initiative for public school students utilizes Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* as the inspirational framework for an in-depth study of language arts, social studies and dance.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit, using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. Join Ailey's unparalleled dancers for an electrifying performance that will reveal once again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has brought audiences around the globe to their feet night after night with an incomparable sense of freedom, spirit and joy.

Detailed programming information and schedule is below (subject to change). For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization's performances, training programs and educational activities, visit www.alvinailey.org.

American Express is the official card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

J.P. Morgan provides support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Miami season.

Bristol Myers-Squibb is proud to support Home, which was inspired by the "Fight HIV Your Way" initiative.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's engagement at the Adrienne Arsht Center is part of the John S. and James L. Knight Masterworks Season, Sanford and Beatrice Ziff Dance Series.

Press - for additional photos, videos and materials, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org or click on the hyperlinks in document.









(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. AAADT's Alicia Graf Mack in Joyce Trisler's Journey. AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims & Antonio Douthit in Paul Taylor's Arden Court. AAADT's Kirven James Boyd in Alvin Ailey's Revelations. All Photos by Andrew Eccles. (CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD)

Miami, FL	Adrienne Arsht Center	http://www.arshtcenter.org/	(305) 949-6722
Thurs 2/23 8:00pm	Arden Court / Minus 16 / Revelations		
Fri 2/24 8:00pm	Home / Takademe, The Hunt / Revelations		
Sat 2/25 2:00pm	Home / Takademe, The Hunt / Revelations		
Sat 2/25 8:00pm	Arden Court / Minus 16 / Revelations		
Sun 2/26 2:00pm	Arden Court / Minus 16 / Revelations		

Calendar Listing Information:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the world's favorite dance companies, returns to **the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County February 23-26**, as part of a 27-city North American Tour. Led by Miami native **Robert Battle in his first season as Artistic Director**, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will move audiences with acclaimed premieres and repertory favorites, including the timeless masterpiece *Revelations*. Tickets starting at \$20 **are now on sale** at http://www.arshtcenter.org or 305.949.6722

For additional information about Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, please visit www.alvinailey.org.

TICKETS:

Tickets starting at \$20 are now on sale at http://www.arshtcenter.org or 305.949.6722. The Arsht Center Box office is open Monday - Friday 10am to 6pm. Group discounts available by calling (786) 468-2326.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater - February 23 - 26, 2012

Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County 1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132 305.949.6722

www.arshtcenter.org

Prices, artists, dates, times, and program are subject to change without notice.

2012 Miami Engagement Program Highlights

For his first season as Artistic Director, Mr. Battle has chosen to add to the repertory a rich array of premieres and new productions that express his vision for the company while honoring some of his most significant artistic influences. The Miami season celebrates an American modern dance master, addresses an important social issue through hip hop, presents a signature work by the company's new leader and takes the company in new directions through improvisation and audience participation.

World and Company Premieres

Home (2011) choreographed by Rennie Harris

Bold hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris, who worked alongside Judith Jamison and Robert Battle to create *Love Stories* for the company in 2004, is choreographing a new work set to a soul-lifting score of gospel house music. The work is inspired by stories submitted to the "Fight HIV Your Way" contest of people living with or affected by HIV, an initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb. **Robert Battle comments:** "I think Rennie is great in the way he takes a conceptual approach to hip-hop. He is bringing a unique perspective to stories that absolutely have to be told, and that ought to be realized in a dance vocabulary that comes from a new generation. The December 1st world premiere in New York City was on a day of major significance as, in addition to World AIDS Day, it is the day we lost our founder Alvin Ailey to the disease 22 years ago."

Arden Court (1981) choreographed by Paul Taylor

Modern dance master Paul Taylor supervised the staging of this technically challenging work (rarely performed by companies other than his own) on the Ailey company (the first of his works to enter the Ailey repertory). Set to a sumptuous baroque score by William Boyce, *Arden Court* is a richly dynamic dance featuring striking duets, solos and a ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER – 2012 Miami Season Program Announcement

Page 3 of 5

men's sextet showcasing the dancers' skills and musicality. Mr. Taylor is one of the artistic inspirations for Robert Battle, whose choreography often reflects the expansive use of space that is a hallmark of Mr. Taylor's work. **Robert Battle comments:** "We are celebrating a lineage by adding *Arden Court* to the repertory since Paul came out of Martha Graham's company, and Alvin was so influenced by Martha Graham. Alvin was also a fan of Paul's work, and the two of them started their companies at about the same time. It is important that we honor this American modern dance tradition—and *Arden Court* gives us the opportunity to explore the physicality of the dancers in a very different way."

Minus 16 (1999) choreographed by Ohad Naharin

This work by the exciting choreographer of *Black Milk* (from the 2003 Ailey season) features a score ranging from Dean Martin to cha-cha, from techno-pop to traditional Israeli music. Unfolding in sections, *Minus 16* uses Naharin's acclaimed "Gaga" method to break down old habits and make room for new movement and new experience, broadening the possibilities for dancers as interpreters and revealing the humanity and wit of the Ailey company. Mr. Naharin is dedicating the Ailey premiere of the work to the memory of his wife Mari Kajiwara (1951-2001), who was a dancer with the company for many years as well as Mr. Ailey's assistant. The duet from *Mabul* featured in *Minus 16* was originally created for her in 1992. *Minus 16* is based on excerpts from Mabul (1992), Anaphaza (1993), and Zachacha (1998). **Robert Battle comments:** "With *Minus 16* we are expanding the Ailey repertory with **a work unlike any other we have done.** It has an edge and offers surprising new experiences for the Company and our audience. It will be both a great joy and a challenge for the dancers to improvise and break down barriers between audience and performers."

Takademe (1999) choreographed by Robert Battle

For his first season as Artistic Director, Mr. Battle is bringing his fiery *Takademe* to the Ailey company. The complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted in this percussive, fast-paced work, where clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score. **Robert Battle comments:** "*Takademe* is near and dear to me as one of my first creations. It's a work I made in the tiny living room of my old apartment in Queens. As I begin as Artistic Director, I want to acknowledge my journey, look back on what I did with so little and recognize having so very much now. Also, the work has a sense of humor, and some of my other works that have been done at Ailey were in a more serious vein. I wanted to share another aspect of myself with the Ailey audience."

Repertory Favorites & Classics

The Hunt (2001)

Choreographer: Robert Battle

Artistic director designate **Robert Battle**'s athletic work for six men reveals the predatory side of human nature and the primitive thrill of the hunt. A thundering percussion soundtrack by **Les Tambours du Bronx** drives the explosive movement that runs the gamut from modern sports to the rituals of the gladiators. This is Mr. Battle's sixth work for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Revelations (1960)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey Music: Traditional

This season celebrates five 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.

###

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

Music: Les Tambours du Bronx

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.

###

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from local, state and national foundations, as well as private contributions to the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation through corporate and individual giving, Visionary Society membership and the Encore Circle major gifts programs.

###

About the Adrienne Arsht Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center is home to the Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy. In addition, numerous South Florida arts organizations perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting innovative programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community outreach and education programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. The Carnival Tower, an architectural icon and one of Miami's oldest Art Deco buildings, houses the street-level BOMBAY SAPPHIRE® Lounge. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant.

Visit www.arshtcenter.org for more information.