



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

THE JOAN WEILL CENTER FOR DANCE 405 WEST 55TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019

CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO THE WORLD

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

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES DIVERSE REPERTORY FOR 2013 MIAMI ENGAGEMENT LED BY MIAMI'S OWN ROBERT BATTLE FROM FEBRUARY 21 - 24

FIVE PERFORMANCES ONLY AT ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FEATURE MIAMI NATIVE JAMAR ROBERTS AND 30 EXTRAORDINARY DANCERS
ON 21-CITY U.S. TOUR FOLLOWING RECORD-BREAKING NEW YORK CITY SEASON

Choreographic Treasures by Modern Dance Pioneer Garth Fagan, Renowned European Great Jiří Kylián,
and the Acclaimed Ronald K. Brown to be Performed Plus Free Ailey Classics Program for Local Students

NEW YORK – January 17, 2013 — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, will return to **the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County** from Thursday, **February 21st through Sunday, February 24th**, led by Miami's own [Robert Battle](#). Following record-breaking performances in New York City that brought full houses to their feet, Miami native Jamar Roberts and 30 other extraordinary dancers will move audiences during five performances featuring two special programs of premieres, new productions and repertory favorites. 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 John S. and James L. Knight Masterworks Season and The Miller Family Foundation Dance Series.

In addition to new choreographic treasures, **Alvin Ailey's** beloved masterpiece [Revelations](#), an American classic acclaimed as a must-see and recognized by U.S. Senate resolution, will provide the inspiring finale of all programs. Plus, a free performance of Ailey Classics, including *Revelations*, will be offered free of charge to local students.

"As a child growing up in Miami, experiencing *Revelations* at an Ailey student performance was an eye-opening moment that began my journey leading to the helm of this great Company," said Artistic Director Robert Battle. "Now, it is my pleasure to share that same magic with another generation, as well as introducing dynamic choreographic voices that give Ailey's dancers even more ways to inspire all ages."

The Thursday, February 21st opening night program (also seen on Saturday and Sunday matinees) features the season premieres of renowned European choreographer Jiří Kylián's [Petite Mort](#) and the acclaimed **Ronald K. Brown's** landmark work [Grace](#).

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Petite Mort, a ballet of breathtaking sensuality and visual surprises, marks the first time a work by renowned European choreographer **Jiří Kylián** will appear in the Ailey repertory. Set to two of **Mozart's** most popular piano concertos, the theatrical work blends a classical sensibility with a bold, modern wit with fencing foils and elaborate ball gowns in an unforgettable duel featuring six couples. Created for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1999, *Grace* is a rapturous, spiritually-charged new production infused with Ronald K. Brown's signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms. This moving journey acknowledging the grace that surrounds us all is set to Duke Ellington's classic "Come Sunday," Roy Davis' hit "Gabriel," and the powerful rhythms of Fela Kuti's Afro-Pop.

The Friday, February 22nd evening program (as well as the Saturday evening performance) will include: [*From Before*](#) by **Garth Fagan**, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of *The Lion King*; **Artistic Director Robert Battle's** [*Strange Humors*](#); and an encore performance of Ohad Naharin's unique and innovative [*Minus 16*](#), an eclectic dance and musical excursion from Robert Battle's inaugural season that delights audiences with improvisation that breaks down barriers between audience and performers.

[*From Before*](#) beautifully blends the rhythms of African dance with Caribbean influences, distilling movement to its purest form, with a jazzy percussive score by Grammy winner **Ralph MacDonald**. The Ailey company premiere is the first time this revered work was staged for a company other than Garth Fagan Dance. **Artistic Director Robert Battle's** [*Strange Humors*](#) is a thrillingly intense duet set to **John Mackey's** propulsive score for strings and African drum. This riveting company premiere pits two men against each other in surprising sequences that ignite with aggression and discord, mischievousness and humor, as the relationship between the two dancers builds to an exciting crescendo.

On Friday, February 22nd at 11am, a special Ailey Classics program will be offered as a **free performance for public school students in the Miami area**, including the Liberty City neighborhood where Robert Battle grew up. Moderated by one of the dancers, this hour-long educational performance gives students a taste of all the elements that compose an Ailey experience. In addition, the Sunday, February 24th performance will be attended by students from AileyCamp Miami, a nationally-acclaimed summer program that uses dance as a vehicle for helping middle school students ages 11-14 to reach their full potential.

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. Having embarked on an exciting new era in Ailey history, Ailey's acclaimed dancers in a diverse repertory by a variety of choreographers will reveal once again this season why the Company is heralded as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World."

Detailed 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.

PRESS: For additional press materials or photos, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org

American Express is the official card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the lead funder of *From Before*.

Toyota is the Official Vehicle Partner of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The 2013 U.S. Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

TD Bank provides support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Miami engagement.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's engagement at the Adrienne Arsht Center is part of the John S. and James L. Knight Masterworks Season and The Miller Family Foundation Dance Series.

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(L to R) Artistic Director Robert Battle with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Alicia Graf Mack & Jamar Roberts. Photo by Andrew Eccles. AAADT in Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; AAADT's Alicia Graf Mack. Photo by Andrew Eccles
 (CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD) - Please Credit Photos

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – 2013 Miami Season Programs (as of 1/14/2013) Subject to Change

- Thurs, Feb 21 @ 8pm *Petite Mort / Grace / In/Side, Revelations*
- Fri, Feb 22 @ 11am Student Performance: *Ailey Classics* (excerpts), *Revelations*
- Fri, Feb 22 @ 8pm *From Before, Strange Humors / Minus 16 / Revelations*
- Sat, Feb 23 @ 2pm *Petite Mort / Grace / In/Side, Revelations*
- Sat, Feb 23 @ 8pm *From Before, Strange Humors / Minus 16 / Revelations*
- Sun, Feb 24 @ 2pm *Petite Mort / Grace / In/Side, 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 21-24**, as part of a 21-city North American Tour. Led by Miami native **Robert Battle** in his second 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 \$25 **are now on sale** at <http://www.alvinailey.org/miami>, <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 \$25 **are now on sale** at <http://www.alvinailey.org/miami>, <http://www.arshtcenter.org> or 305.949.6722. The Arsht Center Box office is open Monday - Friday 10am to 6pm. Saturday and Sunday noon until curtain time when there is a performance. Group discounts available by calling (786) 468-2326.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater – February 21 - 24, 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.

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Company Premieres

[Petite Mort](#) (1991) choreographed by Jiří Kylián

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The company premiere of *Petite Mort*, a ballet of visual surprises that showcases the sensuality, humor and technical prowess of Ailey's dancers, marks the first time a work by renowned European choreographer **Jiří Kylián** will appear in the Ailey repertory. Set to two of **Mozart's** most popular piano concertos (Piano Concerto in A Major – Adagio, and Piano Concerto in C Major – Andante), it blends a classical sensibility with a bold, modern wit in an unforgettable duel featuring six couples. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1947, Kylián was a long-time Artistic Director of Nederlands Dans Theater who became recognized as one of the most influential choreographers of the past three decades, receiving many international awards and honors. **Robert Battle comments:** "Jiří Kylián is one of the top international choreographers and *Petite Mort*, one of his best works, will be his first piece set on the Company. I was introduced to him when I was a student at Juilliard. I find Kylián's partnering and his movement vocabulary reflective of some of the modern dance pioneers. This exquisite work will stretch the dancers and the way people see Ailey."

[From Before](#) (1978) choreographed by Garth Fagan

Music: Ralph MacDonald

From Before is an ensemble piece blending the rhythms of African dance with Caribbean influences beautifully crafted by Jamaican-born **Garth Fagan**, which distills movement to its purest form and features a jazzy percussive score by Trinidadian Grammy winner **Ralph MacDonald**. The Ailey company premiere was the first time this revered, quintessential work was staged for a company other than Garth Fagan Dance. Mr. Fagan, the Tony Award-winning choreographer of *The Lion King*, attributed its popularity with audiences all across the world to "the fluidity of Caribbean dance, the polyrhythms of African, the precision of ballet and the strength and weight of modern dance." His many honors include the prestigious 1998 Tony Award for Best Choreography for *The Lion King*, as well as an Astaire Award, and a Laurence Olivier Award, and he holds an honorary doctorate from the Juilliard School. Fagan recently collaborated with Grammy-winning musician and composer Wynton Marsalis on the world premiere of his newest work, *Lighthouse/Lightning Rod* at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in celebration of BAM's 150th anniversary and Garth Fagan Dance's 40th anniversary. **Robert Battle comments:** "Garth Fagan has a unique and, in a way, abstract approach to movement. There is an element of purity in his work - he taps into his West African and Caribbean roots and fuses them in surprising ways. Fagan is a true original and *From Before* is a quintessential representation of his artistry."

[Strange Humors](#) (1998) choreographed by Robert Battle

Music: John Mackey

Artistic Director Robert Battle's *Strange Humors* is a thrillingly intense duet set to a propulsive score for strings and African drum by composer John Mackey, a fellow Juilliard classmate of Mr. Battle. This riveting company premiere pits two men against each other in surprising sequences that ignite with aggression and discord, mischievousness and humor, as the relationship between the two dancers builds to an exciting crescendo. **Robert Battle comments:** "*Strange Humors* is a physically challenging duet containing influences of tango, Martha Graham and hints of hip hop and martial arts, with unexpected leaps and falls, that break the viewer's false sense of security. The title of this work was inspired by the writings of Maya Angelou – 'When I think of death, and of late the idea has come with alarming frequency, I seem at peace with the idea that a day will dawn when I will no longer be among those living in this valley of strange humors.'"

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New Production

[Grace](#) (1999) choreographed by Ronald K. Brown

Music: Duke Ellington, Roy Davis Jr., Paul Johnson & Fela Anikulapo Kuti

Ronald K. Brown's landmark *Grace*, created for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1999, returns to the repertory in a rapturous, spiritually-charged new production. Infused with Brown's signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms, this moving journey acknowledging the grace that surrounds us all is set to **Duke Ellington's** classic "Come Sunday," **Roy Davis'** hit "Gabriel," and the powerful rhythms of **Fela Kuti's** Afro-Pop. Born in Brooklyn, Brown has created and presented dances since 1985 with his company Evidence and has received the Bessie Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the American Dance Festival Humphrey/Weidman/Limon Award, among others. Most recently he received accolades for his Astaire award-winning choreography for the Broadway revival of The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.

Robert Battle comments: "Brown's choreography uses African dance in a unique and potent way. *Grace* is a brilliant work, and an important part of the Ailey repertory. From the beautiful opening solo set to Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday," there are elements that represent both the religious and secular. The strong tension between these two opposites, and how they sometimes reflect one another, remains gripping right to the very end when the dancers exit upstage in white."

Repertory Favorites

[In/Side](#) (2008) choreographed by Robert Battle

Music: Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of **Nina Simone's** Oscar-nominated song "Wild is the Wind" play out in **Robert Battle's** gripping solo using his style to offer an intimate look at a man's most private struggles. In this visceral cry of pure physicality, Robert Battle aims to evoke a sense of openness that he says "reminds us that we're not alone in our feelings of sadness and isolation and gives us a connection to someone else."

[Minus 16](#) (1999) choreographed by Ohad Naharin

Music: Various Artists

A delightfully eclectic score ranging from Dean Martin to mambo, techno to traditional Israeli music, propels Ohad Naharin's phenomenally inventive piece. Using Naharin's acclaimed "Gaga" method to overcome old habits and make room for new movement and new experiences, this expansive ensemble work is unlike any other in the Ailey repertory in the way it challenges the dancers to improvise and breaks down barriers between audience and performers.

[Revelations](#) (1960) choreographed by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional

Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece *Revelations* has become one of the most well-known and respected ballets in the history of dance, acclaimed as a must-see for all and recognized by a U.S. Senate resolution. Using African-American spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues, this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. 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." Springing from Ailey's childhood "blood memories" of growing up in rural Texas and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church, *Revelations* is a tribute to the cultural heritage of the African-American and to Alvin Ailey's genius. Since its premiere in 1960, this enduring classic has been seen by more audiences around the world than any other modern work, universally inspiring with its transcendent exploration of the human condition.

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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.

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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.

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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.