

# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 2016 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR REACHES 20 CITIES COAST-TO-COAST FROM FEBRUARY 2 – MAY 8

Featuring *Awakening*, Robert Battle's First World Premiere Since Becoming Artistic Director

Other World Premieres Include *Open Door* by Ronald K. Brown and *Exodus* by Rennie Harris

Company Premieres of Battle's *No Longer Silent* and Paul Taylor's *Piazzolla Caldera*

New Productions of Works by Judith Jamison, Talley Beatty, and Alvin Ailey, Including his Classics *Cry*, *Love Songs*, and *Blues Suite* – the Original Masterpiece that Launched the Company in 1958



Left to right: AAADT in Robert Battle's *Awakening*. AAADT's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in Alvin Ailey's *Blues Suite*. Photos by Paul Kolnik.

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Following a five-week New York holiday season that brought audiences to their feet, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** will share its inspiring artistry with audiences during a **20-city North American tour** starting **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** in **Washington, D.C.**, traveling to major cities including **Atlanta, Miami, Chicago, Boston, Seattle**, and ending in **Newark on May 8<sup>th</sup>**. Beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, Alvin Ailey's pioneering legacy of uplifting, uniting, and celebrating the human spirit lives on as Ailey's extraordinary dancers bring a wide array of premieres, new productions, and classics to life.

Audiences from coast to coast will have the opportunity to experience **Robert Battle's** virtuosity and personal story this season via the stage and the page. ***Awakening***, his first world premiere since becoming Artistic Director, leads the audience on a cathartic journey of dissonance and harmony, chaos and resolution. "**Battle isn't afraid of making a big noise**" (*The New Yorker*) in this charged ensemble work for a dozen dancers. Battle's personal awakening is shared in [\*\*MY STORY, MY DANCE: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey\*\*](#), a Simon & Schuster children's book based upon his life. Award-winning husband-and-wife team **James Ransome** and **Lesa Cline-Ransome** created the vibrant illustrations and wrote the inspiring narrative about a boy who, despite physical challenges and personal hardships, has a life filled with music, church, and, after seeing Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*, dance.

In addition to *Awakening*, the Company's touring repertory will include two other dynamic world premieres. **Ronald K. Brown's** Cuban-influenced world premiere [\*\*Open Door\*\*](#) is set to vibrant music from **Arturo O'Farrill & the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra's** latest album *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*. "The atmosphere conjured by Mr. Brown's blended sources — Afro-Caribbean and Latin, spiritual and social dances — is **never less than joyous**," *The New York Times* said of the piece, which is heavily inspired by Brown's travels to Cuba over the years. Hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris'** world premiere [\*\*Exodus\*\*](#) was hailed as "**arresting...a miraculous conversion**" by the *Financial Times*.

The incomparable Ailey dancers will also introduce national audiences to two exciting **company premieres** during the tour. Robert Battle's stirring [\*\*No Longer Silent\*\*](#) brings to life a score by Erwin Schulhoff, a composer whose music was banned by the Nazis, and who died in a concentration camp in 1942. Paul Taylor's [\*\*Piazzolla Caldera\*\*](#) takes place in a smoky tango club, and is "a sizzling addition to the Ailey repertory" (*The New York Times*).

The Company will also perform in thrilling **new productions** of three **Ailey classics**: [\*\*Cry\*\*](#), the woman's solo made famous by

Judith Jamison, [Love Songs](#), set to music by Nina Simone and Donny Hathaway and often considered the male counterpart to *Cry*, and [Blues Suite](#), Ailey's original masterpiece that launched the Company during its first performance in 1958. Audiences will also have the opportunity to see new productions of Judith Jamison's emotional and sensual [A Case of You](#) duet, set to Diana Krall's song by the same title, and Talley Beatty's exuberant [Toccata](#), staged 20 years after his passing.

Returning favorites include Matthew Rushing's [ODETTA](#), the critically-acclaimed tribute to "the voice of the Civil Rights Movement," Odetta Holmes, Christopher Wheeldon's dreamlike [After the Rain Pas de Deux](#), and of course Alvin Ailey's must-see American classic [Revelations](#).



The Company with Artistic Director Robert Battle, Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, and Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist Matthew Rushing. Photo by Andrew Eccles.

Audiences are also invited to "join in the dance" during their next New York City visit. The ["Ticket to Dance"](#) promotion allows audience members to try their first Ailey Extension class FREE with an Ailey performance ticket stub. The Ailey Extension offers over 80 classes per week for people of all levels at Ailey's home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, New York's largest building dedicated to dance. The "Ticket to Dance" offer is good for 60 days from the performance date for first time students, and when purchasing a 10-class card for returning students.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues to inspire all in a universal celebration of the human spirit, and the 2015-16 engagement has been declared "a WOW" by *The Huffington Post* and one of the Company's "most exciting seasons yet" by *Metro*. For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

For additional photos and press materials please visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)

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#### 2016 North American Tour:

Feb 2 – 7	Washington, DC	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Feb 10 – 14	Atlanta, GA	Fox Theatre
Feb 16	Gainesville, FL	Curtis M. Phillips, M.D. Center for the Performing Arts
Feb 18 – 21	Miami, FL	Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts
Feb 23 – 24	Chapel Hill, NC	Memorial Hall, University of North Carolina
Feb 26 – 28	Norfolk, VA	Chrysler Hall
Mar 1	Minneapolis, MN	Carlson Family Stage, Northrop, University of Minnesota
Mar 4 – 6	Toronto, ON	Sony Centre for the Performing Arts
Mar 9 – 13	Chicago, IL	Auditorium Theater of Roosevelt University
Mar 15	Louisville, KY	Robert S. Whitney Hall, The Kentucky Center
Mar 17 – 20	Boston, MA	Wang Theater, Citi Performing Arts Center
Mar 29 – Apr 3	Berkeley, CA	Zellerbach Hall, University of California at Berkeley
Apr 6 – 10	Costa Mesa, CA	Seegerstrom Hall Center for the Arts
Apr 12 – 13	Santa Barbara, CA	The Arlington Theatre
Apr 15 – 17	Seattle, WA	Paramount Theatre
Apr 19 – 20	Las Vegas, NV	Smith Center for the Performing Arts
Apr 23 – 24	Houston, TX	Jones Hall, Houston Society for the Performing Arts
Apr 26 – 27	Baltimore, MD	The Lyric Opera House
Apr 29 – May 1	Cleveland, OH	Playhouse Square
May 6 – 8	Newark, NJ	New Jersey Performing Arts Center

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*The creation of Open Door is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.*

*Southern Company is the proud sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Washington, DC Gala Benefit.*

*Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Atlanta engagement is made possible by Bank of America.*

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