



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CULTURAL  
AMBASSADOR  
TO THE WORLD

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director  
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE ANNOUNCES EXCITING HIGHLIGHTS TO ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S LINCOLN CENTER SEASON JUNE 12 – 16, 2019

Seven-Performance Engagement at the David H. Koch Theater Features Exciting Programs:

***Bold Visions:*** Darrell Grand Moultrie's World Premiere *Ounce of Faith*, Plus Works by  
Ronald K. Brown & Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

***Trailblazers:*** Rennie Harris' Acclaimed Two-Act Ballet, *Lazarus*

***Timeless Ailey:*** Excerpts of Treasures by the Company's Legendary Founder

***An Evening Honoring Carmen de Lavallade*** Culminates the Season with Special Excerpts Alongside New Works

The Ailey Spirit Gala Benefit on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> Celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Ailey School

Free Events Include Pre-Season *Revelations* Celebration Workshop at Bryant Park on Friday, May 31 &  
NYC Dance Week June 13 – 22

Five New Members Join the Company for the Lincoln Center Engagement

***Tickets Starting at \$29 are On Sale Now***

**New York – Updated May 9, 2019** – Artistic Director Robert Battle has announced exciting highlights to **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Lincoln Center season** at the **David H. Koch Theater June 12 – 16**. In addition to the world premiere of Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith* and recent premieres by some of today's most revered choreographers across three distinct programs – *Bold Visions*, *Trailblazers*, and *Timeless Ailey* – the engagement includes The Ailey Spirit Gala benefit celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Ailey School; An Evening Honoring Carmen de Lavallade; and a series of special activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. The engagement also marks the debut of five new Company dancers.

The 2019 Lincoln Center engagement opens on **Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30pm** with the ***Bold Visions*** program, featuring works by Darrell Grand Moultrie, Ronald K. Brown, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. Moultrie's world premiere and debut for the Company, *Ounce of Faith*, uses 12 dancers and an original score to reflect on the legacies that we're all a part of and the universal journey that each person takes to find – and share – their passion. The evening also welcomes 2018 Dance Magazine Award winner Ronald K. Brown's most recent premiere for the Company, [The Call](#), which seamlessly blends modern and West African dance idioms in "a love letter to Mr. Ailey." Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's [Shelter](#), a gripping portrait of homelessness featuring powerful spoken word highlighting how our shelter can be threatened by climate change, will also take the stage. *Bold Visions repeats Sat, 6/15 at 2pm (Family Matinee w/dancer Q&A).*

On **Thursday, June 13 at 7pm** **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit celebrates the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Ailey School**, the official school of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and a springboard for many notable artists – including more than 70% of the Company's dancers. This one-night-only program brings together former [AileyCampers](#), talented students from [The Ailey School](#), rising stars of Ailey II, and the incomparable members of [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) in a ballet choreographed by [Ailey II](#) Artistic Director [Troy Powell](#). The story follows a young boy from Ailey's Arts In

Education programs through The Ailey School and Ailey II, all the way to the Ailey company, which parallels the inspiring journeys of Powell and Ailey dancer [Solomon Dumas](#). Following an uplifting *Revelations* finale, a festive soirée takes place on the Lincoln Center promenade with dancing to the musical stylings of DJ M.O.S. The evening honors the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and proceeds from the benefit provide vitally needed scholarships for talented students of The Ailey School, and support Ailey's innovative Arts In Education & Community Programs. For tickets and information, visit [alvinailey.org/support/ailey-spirit-gala](http://alvinailey.org/support/ailey-spirit-gala) or call 212-405-9624.

This season also welcomes the return of hip-hop innovator Rennie Harris' acclaimed world premiere *Lazarus*, Ailey's first two-act ballet, in the *Trailblazers* program opening on **Friday, June 14 at 8pm**. Inspired by the life and legacy of the Alvin Ailey, this powerful ensemble work features a soundtrack that melds Nina Simone, Terrence Trent D'Arby, Michael Kiwanuka, Odetta, original music by Darrin Ross, and the voice of Alvin Ailey. *Trailblazers repeats on Sat, 6/15 at 8pm*.

On **Sunday, June 16 at 3pm**, audiences will have the opportunity to experience excerpts from over a dozen treasures by the Company's groundbreaking founder during the *Timeless Ailey* program. Excerpts from rarely seen gems, including *Hidden Rites*, *Opus McShann*, *The Lark Ascending*, and *For "Bird" – With Love*, will be joined by perennial favorites like *Memoria*, *Night Creature*, and *Cry*.

The season culminates on **Sunday, June 16 at 7:30pm** with a special evening honoring dance icon **Carmen de Lavallade**. Audiences and Ms. de Lavallade herself will share in the chance to see current dancers perform roles originally danced by the living legend, including excerpts from Alvin Ailey's *Blues Suite*, his first ballet for the Company, and John Butler's *Portrait of Billie*, about the iconic jazz singer Billie Holiday. The evening also includes Ronald K. Brown's *The Call*, which pays homage to the cherished relationship between Mr. Ailey and Ms. de Lavallade, alongside Darrell Grand Moultrie's world premiere, *Ounce of Faith*. A close friend of Alvin Ailey's who first introduced him to dance when they were high school students in Los Angeles, Ms. de Lavallade later journeyed with him to New York where they starred together on Broadway in Truman Capote's *House of Flowers*. She went on to have an illustrious career in dance, theater, and film, and returned to perform as a guest star with the Company throughout the years. *This is a Young New York performance and invites ticket-buyers between ages 21-35 to enjoy 50% off tickets \$55 and over*.

Each performance culminates with Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece *Revelations*. Since its creation in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more audiences around the world than any other modern work, inspiring generations through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring spirituals. Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the south and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich African-American cultural heritage and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

### **ADDITIONAL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

#### **FREE EVENTS**

#### ***Revelations* Celebration Community Workshop: Friday, May 31 at 6pm – Bryant Park**

In advance of the Lincoln Center season, New Yorkers are invited to attend a [Revelations Celebration Community Workshop](#) at Bryant Park on Friday, May 31 at 6pm. Participants have the opportunity to learn excerpts from this masterpiece conducted by former Ailey company member Renee Robinson, with live drumming. All ages and levels are welcomed.



*Revelations* Celebration on the Lincoln Center Plaza. Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.

#### **NYC Dance Week: Thursday, June 13 – Saturday, June 22**

Throughout Ailey's Lincoln Center engagement, audiences can celebrate dance onstage and off as [NYC Dance Week](#) returns June 13-22. During the annual citywide festival, [Ailey Extension](#) invites dancers of all levels and backgrounds to try over 20 free and discounted classes, including Horton (the modern dance technique featured in *Revelations*), West African, Hip-Hop, Salsa, and many more at The Joan Weill Center for Dance – Ailey's home and New York's largest building dedicated to dance. Complete schedule to be announced. In addition to taking free classes, NYC Dance Week is a perfect time for New Yorkers to experience the magic of Ailey at Lincoln Center, including a rare opportunity to celebrate living dance legend Carmen de Lavallade when she is honored during a special program on Sunday, June 16 at 7:30pm (a Young New York performance: 50% off tickets \$55 and over for ages 21-35). *Ailey Extension's participation in NYC Dance Week is sponsored by TD Bank*.

## WEEKEND ACTIVITIES FOR THE FAMILY

### Family Matinee – Saturday, June 15 at 2pm

Following the *Bold Visions* Saturday matinee program, the entire family is invited to stay in the theater for a free Q&A with the Ailey dancers, moderated by Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist [Matthew Rushing](#).

### Father's Day – Sunday, June 16 at 3pm and 7:30pm

Families have two opportunities for an unforgettable Father's Day experience – the 3pm *Timeless Ailey* program, featuring excerpts from over a dozen works by the Company's groundbreaking founder, and the 7:30pm performance honoring Carmen de Lavallade.

## NEW DANCERS

This season the Company welcomes five new dancers, all former students of The Ailey School. Renaldo Maurice returns to the Company after a yearlong hiatus and is joined by former Ailey II dancers Yazzmeen Laidler, Corrin Rachelle Mitchell, and Jessica Amber Pinkett. Ailey/Fordham BFA alumnus Patrick Coker also joins this season.

In 1958, Alvin Ailey and a small group of dancers took the stage in New York and forever changed American dance and culture. One of the country's groundbreaking greats, his Company inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the modern dance tradition. After six decades, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing time and again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world's most beloved dance companies.

**Tickets for the Lincoln Center engagement starting at \$29 can be purchased** at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, and online at [alvinailey.org/LC](http://alvinailey.org/LC). Discount tickets are available for students with an appropriate ID and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$29 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or email [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). Ailey Young New York invites those between the ages of 21 – 35 to purchase 50% off tickets \$55 and over for the Sunday evening performance (up to 6 tickets). For further information, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). **The program schedule is detailed on page 4.**

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's current 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 21-city national tour will culminate on Mother's Day weekend **May 10 – 12 at the beautiful Prudential Hall of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center**, where Ailey is the Principal Resident Affiliate. For schedule and tickets, visit [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges the support of Diageo.**

**Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Spring Season.**

**Target is the sponsor of The Ailey Spirit Gala at Lincoln Center.**

**American Express is a major supporter of the creation of *Lazarus*.**

***Lazarus* was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.**

**Commissioning support for *Lazarus* provided by the Auditorium Theatre (Chicago).**

***Lazarus* is supported by commissioning funds from Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley.**

**Additional commissioning support for *Lazarus* provided by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.**

**Music for *Lazarus* commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation.**

**Bank of America is the Tour Sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.**

**The 2018 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

**Wells Fargo is the sponsor of Ailey Young New York.**

**TD Bank has underwritten the Ailey Extension's participation in NYC Dance Week.**

**The 2019 spring season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of**



(L to R) Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Rennie Harris' *Lazarus*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Constance Stamatou in Alvin Ailey's *Cry* (Timeless Ailey program). Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacqueline Green and Solomon Dumas in Ronald K. Brown's *The Call*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey, Carmen de Lavallade in Alvin Ailey's *Blues Suite*. Photo by Jack Mitchell. (©) Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc. and Smithsonian Institution. **CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD** - Please Credit Photos

### **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, **will present a seven-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater June 12 – 16, 2019**. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's acclaimed dancers will perform a diverse repertory featuring the world premiere of Darrell Grand Moultrie's *Ounce of Faith*, his Company choreographic debut. In addition to Moultrie's new work, the ***Bold Visions*** program includes Ronald K. Brown's recent premiere *The Call* and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter*, a gripping portrait of homelessness. The ***Trailblazers*** program features hip-hop innovator Rennie Harris' powerful two-act ballet *Lazarus*, inspired by the life and legacy of the Company's founder. ***Timeless Ailey*** brings excerpts from rarely seen works by Ms. Ailey back to the stage. The engagement culminates with a special program celebrating living legend **Carmen de Lavallade**. Each program closes with an uplifting finale of *Revelations*, Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece. **The Ailey Spirit Gala** benefit performance on **Thursday, June 13** will celebrate the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Ailey School**. **Performance tickets starting at \$29** can be purchased at the David H. Koch Box Office, by phone at 212-496-0600, or online at [alvinailey.org/LC](http://alvinailey.org/LC). \$17 student tickets *may* be available on the day of the performance at the box office with a valid student ID (one per student – subject to availability). On Saturday, June 15, bring the whole family to enjoy the matinee and stay afterward for a free Q&A with the Ailey dancers in the theater. Ailey Young New York offers 50% off Sunday evening tickets \$55 and over for those between ages 21-35. Additional discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by phone 212-405-9082 or e-mail [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). For further information about Ailey's performances, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**  
**June 12 – 16, 2019 at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater**  
**20 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY (Columbus Avenue at 63<sup>rd</sup> Street)**  
**(212) 496-0600 / [www.davidhkoctheater.com](http://www.davidhkoctheater.com)**

### **Programming – Subject to Change**

**Bold Visions:** *Ounce of Faith* / *The Call*, *Shelter* / *Revelations*

Wednesday, 6/12 at 7:30pm | Saturday, 6/15 at 2pm (Family Matinee followed by free post-performance Q&A w/dancers)

**The Ailey Spirit Gala:** Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Ailey School

Performances by AileyCamp, The Ailey School, Ailey II & Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, incl. *Revelations*

Thursday, 6/13 at 7:00pm

**Trailblazers:** *Lazarus* / *Revelations*

Friday, 6/14 at 8:00pm | Saturday, June 15 at 8:00pm

**Timeless Ailey:** Special program of Ailey excerpts / *Revelations*

Sunday, 6/16 at 3:00pm

**An Evening Honoring Carmen de Lavallade:** Excerpts from *Blues Suite* and *Portrait of Billie*, *The Call* / *Ounce of Faith* / *Revelations*

Sunday, 6/16 at 7:30pm

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



## **WORLD PREMIERES**

**Ounce of Faith** (World Premiere)

**Choreography by Darrell Grand Moultrie**

The lasting impact of a teacher's influence on a young child is at the heart of this world premiere by Darrell Grand Moultrie, who *The New York Times* has called "someone to watch" for his "playful wit and uncommon skill." Using 12 dancers and an original score, Moultrie reflects on the legacies that we're all a part of and the universal journey that each person takes to find – and share – their passion.

**Lazarus** (2018-19 Season World Premiere)

**Choreography by Rennie Harris**      **Music: Darrin Ross, Nina Simon, Terence Trent D'Arby, Michael Kiwanuka, Odetta**  
Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer Rennie (Lorenzo) Harris returns to Ailey this season with the Company's first two-act work, *Lazarus*. Inspired by the life and legacy of Mr. Ailey, Harris connects past and present in a powerful work that addresses the racial inequities America faced when Mr. Ailey founded this company in 1958 and still faces today. Harris' previous contributions to the Ailey repertory include *Exodus* (2015), *Home* (2011), and *Love Stories* (2004), an acclaimed collaboration with Judith Jamison and Robert Battle.

**The Call** (2018-19 Season World Premiere)

**Choreography by Ronald K. Brown**      **Music: Johan Sebastian Bach, Mary Lou Williams, Asase Yaa Entertainment Group**  
Ronald K. Brown's joyous mix of modern and West African dance idioms – seen previously in *Grace* (1999), *Open Door* (2015), *Four Corners* (2013), and other works – fits the Ailey dancers perfectly, and his themes of spiritual awakening and redemption never fail to inspire. *The Call*, which is Brown's seventh work for the Company and a love letter to Mr. Ailey, promises to once again rouse audiences with Brown's infectious call for harmony and hope.

## **NEW PRODUCTIONS & RETURNING FAVORITES**

**Timeless Ailey** (2018-19 Season Special Program)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Various Artists**

This special program brings new vitality to over a dozen treasures from Mr. Ailey's wonderfully rich body of work, including highlights of seldom-seen gems *Hidden Rites*, *Mary Lou's Mass*, and *The Lark Ascending* as well as perennial favorites like *Memoria*, *Night Creature*, and *Cry*. Act I excerpts: *Blues Suite* (1958), *Streams* (1970), *Pas de Duke* (1976), *Mary Lou's Mass* (1971), *The Lark Ascending* (1972), *Hidden Rites* (1973), *Night Creature* (1974), and *Cry* (1971). Act II excerpts: *Phases* (1980), *Opus McShann* (1988), *For Bird – With Love* (1984), *Love Songs* (1984), *Memoria* (1979).

**Shelter** (1988 / Company Premiere 1992 / New Production 2017)

**Choreography by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar**

**Music: Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn, Victor See Yuen**

Urban Bush Women founder Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's *Shelter* is a gripping portrait of homelessness. Set to an inventive score that incorporates drumming by Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn and poetry by Hattie Gossett and Laurie Carlos, the work includes a new ending with revised text by Zollar and Paloma McGregor that highlights recent natural disasters and how our shelter can be threatened by climate change.

## **SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE**

**Revelations** (1960)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Traditional Spirituals**

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African-American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audiences cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

***All Programming – Subject to Change***

## **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, recent posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation’s highest civilian honor, 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 25 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 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, 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 55<sup>th</sup> Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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