

AILEY II

MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily Hawkins

ehawkins@alvinailey.org

212-405-9083

Sold Out Performances in France, Austria, and Germany Launch Ailey II's 2010-2011 Tour to 49 Cities in North America & Europe

Repertory of 15 Ballets Includes Two Works by Robert Battle Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Designate

New York, NY- (September 30, 2010) Sold out performances in Germany, Austria, and France, launched Ailey II's first ever global tour that will visit a total of 49 cities throughout Europe and North America. Now at the peak of its popularity, the Company has reached a new level of prominence as young American cultural ambassadors, using the beauty and humanity of the African-American experience and the American Modern dance tradition to inspire and unite people of all backgrounds.

"This is a groundbreaking year for Ailey II," shared Artistic Director, Sylvia Waters. "The Company has earned a place on the world stage, and we look forward to sharing our unique spirit, dance artistry, and choreographic works with audiences from Belfast, UK to Columbus, Ohio!"

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the world's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Over the past 36 years, the Company's repertory has included much-admired ballets by once budding artists who are now sought-after choreographers, such as Ronald K. Brown, Christopher L. Huggins, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Artistic Director Designate, Robert Battle. "Ailey II plays an important role in providing 'breakout' opportunities for developing artists: dancers as well as choreographers," says Waters. "I'm so proud the company has proven to be a springboard of limitless possibilities and that Artistic Director Designate Robert Battle began his Ailey journey with Ailey II."

In 1999 Robert Battle choreographed *Mood Indigo*, for Ailey II, the first of 11 ballets he has created for the Ailey organization. "I'm grateful that Sylvia Waters saw potential in me and gave me the opportunity to develop as an artist," says Battle. "The exposure that came from my ballets being performed by Ailey II marked a pivotal turning point in my career. Ailey II's dancers are beyond talented, and to describe them as just a second company is far too limiting. They have always been fabulous interpreters of my works, and I'm excited for audiences on this year's tour to experience them in my ballets, *The Hunt* and *Takademe*."

In addition to Battle's two ballets, repertory highlights will include one world premiere and two new productions. Named one of *Dance Magazine's* coveted "25 to Watch" in 2009, innovative young choreographer **Kyle Abraham** created the exciting world premiere, ***The Corner*** for Ailey II. Set to music by Donny Hathaway and popular rapper Common, Abraham recreates life on the street corner utilizing the full ensemble cast of 12 dancers and blending contemporary hip hop movement with post-modern and ballet techniques.

Donald Byrd's *Shards* is a skillfully crafted work, showcasing his eclectic and complex choreography. Set to music by Mio Morales, Byrd expertly combines passion and formality, creating the perfect company premiere for the stunning Ailey II dancers. Originally staged on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1988, *The New York Times* noted that the choreography was "intellectually stimulating (and)...certainly kept one watching."

San Francisco choreographer **Robert Moses'** signature work ***Doscongio*** is a solo set to two movements of Chopin's Sonata for cello and piano (op. 65). Both fiercely focused and relaxed, it explores the schism in one man's view of himself. The first movement is his moment of public bravura and the second, his private realization of the fallacy of that image.

The Company welcomes nine new dancers, including Jacqueline Green, who is one of three dancers from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program, and Solomon Dumas, whose professional dancing aspirations began almost 10 years ago as

a young Chicago AileyCamper. Dumas and Green are both recipients of the 2010 Dizzy Feet Foundation scholarship, a special fund started by *So You Think You Can Dance*'s Nigel Lythgoe and Adam Shankman along with Carrie Ann Inaba and Katie Holmes. For full information on Ailey II dancers

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NEW WORKS:

THE CORNER, 2010 (World Premiere)

The Corner by **Kyle Abraham** is an ensemble work that blends contemporary hip hop and post-modern movement sensibilities with several nods to classical ballet, in an effort to reference an urban social interaction that recreates life on 'the corner.'

SHARDS, 1988 (Company Premiere)

Donald Byrd's *Shards* is a skillfully crafted work, which showcases his eclectic and complex choreography. Set to music by Mio Morales, Byrd expertly combines passion and formality in this ballet, creating the perfect vehicle for the stunning Ailey II dancers.

DOSCONGIO, 1998 (Company Premiere)

Choreographer **Robert Moses** created his signature work *Doscongio* in 1998. A solo set to two movements of Chopin's Sonata for cello and piano (op. 65), *Doscongio* is both fiercely focused and relaxed. Showing the schism in one man's view of himself, the first movement is his moment of public bravura and the second his private realization of the fallacy of that image.

Full Repertory:

Ailey Highlights (Alvin Ailey, various years), *The Corner* (Kyle Abraham, 2010), *Divining* (Judith Jamison, 1984), *Doscongio* (Robert Moses, 1998), *Echoes* (Thang Dao, 2008), *Essence* (Christopher L. Huggins, 2006), *The External Knot* (Troy Powell, 2007), *The Hunt* (Robert Battle, 2001), *Proximity* (Carlos dos Santos, 2009), *Quintet* (Alvin Ailey, 1968), *Revelations* (Alvin Ailey, 1960), *Shards* (Donald Byrd, 1988), *Splendid Isolation II* (Jessica Lang, 2006), *Takademe* (Robert Battle, 2000), and *Valse* (Sidra Bell, 2008)

2010 – 2011 NORTH AMERICAN and INTERNATIONAL TOUR SCHEDULE

July 7-10	Innsbruck, Austria	Congress Hall – Dogana / Tanzsommer Festival
August 21	East Hampton, NY	Guild Hall
August 28	Chicago, IL	Chicago Dancing Festival
September 9-11	Kansas City, MO	Folly Theater
September 15-26*	Lyon, France	Theatre des Celestins / Dance Biennale
October 13	Ithaca, NY	State Theater of Ithaca
October 15*	Kingston, Ontario, Canada	The Grand Theatre
October 16*	St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada	David S. Howes Theatre
October 21	Parkersburg, WV	West Virginia University / College Activities Center
October 22	Shepherdstown, WV	Frank Center Concert Hall
October 23	Germantown, MD	Blackrock Center for the Arts
October 24	Cheverly, MD	The Publick Playhouse
October 29	Slippery Rock, PA	Miller Auditorium
October 30	Columbus, OH	CAPA / Riffe Center, Capitol Theater
November 2	Carbondale, IL	Shryrock Auditorium
November 4	Appleton, WI	Fox Cities PAC Mainstage
November 6	University Park, IL	Center for Performing Arts
November 11*	Neuss, Germany	Tanzwochen
November 13*	Ludwigshafen, Germany	Theater im Pfalzbau
November 16-17*	Merignac, Germany	Le Pin Galant
November 19-21*	Blagnac, France	Odyssud
January 16	Hamilton, MT	Hamilton Performing Arts Center

January 18	Wenatchee, WA	Performing Arts Center of Wenatchee
January 20	Corvallis, OR	Corvallis HS Mainstage Theater
January 21	Klamath Falls, OR	Ross Ragland Theater
January 22	Medford, OR	Ginger Rogers Theater
January 25-26	Reno, NV	Pioneer Center
January 28	Cedar City, UT	Heritage Center Theater
January 30	Aspen, CO	Aspen District Theater
February 1	Durango, CO	Fort Lewis College Community Concert Hall
February 3	Telluride, CO	Michael D. Palm Theater
February 5	Santa Fe, NM	Lensic Performing Arts Center
February 12	Keene, NH	Colonial Theatre
February 13	W. Long Beach, NJ	Pollak Theater
February 22-23*	Glasgow, UK	Glasgow Kings Theatre
February 25-26*	Nottingham, UK	Nottingham Playhouse
March 1-2*	Brighton, UK	Brighton Dome
March 4-5*	Bournemouth, UK	Bournemouth Pavilion
March 8-9*	Truro, Cornwall, UK	Truro Hall
March 11-12*	Belfast, UK	Belfast Grand Opera House
March 15-16*	Salford, UK	Salford Lowry
March 25	Ardmore, OK	Charles B. Goddard Center
March 26	Oklahoma City, OK	PAC at Douglas High School
March 28	Hays, KS	Beach / Schmidt PAC
March 31	Clarksville, TN	Clement Auditorium
April 2	Aiken, SC	Etherredge Center at University of South Carolina

NEW YORK CITY SEASON

April 6-17

New York, NY

Ailey Citigroup Theater

May 2

Lexington, VA

Lenfest Center for the Performing Arts

May 4

Princeton, NJ

McCarter Theater Center

May 6

Mamaroneck, NY

Emlin Theater

* denotes international tour dates

Ailey II History:

Ailey II is an exceptional company that merges the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Started in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Ailey II embodies Mr. Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training and community programs for all people. Today, it has become one of the most popular dance companies in the United States.

Under the artistic direction of Sylvia Waters, Ailey II is comprised of the most promising students from The Ailey School and offers unique opportunities for artists to refine their technique while gaining invaluable performing and teaching experience during their tenure with the Company. Throughout its history, many Ailey II members have gone on to pursue successful careers as dancers, teachers and choreographers with other professional dance companies, on Broadway and in schools.

In recent years, Ailey II's distinctive repertory has included works by dance masters Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Ulysses Dove, Lar Lubovitch, George Faison, Robert Battle, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Artistic Director, Judith Jamison. Ailey II has also performed innovative works by emerging choreographers, including Thang Dao, Carlos dos Santos and Christopher Huggins. The Company's 2010-2011 tour consists of performances in 35 cities across the United States and for the first time, an international tour with performances in France, Germany, and the UK. The Company has received numerous honors, awards and proclamations in recognition of its residencies at major colleges and universities as well as visits to elementary, middle and high schools across the US.

"The entire company looks terrific. Clearly, the future is theirs." *The New York Times*