

AILEY II

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2012 NEW YORK SEASON AT THE AILEY CITIGROUP THEATER

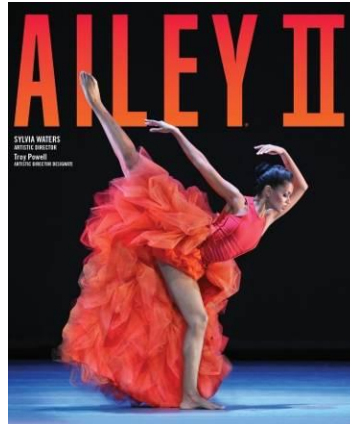
Farewell Season of Esteemed Artistic Director Sylvia Waters

Inspiring Young Company to Perform Three New Works and Three Repertory Favorites in 14 Performances

APRIL 18- APRIL 29, 2012



Mina Yoo's *Boulevard*. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC.



Fana Tesfagiorgis in Troy Powell's *Reference Point*. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC.



Stefanie Batten Bland's *The Legacy of Inheritance*. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC

New York, NY (March 1, 2012) Ailey II, the youthful and gifted second company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, will return to its home, The Ailey Citigroup Theater, from **April 18-29** for a highly anticipated two-week season – the last led by 38-year Artistic Director Sylvia Waters. The **14 exciting performances** experienced through two dynamic programs come on the heels of a successful North American tour to over 35 cities and an array of critically-acclaimed performances in Bermuda, Germany and Greece.

“Mr. Ailey gave me the greatest gift imaginable when he created a second company and asked me to direct it. Each year is filled with so much excitement, watching the dancers blossom and grow and perform their hearts out,” Sylvia Waters stated. “This season’s beautiful bouquet of dynamic dancers and stunning premieres will not disappoint - they are making my final season a memorable one!”

Premiering on opening night, Wednesday April 18th, The **Modern Moves** program begins with ***Echoes*** by **Thang Dao**. This work depicts the echoes of memories of his family escaping Vietnam and debuted on Ailey II in 2010. Next on the program will be the company premiere of **Mina Yoo's *Boulevard***, an athletic piece that references a neighborhood “on the boulevard,” where young people of various cultures and backgrounds interact. Originally created as an all-male work in 2006, *Boulevard* has been reconceived for Ailey II’s cast of nine dancers and blends contemporary dance with the percussive sounds of Michel Macias, Hugues Le Bars, René Aubry, and Greetje Bijma. The program will close with Artistic Director Designate **Troy Powell's** seventh world premiere work for Ailey II, ***Reference Point***. The cutting-edge full ensemble piece combines ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance and is set to music by Mio Morales.

The alternating **Contemporary Choices** program pairs two critically acclaimed works that debuted last season with a world premiere by emerging choreographer **Stefanie Batten Bland**. Batten Bland's ***The Legacy of Inheritance*** fuses European and American styles into a passionate post-modern dance. Moving through and around an enormous white fabric, which takes on the form of several elements, the dancers are propelled forward by the music of Zoe Keating and Stars of the Lid. A fan and critic favorite from last year, ***The Corner***, **Kyle Abraham's** full ensemble work combining contemporary hip hop vernacular with post modern movement, makes its encore appearance as well as **Donald Byrd's** 1988 ***Shards***, originally staged on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, set to music by Mio Morales.

Chosen by Alvin Ailey to guide and develop Ailey II following seven years as a lead dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Sylvia Waters has trained generations of outstanding professional dancers, opened the door for many of today's most vital choreographers (including Robert Battle, now the Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) and has brought Ailey II, which was founded in 1974, to prominence as one of the world's most popular and acclaimed touring companies.

"Like so many others, I began my connection with the Ailey organization through Sylvia Waters when she invited me to choreograph for Ailey II in 1999," Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle said. "She has such a keen eye for identifying budding emerging artists and the works premiering this season are great examples of that sensibility. I owe Sylvia my deepest gratitude for all that she has done for me and I look forward to celebrating her during this very special season."

To lead the company forward, Ms. Waters named Troy Powell, the veteran Ailey dancer, teacher, choreographer and Ailey II Associate Artistic Director since 2003, to be her successor effective July 1. Troy Powell commented, "Working with Ms. Waters and Ailey II's marvelous dancers and touring the world with the Company over the past ten seasons has been truly amazing and humbling. It is a privilege to share the gift of Ailey with audiences and to continue delivering on the promise of keeping the Company fresh, exciting and soul-stirring—I feel blessed to have this opportunity."

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Official U.S. Tour Sponsor: MetLife Foundation

Ailey II gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

TICKETS:

Tickets are now on sale at \$49. To purchase tickets, visit www.AlvinAiley.org/AileyII or www.ovationtix.com or call 866-811-4111. Tickets can be purchased at The Ailey Citigroup Theater box office located at 405 West 55th Street beginning April 10. Check website for hours of operation. If available, a limited number of student rush tickets can be purchased at the box office 30 minutes prior to curtain for \$10 (cash only). **Groups of 10 or more receive a discount on tickets purchased.** Visit AlvinAiley.org/GroupSales or call 212-405-9082 for more details.

Week 1

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 8pm – Modern Moves
Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 8pm – Contemporary Choices
Friday, April 20, 2012 at 8pm – Modern Moves
Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 3pm – Contemporary Choices
Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 8pm – Modern Moves
Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 3pm – Modern Moves
Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 7pm – Contemporary Choices

Week 2

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 8pm – Contemporary Choices
Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 8pm – Modern Moves
Friday, April 27, 2012 at 8pm – Contemporary Choices
Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 3pm – Modern Moves
Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 8pm – Contemporary Choices
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 3pm – Modern Moves
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 7pm – Modern Moves

Modern Moves:

ECHOES / BOULEVARD / REFERENCE POINT
(running time: 1hr. 48mins)

Contemporary Choices:

THE CORNER / THE LEGACY OF INHERITANCE / SHARDS
(running time: 1hr. 44mins)

Modern Moves

Echoes (2008) Thang Dao's Echoes began as a haunting depiction of the choreographer's memories of life in Vietnam and his migration to America. This poignant ballet has grown into a deeply moving reverie that transcends personal history.

Boulevard (2006) This dynamic piece by choreographer Mina Yoo references a familiar neighborhood on the "boulevard" where young people of various cultures and backgrounds interact. Boulevard is set to the percussive sounds of Michel Macias, Hugues Le Bars, René Aubry, and Greetje Bijma.

Reference Point (2011) Artistic Director Designate Troy Powell delivers a cutting-edge piece that combines ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance set to music by Mio Morales. The ensemble work is broken into five sections featuring a variety of movement that is energetic and powerful, yet also subtle and vulnerable.

Contemporary Choices:

The Corner (2010) Set to music by Donny Hathaway, Frederic Chopin, and rapper Common, Kyle Abraham's *The Corner* blends contemporary hip-hop and post-modern movement with several nods to classical ballet, dramatically depicting an urban social interaction that recreates life on 'the corner.'

The Legacy of Inheritance (2011) Paired with music by Zoe Keating and Stars of the Lid, Stefanie Batten Bland's *The Legacy of Inheritance* fuses European and American styles into a contemplative exploration of bodies in motion alongside the powers of nature.

Shards (1988) 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.

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Sylvia Waters and Robert Battle.
Photo by Darrio Calmese Jr.



Ailey II with Sylvia Waters and Troy Powell. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC.

About Ailey II

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 joined by Artistic Director Designate Troy Powell, Ailey II dancers are chosen from the most promising scholarship students of The Ailey School and offers unique opportunities for these young artists to refine their technique while gaining invaluable performing and teaching experience during their tenure with the Company. Many Ailey II members have gone on to pursue successful careers as dancers, teachers and choreographers with other 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, Donald Byrd, Ulysses Dove, George Faison, Lar Lubovitch, Judith Jamison and Ailey's Artistic Director Robert Battle. Ailey II has also performed innovative works by emerging choreographers, including Sidra Bell, Thang Dao, Carlos dos Santos and Christopher L. Huggins, and has also commissioned numerous works over the years by other choreographers at the start of their careers, including Shen Wei, Scott Rink, and Camille A. Brown. The Company's 2011-2012 tour consists of performances in over 35 cities across the United States and abroad. The Company has received numerous honors, awards and proclamations in recognition of its residencies at major colleges and universities as well as its visits to elementary, middle, and high schools across the US.