

AILEY

Arts In Education & Community Programs

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AILEY PRESENTS ACCLAIMED *REVELATIONS* RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN ADVANCE OF ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S PERFORMANCES AT THE ARSHT CENTER, FEBRUARY 21-24, LED BY MIAMI NATIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE

WEEK-LONG WORKSHOPS AT CHARLES DREW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SOUTH DADE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 12-15 WITH NASHA THOMAS-SCHMITT, MASTER TEACHER AND FORMER AILEY COMPANY MEMBER

NEW YORK (February 7, 2013) – The Ailey organization is proud to continue its mission of using dance to educate, inspire and enlighten people of all ages through the implementation of *Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, the week before Arsht Center performances led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, a Miami native. This innovative curriculum-based initiative for public school students utilizes Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* as the inspirational framework for an in-depth study of language arts, social studies and dance. **Students at Charles Drew Middle School and South Dade Senior High School** will participate in the Residency from February 12-15 which is being implemented thanks to the support of TD Bank, the Ethel & W. George Kennedy Foundation, and Greenberg Traurig, LLP, as well as Jaret L. Davis, co-managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig's Miami office.

"As part of Greenberg Traurig's commitment to supporting South Florida's youths, we are honored to help advance the meaningful work of the Ailey organization and bring its highly acclaimed dance programs to local schools," said Davis, who is actively involved in an array of community organizations that help South Florida's neediest neighborhoods.

Created in 1999, *Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach* engages students' analytic and creative thinking skills while exploring the life story of Alvin Ailey and *Revelations*; Mr. Ailey's beloved 1960 masterpiece. Led by master teacher and former Ailey Company member Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, along with Ailey teaching artists and local teachers, students connect this story to their academic studies, life experiences, community, and the broader world around them using customized lesson plans. Students will experience a live performance by members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater while the company is in town for **Ailey's Miami engagement in the Ziff Ballet Opera House, February 21-24**, 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 the *Revelations Residencies*, there are a variety of educational activities that are being offering for Miami area students. For the first time ever at the Adrienne Arsht Center, Ailey and the Arsht Center will present a **free school-time performance on Friday, February 22nd at 11am for public school students**, including those in the Liberty City neighborhood where Robert Battle and Jaret L. Davis grew up. Moderated by one of the dancers, this hour-long educational performance of Ailey Classics gives students a taste of all the elements that compose an Ailey experience. **Master classes** for aspiring dancers have been arranged by the Arsht Center at three locations, including the Arsht Center and at the New World School for the Arts, the alma mater of Robert Battle and current Ailey star Jamar Roberts who will be leading the class. In addition, the Sunday, February 24th matinee performance will be attended by students from **AileyCamp Miami** – Ailey's nationally-acclaimed summer program, produced by the Arsht Center in Miami, which uses dance as a vehicle for helping middle school students reach their full potential.

“I’m thrilled that Ailey’s artistry will enlighten and motivate the young people of Miami in so many ways this year. I know firsthand the power that Alvin Ailey’s Revelations can have on a young person, and I’m grateful to everyone involved with making these events possible,” said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “I can’t wait to see these students join Arsht Center audiences of all ages. In experiencing the world’s most amazing dancers and sharing renowned choreographic voices we expand Alvin Ailey’s legacy of inspiration in exciting directions.”

Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and lives of people of all ages. Programs include special student performances; lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; and AileyCamp, a full scholarship summer camp for underserved inner-city youth, now in 10 cities nationwide. In fall 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama hosted “The White House Dance Series: A Tribute to Judith Jamison” that featured a *Revelations* Residency involving students from across the country led by Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, Ailey’s Arts In Education spokesperson, master teacher and former Company member. The curriculum has been profiled on CNN and has earned enthusiastic responses from participants in New York City, Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago, Washington, D.C, and London.

“I’m so proud of the role Ailey plays in providing educational programs that use dance to inspire young people in life-changing ways that positively impact their development as young adults,” says **Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, master teacher and former Ailey Company member**. “The *Revelations* Residency is a unique program which guides students to new ways of learning academic subjects, as well as self-esteem, creativity, and how to write their own life story and we’d like to thank TD Bank, the Ethel & W. George Kennedy Foundation, and Jaret L. Davis, Esq. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP for helping to make this unique residency possible.”

For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Ailey organization’s performances and Ailey Arts In Education activities, visit www.alvinailey.org.

***Revelations* Residencies in Miami are supported by TD Bank, the Ethel & W. George Kennedy Foundation, and Jaret L. Davis, Esq. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP**

PRESS

Open house for press will be at Charles Drew Middle School on Thursday, February 14th at 10:30am led by Nasha Thomas-Schmitt. For information contact Amanda Householder, (212) 405-9032 / ahouseholder@alvinailey.org.

For photos, video and press materials:

- [Ailey Arts In Education](#) *Revelations* Residency
- Miami engagement, February 21-24, [press release](#)
Press Representative: Charlie Cinnamon, (305) 672-1324 / ccinnamon1@aol.com
- [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

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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.