

AILEY II

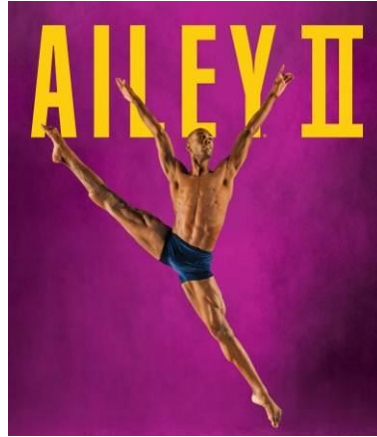
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2013 NEW YORK SEASON AT THE AILEY CITIGROUP THEATER Inaugural Season of Artistic Director Troy Powell

Inspiring Young Company to Perform Two Programs of Four New Works and Three Repertory Favorites in 14 Performances
March 13 - March 24, 2013



Malcolm Low's *One Forgotten Moment*. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC.



Ailey II's Gentry George. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC.



Alvin Ailey's *Quintet*. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC

New York, NY (February 19, 2013) Ailey II, the youthful and gifted second company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, returns to its home, The Ailey Citigroup Theater, from **March 13- 24** for a highly anticipated two-week season – the first led by recently appointed [Artistic Director Troy Powell](#). The **14 exciting performances** experienced through two dynamic programs come on the heels of a successful North American tour to over 20 cities and an array of critically-acclaimed performances in Germany and France.

Troy Powell, the veteran Ailey dancer, teacher, choreographer and longtime former Ailey II Associate Artistic Director, was chosen to succeed 38-year founding Artistic Director Sylvia Waters in July of 2012. Troy Powell commented, "I feel blessed to have the opportunity 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 hope everyone enjoys the two programs I curated for my first New York season – you'll smile, sit on the edge of your seat and gasp in amazement at what these 12 dancers can do."

The Company welcomes new [Rehearsal Director Alia Kache](#), who is a former Ailey II member and an Ailey/Fordham BFA Program graduate as well as seven new dancers; Jeroboam Bozeman, David Adrian Freeland Jr., Gentry George, Edward Spots, Tyler Brown, Daphne Lee and Oliver Medus.

Opening night, Wednesday March 13th, The **All New** program begins with the premiere of [One Forgotten Moment](#) by rising young choreographic talent **Malcolm Low**. This work, set to music by Damon White, Cole Porter and Arvo Part, depicts the love and loss of various relationships. By turns assertive and vulnerable, it magnificently showcases the dancers' physical prowess and finesse.

Next on the program is a new production of Jessica Lang's [Splendid Isolation II \("The Calling"\)](#). This elegant solo, originally part of Lang's full work *Splendid Isolation II*, is set to haunting choral music ("O Maria, Stella Maris" performed by Trio Mediaeval), as a woman stands enveloped in a long, flowing skirt that fills the stage. Her movements, at times fluid, at times angular, express an emotional intensity that captures both agony and ecstasy.

Another premiere, [Rusty](#), by Paris-born choreographer Benoit-Swan Pouffer – a former member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the current artistic director of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet – will follow Lang's piece on the All New program. This ballet brings a European sensibility to Ailey II's repertory and is set to the pulsating tones of a score by Mikael Karlsson. This contemporary piece explores the experiences of young artists – the challenges they face and the relationships they build as

performers and features ethereal movement and lush partnering. The All New program will close with the premiere of [Virtues](#) by Amy Hall Garner. Ms. Garner is emerging as one of America's most diverse creative talents, with a career that spans from Broadway to ballet. In her new work, *Virtues*, set to a vibrant score by Karl Jenkins, Garner delivers high energy with a sophisticated edge. The dancers radiate with regal grace, deftly executing a distinctive blend of contemporary modern and jazz movement.

The alternating **Returning Favorites** program begins with the return of 2007's [The External Knot](#) by Ailey II Artistic Director Troy Powell. This modern work follows the journey of a young man and his internal battle to assert his independence from others. A fluid series of solos, duets, and ensemble sections build to a climax with transporting music by Philip Glass and Robert Schumann.

Alvin Ailey's 1968 [Quintet](#) choreographed to the timeless songs of Laura Nyro, *Quintet* was thematically the first of its kind created by Alvin Ailey. In Ailey's biography, noted former *The New York Times* dance writer Jennifer Dunning said, "Quintet is in its way a small masterwork...Like *Reflections in D*, the piece was an imaginative and sensitive reading of its score, and it offered yet more proof of Alvin's distinctive gift for blending serious choreography and themes with affectionate teasing of his characters. In the new piece, however, Alvin explored for the first time the private being behind a highly public face, a subject he would return to repeatedly."

The Returning Favorites program will close with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison's [Divining](#). *Divining* was Jamison's first major work as a choreographer for the Ailey Company, created in 1984 at the request of her mentor, Alvin Ailey. Set to a score of North African, Central African, and Latin rhythms, *Divining* builds on African dance idioms to create a striking, pulsating modern dance work.

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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 call 866-811-4111. Tickets can be purchased at The Ailey Citigroup Theater box office located at 405 West 55th Street beginning January 30. 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, March 13, 2013 at 7:30pm – All New
Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 7:30pm – Returning Favorites
Friday, March 15, 2013 at 8pm – All New
Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 3pm – Returning Favorites
Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 8pm – All New
Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 3pm – All New
Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 7:30pm – Returning Favorites

Week 2

Wednesday March 20, 2013 at 7:30pm – Returning Favorites
Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 7:30pm – All New
Friday, March 22, 2013 at 8pm – Returning Favorites
Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 3pm – All New
Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 8pm – Returning Favorites
Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 3pm – All New
Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 7:30pm – All New

All New:

ONE FORGOTTEN MOMENT / SPLENDID ISOLATION II ("The Calling"), RUSTY / VIRTUES

(running time: 1hr. 39mins)

Returning Favorites:

THE EXTERNAL KNOT / QUINTET / DIVINING

(running time: 1hr. 38mins)

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Rehearsal Director Alia Kache and Artistic Director Troy Powell.
Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC



Ailey II in Judith Jamison's *Divining*.
Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC.

About Ailey II

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging 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.

Founded in 1974, the company embodies Mr. Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people.

After touring North America and abroad, Ailey II brings its critically acclaimed performances home each spring for an annual New York season at The Ailey Citigroup Theater. Past engagements have taken place at the world-famous Apollo Theater and The Joyce Theater.

The company's repertory has included works by dance masters Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Donald Byrd, Ulysses Dove, George W. Faison, Lar Lubovitch, Judith Jamison and Ailey's Artistic Director Robert Battle as well as works by rising choreographers such as Sidra Bell, Thang Dao, Carlos dos Santos, and Christopher L. Huggins.

Ailey II flourished into one of the most popular dance companies in the country under the leadership of Sylvia Waters (1974 - 2012), combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. With new Artistic Director Troy Powell at the helm, Ailey II will continue to thrive as he brings a fresh dimension to this beloved company.