



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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Alvin Ailey, Founder JUDITH JAMISON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Designate Sharon Gersten Luckman, Executive Director

## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER 2011 INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES FROM JUNE 21 – AUGUST 28

### AMERICA'S CULTURAL AMBASSADOR CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF *REVELATIONS* IN NORWAY, RUSSIA, GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND

10-WEEK TOUR WILL MARK PASSING OF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MANTLE FROM JUDITH JAMISON TO ROBERT BATTLE ON JULY 1 IN MOSCOW WHERE COMPANY LAUNCHES "AMERICAN SEASONS IN RUSSIA" PROGRAM UNDER AUSPICES OF U.S.-RUSSIA BILATERAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION



Robert Battle and New AAADT Company Members. Photo by Andrew Eccles



Robert Battle. Photo by Andrew Eccles.

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(New York) June 15, 2011 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT), recognized by U.S. Congress as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," **will celebrate 50 years of *Revelations* across the globe from June 21, 2011 – August 28, 2011 in various cities in Norway, Germany, Russia and Switzerland.** Performances during the ten week international tour will include a mix of repertory favorites in addition to Alvin Ailey's beloved *Revelations* - an American masterwork acclaimed as a must-see for all and hailed by *Dance Magazine* as "the most popular modern dance piece of all time."

First premiered in 1960, *Revelations* has been performed for more people around the world than any other modern dance work, including appearances at the Olympic Games and *The White House Dance Series: A*

*Tribute to Judith Jamison* presented by First Lady Michelle Obama. Most recently, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution, authored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, “recognizing the artistic and cultural contributions of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first performance of Alvin Ailey’s masterwork, *Revelations*” and honoring the timeless classic “beloved by people around the world” with universal themes “that illustrate the strength and humanity within all of us.”

A short film will introduce *Revelations* at every performance, giving audiences the opportunity to learn about the inspiration, meaning and significance of this modern dance masterpiece that is a tribute to Alvin Ailey’s genius and the African American heritage. Directed by Judy Kinberg, winner of seven primetime Emmy Awards, the short film includes historic performance footage and rare interviews with Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison translated into the language of each country visited.

“We are thrilled to share this exciting time in Ailey’s history,” said Ms. Jamison. “Our journey began 52 years ago with Alvin Ailey’s groundbreaking vision. His *Revelations* is a profound manifestation of how dance can celebrate the human spirit and impact our hearts and minds. During this memorable season, as we welcome Artistic Director Designate Robert Battle, join my incredible dancers who are shining their light brightly as we look toward another five decades of inspiring performances.”

**Ailey’s extended international engagement will mark the passing of the Artistic Director mantle to [Robert Battle](#)**, whom [Judith Jamison](#) has chosen as her successor. According to Ms. Jamison, Battle “combines an intimate knowledge of the Ailey company with an independent perspective, he is without question the creative force of the future.” Acclaimed by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005 as one of the “Masters of African-American Choreography,” Battle is a fast-rising choreographer who has created 11 ballets for the Ailey organization since 1999. Mr. Battle will be the third person to head the company since its founding by Alvin Ailey in 1958. On July 1, when Robert Battle officially becomes Artistic Director, the Company will be performing in Moscow under the auspices of the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission (BPC), which was created by Presidents Obama and Medvedev to broaden and deepen U.S.-Russia cooperation in all areas. **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s performances will launch “American Seasons in Russia”** presentations of contemporary United States artists to the Russian public that continue through April 2012, with the support of the U.S. Department of State and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation (further BPC information available at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)).

“It has been truly amazing and humbling to work with Ms. Jamison and tour the world with Ailey’s marvelous artists this season,” said Robert Battle. “It is a privilege to share the gift of Ailey worldwide and to continue delivering on the promise of keeping the Company fresh, exciting and soul-stirring.”

**Nine new Company members will be joining Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater this season, beginning with the international tour.** **Alicia Graf Mack** (Columbia, MD), a critically acclaimed former company member from 2005-2008, will return to Ailey this season along with former Ailey II dancers **Sarah Daley** (South Elgin, IL); **Jacqueline Green** (Baltimore, MD); **Kelly Robotham** (New York, NY); **Renaldo Gardner** (Gary, IN) and **Kanji Segawa** (Kanagawa, Japan), who was also a member of Battleworks. **Sean Carmon** (Beaumont, TX), graduate of the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance; **Belen Estrada** (Lawrence, MA) and **Michael Jackson, Jr.** (New Orleans, LA) will also join the Company on stage for the first time in Norway.

Ailey’s **extraordinary artists** will move audiences in exciting premieres, dramatic new productions, revered classics and repertory favorites. Among the tour’s premieres is **Christopher L. Huggins’ *Anointed***, a tribute to Ailey’s past, present and future, featuring the music of **Moby** and **Sean Clements**. The Company will also

debut ***The Hunt***, **Robert Battle's** explosive tour-de-force for six men that runs the gamut from modern sports to the rituals of the gladiators driven by a thundering percussion soundtrack by **Les Tambours du Bronx**.

Other choreography by Robert Battle being presented are ***In/Side***, a gripping solo to the vivid emotions of Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind" and ***Takademe***, a percussive, fast-paced work with complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance that mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score. Tour highlights also include Ailey classics and repertory favorites including: ***Cry***, Alvin Ailey's 1971 birthday gift for his mother, created on his muse Judith Jamison, and taught by her to subsequent generations of Ailey women; ***Night Creature***, Alvin Ailey's enduring homage to the exuberance of Duke Ellington's music and ***Love Stories***, **Judith Jamison's** dynamic collaboration with hip-hop pioneer **Rennie Harris** and **Robert Battle** set to the soundscape of engineer Darrin Ross and the music of the legendary **Stevie Wonder**.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit, using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. Ailey's moving performances are renowned for bringing audiences around the globe to their feet night after night with an incomparable sense of joy, freedom and spirit. Since its founding in 1958 by legendary choreographer and dancer Alvin Ailey, the company has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 48 states, in over 70 countries and across six continents.

"**Bank of America Merrill Lynch** is proud to support Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as it kicks off its 2011 international tour," said Rena DeSisto, Global Arts and Culture Executive at Bank of America. "As a company doing business in more than 150 countries around the world, we recognize the importance of creating shared cultural experiences among people of many nations. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has a tremendous legacy in this area and we are honored to help them continue this important work."

**Ailey's 2011 International Tour** will include performances in Oslo, Norway, on June 21-25; Moscow, Russia, on June 28-July 2; St. Petersburg, Russia, on July 4-6; Berlin, Germany, on July 12-17; Zurich, Switzerland, on July 19-31; Koln, Germany, on August 2-14; Frankfurt, Germany, on August 16-21 and Hamburg, Germany, on August 23-28. *Complete tour schedule and programming is below (subject to change)*. **Ailey II will also perform in Europe, continuing its first ever global tour with visits in France and Finland.**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will return to New York City Center** with a variety of premieres and new productions for an annual holiday engagement from November 30, 2011 – January 1, 2012. Robert Battle, in his first season as Artistic Director, has selected the following choreographic works to be added to the 2011-2012 repertory:

- the world premiere work by hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris**, inspired by stories submitted to the "Fight HIV Your Way" contest of people living with or affected by HIV, an initiative of **Bristol-Myers Squibb**;
- the company premiere of **Paul Taylor's** classic ***Arden Court*** (1981), set on the company under the supervision of Mr. Taylor, which marks **the first time a work by this American master has been in the Ailey repertory**;
- the company premiere of ***Minus 16*** (1999), by the renowned American-Israeli choreographer **Ohad Naharin**;
- the company premiere of the solo ***Takademe*** (1999), a pivotal work in the career of **Robert Battle**;
- a new production of the solo ***Journey*** (1958) by **Joyce Trisler** (1934-1979), an early member of the Ailey company

- and a new production of a landmark dance by **Alvin Ailey, *Streams*** (1970).

Approximately 20 works will be presented, including repertory classics by Alvin Ailey, such as *Revelations*, and Robert Battle's *The Hunt*. The full season program will be announced at a later date.

For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization's performances, training programs and educational activities, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). For additional photos and press materials visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

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Bank of America Merrill Lynch is Ailey's International Tour Sponsor

Sponsorship in Germany also provided by Deutsche Post DHL

Special support provided by the American Council on Germany and the  
Embassy of the United States of America

In Russia, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is presented under the auspices of the U.S. – Russia Bilateral  
Presidential Commission and with the support of the US Embassy in Russia

Additional support in Russia generously provided by The Trust for Mutual Understanding

## WORLD/COMPANY PREMIERES

### ***Anointed (2010)***

**Choreographer: Christopher L. Huggins**

**Music: Moby & Sean Clements**

Former Ailey company member **Christopher L. Huggins** makes his first contribution to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's repertory with a new creation using music by **Moby** and **Sean Clements**. Having worked as a choreographer for the past eighteen years throughout the U.S., Europe, and Japan, his works for Ailey include *When Dawn Comes...* (2008) for Ailey II and *Echoes of Alvin* (2008) for The Ailey School. He was the 2002 recipient of the Ira Aldridge Award for best choreography for his work *Enemy Behind the Gates* for Philadanco. He has also choreographed for Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and Lula Washington Dance Theatre, among others. In 2007 *National Public Radio* named him "(a) choreographer to watch..."

### ***Takademe (1999) (2011- Company premiere)***

**Music: Sheila Chandra**

**Choreographer: Robert Battle**

The complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted in this percussive, fast-paced work by Artistic Director Designate Robert Battle. Clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score in this fiery work called "...[a] fast-moving excursion into rhythmic exotica" by *The New York Times*. This work was first set on Ailey II in 2000 and has since been performed by the Company each subsequent year.

### ***The Hunt (2001) (2010 – joined Ailey repertory)***

**Choreographer: Robert Battle**

**Music: Les Tambours du Bronx**

Artistic director designate **Robert Battle's** athletic work for six men reveals the predatory side of human nature and the primitive thrill of the hunt. A thundering percussion soundtrack by **Les Tambours du Bronx** drives the explosive movement that runs the gamut from modern sports to the rituals of the gladiators. This is Mr. Battle's sixth work for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

## AILEY CLASSICS

### ***Celebrating Revelations at 50***

***Revelations (1960)***

**Music: Traditional**

**Choreographer: Alvin Ailey**

This season celebrates five decades of **Alvin Ailey's** timeless masterpiece, *Revelations*, an American classic called a must-see for all people. Alvin Ailey said that one of America's richest treasures was the cultural heritage of the African-American—"sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful." This enduring classic is a tribute to that heritage and to Ailey's genius. Using African-American religious music – spirituals - this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

### ***Documentary Short Film Celebrating Revelations at 50***

**A documentary short film** will set the stage this year, beginning each performance with an introduction to the history, meaning and significance of *Revelations* over the last half century. **Directed by Judy Kinberg**, winner of seven primetime Emmy Awards, it will include exclusive footage of Alvin Ailey and interviews with Judith Jamison and others. **CELEBRATING REVELATIONS AT 50 FILM** - Produced and Directed by Judy Kinberg, Director of Photography: Tom Hurwitz, Animation Designer: Todd Ruff, Edited by Andrew Morreale Generous support was provided by the Jean L. & Robert A. Stern Foundation.

### ***Cry (1971)***

**Choreographer: Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, Voices of East Harlem**

Alvin Ailey's *Cry*, choreographed as a birthday present for his mother, Mrs. Lula Cooper, and created the dance on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison, was an instant sensation. Dedicated to "all black women everywhere – especially our mothers," the sixteen minute tour-de-force solo in three sections is set to Alice Coltrane's "Something about John

Coltrane,” Laura Nyro’s “Been on a Train” and “Right On, Be Free” by the Voices of East Harlem. Ms. Jamison, who has since taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women, wrote of the work in her autobiography *Dancing Spirit*: "In my interpretation, she represented those women before her who came from the hardships of slavery, through the pain of losing loved ones, through overcoming extraordinary depressions and tribulations. Coming out of a world of pain and trouble, she has found her way-and triumphed."

### ***Night Creature (1975)***

**Choreographer: Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Duke Ellington**

Combining modern dance, classical ballet and jazz, and juxtaposed within Ellington's jazz idiom, *Night Creature* captivates with Ailey's sexy nocturnal rituals that propel the movement into a fast paced climatic catharsis. **Duke Ellington** first composed the phenomenal, "Suite For Orchestra" in 1955, later adding the second and third movements in 1963. **Night Creature is the definitive Ailey homage to the exuberance of The Duke's jazz, and remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works.**

### **REPERTORY FAVORITES:**

#### ***Festa Barocca (2008)***

**Choreographer: Mauro Bigonzetti**

**Music: Georg Friedrich Handel**

Acclaimed **Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti** brings his highly dramatic style, complex partnering and seamless integration of classical and modern techniques to the Ailey repertory in his first work for an American modern dance company. Bigonzetti explains, "I discovered choreography when I met Alvin" as a young dancer with Aterballetto performing classic Ailey works such as *Escapades*, *Night Creature*, and *The River*. Bigonzetti was so inspired by the Ailey dancers' emotional intensity and technical prowess he cast the entire company in this world premiere - a rare and special occurrence.

#### ***In/Side (2008) (2009 – joined Ailey repertory)***

**Choreographer: Robert Battle**

**Music: Nina Simone**

The vivid emotions of Nina Simone's "Wild is the Wind" play out in Robert Battle's gripping solo using his bold, unrestrained signature style. A visceral cry of pure physicality.

#### ***Love Stories (2004)***

**Choreographers: Judith Jamison, Rennie Harris, Robert Battle**

**Music: Stevie Wonder**

Inspired by Sankofa, the Akan word which means "go back" (Sanko) and "take" (fa), **Judith Jamison's** dynamic collaboration with hip-hop pioneer **Rennie Harris** and modern dance maverick **Robert Battle** examines the technique, energy, movement and rhythm of African-American social dances on a journey through past, present and future. Under Jamison's direction, the unique styles, expressive voices and no-limits choreography of these artists draw on variations on the lindy-hop, Philly-bop, hip-hop and eclectic modern dance techniques to explore a love of movement, all set to the soundscape of engineer Darrin Ross and the music of the legendary **Stevie Wonder**.

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 2011 International Tour Schedule**

(As of 6/8/11 – subject to change)

**OSLO, NORWAY****OSLO OPERA HOUSE**

Tues 6/21 7:00pm Night Creature, In/Side / Love Stories / Film, Revelations  
Wed 6/22 7:00pm Night Creature, In/Side / Love Stories / Film, Revelations  
Thurs 6/23 7:00pm Night Creature, In/Side / Love Stories / Film, Revelations  
Fri 6/24 7:00pm Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sat 6/25 2:00pm Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sat 6/25 7:00pm Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations

**MOSCOW****STANISLAVSKY THEATRE**

Tues 6/28 7:00pm Night Creature, In/Side / Love Stories / Film, Revelations  
Wed 6/29 7:00pm Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Thurs 6/30 7:00pm Night Creature, In/Side / Love Stories / Film, Revelations  
Fri 7/1 7:00pm Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sat 7/2 1:00pm Night Creature, In/Side / Love Stories / Film, Revelations  
Sat 7/2 7:00pm Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations

**ST. PETERSBURG****MARIINSKY THEATRE**

Mon 7/4 TBA Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Tues 7/5 TBA Festa Barocca / In/Side, Film, Revelations  
Wed 7/6 TBA Anointed / Cry, The Hunt / Film, Revelations

**BERLIN, GERMANY****DEUTSCHE OPER BERLIN**

Tues 7/12 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Wed 7/13 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Thurs 7/14 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Fri 7/15 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sat 7/16 2:00pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sat 7/16 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sun 7/17 2:00pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations

**ZURICH, SWITZERLAND****THEATER 11**

Tues 7/19 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Wed 7/20 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Thurs 7/21 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Fri 7/22 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sat 7/23 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sun 7/24 2:00pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Sun 7/24 7:30pm Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations  
Tues 7/26 7:30pm Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations  
Wed 7/27 7:30pm Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations  
Thurs 7/28 7:30pm Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations  
Fri 7/29 7:30pm Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations  
Sat 7/30 7:30pm Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations  
Sun 7/31 2:00pm Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations  
Sun 7/31 7:30pm Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations

**KOLN, GERMANY****KOLNER PHILHARMONIE**

Tues 8/2 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Wed 8/3 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Thurs 8/4 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Fri 8/5 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/6 2:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/6 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sun 8/7 2:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sun 8/7 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Tues 8/9 8:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations
Wed 8/10 8:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations
Thurs 8/11 8:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations
Fri 8/12 8:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/13 2:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/13 8:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations
Sun 8/14 2:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations
Sun 8/14 8:00pm	Night Creature, In/Side / Anointed / Film, Revelations

**FRANKFURT, GERMANY****AOF**

Tues 8/16 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Wed 8/17 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Thurs 8/18 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Fri 8/19 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/20 2:30pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/20 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sun 8/21 2:30pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations

**HAMBURG, GERMANY****STAATSOOPER HAMBURG**

Tues 8/23 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Wed 8/24 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Thurs 8/25 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Fri 8/26 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/27 2:30pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sat 8/27 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sun 8/28 2:30pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations
Sun 8/28 8:00pm	Love Stories / Takademe, The Hunt / Film, Revelations

**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. Today, led by Judith Jamison, AAADT has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc. is the umbrella organization that includes Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; 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.



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