

ALVIN AMERICAN AILEY DANCE THEATER

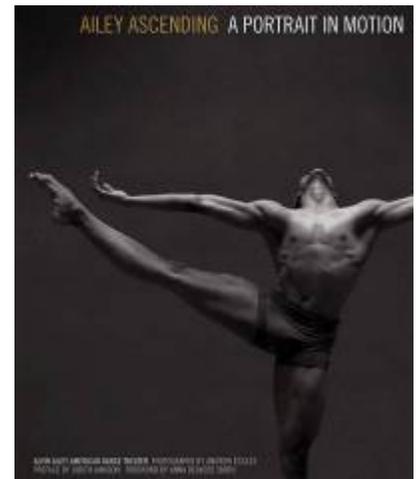
50
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***Ailey Ascending: A Portrait in Motion* Art Book Now Available Nationwide** **All new Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater photographs by ANDREW ECCLES** **Special Exhibition Staged at June Kelly Gallery November 14 – December 9**

(New York) November 11, 2008—Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 50th Anniversary continues with the release of *Ailey Ascending: A Portrait in Motion*, an art book of all new and inspiring photographs by Andrew Eccles. In celebration of the book's release, and Ailey's 50th Anniversary New York Season performances, a special exhibition of photographs has been staged at the **June Kelly Gallery (591 Broadway) from November 14th through December 9th.**

Acclaimed photographer Andrew Eccles captures the company's passion, beauty, and humanity with over 85 images. His classically composed, technically flawless style showcases the majesty of the human body in all its glory, capturing the dancers in performance, behind-the-scenes, and in stunning portraits. In the book's afterword, Eccles explains that **Artistic Director Judith Jamison granted him unprecedented access to the dancers for an entire year, and "the freedom to conceive and create conceptual photographs. The result," he says, "is the best work I've created in my career to date"**

Andrew Eccles is an award-winning photographer who has been working in New York since 1987 **shooting celebrities, models, athletes, musicians and dancers for countless editorial and advertising clients.** His photographs have graced hundreds of magazine covers including *Time*, *New York Magazine*, *Newsweek*, and *The New York Times* honored Eccles by selecting him to shoot the cover of their millennium time capsule issue, and featured one of his award-winning photographs on the cover of their 100 Years of Photography issue. Eccles photographed Alvin Ailey for the first time in 1989, and five years later took a portrait of Judith Jamison, who then invited Andrew to regularly photograph the company. The dancers of AAADT have become Eccles' favorite subject, **"I have never felt so at home or so blessed while taking photographs as I have photographing the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater."**



***Ailey Ascending: A Portrait in Motion* Photography book by Andrew Eccles.**
Hard Cover | 144 pages
Full color photography
978-0-8118-6480-0 | \$50.00
Chronicle Books, 2008
*Click on image to download high-res version



Jamar Roberts in Twyla Tharp's *The Golden Section* / after performing in *The Golden Section*.

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Encapsulating the spirit of the entire Ailey organization, **Eccles' photos range from the magnificence of Ailey's home—the nation's largest building dedicated to dance, to a young generation of dancers in class at The Ailey School, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in *Blues Suite*, Mr. Ailey's first masterwork that launched the company 50 years ago.**

A preface by the esteemed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Judith Jamison, foreword by acclaimed playwright Anna Deavere Smith, and introduction by noted writers Khephra Burns and Susan L. Taylor contextualize the company's legacy of promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience, and the preservation and enrichment of the modern dance heritage.

***Ailey Ascending* reveals the unparalleled artistry and exquisite beauty that has thrived for 50 years and continues to make the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater one of the world's most treasured dance companies.** Just in time for the holidays, it is now available at The Ailey Boutique, at Ailey performances, online at www.aileyboutique.com, and at bookstores nationwide.

For additional information or images, please contact Jenna Petok at jpctok@alvinailey.org or (212) 405-9079

The June Kelly Gallery

591 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 (between Houston and Prince) 212-226-1660 <http://www.junekellygallery.com/>

Ailey Ascending: A Portrait in Motion from November 14th through December 9th

Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Ailey's 18-month 50th Anniversary will continue over the next year with International and U.S. **performances in 50 cities, including a New York City Center season from December 3, 2008-January 4, 2009**, launched by a Golden Anniversary Gala with Honorary Chair and Honored Guest Oprah Winfrey. Performances will include special collaborations with Sweet Honey In The Rock and Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Ailey's legacy will also be celebrated through **Commemorative Merchandise**, including:

- Hallmark Ailey greeting cards
- *Ailey/Celebration* Calendar and *Ailey Ascending*, a photographic art book, by Andrew Eccles
- Ailey Barbie® Doll
- Ailey Movado Museum Time Piece
- *A Young Dancer: The Life of an Ailey Student*, a children's book by Valerie Gladstone and Jose Ivey

Visit www.alvinailey.org/50 for more information on Ailey's 50th Anniversary