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## AILEY II PERFORMS IN OVER 30 CITIES ON 2011-2012 WORLD TOUR

### FAREWELL SEASON OF LONG-TIME ARTISTIC DIRECTOR SYLVIA WATERS AND APPOINTMENT OF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE TROY POWELL

#### TWO WORLD PREMIERES AND ONE COMPANY PREMIERE ADDED TO REPERTORY OF 15 WORKS

(New York) October, 25 2011 - Building on the success of last season's unprecedented world tour to over 45 cities, including performances in France, Germany and the UK, Ailey II is embarking on a 32-city tour including over 20 domestic cities and international stops in Bermuda, Germany and for the first time ever, Greece (full schedule included below).

It is truly a historic season for the celebrated second company of America's cultural ambassador to the world, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. On June 30, 2012, Artistic Director Sylvia Waters will retire from the company of young dancers she has led for nearly four decades. Chosen by Alvin Ailey to guide and develop Ailey II, following seven years as a lead dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ms. 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 to prominence as one of the world's most popular and acclaimed touring companies.

To lead the company forward, Ms. Waters named Troy Powell, the veteran Ailey dancer, teacher, choreographer and Ailey II Associate Artistic Director since 2003, as her successor. In August, Mr. Powell became Artistic Director Designate of Ailey II and will assume his new role as Artistic Director on July 1, 2012.

Sylvia Waters stated, "Mr. Ailey gave me the greatest gift imaginable when he created a second company and asked me to take charge of it. I have spent the past 37 years living with the energies and enthusiasms, the hopes and hurts, of some of the world's best young dancers and choreographers – memories I will always cherish. I'm excited to continue coaching, teaching master classes and conducting The Ailey Legacy Residency, and I can't wait to see all the new ways that Ailey II will flourish with Troy Powell's inspired leadership."

Troy Powell commented, "I'm so grateful that Mr. Ailey invited me to study at The Ailey School after I participated in one of Ailey's outreach activities at my elementary school when I was nine. I've had the incomparable experience of being touched by so many arms of the Ailey organization throughout my 30 plus years here. I was coached by Mr. Ailey and I learned *Revelations* directly from him. I was a member of Ailey II for two years and I performed in Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under Judith Jamison's direction for ten years. I learned so much during the eight years I spent as Associate Artistic Director of Ailey II: watching how Sylvia worked, following what she did, listening to everything she said. It's through Sylvia's example most of all that I've wanted to embrace and continue Alvin Ailey's legacy—and I feel blessed to have this exciting new opportunity."

In recent years, Ailey II has become a renowned dance company in its own right, winning rave reviews and regularly selling out its North American tour stops and annual New York seasons. This season, the Company adds three rich new works to a full repertory of 15 diverse pieces. Newly appointed Artistic Director Designate Troy Powell brings *Reference Point* to the repertory, his seventh world premiere work for Ailey II. Powell delivers a cutting-edge piece that combines ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance set to music by Mio Morales. The full ensemble work features a variety of movement that is energetic and powerful at times, yet also subtle and vulnerable.

Emerging choreographer Stefanie Batten Bland's world premiere *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. Mina Yoo's Company premiere *Boulevard* is an athletic piece that references a neighborhood "on the boulevard," where young people of various cultures and backgrounds interact. Originally set as an all-male work when created 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.

For Ailey II's complete touring schedule visit <http://www.alvinailey.org/aileyii>

For downloadable images and broll of Ailey II visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org)

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#### New Works:

##### ***The Legacy of Inheritance* (2011)**

Stefanie 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.

##### ***Reference Point* (2011)**

In the ballet *Reference Point*, Artistic Director Designate Troy Powell uses the center of the stage as a point of departure for the full ensemble piece. Each time the dancers dance inside the center of the stage they gain restoration of energy, healing, spiritually and humanity. When outside the center of the stage, all of those characteristics become exaggerated and more powerful. Throughout the five section ballet, the various intentions of each dancer are illustrated ranging from confusion, competition, peace, celebration and individuality.

##### ***Boulevard* (2006)**

This athletic piece by choreographer Mina Yoo references a neighborhood "on the boulevard," where young people of various cultures and backgrounds interact. Originally set as an all-male work, *Boulevard* has been reconceived for Ailey II, blending contemporary dance with the percussive sounds of Michel Macias, Hugues Le Bars, René Aubry, and Greetje Bijma.

#### Repertory Favorites:

*Ailey Highlights, The Corner, Doscongio, Echoes, The External Knot, The Hunt, Proximity, Quintet, Revelations, Shards, Splendid Isolation II, The Calling and Takademe.*

#### 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, and 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 W. 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 will consist of performances in over 30 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.

# AILEY II

SYLVIA WATERS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
TROY POWELL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

## TOUR SCHEDULE

### FALL 2011

October 28	University Park, IL	Governors State Univ.-Center for the Performing Arts
October 29	Toledo, OH	Valentine Theater
October 30	Columbus, OH	Capitol Theatre
November 3	Dover, DE	Schwartz Center for the Arts
November 5-6	Pittsburgh, PA	August Wilson Center / Black Dance Festival
*November 22-23	Thessaloniki, Greece	Thessaloniki Concert Hall
*November 25-27	Athens, Greece	Pallas Theatre

### WINTER 2012

*January 23-24	Hamilton, Bermuda	Ruth Seaton James Centre / Bermuda Dance Festival
January 27	Birmingham, AL	Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center
January 28	Chattanooga, TN	Tivoli Theatre
January 30	Sewanee, TN	Sewanee University of the South-Guerry Hall
January 31	Cookeville, TN	Tennessee Tech
February 2	Clarksdale, MS	Clarksdale Civic Auditorium
February 4	Bloomington, IL	Bloomington Center for Performing Arts
February 7	Gary, IN	Westside Theatre
February 11	Brookfield, WI	Sharon Lynne Wilson Center
February 14	Tyler, TX	University of Texas-R.Don Conwan PAC
February 17	Lubbock, TX	Texas Tech University-Allen Theatre
February 20	Fort Worth, TX	Bass Performance Hall
February 24	Victoria, TX	Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts
February 25	Corpus Christi, TX	Richardson Auditorium
February 29	Clinton, SC	Presbyterian College-Harper Theatre
March 1	Florence, SC	Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center
March 2	Greensboro, NC	Carolina Theatre
March 8	Winchester, VA	Shenandoah University-Ohrstrom Bryant Theatre
April 9	Deerfield, MA	Deerfield Academy

**April 18-29**

**New York, NY**

**The Ailey Citigroup Theater**

### SPRING 2012

*May 6	Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxemburg	Théâtre de la Ville d'Esch
*May 8	Coesfeld, Germany	Konzert Theater
*May 10	Fulda, Germany	Schlosstheater
*May 12	Friedrichshafen, Germany	Graf-Zeppelin-Haus
*May 17-19	Furth, Germany	Stadttheater
*May 22-23	Bonn, Germany	Opernhaus Theater Bonn