



CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO
THE WORLD

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR FIRST ATLANTA ENGAGEMENT LED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE FROM FEBRUARY 16 - 19

FABULOUS FOX THEATRE PERFORMANCES FEATURE ACCLAIMED PREMIERES: BOLD NEW HIP-HOP PIECE, MODERN DANCE MASTERWORK BY PAUL TAYLOR, AND BRAVURA SOLO BY ROBERT BATTLE - ALONG WITH ALVIN AILEY'S CLASSIC REVELATIONS

Tickets Start at \$25 – Special Discounts for Opening Night, Saturday Family Matinee & Students

ATLANTA – (Jan. 17, 2012) – [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), recognized by U.S. Congress as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” returns to the Fabulous Fox Theatre February 16th to 19th for the inaugural Atlanta engagement led by dynamic new Artistic Director Robert Battle. Following critically-acclaimed sold out performances in New York City, Ailey’s extraordinary dancers will move Atlanta audiences with premieres that launch an exciting new era in Ailey history.



Artistic Director Robert Battle.
Photo by Andrew Eccles

“I am so proud to have the opportunity to build upon the inspiring legacy of Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison as we begin a new chapter in our long relationship with the people of Atlanta,” said [Robert Battle](#). “I can’t wait for audiences at the Fox to join me in experiencing the world’s most amazing dancers in this season’s premieres, as we take the next step in an electrifying journey together.”

The 2012 Atlanta engagement will showcase the brilliant artistry and passionate spirit of the Company’s dancers in innovative premieres, repertory favorites, and Ailey classics. In addition to Alvin Ailey’s inspiring must-see [Revelations](#), each performance will include: [Takademe](#), a high-flying and humorous solo that was one of Robert Battle’s first creations; and [Home](#), a bold new work by hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris set to a soul-lifting score of gospel house music. *Home* is inspired by ten winning photos and essays submitted to the “[Fight HIV Your Way](#)” contest, an initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Atlanta area residents [James R. Dustin](#) and [Sherry Meltz](#) were among the winners.

Paul Taylor’s romantic [Arden Court](#), the first work by this American modern dance master to enter the Ailey repertory, will be performed on Thursday’s Opening Night, as well as on Saturday evening and Sunday matinee programs. On Friday evening and Saturday matinee programs, there will be performances of an audience favorite - Robert Battle’s [The Hunt](#), an athletic tour-de-force for six men to a thundering percussion soundtrack.

Join the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for an historic 2012 engagement in Atlanta, as they continue to inspire all in a universal celebration of the human spirit. To purchase tickets, starting at \$25, call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or visit www.alvinailey.org or www.foxtheatre.org.

Press: Visit www.pressroom.alvinailey.org for photos and press materials.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Yannick Lebrun in Robert Battle's Takademe. Photo by Andrew Eccles

Georgia Power and J.P. Morgan provide support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Atlanta Season.

Toyota is the Official Vehicle Partner of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

American Express is the Official Card of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Ailey's 2012 Performance Schedule at the Fabulous Fox Theatre

Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. (*Arden Court, Home, Takademe and Revelations*)

Friday, Feb. 17 at 8:00 p.m. (*Home, Takademe, The Hunt and Revelations*)

Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2:00 p.m. matinee (*Home, Takademe, The Hunt and Revelations*)

Saturday, Feb. 18 at 8:00 p.m. (*Arden Court, Home, Takademe and Revelations*)

Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3:00 p.m. matinee (*Arden Court, Home, Takademe and Revelations*)

Calendar Listing Information

Join the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from February 16th to 19th for an historic 2012 engagement in Atlanta, the first led by new Artistic Director Robert Battle, as they continue to inspire all in a universal celebration of the human spirit.

Tickets

Tickets start at \$25 and are available via Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or www.alvinailey.org or www.foxtheatre.org. Student tickets for Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. are available for \$10 by showing a valid student ID at the box office in advance. For the Saturday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m. matinee, which includes a post-performance question and answer session with the dancers, tickets are buy one, get one at 50% off. Groups of 10 or more may call (404) 881-2000 to receive special rates. Tickets for student daytime performances on Thursday, February 16 and Friday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m. are \$10 and can be purchased by calling 404-881-2000. Further information on tickets and performance schedule at: www.alvinailey.org,

Special Offers

Opening Night Performance: Receive \$10 off any ticket.

In partnership with WSB-TV's Family2Family, those interested to attend the opening night performance can receive \$10 off any ticket. To receive, enter the "FAMILY" discount code at checkout.

Student Tickets: \$10 tickets for Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. only.

Students can enjoy opening night for only \$10 by showing a valid student ID. (*Student rate tickets must be purchased at the Fox Theatre box office prior to 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 16; limit two tickets per ID.*)

Family Matinee: Buy one, get one 50 percent off

On Sunday, Feb. 18, families are encouraged to spend an afternoon in the city and attend the family matinee at 2 p.m. For each full-price ticket purchased, a second ticket can be purchased for half-price. Following the performance, the entire audience is welcome to join in a free Q&A session with select Ailey dancers.

Student Daytime Performances: \$10 tickets

Student daytime performances featuring *Revelations*, *Takademe* and excerpts of *Night Creature*, hosted by one of the dancers who will provide a “behind-the-scenes” look at Ailey, will take place on Thursday, February 16 and Friday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m.; tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling 404-881-2000.

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Visit pressroom.alvinailey.org for additional images and video.

REPERTORY FOR ATLANTA ENGAGEMENT

World Premiere

***Home* (2011) choreographed by Rennie Harris**

Hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris, who worked alongside Judith Jamison and Robert Battle to create *Love Stories* for the company in 2004, is choreographing a new work inspired by the stories, poems and images submitted to the *Fight HIV Your Way* contest, an initiative of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater presented the premiere of the work on World AIDS Day (December 1) at New York City Center. **Robert Battle comments:** “I think Rennie is great in the way he takes a conceptual approach to hip-hop. He is bringing a unique perspective to stories that absolutely have to be told, and that ought to be realized in a dance vocabulary that comes from a new generation.”

Company Premieres

***Arden Court* (1981) choreographed by Paul Taylor**

Modern dance master Paul Taylor supervised the staging of this technically challenging work (rarely performed by companies other than his own) on the Ailey company, **the first of his works to enter the Ailey repertory.** Set to a sumptuous baroque score by William Boyce, *Arden Court* is a richly dynamic dance featuring striking duets, solos and a men’s sextet showcasing the dancers’ skills and musicality. Mr. Taylor is one of the artistic inspirations for Robert Battle, whose choreography often reflects the expansive use of space that is a hallmark of Mr. Taylor’s work. **Robert Battle comments:** “We are celebrating a lineage by adding *Arden Court* to the repertory since Paul came out of Martha Graham’s company, and Alvin was so influenced by Martha Graham. Alvin was also a fan of Paul’s work, and the two of them started their companies at about the same time. It is important that we honor this American modern dance tradition—and *Arden Court* gives us the opportunity to explore the physicality of the dancers in a very different way.”

***Takademe* (1999) choreographed by Robert Battle**

For his first season as Artistic Director, Mr. Battle is bringing his fiery *Takademe* to the Ailey Company. The complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted in this percussive, fast-paced work, where clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra’s jazzy score. **Robert Battle comments:** “*Takademe* is near and dear to me as one of my first creations. It’s a work I made in the tiny living room of my old apartment in Queens. As I begin as Artistic Director, I want to acknowledge my journey, look back on what I did with so little and recognize having so very much now. Also, the

work has a sense of humor, and some of my other works that have been done at Ailey were in a more serious vein. I wanted to share another aspect of myself with the Ailey audience.”

Ailey Classics and Repertory Favorites

***Night Creature* (1975) choreographed by Alvin Ailey**

One of Ailey’s most classically choreographed ballets; *Night Creature* depicts a series of sexy nocturnal rituals that propel the movement toward a fast-paced, cathartic climax. *Night Creature* is the definitive Ailey homage to the exuberance of Duke Ellington’s jazz.

***The Hunt* (2011) choreographed by Robert Battle**

In *The Hunt*, an athletic work for six men by artistic director Robert Battle, 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 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

***Revelations* (1951) choreographed by Alvin Ailey**

Using African-American spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues, *Revelations* fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. 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.

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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.

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