



**Ailey Public Relations:** (212) 405-9028  
Christopher Zunner: [czunner@alvinailey.org](mailto:czunner@alvinailey.org)  
Caryn Cooper: [ccooper@alvinailey.org](mailto:ccooper@alvinailey.org)

**Press Representatives RK&A:** (212) 944-9444  
Richard Kornberg: [Richard@kornbergpr.com](mailto:Richard@kornbergpr.com)  
Billy Zavelson: [billy@kornbergpr.com](mailto:billy@kornbergpr.com)

## AILEY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FINALE AT BAM INCLUDES SPECIAL MUSIC & VIDEO RELEASES

**Commemorative DVD of Judith Jamison's Emmy-Winning 'A Hymn for Alvin Ailey'**

**Soundtrack CD to Alvin Ailey's *Blues Suite* Available for First Time**

**On Sale June 9<sup>th</sup> with BAM Performances of "Best Of" & "Classic Ailey"**

May 29, 2009 (New York) - Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater announces **special music and video releases to coincide with "Best Of" and "Classic Ailey" performances at BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Avenue) from June 9-14.** A commemorative edition DVD of Judith Jamison's Emmy-winning 'A Hymn for Alvin Ailey' television special will be available along with the **soundtrack to Alvin Ailey's landmark *Blues Suite*, on CD for the first time.**

*The New York Times* called 'A Hymn for Alvin Ailey' (1999) a "high point" of PBS' "Great Performances: Dance in America" series with "words as eloquent as Ailey's best choreography" that served as "a compelling primer for people new to Ailey's work as well as material for thought for those familiar with it." Inspired by her ballet *Hymn*, **Judith Jamison** innovatively collaborated with performance artist/actress **Anna Deavere Smith** and acclaimed filmmaker **Orlando Bagwell** to create a spellbinding blend of theater and dance. Using archival footage and interviews, along with performance footage, it tells the story of a man who transformed American modern dance and culture. **On Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm 'A Hymn for Alvin Ailey' will be screened in the "Alvin Ailey Room" of the [115<sup>th</sup> Street Branch of the New York Public Library.](#)**

**The *Blues Suite* soundtrack CD includes all 11 songs from the ballet that launched the Company in 1958.** Alvin Ailey's "blood memories" of rural, Depression-era Texas, come to life in *Blues Suite*, vividly evoking the sorrow, humor and humanity of the blues, songs that Ailey called "hymns to the secular regions of the soul."

In addition to 'A Hymn for Alvin Ailey' DVD (\$30) and Alvin Ailey's 'Blues Suite' CD (\$25), other commemorative merchandise on sale at BAM, Ailey's Boutique (405 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street) and and The Ailey E-Boutique ([www.aileyboutique.com](http://www.aileyboutique.com)) include: The Ailey Barbie Doll, Hallmark Ailey greeting cards; Ailey *Ascending*, a photographic art book by Andrew Eccles; Ailey Movado Museum Time Piece; and *A Young Dancer: The Life of an Ailey Student*, a children's book by Valerie Gladstone and Jose Ivey.

**From June 9-14, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre will perform highlights of the Company's diverse repertory from the past five decades in two special programs. "Best Of" includes the premiere of a new production of *Hymn*, Ms. Jamison's award winning tribute to Mr. Ailey, and Tony Award winning choreographer George Faison's *Suite Otis*. "Classic Ailey" includes Ailey's groundbreaking 1958 *ballet Blues Suite*, first seen at the Company's premiere performance, and Anniversary Highlights, excerpts from rarely-seen gems and favorite works that illustrate the range and resonance of Alvin Ailey's choreographic legacy. Mr. Ailey's quintessential masterpiece, *Revelations* will provide the rousing finale to both programs. **Tickets range from \$20-\$85 and can be purchased online at [alvinailey.org](http://alvinailey.org) or [BAM.org](http://BAM.org) and by calling (718) 636-4100.****

**Ailey's BAM audiences are offered a free "Ticket to Dance"- a complimentary class from The Ailey Extension with a ticket stub from Ailey's BAM performances.** Valid for one year from performance date at Ailey's permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance (405 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street), the offer includes one free class for first time students. Returning students will receive one free class when purchasing a 10-class card.

\* \* \*

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at BAM Schedule**

Tuesday, June 9 - 7:30pm	PROGRAM A / BEST OF
Wednesday, June 10 - 7:30pm	PROGRAM B / CLASSIC AILEY
Thursday, June 11 - 7:30pm	PROGRAM A / BEST OF
Friday, June 12 - 7:30pm	PROGRAM B / CLASSIC AILEY
Saturday, June 13 - 2:00pm	PROGRAM A / BEST OF
Saturday, June 13 - 7:30pm	PROGRAM A / BEST OF
Sunday, June 14 - 3:00pm	PROGRAM B / CLASSIC AILEY
Sunday, June 14 - 7:30pm	PROGRAM B / CLASSIC AILEY

**PHOTOS: Click on photo for hi-res download.**

To access the Ailey photo gallery, visit:

<http://www.alvinailey.org/page.php?p=pressp1>

Username: aaadt2006 / Password: jamison (both fields are case sensitive)  
(Please credit photos)

\* \* \*



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's  
Linda Celeste Sims.  
Photo by Andrew Eccles.

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

J.P. Morgan is the National Art of Learning Sponsor.

Citi provides major support for Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation's  
Arts In Education and Community programs.

Altria Group provides major support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New Works Fund.

Movado Group provided major support for the new production of *Blues Suite*.

American Airlines is the Official Airline of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The 2009 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary U.S. Tour is sponsored, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.