



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

2010 NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Five-Week Season with Special Performances Celebrating *Revelations* at 50

Live Onstage Performances

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis in *Ailey/Jazz*
Featuring the Music of Legends Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie**

9 Premieres and New Productions

World Premiere of *Anointed* by Former Company Member Christopher Huggins

Company Premieres by Artistic Director Designate Robert Battle and Camille A. Brown

New Productions of Alvin Ailey's *Three Black Kings*, *Mary Lou's Mass* and *Cry*; Judith Jamison's *Forgotten Time*; and Geoffrey Holder's *Prodigal Prince*

DECEMBER 1, 2010 – JANUARY 2, 2011

(New York)– August 3, 2010 - **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to New York City Center from December 1, 2010 – January 2, 2011** with exciting performances that have become a joyous holiday tradition. New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues.

Led by the **renowned Judith Jamison in her final year as Artistic Director**, and joined by **Artistic Director Designate Robert Battle**, Ailey's **extraordinary artists** will move audiences with their **brilliant artistry and passionate** spirit in a series of 9 premieres and new productions, along with a variety of repertory favorites and special programs.

The December 1st Opening Night Gala Benefit, with all proceeds going to support Ailey's innovative educational and training programs for young people, will kick off a year-long tribute to **5 decades of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations***, an American classic called a must-see for all people. The celebration will continue with live music, specially staged performances and other activities to be announced at a later date.

For one extraordinary week, **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis** will join the Ailey dancers for **Ailey/Jazz**, a joyous live music celebration of America's two great art forms – modern dance and jazz music – and two great jazz artists – **Duke Ellington** and **Dizzy Gillespie**. The program features the first full production in over 30 years of **Three Black Kings**, resulting from **Alvin Ailey's** legendary collaboration with the great Duke Ellington, and **The Winter In Lisbon**, **Billy Wilson's** tribute to Dizzy Gillespie and the four-decade career of this consummate jazz musician.

Among the premieres, former Company Member **Christopher Huggins** pays tribute to Ailey's past, present and future with **Anointed**, featuring the music of **Moby** and **Sean Clements**. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will also debut **The Hunt**, **Robert Battle's** explosive tour-de-force for six men, and **The Evolution of a Secured Feminine**, **Camille A. Brown's** witty exploration of the notions of femininity. Ailey's performances mark the first time anyone other than Ms. Brown will perform the solo.

New Productions of significant works from the Ailey repertory will be shared with today's audiences, including: **Forgotten Time**, **Judith Jamison's** quietly uplifting work set to the haunting, otherworldly sounds of **Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares**; and **Prodigal Prince**, a colorful and lavish depiction of real and imagined events in the life of the renowned Haitian painter Hector Hyppolite that was choreographed, composed and designed by **Geoffrey Holder**. In addition to **Three Black Kings**, other major Alvin Ailey works will be performed: **Cry**, Ailey's birthday gift for his mother, created on his muse Judith Jamison, and taught by her to subsequent generations of Ailey women; and **Mary Lou's Mass**, a celebration of life, jazz and gospel that was recently revived for the centennial of the birth of composer **Mary Lou Williams**.

Throughout the season, Ailey's extraordinary artists will move audiences with a diverse repertory that represents 23 ballets by 15 choreographers, including favorites such as **Ulysses Dove's Vespers**, **George Faison's Suite Otis** and **Alvin Ailey's Memoria**, which will feature performances by some of the most talented students from The Ailey School.

In an exciting finish to the season, a special finale program on January 2nd will celebrate **Judith Jamison** with a one-night-only performance tribute featuring special guest artists.

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. Share in the incomparable sense of joy, freedom, and spirit that bring audiences around the globe to their feet night after night – you don't just see an Ailey performance, you feel it.

Tickets starting at \$25 go on sale September 7th. For further information, visit: www.alvinailey.org

Visit pressroom.alvinailey.org for photos and press materials.

The Prudential Foundation is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's New York Season.

WORLD & COMPANY PREMIERES

Anointed (2010)

Choreographer: Christopher Huggins

Music: Moby & Sean Clements

Former Ailey company member **Christopher 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..."

The Hunt (2001)

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.

The Evolution of a Secured Feminine (2007)

Choreographer: Camille A. Brown

Music: Ella Fitzgerald, Betty Carter & Nancy Wilson

The female soloist in **Camille A. Brown's** witty portrait veers between uncertainty and carefree confidence to the music of **Ella Fitzgerald, Betty Carter** and **Nancy Wilson**. Using fast footwork and taut gestures, she explores the notions of femininity with humor, candor and impeccable timing. In her second work staged for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (2007's *The Groove to Nobody's Business* featured the music of Ray Charles), Brown again proves herself a gifted storyteller with a flair for keen observations of everyday life. This is the first time the solo will be performed by anyone other than the choreographer, who is artistic director of Camille A. Brown Dancers and a former member of Ronald K. Brown's Evidence.

NEW PRODUCTIONS

Forgotten Time (1989)

Choreographer: Judith Jamison

Music: Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares

In **Judith Jamison's** quietly uplifting work, the haunting, otherworldly sounds of **Le Mystere des Voix Bulgares** channels 12 dancers on a journey through ancient rituals of love and tribal rites of passage. Moments of complex partnering, dramatic imagery and breathtaking stillness are part of a sophisticated choreographic structure that evokes deep emotions and echoes with universal significance.

Three Black Kings (1976)

Choreographer: Alvin Ailey

Music: Duke Ellington

Alvin Ailey's three-part ballet, set to **Duke Ellington's** last major score, brings to life Balthazar, the Black king of the Nativity; Solomon, King of Israel; and Martin Luther King, Jr., Ellington's friend whose triumphs are celebrated in the inspiring finale. Sophisticated, lush and alluring, Ellington's music became part of a legendary collaboration with Alvin Ailey and left an indelible mark on American dance. At its premiere, *The New York Times* noted "...with its crescendo of gospel rhythms and its expressionist symbols of marches and martyrdom...moves the spectator" and *The Daily News* hailed the work as "An intensely moving vision..."

Prodigal Prince (1968)

Choreographer: Geoffrey Holder

Music: Geoffrey Holder

Celebrated choreographer, dancer, designer, and two-time Tony Award-winner **Geoffrey Holder** choreographed, composed and designed this lavish ballet for AAADT that depicts real and imagined events in the life of the renowned Haitian painter, Hector Hyppolite. The goddess Erzulie and St. John the Baptist appear to the central character in a vision, inspiring his vivid illustrations of the African gods and goddesses that populate "a hypnotic and elaborate pageant," as described by *Dance Magazine*.

Mary Lou's Mass (1971)

Choreographer: Alvin Ailey (restaged by Masazumi Chaya)

Music: Mary Lou Williams

Alvin Ailey's joyous collaboration with jazz pianist and composer **Mary Lou Williams**, two artists who shared roots and memories in the southern church, is a deeply spirited work showcasing Mr. Ailey's inspired choreography and Ms. Williams' soulful and uplifting mass – "Music for Peace". This exuberant full-company work, called a celebration of life, jazz and gospel, is being performed in its entirety in 2010 for the first time in over 35 years on the centennial of the birth of Ms. Williams.

The Winter in Lisbon (1992)

Choreographer: Billy Wilson

Music: Dizzy Gillespie

Dizzy Gillespie's brilliant music sets the tone for this sizzling, sensuous ballet celebrating four decades of his work. Choreographer **Billy Wilson** pays tribute to Mr. Gillespie as the consummate jazz musician, in an atmosphere where the dancers challenge, tease and romance against a backdrop of rhythm and color in "A joyful dance that gives an emotional lift," according to the Associated Press.

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."

CELEBRATING REVELATIONS AT 50!

Revelations (1960)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional

Starting with the opening night gala, this season **kicks off a year-long celebration of 5 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.

AILEY/JAZZ: A CELEBRATION WITH JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA AND WYNTON MARSALIS

For one extraordinary week only, **Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** will join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater onstage for a joyous live music celebration of America's two great art forms - modern dance and jazz music – and two great jazz artists – Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie. The program features rare performances of **Alvin Ailey's *Three Black Kings***, along with **Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon***. The great **Duke Ellington** composed ***Three Black Kings*** and some of the most exuberant orchestrations ever set to dance - sophisticated, sexy, lush and alluring, his music inspired some of Alvin Ailey's most memorable works. Dizzy Gillespie's brilliant music sets the tone for Billy Wilson's sizzling, sensuous tribute to four decade career of this consummate jazz musician.

OTHER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Night Gala (Dec. 1 @ 7pm)

All proceeds from the December 1st Opening Night Gala Benefit will go to support Ailey's innovative educational and training programs for young people. The performance kicks off a year-long celebration of 5 decades of Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece, *Revelations*, an American classic called a must-see for all people.

Target 1960 Night (Dec. 2)

In celebration of 50 years of *Revelations*, Target will sponsor a performance with all tickets at a special price to help extend the reach of this inspiring American classic to all audiences.

Family Matinee Series (Dec. 4 mat, 11 mat, 18 mat, 22 mat, 29 mat)

Bring your family to meet ours at a Saturday or Wednesday afternoon Family Matinee series performance. Following each Saturday matinee performance, the entire audience is invited to engage in a free question and answer session with the Ailey dancers in the theater. An enhanced number of \$25 tickets are available, but buy early for the best seat selection. Offer subject to availability and maximum purchase limit (6 tickets). Not available online.

New Year's Eve Celebration (Dec. 31 @ 7pm)

Dance in the New Year with Ailey in a celebratory performance that culminates with the inspiring *Revelations*.

Season Finale – Celebrating Judith Jamison (Jan. 2 @ 7:30pm)

The season finale program includes a special one-night-only performance with special guest artists joining in a loving tribute to Judith Jamison, whose vision has led the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to new heights, in her final season as artistic director.

Season Repertory

In addition to the premieres, new productions, and special programs, the Company repertory will include:

Dancing Spirit (Ronald K. Brown)

Episodes (Ulysses Dove)

Festa Barocca (Mauro Bigonzetti)

In/Side (Robert Battle)

Love Stories (Judith Jamison, Rennie Harris, Robert Battle)

Memoria (Alvin Ailey)

Night Creature (Alvin Ailey)

Revelations (Alvin Ailey)

Solo (Hans van Manen)

Suite Otis (George Faison)

Unfold (Robert Battle)

Uptown (Matthew Rushing)

Vespers (Ulysses Dove)

FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE – TO BE ANNOUNCED

(All programming is subject to change)

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Opening Night Gala	7:00pm - Note earlier curtain time-
Tuesday evenings	7:00pm - Note earlier curtain time-
Wednesday – Saturday evenings	8:00pm
Sunday evenings	7:30pm - Note earlier curtain time-
Wednesday & Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm
New Year's Eve	7:00pm - Note earlier curtain time-

TICKETS

New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Tickets are available starting September 7th at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212 or online at www.alvinailey.org or www.nycitycenter.org. **Great seats are available in the orchestra and most sections of the theater starting at \$25.** Discount tickets are available when purchasing tickets for more than one performance, for the family matinee series, students with an appropriate ID and groups of 10 or more.

For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or e-mail groupsales@alvinailey.org.

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The Prudential Foundation is the sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s New York Season.

Target is the sponsor of Target 1960 Night.

Southwest Airlines is the Official Airline of Ailey.

The 2010-2011 season is sponsored, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Simin & Herb Allison, American Express, BNY Mellon, Linda & Sandy Lindenbaum, and Prudential Financial, Inc., are Co-Sponsors of Ailey’s Opening Night Gala.



AAADT in *Revelations* by Alvin Ailey. Photo by Andrew Eccles

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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 1958 New York performance that changed American dance. Now led by Judith Jamison, joined by artistic director designate Robert Battle, the Company has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, celebrating the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. The Ailey organization also includes; Ailey II (1974), a second company of young dancers and choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), extensive dance training programs; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, bringing dance into classrooms and communities; and The Ailey Extension, dance and fitness classes for the general public at Ailey’s home – The Joan Weill Center for Dance in New York City—the nation’s largest building for dance.

For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.