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**DOCUMENTARY CHANNEL® CELEBRATES THE WORLD OF MODERN DANCE
WITH “BEYOND THE STEPS: ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER”**

Special is Third in “Black Documentary Cinema” Series

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (March 24, 2011) -- Award-winning filmmaker Phil Bertelsen offers a rare backstage look at one of America’s oldest modern dance companies at a defining moment its history – as it settles into its permanent home and training facility in New York City. “**Beyond the Steps: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**,” which premieres on Documentary Channel (DOC) April 26 at 8:00 pm ET/PT, intertwines the dancers’ individual tragedies and triumphs with breathtaking performance footage from their journey, shining a spotlight on the story of one of America’s most beloved cultural institutions. Visually stunning and emotionally poignant, the film provides a rare glimpse into the fascinating world of modern dance.

In July 2011, acclaimed choreographer Robert Battle—whose creative artistry is highly visible in “**Beyond the Steps**”-- will succeed Judith Jamison as Artistic Director, becoming only the third person to head the Company since its founding by Mr. Ailey in 1958. In announcing her selection, Ms. Jamison said that “choosing Robert Battle is the giant leap I want to take to ensure that this company stays vibrant in the future.” Mr. Battle has already had a long association with the Ailey organization, as a choreographer and an artist-in-residence. In “**Beyond the Steps**” chronicles the creation of *Love Stories* Judith Jamison’s 2004 collaboration with hip-hop pioneer Rennie Harris and Artistic Director Designate **Robert Battle** set to the music of **Stevie Wonder**. Battle’s creativity and vision are revealed in this dance celebrating a love of movement in a symbolic journey through Ailey’s past, present and future.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is currently on their 2011 North American Tour. The troupe will perform in 24 cities including Atlanta, Miami, Philadelphia, Detroit, St. Louis, Seattle, Berkley, Los Angeles and end in Chicago in May. The company has earned a reputation as one of the most acclaimed international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance heritage.

Documentary Channel’s monthly “Black Documentary Cinema” program showcases the works of Black documentary filmmakers on the last Tuesday of every month. DOC is presenting the “Black Documentary Cinema” programming strand in collaboration with New York-based The Black Documentary Collective (BDC) and Los Angeles-based Black Association of Documentary Filmmakers-West (BAD West).

Documentary Channel is primarily available through satellite television services **DISH Network (Channel 197)** and **DIRECTV (Channel 267)**.

About Documentary Channel®: Documentary Channel (DOC) is the USA’s first 24-hour television network exclusively devoted to documentary films and the independent documentary filmmaker, providing viewers with round-the-clock opportunities to see fascinating, eclectic and award-winning documentary films of all lengths and genres. For more information on DOC, visit the network Web site at www.documentarychannel.com, in addition to www.facebook.com/DocumentaryChannel or www.twitter.com/doc_channel.

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