

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Suite Otis (1971)

A Tribute to the late Otis Redding
Dedicated to Thelma Hill

Choreography and Costumes by George W. Faison
Music Performed by Otis Redding
Lighting by Chenault Spence

The timeless music of pioneering soul singer **Otis Redding** sets the stage for former AAADT company member and Tony Award-winning choreographer **George Faison**'s playful battle of the sexes. The yearning sensuality of soul stirring songs such as "Satisfaction," "Try a Little Tenderness," "I've Been Loving You Too Long" and other favorites burst through this wildly popular six-part suite of dances ripe with romance and humor.

Restaged for AAADT in 2008, *Suite Otis* was created in 1971 and became Faison's third piece added to the company's repertory in 1977. Tender and personal, the work, last performed by AAADT in 1996, resonated with audiences and critics around the world and quickly became a significant piece in the Ailey repertory.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in George W. Faison's *Suite Otis*.
Photo © Steve Vaccariello.



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims in
George W. Faison's *Suite Otis*.
Photo © Steve Vaccariello.

George W. Faison danced with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 1967 through 1970. He was the first African-American choreographer to win a Tony Award for his choreography in *The Wiz* (1975). In the early 1970s, he created two modern American dance classics, *Suite Otis* and *Slaves* for the George Faison Universal Dance Experience. Mr. Faison choreographed for Broadway and choreographed and directed numerous productions for regional theaters. In the early 1980s, he changed his professional career focus to writing, directing and choreographing dramatic and musical theater pieces. Mr. Faison co-produced and wrote the *Cosby Salutes Ailey* NBC TV special celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He is co-founder and the producing artistic director of the Faison Firehouse Theatre, located in a former Harlem firehouse. In addition to the theatre, Mr. Faison has developed a unique performing arts-based outreach and youth theatre project, the Faison Firehouse Respect Project. www.faisonfirehouse.org

"George Faison's 'Suite Otis' ... is a classic with an unquenchably youthful spirit. ... Mr. Faison captures the yearning sensuality of the music in taut jazz dance for dancers who strain toward one another and to the sky."

-*The New York Times*

Suite Otis

Music Credit Information – listed in order as you hear them in ballet

Song: **Just One More Day**

Written by: **Steve Cropper, Otis Redding, & McEvoy Robinson**

Performed by **Otis Redding**

Song: **Can't Turn You Loose**

Written and performed by: **Otis Redding**

Song: **My Lover's Prayer**

Written and performed by: **Otis Redding**

Song: **(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction**

Written by: **Mick Jagger and Keith Richards**

Performed by: **Otis Redding**

Song: **I've Been Loving You Too Long**

Written by: **Jerry Butler, Otis Redding**

Performed by: **Otis Redding**

Song: **Try A Little Tenderness**

Written by: **Harry M. Woods, Jimmy Campbell, and Reg Connelly**

Performed by: **Otis Redding**