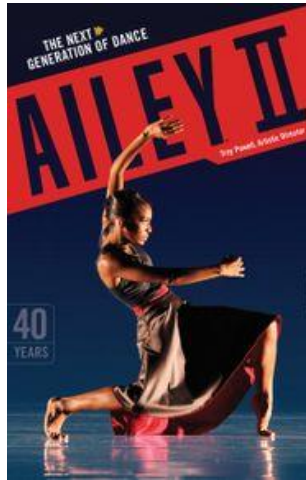


AILEY II CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY WITH TWO-WEEK NEW YORK SEASON AT THE AILEY CITIGROUP THEATER

Inspiring Young Company Performs Two Programs of Three New Works and Four Repertory Favorites in 14 Performances
April 2 – April 13, 2014



Ailey II in Adam Barruch's *Alchemies*. Photo by Eduardo Patino.



Ailey II's Tyler Brown. Photo by Eduardo Patino.



Ailey II's Gentry Isaiah George and Tyler Brown in Robert Battle's *We*. Photo by Eduardo Patino.

New York, NY (February 19, 2014) Ailey II, the youthful and gifted second company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, returns to its home, the Ailey Citigroup Theater, from **April 2 - 13** for a highly anticipated 40th anniversary season – the second led by [Artistic Director Troy Powell](#). For two weeks, audiences will experience 14 performances featuring two dynamic programs, which come on the heels of a successful North American tour to over 30 cities and an array of critically acclaimed performances in Germany and France. Tickets starting at \$49 are on sale now.

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding rising choreographers. In 1974, Alvin Ailey created the company to prepare dancers for professional careers and to give meaningful opportunities to emerging choreographers. The company is known for cultivating the star power of dancers aged 18 – 24, helping them to perfect their craft and go on to become concert, Broadway, and commercial dance luminaries. As was true for Artistic Director Troy Powell, nearly 70% of current Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members were once a part of Ailey II.

With Troy Powell at the helm, Ailey II continues to thrive as he brings a fresh dimension to this beloved company. Mr. Powell, the veteran Ailey dancer, teacher, choreographer and former Ailey II Associate Artistic Director, was chosen to succeed Sylvia Waters in July of 2012 and presented his first record breaking season at the company's home last March.

"I could not be more excited to celebrate Ailey II's 40th anniversary by bringing together the best young dancers with today's most promising choreographers." Mr. Powell says. "There is something for everyone, and we seek to inspire, enlighten and entertain all. Ailey II played such an integral role in my development as a young dancer in the late 1980s, and I'm so proud that the company has served as a bridge from the classroom to the stage for hundreds of dancers since its inception."

On opening night, Wednesday, April 2nd, the **All New** Program begins with the world premiere of [Alchemies](#), in which up-and-coming choreographer **Adam Barruch** transforms everyday gestures – a reach, an embrace, a finger pointed skyward – into a reverie of human interactions. While this is a non-narrative work, the dancers' characters come to the foreground as they move through the patterns Barruch has created, accentuated by a layered electronic soundscape by the London duo Raime. Barruch was part of Robert Battle's inaugural New Directions Choreography Lab in 2011 and has choreographed for The Ailey School and River North Dance Chicago, among others.

Next on the program is the world premiere of Polish choreographer **Katarzyna Skarpetowska's** [Cuore Sott'olio](#) ("heart submerged in oil"). In this work, a female figure tumbles through the memories of past relationships in a fusion of folk dance and contemporary movement. At times wistful, turbulent, and joyous, this new work, set to music by Alva Noto and Vincio

Capossela, captures the essence of a love lost and a rediscovered light within. Skarpetowska's choreography has been performed by Parsons Dance, Buglisi Dance Theater, Hubbard Street 2, Houston Metropolitan Dance Company, Patricia Kenny Dance Collection, The Ailey School, George Mason University, Ohio University, Kansas University, and New Jersey Dance Theater Ensemble.

The **All New** program ends with the world premiere of rising choreographer **Jennifer Archibald's** [Wings](#), an unabashedly emotional portrayal of interactions between angels and humans. Set to an ambient score by veteran dance composer Michael Wall, Archibald's movement is ferocious yet vulnerable, showcasing both the dancers' athletic prowess and raw honesty. A 2012 - 2013 New Directions Choreography Lab Fellow, Archibald received her professional training from The Ailey School and has choreographed for off-Broadway shows and The Ailey School, among others. She is also the founder and Artistic Director of the Arch Dance Company.

The alternating **Returning Favorites** program, premiering on Thursday April 3rd, begins with a restaging of **Alvin Ailey's** 1970 work [Streams](#), an abstract exploration of bodies in space danced to a percussive score by Miloslav Kabelac. This standout work was Alvin Ailey's first full-length dance without a plot.

Following *Streams* is [We](#), a charming duet by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater **Artistic Director Robert Battle**, depicting a seasoned relationship between a couple. Capturing the spirit of familiarity and vulnerability that is as endearing as reaching for a hand and knowing the other's will always be there, Battle set this work to composer Sean Jones' tender "Love's Lullaby."

Paris-born choreographer **Benoit-Swan Pouffer**, a former member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and former artistic director of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, brings a European sensibility to Ailey II's repertory with his 2012 work, [Rusty](#). Set to the pulsating tones of a score by composer Mikael Karlsson, *Rusty* features ethereal movement and lush partnering. This contemporary piece for nine dancers explores the experiences of young artists – the challenges they face and the relationships they build as performers.

The **Returning Favorites** program closes with a recent work from the 2012 - 2013 season, [Virtues](#) by **Amy Hall Garner**. Garner is emerging as one of America's most diverse creative talents, with a career that spans from Broadway to ballet. *Virtues*, set to a vibrant score by Karl Jenkins, Garner delivers high energy with a sophisticated edge. The dancers radiate with regal grace, deftly executing a distinctive blend of contemporary modern and jazz movement.

The Company welcomes new dancers Riccardo Battaglia, Shay Bland, Aubree Brown, Jacquelin Harris, Danica Paulos, and Jamal White who will join the six returning members. Detailed schedule below. Visit www.alvinailey.org/AileyII for additional information.

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Official U.S. Tour Sponsor: MetLife Foundation

Ailey II is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

TICKETS:

Tickets are on sale now, starting at \$49. To purchase tickets, visit www.AlvinAiley.org/AileyII or call 866-811-4111. Tickets can be purchased at the Ailey Citigroup Theater box office located at 405 West 55th Street beginning February 19th. Check website for hours of operation. If available, a limited number of student rush tickets can be purchased at the box office 30 minutes prior to curtain for \$10 (cash only). **Groups of 10 or more receive a discount on tickets purchased.** Visit AlvinAiley.org/GroupSales or call 212-405-9082 for more details.

Week 1

Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 7:30pm – All New
Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7:30pm – Returning Favorites
Friday, April 4, 2014 at 8pm – All New
Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 3pm – Returning Favorites
Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 8pm – All New
Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 3pm – All New
Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 7:30pm – Returning Favorites

Week 2

Wednesday April 9, 2014 at 7:30pm – Returning Favorites
Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:30pm – All New
Friday, April 11, 2014 at 8pm – Returning Favorites
Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 3pm – All New
Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 8pm – Returning Favorites
Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 3pm – All New
Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 7:30pm – All New

All New:

ALCHEMIES / CUORE SOTT'OLIO / WINGS (running time: 1hr 45mins)

Returning Favorites:

STREAMS / WE, RUSTY / VIRTUES (running time: 1hr 40mins)

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Artistic Director Troy Powell and Rehearsal Director Alia Kache with Ailey II. Photo by Eduardo Patino, NYC

Ailey II Company Story:

For forty years, Ailey II has merged the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Started in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training and community programs for all people. Mr. Ailey personally selected the veteran dancer Sylvia Waters to lead this junior company, and as its Artistic Director for 38 years, she developed Ailey II into one of America's most popular dance companies. In June 2012, Ms. Waters retired and named her longtime associate Troy Powell as the new Artistic Director. With Mr. Powell at the helm, Ailey II continues to thrive as he brings a fresh dimension to this beloved company.

The critically-acclaimed Ailey II has a distinctive repertory that has included works by dance masters Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Donald Byrd, Ulysses Dove, George W. Faison, Lar Lubovitch, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle and Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison. The company has also performed innovative works by rising choreographers such as Sidra Bell, Thang Dao, and Kyle Abraham. Touring throughout the United States and abroad, Ailey II's 2013-2014 tour consists of performances in over 30 cities.