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# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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## ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN DANCE THEATER IN MIAMI MAY 20-23 FOR FINALE OF 20-CITY U.S. TOUR CELEBRATING JUDITH JAMISON ON HER 20<sup>th</sup> YEAR AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

AILEY'S EXTRAORDINARY ARTISTS TO MOVE AUDIENCES WITH CLASSIC *REVELATIONS*,  
PREMIERES AND NEW PRODUCTIONS FOR 5 PERFORMANCES ONLY AT ADRIENNE ARSHT  
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**Best of 20 Years Special Program Highlights Ailey Repertory from Past 2 Decades**

**Ronald K. Brown Pays Tribute with World Premiere *Dancing Spirit***

**New Production of *Hymn*, Judith Jamison's Emmy Award-Winning Homage to Alvin Ailey**

**AAADT's Matthew Rushing Invites Audiences to Visit the Harlem Renaissance with *Uptown***

(Miami, FL) April 15, 2010 — **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, recognized by U.S. Congress as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," will inspire, enlighten and entertain from **May 20-23 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County** in the finale of a 20-city U.S. Tour honoring **2009 TIME 100 Honoree Judith Jamison on her 20<sup>th</sup> year as artistic director**. Ailey's acclaimed dancers, including **Miami natives Amos J. Machanic, Jr., Jamar Roberts and Yusha-Marie Sorzano**, will move audiences with exciting premieres, dramatic new productions, repertory favorites and classic *Revelations*.

The celebration will begin on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> with a **Best of 20 Years special program** highlighting excerpts from 12 of the nearly 100 ballets that Jamison has commissioned or revived in the Ailey repertory during her two decades of leadership.

Among the premieres, **Ronald K. Brown** pays tribute to Judith Jamison's profound influence with the world premiere of *Dancing Spirit*, which echoes the title of Jamison's autobiography and is set to music by **Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis and War**.

AAADT's much-admired 18-year veteran **Matthew Rushing** invites audiences to visit the Harlem Renaissance in *Uptown*, his first solo choreographic effort for the Company. Bringing to life that era's legends and swinging glory, the piece is set to the vibrant music of **Fats Waller, Eubie Blake, Nat "King" Cole** and more.

Other highlights include a new production of *Hymn*, **Judith Jamison's** Emmy Award-winning homage to Alvin Ailey, and **Alvin Ailey's** signature masterpiece *Revelations* at each performance, a "must-see" for all people.

-- more --

"I can't wait to see South Florida audiences join my extraordinary dancers on this season's inspiring journey through the past two decades and into the future," says **Judith Jamison**. "We know how to fly, we really do."

During her 15 years performing with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Alvin Ailey created some of his most enduring roles for Jamison, enabling her to break down racial barriers and become internationally acclaimed. In 1989 she became one of only a handful of women in the world to direct a major dance company, at the invitation of Alvin Ailey before his untimely death.

Jamison has guided the Ailey organization to new heights around the world and into a permanent home – the nation's largest building for dance. The Ailey organization has implemented unique programs that help young people reach their full potential, including public school residencies that use dance to teach language arts and history, an Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. program that is training the inspiring performing artists of the future, and AileyCamp, a summer day camp for underserved inner-city youth in Miami and 9 other cities.

One of the most renowned figures in modern dance and a cultural icon, Jamison was recently acknowledged by *The New York Times* as "surely the most stellar and admired artistic director of any repertory dance company in America." She has received many of the nation's most prestigious honors given to artists, including The Kennedy Center Honors (1999), the 2001 National Medal of the Arts and recognition as a 2009 TIME 100 Honoree, the magazine's list of the world's most influential figures.

Founded by Alvin Ailey in 1958, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's inspiring performances, seen in over 70 countries on 6 continents, honor and enrich the African American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition, uniting people of all backgrounds in a celebration of the human spirit through the universal language of dance. For further information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).



#### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Thursday, May 20 - 8:00pm evening	BEST OF 20 YEARS / REVELATIONS
Friday, May 21 - 8:00pm evening	UPTOWN / DANCING SPIRIT / REVELATIONS
Saturday, May 22 - 2:00pm matinee	SUITE OTIS / HYMN / REVELATIONS
Saturday, May 22 - 8:00pm evening	BEST OF 20 YEARS / REVELATIONS
Sunday, May 23 - 2:00pm matinee	UPTOWN / DANCING SPIRIT / REVELATIONS

AAADT's Jamar Roberts. Photo by Andrew Eccles

#### **TICKETS:**

**Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater tickets are now on sale** through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at 305.949.6722 or online at [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) (\$25 and up). For information on group discounts, contact 786.468.2326.

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

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

*American Express is the Official Card and sponsor of "Best of 20 Years."*

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

*The 2010 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.*

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## REPERTORY INFORMATION

### WORLD PREMIERES



#### ***Dancing Spirit*, choreographed by Ronald K. Brown**

**Ronald K. Brown** pays tribute to Judith Jamison's profound influence with a new work that echoes the title of Jamison's Doubleday autobiography edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Set to music by **Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis** and **War**, Brown's evocative choreography uses movement from Cuba, Brazil and the United States to conjure dancing spirits who embody Jamison's elegance, vision, dignity and generosity.

AAADT's Matthew Rushing in Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



#### ***Uptown*, choreographed by Matthew Rushing**

Take a vibrant tour through the Harlem Renaissance era in all its boisterous, swinging glory. In this new ballet by the beloved, 18-year Company veteran **Matthew Rushing**, legends like Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Josephine Baker and their contemporaries come alive to the music of **Fats Waller, Eubie Blake, Nat "King" Cole** and more.

AAADT's Amos J. Machanic, Jr. in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

### NEW PRODUCTIONS



#### ***Hymn*, choreographed by Judith Jamison**

**Judith Jamison's** moving, Emmy Award-winning 1993 homage to Alvin Ailey uses explosive, full company dances and quiet solos to illuminate Ailey's humanity and the dancers' unique qualities. Narrative recollections from dancers are arranged by the multi-talented actor/playwright **Anna Deavere Smith**.

AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



**"BEST OF 20 YEARS" highlights program** - Over the last two decades, Judith Jamison has commissioned or revived nearly 100 works, providing unparalleled opportunities for choreographers both renowned and newly discovered. This season, a "Best of 20 Years" program features the company premiere of *In/Side* performed in its entirety, and highlights from popular ballets brought to or revived in the Ailey repertory by Jamison, representing the wide range of styles and voices that have contributed to the Ailey canon. Includes *excerpts of*:

Judith Jamison with AAADT members in "Best of 20 Years" program costumes at Ailey's home  
- The Joan Weill Center for Dance. Photo by Paul Kolnik

***The Stack-Up* (1982) (1997 – New Production)**

**Choreographer:** Talley Beatty      **Music:** Phillip Bailey, Larry Dunn, Maurice White, & Verdine White (**Earth, Wind & Fire - "Faces"**)

Talley Beatty's fast and furious jazz choreography sends dancers whizzing across the stage while throbbing to the pulsating beats of Earth, Wind & Fire. *The Stack-Up* is a tough, brutal, yet lyrical examination of what happens when life causes a coming together of disparate social and cultural elements, offering a glimpse of urban L.A. life.

***Grace* (1999)**

**Choreographer:** Ronald K. Brown

**Music:** Duke Ellington sung by Jimmy McPhail (**"Come Sunday"**)

Ron Brown's signature fusion of African and modern dance styles illuminates the soloist in this excerpt of his spiritual piece about acknowledging the 'grace' within individuals' everyday lives.

***North Star* (1978) (1990 – joined Ailey repertory)**

**Choreographer:** Lar Lubovitch

**Music:** Philip Glass (**"Ange des Orages"**)

Lar Lubovitch's rippling, fluid choreography uniquely complements Philip Glass' avant-garde repetitive score in this quartet from *North Star*.

- **"Best of 20 Years" – continued on next page -**

**Shelter** (1988) (1992 - joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

**Music:** Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn, **Text:** "Belongo" by Laurie Carlos read by Carl Hancock Rux

Ailey dancers conquer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's intense and complex movement style in *Shelter*, an intensely moving and passionate work about homelessness and poverty set to the percussion of Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn, and spoken poetry.

**Frames** (1992)

**Choreographer:** Dwight Rhoden

**Music:** Music/Vocalist: Kemp Harris, **Words:** Dwight Rhoden ("Moonlight")

Complexions Contemporary Ballet Co-Founder and Artistic Director Dwight Rhoden's first work for AAADT in 1992, while a dancer with the company, is an abstract exploration into the depictions of relationships with angular choreography, and, in this solo, "Stanza 5 - Moonlight," gestural movements inspired by intimate emotions.

**Bad Blood** (1984) (1986 – joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Ulysses Dove

**Music:** Laurie Anderson ("Gravity's Angel")

Dancing at an extremely athletic and emotionally visceral level, the dancers in this excerpted duet of *Bad Blood* reveal the power and magnetic pull of courtship rites with a ruthless and sharp movement vocabulary.

**In/Side** (2008) (2009 – joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Robert Battle

**Music:** Nina Simone

The vivid emotions of **Nina Simone's** "Wild is the Wind" play out in **Robert Battle's** gripping solo using his bold, unrestrained signature style.

**Rainbow Round My Shoulder** (1959) (1972 – joined Ailey repertory, 2003 –New Production)

**Choreographer:** Donald McKayle

**Music:** Traditional, Arranged by Robert de Cormier & Milton Okun

This modern dance classic by Donald McKayle is a portrait of the grueling life of men on the chain gang, punctuated by the dreams of love, joy, and passion that sustain them. The woman's solo, "The Dream..." is the representation of the men's vision of their mothers, wives, and sweethearts.

**Dance at the Gym** (1991)

**Choreographer:** Donald Byrd

**Music:** Mio Morales

Inspired by the group dances in Jerome Robbins's production of *West Side Story*, *Dance at the Gym* depicts the complexity, intensity and competitiveness of teenage relationships, offering an exploration into the struggles and challenges of young people seeking companionship.

**Jukebox for Alvin** (1993)

**Choreographer:** Garth Fagan

**Music:** Antonin Dvorak

The poignant male solo from *Jukebox for Alvin* introduces this introspective homage to Garth Fagan's teacher, mentor, and friend, Alvin Ailey.

**Lettres d'Amour** (1998)

**Choreographer:** Redha

**Music:** Banco de Gaia ("Drippy") and Ryuichi Sakamoto ("Nuages")

A dynamic piece about human desire and seduction choreographed by French choreographer, Redha, shows the Ailey dancers have no limits, as they conquer his edgy and theatrical choreography.

**Polish Pieces** (1995) (1996 - joined Ailey repertory)

**Choreographer:** Hans van Manen

**Music:** Henryk-Mikolaj Górecki

Leading European choreographer Hans van Manen set *Polish Pieces* on the Ailey Company for its United States premiere in 1996. This excerpted duet is a highlight from the abstract work, set to a classical score by Henryk-Mikolaj Górecki.

**The Winter in Lisbon** (1992)

**Choreographer:** Billy Wilson

**Music:** Dizzy Gillespie ("Manteca")

This festive excerpt, from the piece celebrating the extraordinary talent of jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie by dance and Broadway choreographer Billy Wilson, is a vibrant party on-stage.

## AILEY CLASSIC



### **Revelations (1960)**

**Choreography: Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Traditional**

**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, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues--this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.

## REPERTORY FAVORITE

### **Suite Otis (1971)**

**Choreography: George Faison**

**Music: Otis Redding**

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.



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

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## ABOUT THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT)**, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," grew from a now fabled March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Today, led by **Judith Jamison, now celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Artistic Director**, AAADT has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc. is the umbrella organization which includes **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Ailey II** (1974) a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; **The Ailey School**, (1969) one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; **Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs** which brings dance into the classrooms, communities and lives of people of all ages; and **The Ailey Extension**, a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public that began with the opening of Ailey's permanent home – the nation's largest building dedicated to dance - named **The Joan Weill Center for Dance**, located at 55<sup>th</sup> Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

## ABOUT THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is one of the world's leading performing arts organizations and venues. Made possible by Miami-Dade County's largest ever public/private-sector partnership, the Center plays host to three resident companies (Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony, America's Orchestral Academy) in addition to numerous South Florida arts organizations that perform in its theaters regularly. Since opening in 2006, the Center has emerged as a leader in offering and presenting world-class programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, as a catalyst for development in Miami, and as a host of impactful community and educational programs.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, the venue is comprised of the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, the black box Carnival Studio Theater, a restored Carnival Art Deco Tower, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Studio, the Peacock Foundation, Inc. Education Center, and the outdoor Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts. Events impresario and restaurateur Barton G. Weiss brought his signature style to the Center in 2009 with PRELUDE BY BARTON G, a full-service upscale restaurant open five days a week.

Visit [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) for more information.