

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 2024-25 SEASON CELEBRATES THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITA JUDITH JAMISON

Opening Night Gala Honors Legendary Dance Educator Jody Gottfried Arnhold & Features Ronald K. Brown's *Grace* with Live Music Performances by Leslie Odom, Jr. and Cécile McLorin Salvant
Five-Week New York City Center Holiday Season Features World Premieres by Matthew Rushing, Hope Boykin, Lar Lubovitch, and Jamar Roberts, New Productions by Ronald K. Brown and Elisa Monte, Saturday Family Matinee Series, Live Music for Ailey's Masterpiece *Revelations* & More



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and America's cultural ambassador to the world, returns to its "home" theater for its annual, five-week holiday engagement, December 4 – January 5, 2025.

WORLD PREMIERES

[*Al-Andalus Blues*](#) journeys back in time to the Golden Age of Al-Andalus on the Iberian Peninsula as **Jamar Roberts** evokes the northern African Moors who inhabited the land prior to the Christian Reconquista. Music from Roberta Flack and Miles Davis' Sketches of Spain sets the tone for this abstract ensemble piece.

Hope Boykin's [*Finding Free*](#), a collaboration with composer and pianist Matthew Whitaker, examines the challenges and restrictions throughout life's peaks and valleys that propel the journey forward. This insightful work uses Ms. Boykin's movement-language and Mr. Whitaker's jazz and gospel influenced score to explore notions of personal freedoms. *Performed with live music: Dec. 13 and 14.*

The expression "How many Angels can dance on the head of a pin?" is a question with no logical answer. "Why do you make dances?" is another one. Occasionally something may exist in the world simply for the sake of itself - for example, a dance. **Lar Lubovitch's** [*Many Angels*](#) is a dance to music by Gustav Mahler. It's not really about Angels. (Well, maybe a little).

Matthew Rushing's [*Sacred Songs*](#) featuring songs used in the original 1960 version of Alvin Ailey's seminal *Revelations* but later omitted. Rushing's stirring work will resurrect and reimagine those spirituals as an offering to our present need for lamentation, faith, and joy. *Performed with live music: Dec. 20 and 22.*

NEW PRODUCTIONS:

Marking the 25th anniversary of **Ronald K. Brown's** [*Grace*](#) (1999), this rapturous work is fueled by Duke Ellington's classic "Come Sunday," Peven Everett's hit "Gabriel," and the irresistible pulse of Fela Kuti's Afro-Pop. Here, the secular and sacred meet in a tour-de-force connecting African and American dance.

Elisa Monte's [*Treading*](#) is a sculptural, mesmerizing duet where the dancers come together in fluid, intricate movements that combine with Steve Reich's meditative music to create an aura of mystery and sensuality.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

[*Opening Night Gala Benefit*](#) – **December 4 at 7 pm:** one-night-only performance honors dance educator and advocate, Jody Gottfried Arnhold, featuring the 25th anniversary return of Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*, accompanied by a one-night-only performance by Tony® and GRAMMY® Award-winning artist Leslie Odom, Jr. with composer, visual artist, and GRAMMY® Award-winning vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant, and culminates with an uplifting *Revelations* finale. Honorary Chairs for the evening are Co-Host of "CBS Mornings" and Editor-At-Large of Oprah Daily, Gayle King, and Two-Time Tony® Award-winning actress Phylicia Rashad. Followed by a dinner dance at the Ziegfeld Ballroom, the benefit raises support for the creation of new works and Ailey's extensive educational and training programs for young people.

Family Matinee Series: On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy the performance and stay for a free Q&A with Ailey dancers in the theater following the inspiring finale of *Revelations*, acclaimed as a must-see for all ages. **(Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, & Jan. 4 @ 2pm)**

Live Music Performances: Experience the magic of Ailey with live music performances (*Revelations* - Dec. 4, 6, 7, 8 / *Finding Free* – Dec. 13, 14 / *Sacred Songs* – Dec. 20, 22)



Click here to view [Ailey's 2024 New York City Center press release](#) and the [full season schedule](#) (subject to change).

Photo Credits: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Lar Lubovitch's *Many Angels*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Hope Boykin's *Finding Free*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.