

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 2025 UNITED STATES TOUR REACHES COAST-TO-COAST JANUARY 31 – MAY 11 DURING SEASON CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDITH JAMISON

Inspiring Performances Feature the Company's Extraordinary Dancers in World Premieres:
Sacred Songs by Matthew Rushing, *Finding Free* by Hope Boykin, *Many Angels* by Lar Lubovitch,
and *Al-Andalus Blues* by Jamar Roberts

Additional Highlights Include the 25th Anniversary Staging of Ronald K. Brown's *Grace* and
a New Production of Elisa Monte's *Treading* and Alvin Ailey's Timeless *Revelations*



Photo Credits (L to R): Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Matthew Rushing's *Sacred Songs*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Donna Ward. **Please credit photos. Ctrl+Click the photos for hi-res download.**

NEW YORK – January 23, 2025 – After a much-anticipated winter season in New York City, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)—beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies—will continue its 2024-2025 season celebrating the life and legacy of Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison with an **18-city United States tour starting January 31 in Cleveland** and continuing coast-to-coast to cities including **Atlanta; Washington, D.C.; Boston; Chicago; and Los Angeles; before culminating with a Mother's Day performance in Newark on May 11.** The passionate spirit and extraordinary technique of AILEY's dancers will be showcased in a diverse repertory of new works, repertory favorites, and AILEY classics, including Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece *Revelations*.

The tour will include four season premieres specially commissioned for AILEY: [Sacred Songs](#), the world premiere by Interim Artistic Director **Matthew Rushing**; former AILEY dancer **Jamar Roberts'** [Al-Andalus Blues](#); former Company member **Hope Boykin's** [Finding Free](#); and [Many Angels](#), the first world premiere for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater by **Lar Lubovitch**. *Sacred Songs* features music used in the original 1960 premiere of Alvin Ailey's seminal *Revelations* but later omitted, resurrecting and reimagining those spirituals—with the collaboration of creative associate and musical director Du'Bois A'Keen—as an offering to our present need for lamentation, faith, and joy. To coincide with the tour, A'Keen has released a *Sacred Songs Suite* album featuring his brilliant team of musicians in a live recording of the soundtrack, along with some bonus songs. The spirituals, influenced by the sounds of jazz, West African drums, gospel, hip hop, and calypso, are available to purchase as an album or individually and on all streaming platforms for free.

Al-Andalus Blues is an abstract ensemble piece that journeys back in time to the golden age of Al-Andalus, evoking the northern African Moors who flourished in the south of present-day Spain prior to the Christian Reconquista. *Finding Free* is an insightful collaboration with pianist Matthew Whitaker's original score, examining the challenges and restrictions throughout life's peaks and valleys. *Many Angels* features Lubovitch's renowned lush choreography and musicality set to Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5, meditating on the question by 13th century theologian St. Thomas Aquinas "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?"

Additional productions this season include a special 25th anniversary production of **Ronald K. Brown's** spellbinding [Grace](#). Set to Duke Ellington's classic "Come Sunday," Peven Everett's hit "Gabriel," and the irresistible pulse of Fela Kuti's Afro-Pop, *Grace* depicts individuals on a journey to the promised land, expanding from a single angel-like figure in white to the fireball intensity of 12 powerful dancers. In addition to *Grace*, another favorite returning to the AILEY stage is **Elisa Monte's** [Treading](#), a sculptural, mesmerizing duet featuring fluid, intricate movements that combine with Steve Reich's evocative music to create an aura of mystery and sensuality.

Performances of **Alvin Ailey's** must-see American masterpiece [Revelations](#) will inspire audiences in every city on the tour. Since its creation in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more people around the world than any other modern dance work, moving audiences with its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music and evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the south and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African American community and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

New York's famed Whitney Museum of American Art, in collaboration with Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, is presenting [Edges of Ailey](#)—the first large-scale museum exhibition to celebrate the life, creativity, influence, and enduring legacy of Alvin Ailey. On view through February 9, 2025, the multi-faceted presentation features a multimedia display on the museum's fifth floor, paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, film, rehearsal footage, and archival materials that situate Mr. Ailey within a broad social, creative, and cultural context. Timed tickets for the in-gallery exhibition as well as related performance tickets are available on whitney.org.

The compelling story of the life, work, and legacy of Alvin Ailey is also the subject of [Portrait of Ailey](#), a new eight-part documentary series available for **free** on **PBS LearningMedia**. Created by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita [Sylvia Waters](#), *Portrait of Ailey* uses rare historical film and still images as well as contemporary footage to create a sweeping narrative of Mr. Ailey as a performer, choreographer, celebrity, teacher, social activist, arts advocate, and the creator of an enduring institution. All eight chapters are currently available online.

Additional Tour Activities

The AILEY Organization continues its mission of using dance to educate young people through special activities, including **master classes, student performances, lecture-demonstrations** throughout the tour, innovative **curriculum-based residencies** for public school students, and **AileyDance for Active Aging workshops for adults 50+**. The [Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach residency](#) uses Alvin Ailey's signature work as the inspirational framework for a comprehensive study of language arts, social studies, and dance. The innovative program actively engages participants in a process of reflecting, discussing, creating, performing, and assessing, while exploring the life story of Alvin Ailey and *Revelations*. In conjunction with the tour, *Revelations* residencies and AileyDance for Active Aging are being implemented in **Atlanta, Los Angeles and Miami**. Led by Master Teacher and former Ailey star [Nasha Thomas](#), **free Revelations Celebration Community Workshops will be offered to the public**: March 2 in Detroit (location TBA) and in partnership with Celebrity Series, four workshops will be held between March 22-23, details [here](#). In addition, students from [AileyCamp](#)— a free summer program that helps youth reach their full potential— will experience the magic of the Company's live performances. The award-winning program operates in 10 cities across the country: **Atlanta, Baltimore, Berkeley/Oakland, Chicago, Kansas City (KS and MO), Miami, New York City (Bronx), Newark, and Seattle**. AileyCamp 2025 details to be announced, [here](#).

[The Ailey School](#), the official school of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater offering world-class dance training to students ages 3-25, **will conduct auditions for the 2025-2026 academic programs as well as the 2025 summer intensive** at four cities including **Atlanta, Boston, and Silver Spring/DMV area**. The mission of The Ailey School is to make dance accessible to outstanding students through a curriculum of rigorous and diversified dance training. Nearly 70% of current Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members received their pre-professional training from The Ailey School. For further information regarding the audition schedule, please click [here](#).

[Ailey II](#), the next generation of dance providing a bridge between The Ailey School and the professional dance world, will continue its “off-the-charts energy” in the next leg of their **28-city tour from February 2 to May 1**, inspiring audiences in **Santa Fe, Aspen, Miami, Kansas City**, and more, in addition to their annual **New York City season at the Ailey Citigroup Theater March 26-April 6**. Click [here](#) for 2025 tour schedule.

In conjunction with the tour, [Ailey Extension](#) will also step out of New York City and into select cities across the country to offer dance workshops to teens and adults of all backgrounds and levels. Designed to expand Alvin Ailey’s life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone, **Ailey Experience** workshops teach students the rich history of Ailey’s signature style, which changed the perception of modern American dance around the world. From January through August, former Ailey dancers and world class instructors will lead Ailey Experience workshops in several cities, including **Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Charlotte, and Washington DC**. Click [here](#) for more information. Meanwhile, audiences around the world can get moving with Ailey Extension’s daily “real classes for real people” in a variety of dance and fitness techniques **either online** or in-studio at the Joan Weill Center for Dance—New York’s largest building dedicated to dance. For info, click [here](#). visit alvinailey.org/extension.

In 1958, Alvin Ailey and a small group of dancers took the stage in New York and forever changed American dance and culture. One of the country’s groundbreaking greats, his Company earned a reputation as one of the finest international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of American modern dance.

For more **information** on AILEY’s upcoming performances, visit www.ailey.org.

For additional **press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos**, members of the media may visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

Press Contacts:

Christopher Zunner – czunner@alvinailey.org

Tracy Severe – tsevere@alvinailey.org

Nicole Tintle – ntintle@alvinailey.org

Esther Akutekha – eakutekha@alvinailey.org

Danielle Chambliss – dchambliss@alvinailey.org

Calendar Listing Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the world’s most beloved dance companies, embarks on a national tour January 31 – May 11, 2025 during a season celebrating Legacy in Motion and the life of beloved Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison (1943–2024). AILEY’s extraordinary dancers will move audiences with world premieres, new productions, repertory favorites, and classics like the American masterpiece *Revelations*, acclaimed as a must-see for all. For more information, visit www.ailey.org/tour.

Bank of America is Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s Tour Sponsor.

The 2024 National Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The world premiere of *CENTURY* is made possible with support from Maury & Joseph Bohan, The Ellen Jewett & Richard L. Kaufman Endowment Fund, and the Pamela D. Zilly and John H. Schaefer Endowment Fund.

The creation of *Me, Myself and You* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

The world premiere of *Me, Myself and You* is made possible with support from Celestine & Howard Campbell, and The Fred Eychaner New Works Endowment Fund.

Generous support for this new production of *Dancing Spirit* was received from an Anonymous supporter, Judith McDonough Kaminski & Joseph Kaminski, Sara & Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund, Dr. Crawford Parker, and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey through the generosity of its donors.

This new production of *Solo* is made possible by the Red Moose Charitable Fund.

The creation of *Are You in Your Feelings?* was supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

Are You in Your Feelings? was made possible with major support from Michele & Timothy Barakett, Melinda & Paul Pressler, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn & Nicolas S. Rohatyn New Works Endowment Fund, and The Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer Endowment Fund.

Additional support was provided by an Anonymous supporter, The Fred Eychaner New Works Endowment Fund, and The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey—Sara and Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund.

All performances of *Revelations* are permanently endowed by a generous gift from Donald L. Jonas in celebration of the birthday of his wife, Barbara, and her deep commitment to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

ABOUT ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, 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. Forged during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, the Company was established to uplift the African American experience while transcending boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. Founded by Alvin Ailey, the posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation’s highest civilian honor. Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and for 21 years she led the Company to unprecedented success. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents—as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms—promoting the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago; The Fox Theatre in Atlanta; Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA, and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate, and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization also includes 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 Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey’s permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world—named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.ailey.org.

###

2025 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

as of Nov 20, 2024

Cleveland, OH	Playhouse Square KeyBank State Theatre	Jan 31–Feb 1
Washington, D.C.	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	Feb 4–9
Atlanta, GA	The Fox Theatre	Feb 12–16
Greenville, SC	Peace Center	Feb 18–19
Charlotte, NC	Belk Theater at Blumenthal Arts Center	Feb 21–22
Charleston, SC	Charleston Gaillard Center	Feb 25–26
Philadelphia, PA	Academy of Music	Feb 28–Mar 2
Chicago, IL	Auditorium Theatre	Mar 7–9
Iowa City, IA	Hancher Auditorium	Mar 11
Detroit, MI	Detroit Opera House	Mar 14–16
Chapel Hill, NC	Univ. North Carolina Memorial Hall	Mar 18–19
New Orleans, LA	Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts	Mar 21–22
Los Angeles, CA	LA Music Center Dorothy Chandler Pavilion	Apr 2–6
Berkeley, CA	UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall	Apr 8–13

Santa Barbara, CA [UC Santa Barbara The Granada Theatre](#)
Mesa, AZ [Mesa Arts Center](#)
Boston, MA [Boch Center Wang Theatre](#)
Newark, NJ [New Jersey Performing Arts Center](#)

Apr 15–16
Apr 18–19
Apr 24–27
May 9–11

WORLD PREMIERES

Al-Andalus Blues

Choreography by Jamar Roberts

Music: Roberta Flack and Miles Davis

Journey back in time to the Golden Age of Al-Andalus on the Iberian Peninsula as Jamar Roberts evokes the multi-ethnic Islamic civilization that flourished in the south of Spain until 1492. Music from Roberta Flack and Miles Davis's *Sketches of Spain* sets the tone for this abstract ensemble piece.

Finding Free

Choreography by Hope Boykin

Music: Matthew Whitaker

Hope Boykin's 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 Boykin's movement language and Whitaker's jazz- and gospel-influenced score to explore notions of personal freedoms.

Many Angels

Choreography by Lar Lubovitch

Music: Gustav Mahler

After 60 years as a choreographer, Lar Lubovitch has frequently been asked: "Why do you make dances?". The 13th century theologian St. Thomas Aquinas posed several theoretical questions about the behavior of angels to which no real answers are possible or necessary. "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" illustrates that some questions have no logical response but are understood as a question of faith. Something may exist in the world simply for the sake of itself. For example, a dance. *Many Angels* is a dance to music by Gustav Mahler. It is not really about angels (well, maybe a little).

Sacred Songs

Choreography by Matthew Rushing

Music: Du'Bois A'Keen

Featuring songs used in the original 1960 version of Alvin Ailey's seminal *Revelations* but later omitted when the piece was edited into the current version that has captivated audiences for decades. Drawing inspiration from the roots of Mr. Ailey's most venerated and consummate creation, this stirring new work will resurrect and reimagine those spirits —with the collaboration of musical director **Du'Bois A'Keen**—as an offering to our present need for lamentation, faith, and joy.

NEW PRODUCTIONS

Grace (1999)

Choreography by Ronald K. Brown

Music: Duke Ellington, Roy Davis, Fela Anikulapo Kuti

This new production marks the 25th anniversary of Brown's rapturous work connecting African and American dance 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 featuring 12 dancers on a journey to the Promised Land.

Treading (1981)

Choreography by Elisa Monte

Music: Steve Reich

The two dancers in this sculptural, mesmerizing duet come together in fluid, intricate movements that combine with Steve Reich's meditative music to create an aura of mystery and sensuality.

RETURNING FAVORITES

Are You in Your Feelings? (2022)

Choreography by Kyle Abraham

Music: Various Artists

Acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham's recent popular work is a celebration of Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a "mixtape" of soul, hip-hop, and R&B featuring beloved musical artists like Jhené Aiko, Drake, Lauryn Hill, Kendrick Lamar, Jazmine Sullivan, and Summer Walker, the critically applauded work resonates with the themes of love and relationships. "A lot of these songs are the songs that I play when I'm at my lowest and at my highest. I wanted to find a way to thank those artists for their music and thank our culture for their contributions to this world in which we live." -Kyle Abraham

CENTURY (2023)

Choreography by Amy Hall Garner

Music: Various Artists

Amy Hall Garner's first work for AILEY is a deeply personal piece inspired by her grandfather on the eve of his 100th birthday. Taking a cue from his spirited essence and set to the music of Ray Charles, Count Basie, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, and more, *CENTURY* is a pure dance work celebrating life, resilience, and joy.

Dancing Spirit (2009)

Choreography by Ronald K. Brown

Music: Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis, Radiohead, War

Ronald K. Brown pays tribute to Judith Jamison's profound influence with a moving work that echoes the title of Jamison's autobiography. 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, dignity, and generosity.

Following the Subtle Current Upstream (2000)

Choreography by Alonzo King

Music: Zakir Hussain, Miguel Frasconi, and Miriam Makeba

Alonzo King's work investigates deeply rooted affinities between Western and Eastern classical forms, elemental materials, the natural world, and the human spirit. Described by choreographer Alonzo King as "a piece about how to return to joy," *Following the Subtle Current Upstream* mirrors life's boisterous waves and reminds us that everything in nature seeks to return to its source. King's movement -- abstract but steeped in meaning -- sets the dancers in constant flow to an eclectic score by Zakir Hussain, Miguel Frasconi, and Miriam Makeba.

Me, Myself and You (2023)

Choreography by Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrich Music: Duke Ellington

A dreamlike duet by former AILEY dancer Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrich, *Me, Myself and You* is a dance about reminiscence. Set to Damien Sneed and Brandie Sutton's rendition of "In A Sentimental Mood," it conjures the memories of love and passion for a woman asking herself if she should let go or forge ahead.

Ode (2019)

Choreography by Jamar Roberts

Music: Don Pullen

Former AILEY dancer Jamar Roberts offers a meditation on the beauty and fragility of life in a time of growing gun violence. This tender, engrossing work will be staged with an all-female cast and features a jazz score—Don Pullen's "Suite (Sweet) Malcolm (Part 1 Memories and Gunshots)"—and Roberts's own costume designs.

Solo (1997) Choreography by Hans van Manen

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Hans van Manen divides his dynamic *Solo* among three dancers in a tour-de-force that challenges the AILEY men's daring, agility, and grace. This explosive display of virtuosity and wit, set to a Bach violin suite, launches the performers into an exhilarating whirlwind of movement and musicality.

AILEY CLASSICS

A Song for You (1972)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Donny Hathaway

Alvin Ailey choreographed *A Song For You* for Dudley Williams in 1972, the first section of *Love Songs*, a three-part technical and dramatic tour-de-force originally created for the legendary Dudley Williams often viewed as the male counterpart to *Cry*. Set to the late, great Donny Hathaway's rendition of "A Song For You," this tender, lyrical and dramatic solo was performed by Mr. Williams at the memorial celebration for Alvin Ailey following his passing in 1989.

Cry (1971)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, Voices of East Harlem

In 1971, Alvin Ailey choreographed the ballet *Cry* as a birthday present for his mother on his stunning muse, the legendary Judith Jamison, who has taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of AILEY women. This physically and emotionally demanding tour-de-force 16-minute solo—dedicated to "all black women everywhere—especially our mothers"—went on to become an enduring work of American art. Made up of three parts—the first is set to Alice Coltrane's "Something about John Coltrane," the second to Laura Nyro's "Been on a Train," and the last has the Voices of East Harlem singing "Right On, Be Free."

Memoria (1979)**Choreography by Alvin Ailey****Music: Keith Jarrett**

In the tumultuous time of 1979 when Mr. Ailey's great, perennial friend from his Lester Horton days, choreographer Joyce Trisler, died prematurely, he began choreographing *Memoria*. Later, he wrote, "*Memoria* is about Joyce's life, my memories of her, my image of her. Although these are very abstract images, nobody has ever asked me what *Memoria* is about. People everywhere understand it. Making the dance was a very deep and wrenching experience for me." The ballet is structured in two parts—"In Memory" and "In Celebration"—to the sublime music of Keith Jarrett. *Memoria* marked the first time Mr. Ailey combined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater with Ailey II and advanced students from The Ailey School.

Night Creature (1975)**Choreography by Alvin Ailey****Music: Duke Ellington**

A bubbly champagne cocktail of a dance, *Night Creature* perfectly fuses Alvin Ailey's buoyant choreography and Duke Ellington's sparkling music in a definitive homage to The Duke's jazz that remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works. Ellington said "night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night—they come ON, each thinking that, before the night is out, he or she will be the star." The large ensemble work is full of stars—strutting, leaping, and slinking using modern dance, classical ballet, and jazz.

SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE**Revelations (1960)****Choreography by Alvin Ailey****Music: Traditional Spirituals**

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audience's cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

***All Programming – Subject to Change**