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**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 25th ANNIVERSARY
WASHINGTON, DC GALA BENEFIT AT
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

Opera House Special Performance Followed by Dinner and Dancing



Photo Credits (L to R): Ailey Board Members Tony Lewis and Sela Thompson Collins with members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo © Tony Powell; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Dario Calmese; Governor Wes Moore and AILEY Executive Director Bennett Rink at the 2024 Washington, DC Gala. Photo © Tony Powell. **Ctrl + click for hi-res download. Please credit photos.**

(WASHINGTON, DC) January 17, 2025 – On Wednesday, February 5, 2025, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will host its [25th annual Washington, D.C. Gala Benefit](#) during the [week-long engagement at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts \(February 4 – 9\)](#) that is part of a coast-to-coast U.S. Tour celebrating Legacy in Motion and the life of Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison (1943 – 2024). A highlight of the cultural calendar and Black History Month, the 7:30pm performance on the Opera House Stage features Ailey's extraordinary dancers in season world premieres of Matthew Rushing's [Sacred Songs](#) and Lar Lubovitch's [Many Angels](#), as well as a special excerpt of Alvin Ailey's [Cry](#), the tour de-force solo made famous by Judith Jamison, and the must-see masterpiece [Revelations](#). Afterwards, in the Nation's Gallery, prominent figures in entertainment, business, philanthropy, and politics will gather for dinner and dancing.

The black-tie benefit is made possible by the generosity of **Southern Company**, with **President and CEO Chris Womack** as the **Corporate Chair**. Gala Co-Chairs include **Sela Thompson Collins, Anthony A. Lewis, Lisa Warner Wardell, and Yelberton R. Watkins**. Vice Chairs are **Joyce Brayboy, Michael E. Collins, Dionna Dorsey, Lawrence Duncan III, Jana Taylor Jennings, Tanya Leah Lombard, John Mason, Jennifer M. Stewart, Nicole Venable, Shawna Watley, and Katharine Weymouth**, with Co-Chair Emeritus **Lyndon K. Boozer**.

Proceeds from the silver anniversary benefit support AILEY's D.C. programs, including the creation of new works, Ailey Arts In Education activities, and scholarships for talented young students in the DMV area to attend The Ailey School in New York City. Proceeds from the silver anniversary benefit support AILEY's D.C. programs, including the creation of new works, Ailey Arts In Education activities, and scholarships for talented young students in the DMV area to attend The Ailey School in New York City.

During the engagement, local students will attend a school-time performance and participate in masterclasses led by the Company members, many with **seven of the 32 dancers having roots in the DMV area** - Samantha Figgins, Michael Jackson, Jr., Xavier Mack, Corrin Rachelle Mitchell, Alisha Rena Peek, Jessica Amber Pinkett, Miranda Quinn. Students can also be inspired by the compelling story of the life, work, and legacy of Alvin Ailey by [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.

For more information on Gala tickets, please visit ailey.org/DCgala. For information on other AILEY performances and programs, visit ailey.org. For additional photos and press materials, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

This evening is made possible by the generosity of Southern Company

Bank of America is the Official Sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's North American Tour

About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by US 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. Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and for 21 years she brought the Company to unprecedented success. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on six continents, 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 Company performs annually at 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 the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark (where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the world during extensive tours. AILEY 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 (1992), 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 Joan Weill Center for Dance—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City. AILEY is partnering with the Whitney Museum of American Art to present *Edges of Ailey* (September 25, 2024–February 9, 2025), the first large-scale exhibition to celebrate the life, creativity, influence, and enduring legacy of Alvin Ailey. For more information, visit ailey.org.

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