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'We resurrected lost pieces and gave them new life': Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Atlanta

By: Lois Reitzes

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Since 1976, Atlanta has prided itself on being the second home to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Each February, the extraordinary dancers showcase thrilling new works and audience favorites at the Fox Theatre. This year's performances are Feb. 12-16.

Choreographer Hope Boykin and Alvin Ailey interim artistic director Matthew Rushing recently joined Lois Reitzes on "City Lights" to share more about this season's offerings.

One of this year's world premieres is Boykin's *Finding Free*, which explores resilience and self-discovery through layered choreography.

"The dancers shed physical and emotional barriers as the piece unfolds," she explained. The score was composed by Matthew Whitaker, a blind, Emmy-nominated pianist. "His music is soul-stirring," Boykin said, "it was a true collaboration of faith, sound and movement."

Rushing also introduced *Sacred Songs*, a reimagining of spirituals once intended for *Revelations*, Ailey's signature work.

"We resurrected lost pieces and gave them new life," he said.

Another highlight of the season is the 25th anniversary of Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*, a piece blending modern dance with Afro-Caribbean influences.

For tickets and more information, visit foxtheatre.org.