

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company, returns to its "home" theater for annual five-week holiday engagement, December 3, 2025 – January 4, 2026

AILEY Raises the Curtain on New Era of Leadership with Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack

Opening Night Gala Honors Board of Trustees Chair, Daria L. Wallach and
Features Exciting One-Night-Only Performance with Live Music



WORLD PREMIERES

Matthew Neenan's choreographic debut with Ailey features his signature wild abandon and gestural playfulness. In [Difference Between](#), acclaimed singer and composer **Heather Christian** contributes her raw power to an intricate world of strange tensions, potent griefs, and quiet loves.

Frederick Earl Mosley's [Embrace](#) examines the ups and downs of human connections—messy, beautiful, and everything in between. Set to popular songs by **Stevie Wonder, Kate Bush, Ed Sheeran, Des'ree, and Pink**, this world premiere explores what it takes to love deeply, heal fully, and embrace the journey with open arms.

In **Maija García's** first work for Ailey, [Jazz Island](#), a Caribbean folktale comes to life through ancestral rhythms and divine intervention. Inspired by Geoffrey Holder's "Black Gods, Green Islands" and featuring an original score by **Etienne Charles**, this theatrical staging explores the spiritual dimensions of human drama and the connective force of love across the Afro-Caribbean diaspora.

Renowned Ailey choreographer **Jamar Roberts** gives a fresh take on the 1961 solo *Hermit Songs*, Alvin Ailey's reaction to a set of medieval religious texts and the haunting song cycle by Samuel Barber that they inspired. The result, [Song of the Anchorite](#), is a powerful meditation on passion and devotion danced to music by jazz trumpeter **Avishai Cohen**.

The first collaboration among **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Samantha Figgins, and Chalvar Monteiro** takes its title from Alvin Ailey's journal in which he wrote, "My roots are also in...the holy blues—paeans to joy, anthems to the human spirit." [The Holy Blues](#) is inspired by the Ring Shout and The Door of No Return. The soundtrack encompasses gospel music and the blues—the sacred and the secular—which serve as passages to the divine during times of trouble and strife.

NEW PRODUCTION

[A Case of You](#) (2005) is a sensual duet excerpt from **Judith Jamison's** 2005 *Reminiscent*—an emotionally intense showstopper danced to **Diana Krall's** sultry rendition of the classic Joni Mitchell song.

COMPANY PREMIERE

In an intriguing piece that probes the relationship between dance and music, **Medhi Walerski** lays bare the strength and vulnerability inherent in the creative process. In [Blink of an Eye](#) (2011), the timeless beauty of **J.S. Bach's** violin sonatas and partita anchors the athletic movement that is both precise and expansive.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

[Opening Night Gala Benefit](#) – **December 3 at 7 pm**: An exciting one-night-only performance and party launches Alicia Graf Mack's inaugural season and honors Board of Trustees Chair Daria L. Wallach. The all-live-music performance features Medhi Walerski's *Blink of an Eye* with renowned violinist Melissa White, Judith Jamison's *A Case of You*, sung by five-time GRAMMY® Award-winning jazz artist Samara Joy, and Alvin Ailey's indelible *Revelations*, accompanied by a full choir. Followed by a dinner dance at the Ziegfeld Ballroom, the benefit raises support the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, including the creation of new works, scholarships for talented students at The Ailey School, and AILEY's innovative educational programs for children.

Family Matinee Series - On Saturday afternoons, bring the whole family to enjoy 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. 6, 13, 20, 27, and Jan. 3 @ 2pm)

Live Music - experience the magic of Ailey with live music (*Revelations* - Dec. 3, 5, 6, 7 / *Blink of an Eye* and *A Case of You* - Dec. 3)

Click here to view [Ailey's 2025 New York City Center press release](#) and the [full season schedule](#) (subject to change).

Photo Credits: 2025-26 Poster, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Caroline Dartey. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Alicia Graf Mack with members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Corrin Mitchell and Hannah Richardson in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.