

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S OPENING NIGHT GALA ON DECEMBER 3 KICKS OFF ALICIA GRAF MACK'S INAUGURAL SEASON AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND HONORS BOARD CHAIRMAN DARIA L. WALLACH

Honorary Chair and Honored Guest is Multi-Platinum, GRAMMY®-Winning Global Superstar, Acclaimed Singer, Songwriter, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, and Cultural Icon Ciara
Two-Time Oscar Nominee Colman Domingo is Also an Honorary Chair

One-Night-Only Program Features Live Music Performances by Five-Time GRAMMY® Award-Winning Jazz Artist Samara Joy and GRAMMY®-Winning Violinist Melissa White

Celebration Launches AILEY's Five-Week Holiday Season at New York City Center, December 3 – January 4

NEW YORK — November 13, 2025 — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) will raise the curtain on a new era under Artistic Director [Alicia Graf Mack](#) with a star-studded [Opening Night Gala](#) on **Wednesday, December 3 at 7pm**, kicking off the company's [five-week holiday season](#). The event begins with a special performance at **New York City Center**, followed by a dinner and celebration at the **Ziegfeld Ballroom**. The Gala will **honor Daria L. Wallach**, chair of the AILEY Board of Trustees, for her visionary leadership, meaningful contributions, and invaluable commitment to AILEY and its legacy. Two-time Oscar nominee [Colman Domingo](#) serves as **Honorary Chair** as well as multi-platinum, GRAMMY®-winning global superstar, acclaimed singer, songwriter, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and cultural icon [Ciara](#), who will appear as **Honored Guest to introduce** inspiring finale of Alvin Ailey's [Revelations](#) with soul-stirring choir.

This one-night-only program, performed entirely to live music, includes the company premiere of **Medhi Walerski's** [Blink of an Eye](#), an intriguing piece exploring the relationship between dance and music with GRAMMY®-winning violinist [Melissa White](#). The evening also features a new production of **Judith Jamison's sensual duet** [A Case of You](#), performed to a live rendition of the Joni Mitchell classic sung by five-time GRAMMY® award-winning jazz artist [Samara Joy](#). Following Alvin Ailey's masterpiece **Revelations**, with its unforgettable score of spirituals, prominent figures in the worlds of entertainment, business, philanthropy, and politics will join in the festive dinner-dance at the Ziegfeld Ballroom.

Proceeds from the Gala 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. The event's **co-chairs are Jody & John Arnhold, Emily & Len Blavatnik, Jack Pitts, Eric J. Wallach, Joan & Sandy Weill, and Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer**; **vice chairs are Anthony S. Kendall and Anthony A. Lewis**. Call 212-405-9029 or visit <https://ailey.org/events/opening-night-gala-2025> for tickets.

AILEY is pleased to announce the **2025 Opening Night Gala Honorary Committee, chaired by Ciara and Colman Domingo, and includes Council Member Gale A. Brewer, Michael Ealy, Jennifer Garner, Yvonne Orji, Amy Sberal, Christian Siriano, Anna Deavere Smith, Bryan Stevenson, and Paul Tazewell.**

The company's five-week engagement at City Center will move audiences with world premieres by Maija García, Fredrick Earl Mosley, Matthew Neenan, Jamar Roberts, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Samantha Figgins, and Chalvar Monteiro. Alongside a company premiere by Medhi Walerski and a new production of Judith Jamison's *A Case of You*, the season will feature a variety of repertory favorites including Alvin Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*, performed to live music during the opening weekend. Tickets for season performances from December 3–January 4 start at \$45 (fees included) and are on sale at the New York City Center Box Office, through Customer Care at 212-581-1212, or online at ailey.org or nycitycenter.org.

PRESS: For photos, videos, and materials, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org or [click here](#). Additional images can be found [here](#).



(L to R): Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Corrin Rachele Mitchell and Michael Jackson Jr. in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Honorary Chair and Honored Guest Ciara. Photo by Michael Drummond; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Alice Castro. **CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD – Please credit photos.**

AILEY is generously supported by

AARP, American Express, Anonymous, BNY Mellon, Booth Ferris Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, New York City Center, The Mellon Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Thompson Family Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

AILEY's New York City Center Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

The company premiere of *Blink of an Eye* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

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. Alicia Graf Mack, widely celebrated for her dance artistry during her years with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, was appointed Artistic Director of AILEY as of July 1, 2025. 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 holiday tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at 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 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 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 ailey.org.