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AILEY II – THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE – RETURNS TO THE AILEY CITIGROUP THEATER MARCH 26–APRIL 6

Rising Stars Take Center Stage in Two Dynamic Programs—*Echoes* and *New Vintage*

Company's 2024-25 Season is Dedicated to the Life and Legacy of

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison

Tickets Now on Sale!



Ailey II in Houston Thomas' *Down the Rabbit Hole*. Ailey II's Kiri Moore and Corinth Moulterrie in Alvin Ailey's *Streams*. All photos by Nir Arieli.

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NEW YORK – FEBRUARY 5, 2025 — On the heels of a 28-city tour, [Ailey II](#), the next generation of dance, returns to the Ailey Citigroup Theater from March 26–April 6 for its annual New York season. Led by Artistic Director [Francesca Harper](#), 12 of the country's most talented young dancers will bring their “off-the-charts-energy” to two dynamic programs, *Echoes* and *New Vintage*, spotlighting a premiere by **Houston Thomas** and returning favorites by **Alvin Ailey**, **Judith Jamison**, **Baye & Asa**, and **Ms. Harper**.

“Ailey II is thrilled to come back to our home stage after an incredible tour across the country as we leap into our sixth decade,” says Francesca Harper. “We are eager to welcome both our loyal supporters and new audiences to experience the exciting artistry of Ailey II through two programs that bridge the past and present, celebrating how each generation shapes the future. Whether audiences find joy, connection, or a sense of empowerment, I want them to carry that discovery into their lives long after they leave the theater.”

For more than five decades, Ailey II has merged the spirit and energy of the country's best early-career dance talent with the passion and artistry of today's most outstanding choreographers. Founded in 1974 as a bridge between [The Ailey School](#) and the professional dance world, the company embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people.

The Ailey Citigroup Theater engagement opens on **Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30pm** with *Echoes*, symbolizing the enduring resonance of humanity and Ailey II connecting generations through storytelling, cultural preservation, and innovation. The program showcases **Francesca Harper's** [Luminous](#), a work that pays homage to the 50th anniversary of Ailey II and the artists who paved the way for future generations; **Houston Thomas' world premiere** [Down the Rabbit Hole](#), inspired by *The Matrix* film series, which explores how technology weaves into the fabric of daily life, transforming how we as humans interact and function; and **Alvin Ailey's** [Streams](#), an abstract exploration of bodies in space danced to a percussion score by Miloslav Kabelac and inspired by bodies of water that correlate to the changing tides within us.

On **Thursday, March 27 at 7:30pm** Ailey II will present ***New Vintage***, a program that highlights the evolution of the company's tradition of risk taking by celebrating the dynamic voices of our founding figures alongside those of today's most daring choreographers. Works featured include a solo excerpted from **Judith Jamison's *Divining***, her first choreographic work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1984; ***Ailey Highlights***, a collection of excerpts from three classic works choreographed by **Alvin Ailey** between 1958 and 1972; **Baye & Asa's *John 4:20***, an expanded duet the choreographers originally created in 2018; and **Thomas' *Down the Rabbit Hole***.

New Yorkers have 14 chances to witness these "impressively trained dancers up close" (*The Wall Street Journal*) who come from near (Brooklyn native **Corinth Moulterie**) and far (Houstonian **Jennifer M. Gerken**). **Tickets starting at \$62.25 (includes \$3.25 service fee) are on sale now and can be purchased at ailey.org/aileyiiny or by phone at 212-405-9082.** Detailed schedule below.

All programs are approximately an hour and 45 minutes, including two intermissions.

Echoes:

Luminous / Down the Rabbit Hole / Streams

Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30pm
Friday, March 28 at 7:30pm
Saturday, March 29 at 2pm
Saturday, March 29 at 7:30pm
Friday, April 4 at 7:30pm
Sunday, April 6 at 3pm
Sunday, April 6 at 7:30pm

New Vintage:

Divining (excerpt), Ailey Highlights / Down the Rabbit Hole / John 4:20

Thursday, March 27 at 7:30pm
Sunday, March 30 at 3pm
Sunday, March 30 at 7:30pm
Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30pm
Thursday, April 3 at 7:30pm
Saturday, April 5 at 2pm
Saturday, April 5 at 7:30pm

Programming and casting are subject to change.

Ailey Extension invites dancers of all experience levels to join Francesca Harper for an exhilarating contemporary masterclass on **Saturday, March 22 at 3:30pm**. Harper will lead students through repertoire featured in Ailey II's upcoming season including excerpts of choreography by Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Amadi "Baye" Washington and Sam "Asa" Pratt of Baye & Asa, and Francesca Harper herself. This immersive workshop is designed to ignite joy in movement while honing your technique and discovering the depth of your artistic voice. For more information and to sign up, please visit [here](#).

Let Ailey II's performances inspire you to get moving this spring for FREE in one of Ailey Extension classes. New and returning students have a chance to trade their performance ticket for a complimentary dance or fitness class of their choice. With over 70 classes a week available in-studio and online in a wide variety of techniques such as hip-hop, ballet, West African, NY Style Mambo, Pilates, and Horton—Ailey Extension makes dance accessible to people of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels. Ticket holders for Ailey II's 2024 New York engagement have until April 30, 2025, to take advantage of this exclusive offer. Please visit ailey.org/extension to view the schedule of classes or to sign up and learn more about the program.

Explore the profound legacy and impact of Alvin Ailey with ***Portrait of Ailey***, an 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.

Visit ailey.org/ailey-ii for more information on Ailey II. To enjoy a variety of digital content, follow Ailey II on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. Press can visit pressroom.alvinailey.org/ailey-ii for bios, hi-res downloadable photos, and b-roll.

Ailey II 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.

Ailey II fellowships are supported by an Anonymous donor.

Francesca Harper's *Luminous* has been made possible, in part, by a commissioning grant from the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation.
Additional support has been provided by Kim van Doorn.

The creation of *John 4:20* is supported by Robert A. Press, M.D., and Wendy & Doug Kreeger.

About Ailey II

Ailey II—the second company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater—is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best early-career dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding and emerging choreographers. Founded in 1974 as a bridge between The Ailey School and the professional dance world, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Ailey II flourished into one of the most popular dance companies in the country under the leadership of Sylvia Waters from 1974–2012, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. With Artistic Director Francesca Harper at the helm, Ailey II is forging a new path for modern dance—one that's inclusive, experimental, and transformative. For more information, visit ailey.org/aileyii.

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