

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL
SEASON LED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ALICIA GRAF MACK LAUNCHING
AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER DECEMBER 3, 2025 - JANUARY 4, 2026, FOLLOWED
BY UNITED STATES TOUR**

**Five-Week Holiday Engagement with Five World Premieres—
Jazz Island by Maija García, *Embrace* by Fredrick Earl Mosley,
Difference Between by Matthew Neenan, *Song of the Anchorite* by Jamar Roberts, and
The Holy Blues by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Samantha Figgins, and Chalvar Monteiro**

**Company Premiere of *Blink of an Eye* by Medhi Walerski and
New Production of Judith Jamison's *A Case of You***

**Opening Night Gala Honors AILEY Board Chair Daria L. Wallach with an All-Live Music Program
Featuring Five-time GRAMMY® Award-winning Jazz Artist Samara Joy
and Alvin Ailey's Masterpiece *Revelations***

New York City Center Season Tickets On Sale September 9

NEW YORK — updated August 20, 2025 — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and a beloved American cultural ambassador to the world, returns to the [New York City Center stage from December 3, 2025 – January 4, 2026](#) for a five-week engagement, which has become a joyous holiday tradition! The milestone season raises the curtain on AILEY's next era under the leadership of new Artistic Director [Alicia Graf Mack](#), the renowned dancer and educator, guided as ever by Alvin Ailey's pioneering legacy. Audiences will be treated to classic works from the Ailey repertory that have inspired and uplifted fans for decades—including the touchstone of inspiration *Revelations*, the ultimate anthem to resilience and joy, which will be performed with live music for six performances on the Opening Night Gala and opening weekend.

The company will continue to break ground with new works by contemporary choreographers that promise to propel dance in exhilarating new directions with five world premieres—*Jazz Island* by Maija García, *Embrace* by Fredrick Earl Mosley, *Difference Between* by Matthew Neenan, *Song of the Anchorite* by Jamar Roberts, and *The Holy Blues* by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar in collaboration with Samantha Figgins and Chalvar Monteiro. The season, programmed jointly by Ms. Graf Mack and Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, will also feature the company premiere of Medhi Walerski's *Blink of an Eye* and a new production of Judith Jamison's *A Case of You*.

Alicia Graf Mack said, “This monumental season draws deeply on Alvin Ailey’s legacy rooted in celebrating the resilience of the human spirit, while extending its truth and bold virtuosity to reflect this moment in time and our hopes for the future. Each new creation shares the utterly distinctive voice of its choreographer, testifying to the vitality of the tradition Mr. Ailey gave us and the gifts of spirit that Judith Jamison so lovingly nurtured. I am grateful and honored to be a caretaker of this ever-changing continuum of inspiration, along with Matthew Rushing and the company of brilliant dancers whose artistry will move us all as we take our next steps forward.”

Matthew Rushing said, “I join with the entire company in welcoming Alicia Graf Mack in her new role as our artistic director. Her great respect for and commitment to the AILEY mission, along with the perspective and integrity that informs her vision, will help elevate everything we do. We are excited to welcome audiences to New York City Center this holiday season to be uplifted by cherished classics and remarkable new works as the curtain goes up on the next chapter in AILEY’s extraordinary story.”

Performances kick off with a one-night-only [Opening Night Gala](#) performance and party honoring **Daria L. Wallach**, chair of the AILEY Board of Trustees. The special program, performed entirely to live music, will include the company premiere of **Medhi Walerski’s *Blink of an Eye*** with GRAMMY®-winning violinist **Melissa White**, a new production of **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.

In the world premiere ***Jazz Island***, the first work for AILEY by **Maija García**, 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, *Jazz Island* explores the spiritual dimensions of human drama and the connective force of love across the Afro-Caribbean diaspora.

Embrace by **Fredrick Earl Mosley** examines the ups and downs of human connections—messy, beautiful, and everything in between. Set to popular songs by Des’ree, Etta James, Maxwell, Ed Sheeran, and Stevie Wonder, this world premiere explores what it takes to love deeply, heal fully, and embrace the journey with open arms.

Matthew Neenan makes his choreographic debut on the company with a world premiere featuring 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.

In the world premiere ***Song of the Anchorite***, 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 is a powerful meditation on passion and devotion—both earthly and spiritual—danced to jazz trumpeter Avishai Cohen’s interpretation of a Ravel adagio.

The Holy Blues—a season world premiere 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 work 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.

In an intriguing piece that probes the relationship between dance and music, ***Blink of an Eye*** by **Medhi Walerski** lays bare the interplay of strength and vulnerability inherent in the creative process. The timeless beauty of J.S. Bach’s violin sonatas and partita anchors the athletic movement that is both precise and expansive in this company premiere supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

In a new production, the company revisits ***A Case of You***, a sensual duet that was part of the 2005 work *Reminiscent* by AILEY's second artistic director, **Judith Jamison**. This emotionally intense showstopper is danced to Diana Krall's sultry rendition of the classic song by Joni Mitchell.

Special programs include All New, Ailey Classics, and an Ailey & Jamison Tribute, as well as **Family Matinee performances each Saturday at 2pm** culminating with Alvin Ailey's uplifting *Revelations*, followed by a Q&A session with the company's revered dancers.

Three new company members join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater this season: **Donnie Duncan Jr.**, previously with Nederlands Dans Theater; **Mason Evans**, a dancer from The Juilliard School; and **Sebastian Garcia**, who began dancing at AileyCamp New York and was most recently a member of the Collage Dance Collective.

AILEY welcomes **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar** as this year's **AILEY Artist in Residence**, in the third year of a program that invests in and partners with choreographers who reflect Alvin Ailey's cultural inquiry, participatory values, and far-reaching curiosity. As Artist in Residence, Ms. Zollar is connecting with multiple aspects of the organization, after her recent world premiere collaboration with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Following the New York City Center engagement, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's season will travel coast-to-coast on a 20-city United States tour from January through May 2026.

Tickets to Ailey's New York City Center season start at \$45 (fees included) and go on sale September 9 at noon at the New York City Center box office, through Customer Care at 212-581-1212, or at ailey.org or www.nycitycenter.org.

The compelling story of the life, work, and legacy of Alvin Ailey is also the subject of [Portrait of Ailey](http://PortraitofAiley.org), a new eight-part documentary series available for **free** on AILEY.org or PBS LearningMedia, with accompanying educational resources for teachers and students. Created by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita [Sylvia Waters](http://SylviaWaters.org), *Portrait of Ailey* combines rare historical film and still images with 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.

Press materials and photos are available at pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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

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.



Photo Credits (L to R): Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack with members of the company; 2025-2026 Season Image of Caroline T. Dartey; Members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. All Photos by Andrew Eccles. **Please credit photos. CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD.**

*** All Programming – Subject to Change**

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE - TICKETS ON SALE SEPTEMBER 9 AT NOON

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
December 3, 2025 – January 4, 2026, at New York City Center
131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY
(212) 581-1212 / www.nycitycenter.org

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to New York City Center from December 3, 2025 – January 4, 2026 for a five-week engagement that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led Alicia Graf Mack in her inaugural season as Artistic Director, AILEY's extraordinary dancers 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, along with a company premiere by Medhi Walerski, a new production of Judith Jamison's *A Case of You*, and a variety of repertory favorites, including Alvin Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*. Tickets starting at \$45 (fees included) go on sale September 9 at the New York City Center Box Office, through Customer Care at 212-581-1212, or online at www.ailey.org or www.nycitycenter.org. For further information, visit www.ailey.org/CityCenter.

WORLD PREMIERES

Jazz Island

Choreography by Maija García

Music - original Composition by Etienne Charles

In García's first work for Ailey, 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.

Embrace

Choreography by Fredrick Earl Mosley

Music Performed by Stevie Wonder, Etta James, Maxwell, Ed Sheeran & Des'ree

Embrace examines the ups and downs of human connections—messy, beautiful, and everything in between. Set to popular songs by Des'ree, Etta James, Maxwell, Ed Sheeran, and Stevie Wonder, this world premiere explores what it takes to love deeply, heal fully, and embrace the journey with open arms.

Difference Between

Choreography by Matthew Neenan

Music written and performed by Heather Christian & the Arbornauts

Matthew Neenan's choreographic debut with AILEY features his signature wild abandon and gestural playfulness. In this world premiere, acclaimed singer and composer Heather Christian contributes her raw power to an intricate world of strange tensions, potent griefs, and quiet loves.

Song of the Anchorite

Choreography by Jamar Roberts

Music performed by Avishai Cohen

Renowned Ailey choreographer 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 is a powerful meditation on passion and devotion danced to music by jazz trumpeter Avishai Cohen.

The Holy Blues

Choreography by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Samantha Figgins, and Chalvar Monteiro

Music by Various Artists

The Holy Blues—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 work 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.

COMPANY PREMIERE

Blink of an Eye

Choreography by Medhi Walerski

Music performed by Itzhak Perlman

In an intriguing piece that probes the relationship between dance and music, Walerski lays bare the strength and vulnerability inherent in the creative process. The timeless beauty of J.S. Bach's violin sonatas and partita anchors the athletic movement that is both precise and expansive in this company premiere supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

NEW PRODUCTION

***A Case of You* (2005)**

Choreography by Judith Jamison

Music performed by Diana Krall

This sensual duet—an excerpt from Jamison's 2005 *Reminiscent*—is an emotionally intense showstopper danced to Diana Krall's sultry rendition of the classic Joni Mitchell song.

SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE

***Revelations* (1960)**

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audiences cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

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.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER - NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON
DECEMBER 3, 2025 - JANUARY 4, 2026

DECEMBER 3, 2025 - JANUARY 4, 2026

TUE AT 7:30		WED AT 2:00		WED AT 7:30		THU AT 7:30		FRI AT 7:30		SAT AT 2:00		SAT AT 7:30		SUN AT 2:00		SUN AT 7:00			
										FAMILY MATINEE									
		3-Dec		4-Dec		5-Dec		6-Dec		7-Dec									
		OPENING NIGHT GALA 7pm early curtain PREMIERE NIGHT* LIVE MUSIC^		Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Grace intermission Revelations		PREMIERE NIGHT* LIVE MUSIC^ Jazz Island (W)* intermission Following the Subtle Current Upstream pause A Song For You intermission Revelations^		LIVE MUSIC^ Jazz Island (W) intermission Following the Subtle Current Upstream pause A Song For You intermission Revelations^ Post-perf Q&A		LIVE MUSIC^ Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Grace intermission Revelations^		LIVE MUSIC^ Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Grace intermission Revelations^		LIVE MUSIC^ Jazz Island (W) intermission Following the Subtle Current Upstream pause A Song For You intermission Revelations^					
9-Dec		10-Dec		11-Dec		12-Dec		13-Dec		14-Dec									
Jazz Island (W) intermission Following the Subtle Current Upstream pause A Song For You intermission Revelations		NO PERF		Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Grace intermission Revelations		PREMIERE NIGHT* BLINK of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Grace Proceeds benefit Dancers Responding to AIDS		AILEY & JAMISON TRIBUTE Memoria intermission A Case of You (N) pause Cry intermission Revelations		Jazz Island (W) intermission Many Angels pause Treading intermission Revelations Post-perf Q&A		Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Grace		AILEY & JAMISON TRIBUTE Memoria intermission A Case of You (N) pause Cry intermission Revelations		Jazz Island (W) intermission Many Angels pause Treading intermission Revelations			
16-Dec		17-Dec		18-Dec		19-Dec		20-Dec		21-Dec									
Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Grace		NO PERF		AILEY & JAMISON TRIBUTE Memoria intermission A Case of You (N) pause Cry intermission Revelations		ALL NEW PREMIERE NIGHT* Jazz Island (W) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Embrace (W)*		PREMIERE NIGHT* The Holy Blues (W)* intermission Many Angels pause Treading intermission Grace Post-perf Q&A		AILEY CLASSICS Act 1 intermission Act 2 intermission Revelations Post-perf Q&A		ALL NEW Jazz Island (W) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Embrace (W)		The Holy Blues (W) intermission Many Angels pause Treading intermission Grace		AILEY CLASSICS Act 1 intermission Act 2 intermission Revelations			
23-Dec		24-Dec		25-Dec		26-Dec		27-Dec		28-Dec									
ALL NEW Jazz Island (W) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Embrace (W)		AILEY CLASSICS Act 1 intermission Act 2 intermission Revelations		ALL NEW The Holy Blues (W) intermission Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Embrace (W)		NO PERF		The Holy Blues (W) intermission Following the Subtle Current Upstream pause Treading intermission Grace Proceeds benefit the Ailey Dancers' Resource Fund		Sacred Songs intermission Treading pause Revelations Post-perf Q&A		ALL NEW Jazz Island (W) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Embrace (W)		AILEY CLASSICS Act 1 intermission Act 2 intermission Revelations		Sacred Songs intermission Treading pause Revelations			
30-Dec		31-Dec		1-Jan		2-Jan		3-Jan		4-Jan									
ALL NEW The Holy Blues (W) intermission Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Embrace (W)		Sacred Songs intermission Treading pause Revelations		NO PERF		ALL NEW Jazz Island (W) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Embrace (W)		Sacred Songs intermission Treading pause Revelations Post-perf Q&A		Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Grace intermission Revelations Post-perf Q&A		The Holy Blues (W) intermission Following the Subtle Current Upstream pause Treading intermission Grace		Jazz Island (W) intermission Following the Subtle Current Upstream pause Treading intermission Revelations		Blink of an Eye (C) pause A Case of You (N) intermission Difference Between (W)* pause Song of the Anchorite (W)* intermission Revelations			
Season Debut - Premieres & New Production 1st Season Performance				World Premieres Embrace Jazz Island Difference Between Song of the Anchorite The Holy Blues				Company Premiere Blink of an Eye				New Production A Case of You				Special Programs Ailey & Jamison Tribute Ailey Classics All New Live Music			
(Programming as of 10/15/25 - Subject to Change)																			