

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

PRESS CONTACT:
Christopher Zunner
czunner@ailey.org / 212-405-9028

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER LAUNCHES 20-CITY UNITED STATES TOUR FROM JANUARY 30 – MAY 10, 2026 DURING INAUGURAL SEASON LED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ALICIA GRAF MACK

Coast-to-Coast Performances Feature Ailey's Extraordinary Dancers in 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

Other Highlights are Company Premiere of *Blink of an Eye* by Medhi Walerski,
New Production of Judith Jamison's *A Case of You*, Repertory Favorites including Ronald K. Brown's
Rapturous Grace and Alvin Ailey's Must-See Masterpiece *Revelations*

NEW YORK — January 30, 2026 — After an acclaimed holiday season in New York City, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) – beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies – will grace stages across the United States during a **20-city coast-to-coast United States tour**, starting January 30 in **Washington, DC** and continuing to cities including **Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, and Los Angeles** before culminating with a **Mother's Day performance in Newark** on May 10.

The passionate spirit and extraordinary technique of AILEY's dancers will be showcased in diverse programs of new works, repertory favorites, and classics that have inspired and uplifted fans for decades—including the touchstone of inspiration [Revelations](#), the ultimate anthem to resilience and joy. 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*.

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. A star performer on the Ailey stage, where she enjoyed a spectacular career between 2005 and 2014, Ms. Graf Mack was brought into the Company and mentored by the incomparable Judith Jamison. After Ms. Graf Mack's retirement from performing, she went on to distinguish herself as the Dean and Director of the Dance Division of The Juilliard School. She now returns to AILEY as only the fourth Artistic Director in the Company's nearly 70-year history, going back to Alvin Ailey himself. (See *Dance Magazine* - [Alicia Graf Mack Returns to Ailey as Its Fourth Artistic Director](#)).

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. Along with Matthew Rushing and the company of brilliant dancers whose artistry moves us all, I am proud and excited to be taking our next steps forward on a United States tour sharing Alvin Ailey's gift to the world with audiences from coast-to-coast".

[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 be uplifted by cherished classics and remarkable new works as the curtain goes up on the next chapter in AILEY’s extraordinary story”.

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 Stevie Wonder, Kate Bush, Des’re, Ed Sheeran, and P!nk, 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 [Difference Between](#), a world premiere featuring 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.

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, the company premiere [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 a new production, the company revisits [A Case of You](#), a sensual duet that was part of the 2005 work *Reminiscin’* 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.

Bank of America is now the 2026-2027 Global Tour Sponsor of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, building on more than 20 years of partnership. “We are proud to continue to support AILEY, bringing the best of modern dance to audiences around the world,” says **Brian Siegel, Global Arts, Culture & Heritage Executive**.

Along with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s performances, [Ailey II](#), the next generation of dance, is on a national tour with stops in Fresno, Malibu, Asheville, St. Louis and more cities in addition to their annual New York City season at The Joyce Theater March 17-22.

Ailey Extension will host beginner-friendly [Ailey Experience](#) dance workshops in select cities – including Atlanta, Washington DC, Houston, New Orleans, and Las Vegas – introducing participants ages 8–adult to the exciting world of choreography and the rich history of Mr. Ailey’s signature style.

Aspiring dancers have the opportunity to audition for [The Ailey School’s 2026-27 academic programs and the 2026 summer intensive](#) in several cities including New York, Atlanta, Silver Spring, MD, and Jacksonville, FL.

Throughout the tour, AILEY continues its mission of using dance to educate people of all ages through a variety of special activities, including **master classes**, **student performances**, **lecture-demonstrations**, innovative **curriculum-based residencies** for public school students, and **AileyDance for Active Aging workshops for older adults**, that advance Alvin Ailey's declared mission of bringing dance "back to the people." The [*Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach residency*](#) uses Alvin Ailey's signature work as the inspirational framework for a comprehensive study of language arts, social studies, and dance. Led by Master Teacher and former Ailey star **Nasha Thomas**, the program actively engages participants in a process of reflecting, discussing, creating, performing, and assessing, while exploring the life story of Alvin Ailey and *Revelations*. Thomas will also lead **Revelations Celebration Community Workshops**, a popular, free opportunity for the public to join in the dance.

To help introduce young audiences to the timeless magic of Ailey, hour-long **school-time performances** moderated by one of the dancers will give students a peek behind the scenes into the world of dance and introduce a new generation to Alvin Ailey's timeless *Revelations* and Ronald K. Brown's masterwork *Grace*.

[Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs](#) (AAIE), in collaboration with **92NY Dance Education Laboratory** (DEL) and renowned choreographer Ronald K. Brown, recently announced the launch of the [Finding Grace](#) curriculum, a new dance residency program for K-12 utilizing Brown's masterwork, *Grace*, as an inspirational framework.

AileyCamp, the six-week summer program for ages 11–14 with classes in dance, personal development, creative communications and daily affirmations, extends beyond the summer session when participants experience one of the company's performances in nine different cities. Four current members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater—Solomon Dumas (Chicago), Sebastian Garcia (New York), Christopher Taylor (Newark), and De'Anthony Vaughan (Kansas City) —were introduced to dance through AileyCamp. AileyCamp 2026 details to be announced, [here](#).

For this Black History Month, all chapters of **Portrait of Ailey**, a compelling eight-part documentary series about the life, work and legacy of Alvin Ailey, are **available for free on [AILEY.org](#) and [PBS LearningMedia](#)**, with accompanying educational resources for teachers and students. Created by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita [Sylvia Waters](#), *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.

For more information on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 2026 United States Tour, visit [ailey.org](#).

For Media: Click [here](#) for the 2026 US Tour Photo & Video Guide, including season photos, sizzle reels, b-rolls and more on Alicia Graf Mack. For additional press materials including bios and more, visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](#).

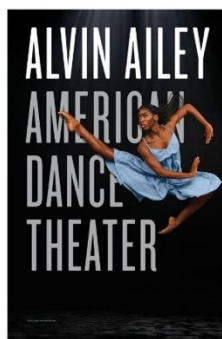


Photo Credits (L to R): Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack with members of the company; 2025-2026 Season Image of Caroline T. Dartey; Members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. All Photos by Andrew Eccles. **Please credit photos. CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD.**

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, embarks on a national tour from January 30 – May 10, 2026, 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*. For further information, visit [ailey.org/tour](#).

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

*Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2026 United States Tour is supported, in part,
by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

All performances of *Revelations* are permanently endowed by a generous gift from Donald L. Jonas in celebration of the birthday of his wife, Barbara, and her deep commitment to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The company premiere of *Blink of an Eye* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.
Blink of An Eye was also made possible with support by Leanne Lachman.

The world premiere of *Embrace* is supported by Michele & Tim Barakett, Maury & Joseph Bohan, Julie C. Down, Denise Littlefield Sobel, The Ellen Jewett and Richard L. Kauffman New Works Endowment Fund, and The Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn & Nicolas Rohatyn New Works Endowment Fund.

The world premiere of *Jazz Island* is supported by Tracy Elise Poole, Cynthia & Robert Schaffner, and Vera F. Wells.

The world premiere of *Difference Between* is supported by The Pamela D. Zilly and John H. Schaefer New Works Endowment Fund and The Fred Eychaner New Works Endowment Fund.

The creation of *The Holy Blues* was made possible by Crawford Parker, M.D. and The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey—Sara & Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund.

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.

2026 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

as of 1/29/26

Washington, DC	Warner Theatre	Jan 30-Feb 8
Atlanta, GA	The Fox Theatre	Feb 11-15
Auburn, AL	Gogue Center Woltosz Theater	Feb 17-18
Nashville, TN	Tennessee Performing Arts Center	Feb 21-22
Chapel Hill, NC	Univ. North Carolina Memorial Hall	Feb 24-25
Philadelphia, PA	Academy of Music	Feb 27-Mar 1
Austin, TX	Univ. Texas Bass Concert Hall	Mar 3
Houston, TX	Jones Hall	Mar 6-8
Dallas, TX	Winspear Opera House	Mar 10
Kansas City, MO	Kaufman Center for the Performing Arts	Mar 13-14
Eugene, OR	Hult Center for the Performing Arts	Mar 17-18
Seattle, WA	Paramount Theatre	Mar 20-22
Los Angeles, CA	LA Music Center Dorothy Chandler Pavilion	Mar 25-29
Berkeley, CA	UC Berkeley Zellerbach Hall	Apr 7-12
Davis, CA	Univ. California Mondavi Center	Apr 14-15
Minneapolis, MN	Univ. of Minnesota Northrop	Apr 18-19
Milwaukee, WI	Marcus Performing Arts Center	Apr 21
Chicago, IL	Auditorium Theatre	Apr 24-26
Boston, MA	Boch Center Wang Theatre	Apr 30-May 3
Newark, NJ	New Jersey Performing Arts Center	May 8-10

*** All Programming – Subject to Change**

WORLD PREMIERES

Jazz Island

Choreography by Maija García

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

Embrace examines the ups and downs of human connections—messy, beautiful, and everything in between. Set to popular songs by Stevie Wonder, Kate Bush, Des'ree, Ed Sheeran, and P!nk, 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

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

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

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—paean 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 (2011)

Choreography by Medhi Walerski

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.

NEW PRODUCTIONS

A Case of You (2005)

Choreography by Judith Jamison

This sensual duet—an excerpt from Jamison's 2005 *Reminiscin'*—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.

ABOUT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ALICIA GRAF MACK

[Alicia Graf Mack](#) was a star performer on the Ailey stage during a spectacular career between 2005 and 2014, when she was brought into the company and mentored by the incomparable Judith Jamison. She now returns to serve as AILEY’s fourth Artistic Director, after distinguishing herself as the Dean and Director of Dance Division of The Juilliard School from 2018-2025. Born in San Jose, CA, Ms. Graf Mack grew up in Columbia, MD. She began her career with Dance Theatre of Harlem under the direction of Arthur Mitchell and ascended to become a highly recognized principal ballerina. A celebrated artist, she performed with Complexions Contemporary Ballet and made guest appearances with Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Her versatility led to collaborations with artists including Beyoncé, John Legend, Andre 3000, Alicia Keys, and Jon Batiste. Ms. Graf Mack has graced the stages of major galas and festivals, performed tributes to luminaries including Carmen de Lavallade at the 2017 Kennedy Center Honors, and danced at the memorial services for Arthur Mitchell at NYC’s Riverside Church and Jessye Norman at the Metropolitan Opera House. A Columbia University graduate (magna cum laude, honors in history), she also holds an MA in nonprofit management from Washington University in St. Louis. Some of her many honors are the prestigious 2023 Dance Magazine Award, Smithsonian Magazine’s American Innovator of the Arts and Sciences, and the Ebony Power 100 List of influential Black leaders and innovators. Other accolades include an honorary doctorate from The Juilliard School in 2025, Columbia University’s Medal of Excellence, keynote addresses at Columbia’s School of General Studies in 2008 and 2025, and the 2025 Columbia Black Alumni Heritage Award. Before arriving at Juilliard, Ms. Graf Mack was an assistant professor at Webster University and an adjunct professor at the University of Houston and Washington University. She hosted 3 seasons of *Moving Moments*, a podcast in which she interviews colleagues and friends to discuss the creative process and living a purposeful life in dance and is now working on a new podcast at AILEY, to launch in 2026.

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