

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO THE WARNER THEATRE IN WASHINGTON, DC, JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 8, LAUNCHING 2026 U.S. TOUR DURING INAUGURAL SEASON LED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ALICIA GRAF MACK

Ailey's Extraordinary Dancers Inspire in New Works, Repertory Favorites and Ailey Classics with the Must-See Masterpiece *Revelations* as Uplifting Finale for All Programs During Expansive 11 Performance Engagement

Four World Premieres:

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*

26th Annual DC Gala Benefit on Wednesday, February 4

Tickets On Sale Now

WASHINGTON, DC — December 19, 2025 — [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), one of the world's most popular dance companies, launches its 20-city United States tour in [Washington, DC with eleven inspiring performances from January 30 – February 8, 2026](#), where it will be promoted by Live Nation at the historic Warner Theatre, known for over a century as DC's monument to entertainment. Audiences will be treated to a variety of world premieres, new works and classics from the Ailey repertory that have inspired and uplifted fans for decades—including the touchstone of inspiration, *Revelations*, a must-see masterpiece of American dance. [[Modern Luxury DC](#) - "Meet the DC Native Taking Over Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater"]

Ailey's milestone season raises the curtain on a new era under the leadership of Artistic Director [Alicia Graf Mack](#), the renowned dancer and educator, guided as ever by Alvin Ailey's pioneering legacy. Hailing from the Washington, DC area, Ms. Graf Mack was introduced to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under the direction of Judith Jamison and became widely celebrated for her dance artistry. The Company's 32 extraordinary dancers, renowned for their unrivaled artistry, technique, and spirit, also include six from the DMV area: Samantha Figgins, Xavier Mack, Corrin Rachelle Mitchell, Alisha Rena Peek, Jessica Amber Pinkett, and Miranda Quinn. [[VOGUE](#) - "The Curtain Rises for Alicia Graf Mack, Ailey's New 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. I am grateful and honored to be a caretaker of this ever-changing continuum of inspiration, along with Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing and the company of brilliant dancers whose artistry will move us all as we take our next steps forward to build upon the vital tradition Mr. Ailey gave us and the gifts Judith Jamison so lovingly nurtured. It is also personally meaningful for me to launch this special tour in Washington, DC, where I experienced the magic of Ailey when I was an aspiring dancer filled with so many dreams that have now come to fruition."

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's season of legacy in motion will showcase the company's extraordinary dancers and inspiring artistry at the Warner Theatre in four world premieres—*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, also features the company premiere of Medhi Walerski's *Blink of an Eye* and a new production of Judith Jamison's *A Case of You*. An *Ailey Legacy* program highlights a selection of beloved repertory spanning the breadth of Mr. Ailey's rich catalog, including excerpts of *Night Creature*, *A Song for You*, *Pas De Duke*, *Hidden Rites*, and *Cry*.

The must-see finale of all programs will be Alvin Ailey's American timeless masterpiece ***Revelations*** – the ultimate anthem to resilience and joy! Since its debut in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more people around the world than any other modern dance work moving audiences with its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. Springing from Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the South and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African American and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition. [\[PEOPLE\]](#) - "Alvin Ailey Celebrates Milestone Season as 1960's Iconic 'Revelations' Continues to Captivate Modern Audiences (Exclusive)"

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." [\[Dance Magazine\]](#) - "Dancer, Educator, and Advocate Alicia Graf Mack Returns to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as Its Fourth Artistic Director"

The centerpiece of the expansive 11-performance engagement is the [annual Washington, DC Gala Benefit on Wednesday, February 4](#). The special 7pm program will include Fredrick Earl Mosley's *Embrace*, Jamar Roberts' *Song of the Anchorite* (a reimagining of Alvin Ailey's 1961 work *Hermit Songs*) and Alvin Ailey's indelible *Revelations*. Following the performance, guests will gather for a dinner soiree at the Columbia Square Atrium. Proceeds from the black-tie benefit support AILEY's DC programs, including the creation of new works, Arts In Education activities, and scholarships for talented young students in the DMV area to attend The Ailey School in New York City. For more information on AILEY's DC Gala, visit ailey.org/dcgala or contact: alvinailey@kimballstroud.com.

Tickets for Ailey's spectacular DC engagement starting at \$75 (fees included) are on sale now at warnertheatredc.com, ailey.org, and Ticketmaster. Tickets may also be purchased at the Warner Theatre box office (513 13th Street NW Washington, DC) during select hours.

In addition to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's captivating live performances, AILEY's workshops and auditions in the DMV area include:

- **Ailey Experience** – Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 28 to Sunday, March 29, 2026**, when Duke Ellington School for the Arts hosts the Ailey Experience. Instructors include former Ailey company member and DC-native, Lisa Willingham, along with Shaina McGregor and Jeffrey Bynum.
- **The Ailey School Auditions** will be held in **Baltimore on Saturday, January 10** at Baltimore School of the Arts: Junior Division auditions (ages 12-15) start at 9am; Professional Division (ages 16-25) start at 11am. A second audition will be held in **Silver Spring, Maryland on Saturday, January 31** at Maryland Youth Ballet: Junior Division auditions (ages 12-15) start at 3pm; Professional Division auditions (ages 16-25) start at 5pm.

For more information on AILEY performances and programs, visit ailey.org.

Ailey's 2026 Washington, DC Performances (program subject to change)

Fri 1/30 @ 7:30pm	<i>Embrace / Difference Between, Song of the Anchorite / Revelations</i>
Sat 1/31 @ 2pm	<i>Embrace / Difference Between, Song of the Anchorite / Revelations</i>
Sat 1/31 @ 7:30pm	<i>Grace / Blink of an Eye, A Case of You / Revelations</i>
Sun 2/1 @ 2pm	<i>Grace / Blink of an Eye, A Case of You / Revelations</i>
Tues 2/3 @ 7:30pm	<i>Embrace / Difference Between, Song of the Anchorite / Revelations</i>
Wed 2/4 @ 7pm	Gala Benefit: <i>Embrace, Song of the Anchorite / Revelations</i>
Thurs 2/5 @ 7:30pm	<i>The Holy Blues / Blink of an Eye, Song of the Anchorite / Revelations</i>
Fri 2/6 @ 7:30pm	Ailey Legacy: <i>Night Creature</i> (movements 1&2), <i>A Song for You / Pas De Duke</i> (excerpt), <i>Hidden Rites</i> (excerpt), <i>Cry / Revelations</i>
Sat 2/7 @ 2pm	<i>The Holy Blues / Blink of an Eye, Song of the Anchorite / Revelations</i>
Sat 2/7 @ 7:30pm	<i>Embrace / Difference Between, Song of the Anchorite / Revelations</i>
Sun 2/8 @ 2pm	Ailey Legacy: <i>Night Creature</i> (movements 1&2), <i>A Song for You / Pas De Duke</i> (excerpt), <i>Hidden Rites</i> (excerpt), <i>Cry / Revelations</i>

For Media: season photos - [click here](#), sizzle reel video - [click here](#). Additional press materials, including bios, photos and b-roll, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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. *Blink of an Eye*

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.



Photo Credits (L to R): Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack with members of the company. Photo by Andrew Eccles; 2025-2026 Season Image of Caroline T. Dartey. Photo by Andrew Eccles; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Corrin Rachelle Mitchell and Hannah Alissa Richardson in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. **Please credit photos. CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD.**

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE](#)

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

January 30 – February 8, 2026, at the Warner Theatre

513 13th Street NW, Washington, DC

(202) 783-4000 / warnertheatredc.com

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater launches its 20-city United States tour in Washington, DC with 11 inspiring performances from January 30-February 8, 2026, at the Warner Theatre, DC's monument to entertainment. The season of legacy in motion marks a new era under the leadership of artistic director Alicia Graf Mack, and showcases the inspiring artistry of Ailey's extraordinary dancers in dazzling premieres, new productions and classic works from the Ailey repertory that have inspired and uplifted for decades. The must-see finale of all performances will be Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* – the ultimate anthem to resilience and joy. Tickets are available at the Warner Theatre Box Office (513 13th Street NW Washington, DC), warnertheatredc.com or by calling 202-783-4000.

WORLD PREMIERES

[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.

[Embrace](#)

Choreography by Fredrick Earl Mosley

Music Performed by Stevie Wonder, Kate Bush, Des'ree, Ed Sheeran & P!nk

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 P!nk, this piece explores what it takes to love deeply, heal fully, and embrace the journey with open arms.

[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."

AILEY LEGACY PROGRAM

[Night Creature](#) (1975) "Movement I" and "Movement II" excerpts

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Duke Ellington

A bubbly champagne cocktail of a dance, *Night Creature* perfectly fuses Alvin Ailey's buoyant choreography and Duke Ellington's sparkling music in a definitive homage to The Duke's jazz that remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works. Ellington said "night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night—they come ON, each thinking that, before the night is out, he or she will be the star." The large ensemble work is full of stars—strutting, leaping, and slinking using modern dance, classical ballet, and jazz.

[Love Songs](#) (1972) "A Song for You" excerpt

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Donny Hathaway

Alvin Ailey choreographed *A Song For You* for Dudley Williams in 1972, the first section of *Love Songs*, a three-part technical and dramatic tour-de-force originally created for the legendary Dudley Williams often viewed as the male counterpart to *Cry*. Set to the late, great Donny Hathaway's rendition of "A Song For You," this tender, lyrical and dramatic solo was performed by Mr. Williams at the memorial celebration for Alvin Ailey following his passing in 1989.

[Pas De Duke](#) (1976) "Such Sweet Thunder" excerpt

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Duke Ellington

Ailey's modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux captures the sassy sophistication of Duke Ellington's jazz music. The choreography is elegant and deliciously flirtatious, showing off the dancers' exuberance and virtuosity as they engage in a playful game of one-upmanship. Created for Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov, *Pas de Duke* was first presented in 1976 as part of Lincoln Center's "Ailey Celebrates Ellington" festival.

[Hidden Rites](#) (1973) “Of Love” excerpt

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Patrice Sciortino

Alvin Ailey described *Hidden Rites* as “the battle of the sexes.” He said, “The age-old fight and seduction rituals that occur between men and women have excited my sensibilities for a long time.”

[Cry](#) (1971)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music by Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, Voices of East Harlem

In 1971, Alvin Ailey choreographed the ballet *Cry* as a birthday present for his mother on his stunning muse, the legendary Judith Jamison, who has taught the treasured role to subsequent generations of Ailey women. This physically and emotionally demanding tour-de-force 16-minute solo—dedicated to “all black women everywhere—especially our mothers”—went on to become an enduring work of American art. Made up of three parts—the first is set to Alice Coltrane’s “Something about John Coltrane,” the second to Laura Nyro’s “Been on a Train,” and the last has the Voices of East Harlem singing “Right On, Be Free.”

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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