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ALVIN AILEY
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER WELCOMES AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES WITH SPECIAL MATINEE PROGRAMS DURING NY CITY CENTER HOLIDAY SEASON

Alvin Ailey's Timeless Masterpiece *Revelations* Provides an Inspiring Finale to All Saturday Family Matinee Programs Followed by Free Post-Performance Q&As with Ailey Dancers

Passport to Rhythm Interactive Series Celebrates Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack's *Introducing Rhythm* Children's Book and Invites Families to Join in the Dance after Select Sunday Matinee Performances

NEW YORK – November 17, 2026 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater welcomes audiences of all ages to experience the highly anticipated New York City Center season (December 2 – January 3) with the **Family Matinee Series—performances on Saturdays at 2pm that are all followed by question-and-answer sessions with Ailey's acclaimed dancers.** Whether attending for the first time or returning to enjoy the holiday tradition under the leadership of Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack, families will be inspired by performances that celebrate the joy, power, and transformative spirit of dance.

Every Saturday family matinee concludes with Alvin Ailey's masterpiece ***Revelations***—one of the most beloved and celebrated works in dance history, acclaimed as a must-see for all ages. Since its premiere in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more people than any other modern dance work, touching audiences around the globe with its profound storytelling, spirituals, gospel songs, and triumphant celebration of the human spirit. Drawing inspiration from Mr. Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the South and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, the work honors African American cultural traditions while expressing universal themes of faith, perseverance, joy, and hope.

Differing Family Matinee programs feature a variety of some of the season's most exciting repertory highlights, including the world premiere of ***Power of Love*** (December 19), Jamar Roberts' celebration of music icon Luther Vandross; the company premiere of ***In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*** *(*January 2), William Forsythe's landmark contemporary ballet renowned for its athleticism and innovation. Special programs include **Ailey & Jamison Tribute** (December 5) with the new production of the acclaimed ***Hymn***, Judith Jamison's Emmy Award-winning tribute to Alvin Ailey returning to the repertory after nearly 15, and **All Ailey** (December 12 & 26), celebrating Alvin Ailey's extraordinary choreographic legacy through beloved classics including a new production of the tour-de-force *Pas de Duke*, set to the music of Duke Ellington.

In addition, a Passport to Rhythm interactive series invites families to join in the dance following select Sunday matinees in celebration of AILEY Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack's debut children's book, ***Introducing Rhythm***. Designed for readers ages 4-12 and featuring vibrant illustrations by Justin Campbell, the book follows third-grader Rhythm Rogers as she discovers confidence and finds her voice through the joy of dance, which will encourage young people to embrace the unique rhythm within themselves.

Presented in partnership with New York City Center, Passport to Rhythm follows the **December 13, December 20, and January 3 Sunday at 2pm matinee performances** transforming the Grand Tier lobby into a vibrant world of movement and discovery through five activity stations inspired by the dance styles featured in the book: ballet, tap, modern, hip hop, and step. Alicia Graf Mack will also host a special book signing in the Shuman Lounge, creating an unforgettable opportunity for families to connect with the story and celebrate the joy of dance.

Prior to the season on **Sunday, November 15,** families are invited to celebrate the launch of *Introducing Rhythm* at The Joan Weill Center for Dance with book readings, movement demonstrations, and a special book signing during sessions at 11am and 1pm. You can RSVP at **ailey.org/introducing-rhythm-official-book-launch**. Young people can continue their dance journey through **The Ailey School's** Junior Division, which offers year-round training for students ages 3-17 ranging from introductory classes to professional training for aspiring dancers, or **Ailey Extension's** Kids & Teens programs for ages 2-17 with welcoming classes in ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, and more. This holiday season, give the gift of dance that keeps on moving, and watch the rising generation discover their own voice and shine. To learn more or register for classes, visit **ailey.org/training** and **ailey.org/classes**.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater | December 2, 2026 – January 3, 2027
New York City Center - 131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY

Tickets starting at $45 (including fees) are on sale now at the New York City Center box office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or at **ailey.org** or **nycitycenter.org**. *Program Subject to Change,* click here *for the latest schedule.*

FAMILY MATINEE PERFORMANCES

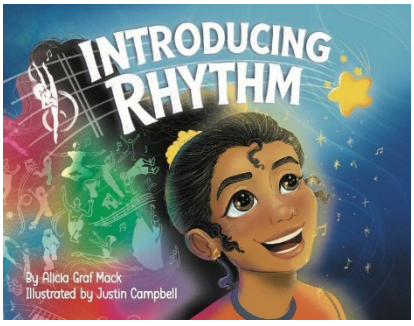
- Saturday, December 5 at 2pm – ***Ailey & Jamison Tribute*** *– Hymn / A Song For You, Revelations*
- Saturday, December 12 at 2pm – ***All Ailey*** *– Memoria / Pas de Duke, Cry / Revelations*
- Saturday, December 19 at 2pm – *Power of Love / Revelations*
- Saturday, December 26 at 2pm – ***All Ailey*** *– Night Creature, A Song For You / Pas de Duke, Cry / Revelations*
- Saturday, January 2 at 2pm – *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated / Grace / Revelations*
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PASSPORT TO RHYTHM PERFORMANCES

- Sunday, December 13 at 2pm **–** *In the Middle Somewhat Elevated/ Song of the Anchorite, A Matter of Time / Grace*
- Sunday, December 20 at 2pm **–** *Power of Love / Revelations*
- Sunday, January 3 at 2pm **– Ailey *& Jamison Tribute*** *– Hymn / A Song for You, Revelations*

For more information, visit **ailey.org**. Press materials, and more, are available at **pressroom.alvinailey.org**.







Please Credit Photos: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Y. Lebrun, A. Green, S. Cusseaux, and I. Day. Photo by Andrew Eccles; *Introducing Rhythm* by Alicia Graf Mack. Illustrated by Justin Campbell; AILEY Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack teaching ballet at The Ailey School. Photo by Alice Castro.

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.

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