ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER



2026–27 Press Kit

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Alice Castro.

Founded by Alvin Ailey on March 30, 1958, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the most acclaimed dance companies in the world. With a repertory that boasts close to 300 works by more than 100 choreographers, it has performed in more than 71 countries on six continents and has been designated a "vital American Cultural Ambassador to the World" by a US Congressional resolution.

Forged during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was established to uplift the African American experience and furthers the American modern dance tradition while transcending boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. As the company grew, Mr. Ailey invited dancers of all backgrounds to be a part of his vision while reimagining his company as a "library of dance," a home for a wide range of choreographers' works that might otherwise be lost—the first modern dance company of its kind. He expanded the global audience for dance with his visionary model and technically dazzling works.

Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, who for 21 years brought the Company to unprecedented success—including two historic engagements in South Africa and a 50- city global tour celebrating the company's 50th anniversary. In 2005, her idea of a permanent home for AILEY was realized with the opening of The Joan Weill Center for Dance, the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City.

Alicia Graf Mack, widely celebrated for her dance artistry during her years with the company, was appointed Artistic Director of AILEY in July 2025. In announcing the appointment, she said, "It's the honor of a lifetime to step into this role and continue the legacy of Alvin Ailey—a legacy rooted in celebrating the beauty and resilience of the human spirit. I am committed to preserving the company's rich heritage while boldly exploring new voices and perspectives that push the boundaries of dance and reflect the world we live in today, and the world we hope to see."

Today, through the remarkable artistry of 32 extraordinary dancers, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues to bring joy and elation to audiences around the globe, while expanding its repertory with works by new choreographers and upholding Mr. Ailey's legacy for future generations.

For further information, visit
pressroom.ailey.org

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER IS APPLAUDED BY AUDIENCES AND CRITICS ALIKE

"Nothing prepares you for the totality of Alvin Ailey: the aural, visual, physical, spiritual beauty…Heaven…Everywhere you looked: sensory pleasure…"
– THE NEW YORK TIMES, ZADIE SMITH

"Five Stars. The pioneering company's warmth and athletic grace is showcased in a selection of old and new work. There's something generous about Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. It's there in the dancing – full of skill, passion and a charismatic warmth"
– THE GUARDIAN, SARAH CROMPTON

"In its sixty-year history, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre has enjoyed an inspiring ascent from hardscrabble origins to a long, still unchallenged reign as America's most popular dance company…"
— THE NEW YORKER

"…how fabulously individual the dancers all are. Each is an immediately distinct character…"
— THE NEW YORK TIMES



In accordance with choreographer Alvin Ailey's dictum that "dance is for everybody," AILEY offers performances, training, classes, and community programs through our five divisions: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, Ailey Extension, and Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs. Using the American modern dance tradition and the beauty of the African American cultural heritage, AILEY enlightens, unites, and inspires all people.



AILEY II

Founded in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Ailey II has advanced Alvin Ailey's vision by giving early-career dancers the vital experience of transitioning from training as a student to becoming a professional dancer. Led by Artistic Director Francesca Harper, Ailey II is forging a new path for modern dance—one that's inclusive, experimental, and transformative.



THE AILEY SCHOOL

Founded in 1969, The Ailey School has grown into a world-renowned educational institution, led by Co-Directors Tracy Inman and Melanie Person. The School's innovative programs echo Alvin Ailey's philosophy, providing students with the highest caliber of multidisciplinary training while encouraging them to explore their own creative voice.
Click for overview video.



THE AILEY/FORDHAM BFA

The Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance is a four-year joint program offering professional dance training at The Ailey School and an exceptional liberal arts education rooted in the Jesuit tradition of intellectual development and personal attention at Fordham University.



AILEY EXTENSION

Ailey Extension offers open dance and fitness classes taught in-person and online by renowned instructors for people of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels – from absolute beginners to professionals. Adult classes are available seven days a week in a wide variety of styles including ballet, hip hop, contemporary, Pilates, West African, and more. Ailey Extension also offers kids and teens classes, performance opportunities, and private group classes. Click for b-roll of classes.



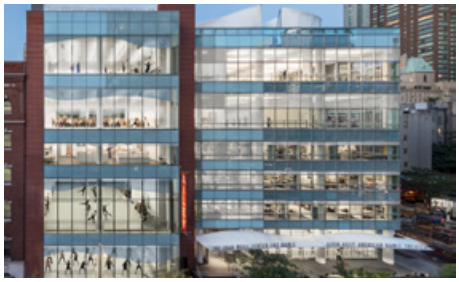
ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs (AAIE) cultivates and energizes youth and older adults to take, make, and see dance. Through our pioneering outreach programs, we reach over 10,000 participants each year, partnering with hundreds of schools, older adult facilities, and community organizations. Expanding on Alvin Ailey's vision of sharing dance with the world, we inspire people to explore their own creativity and experience the joy of movement. Click for AileyDance for Active Aging video.



AILEYCAMP

AileyCamp is an innovative six-week summer day camp run by AAIE for young people ages 11–14. The program helps youth explore their creativity and develop their self-confidence in an atmosphere of warmth, respect, and trust. More than a dance program, AileyCamp provides children with an invaluable opportunity to master their bodies and strengthen their respect for themselves and others within a supportive framework. AileyCamp is currently operating in 10 cities nationwide, including New York City. Click for overview video.

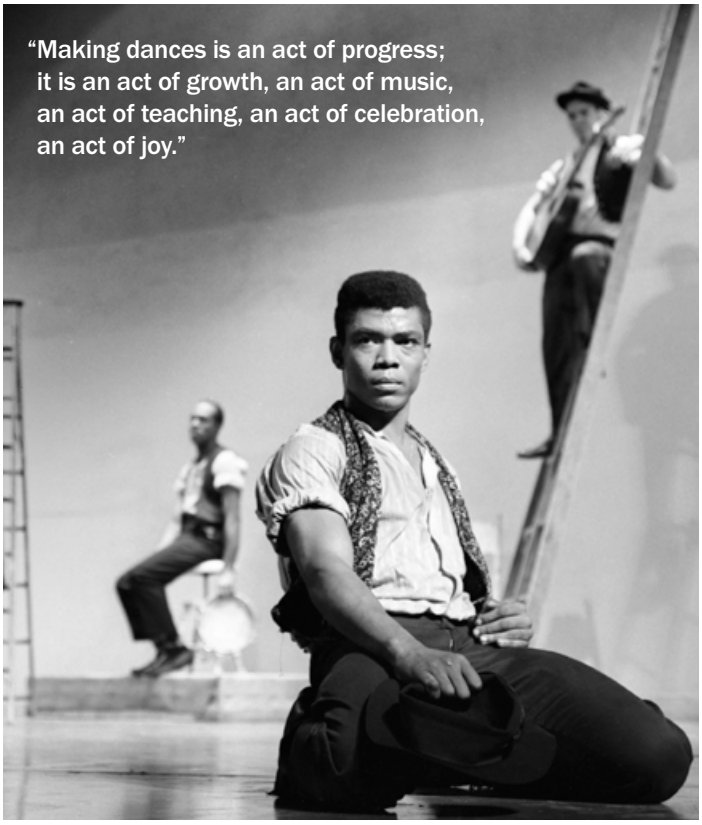


AILEY'S HOME

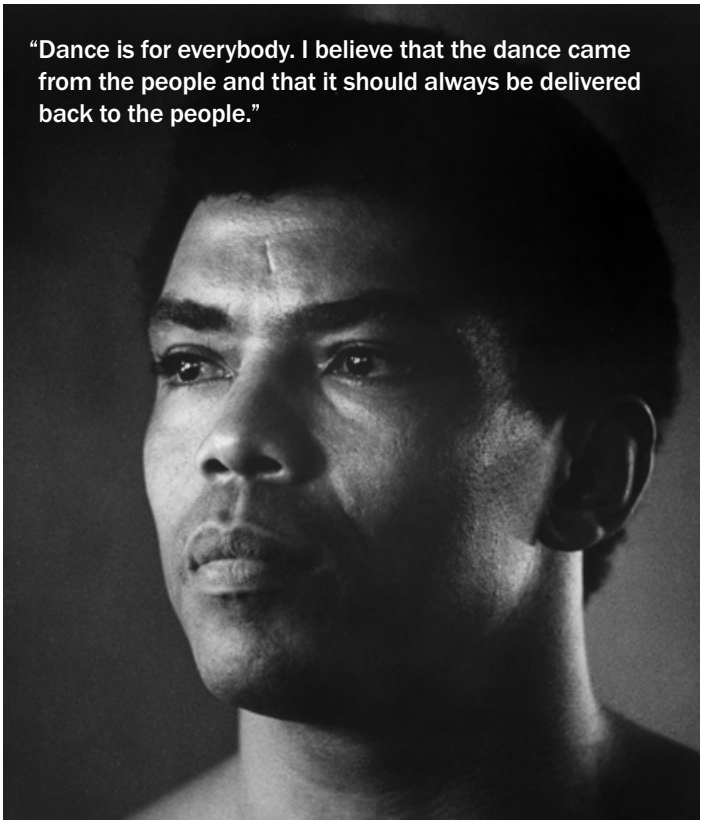
In 2005, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater opened its permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, on 55th Street and 9th Avenue in Manhattan. The striking glass-enclosed building is the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world. In 2017, the Elaine Wynn and Family Education Wing added three floors to the west side of the building, including four dance studios to reach a total of 16, two flexible classrooms, and much more.

Left to right: Alvin Ailey. Photo by Normand Maxon; Ailey II's C. Moulterie A. Jordan K. Moore. Photo by Nir Arieli; Students from The Ailey School Professional Division. Photo by Nir Arieli; Ailey/Fordham BFA Student in Surging by Janice Rosario. Photo by Danica Paulos; Hip Hop at Ailey Extension Photo by Whitney Browne; AIE's Sherece Hill leading a West African Workshop at Jackie Robinson Park, AMNY 2022. Photo by Rob DeMartin; AileyCamp Newark final performance 2023. Photo by Danica Paulos; The Joan Weill Center for Dance with the Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing. © Frederick Charles, fcharles.com

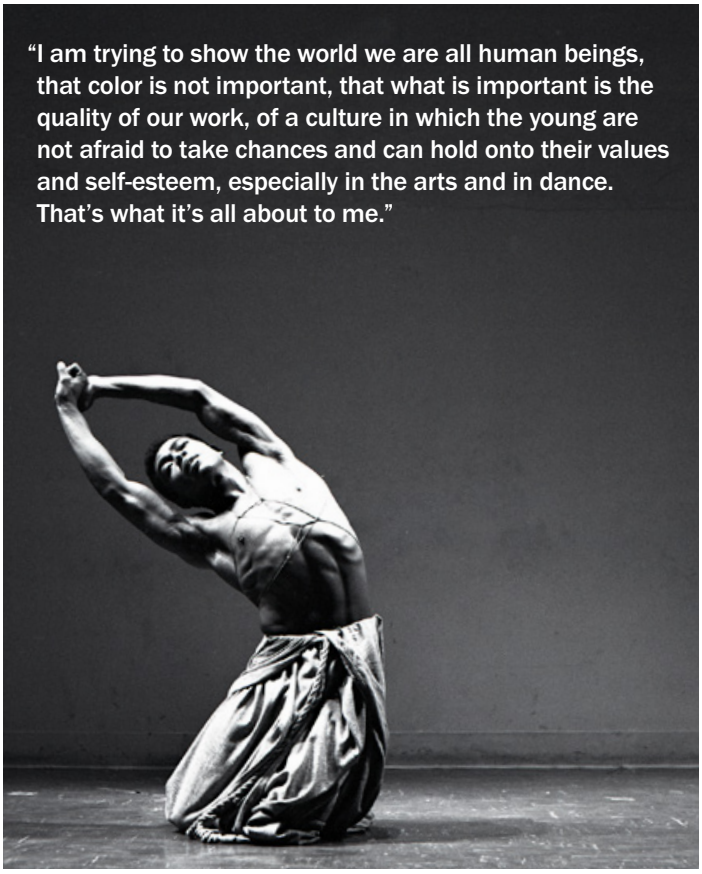
ALVIN AILEY IN HIS OWN WORDS



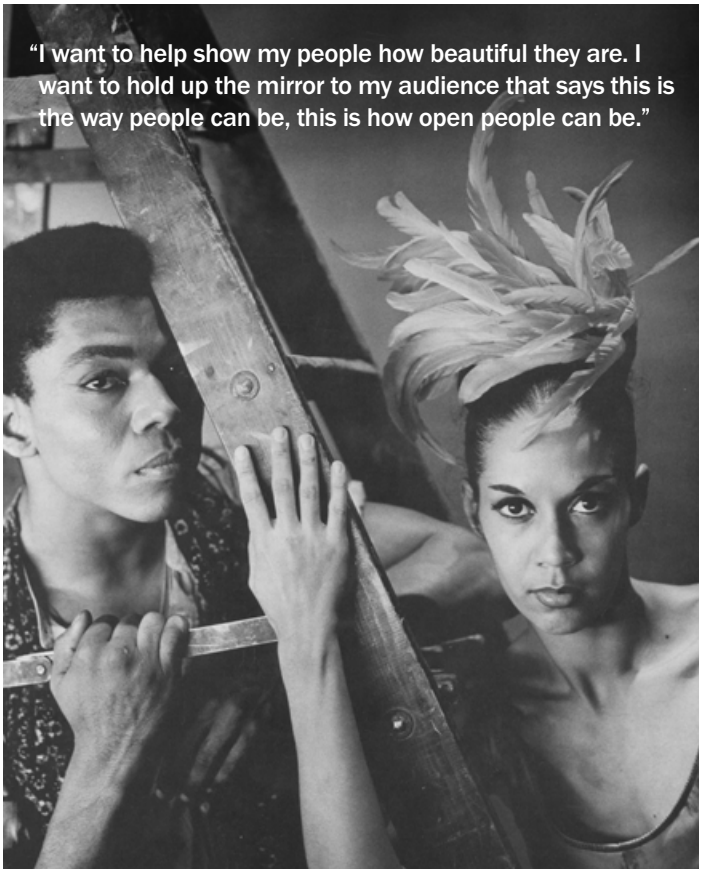
"Making dances is an act of progress; it is an act of growth, an act of music, an act of teaching, an act of celebration, an act of joy."



"Dance is for everybody. I believe that the dance came from the people and that it should always be delivered back to the people."



"I am trying to show the world we are all human beings, that color is not important, that what is important is the quality of our work, of a culture in which the young are not afraid to take chances and can hold onto their values and self-esteem, especially in the arts and in dance. That's what it's all about to me."



"I want to help show my people how beautiful they are. I want to hold up the mirror to my audience that says this is the way people can be, this is how open people can be."



Alvin Ailey in *Hermit Songs*. Photo by Jack Mitchell. © Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation Inc. and Smithsonian Institution



ALVIN AILEY FOUNDER

Alvin Ailey was born on January 5, 1931, in Rogers, Texas where he grew up with his mother, working in cotton fields and witnessing the river baptisms at their local church—experiences that would later inspire some of his most memorable ballets. It was after moving to Los Angeles that he experienced concert dance for the first time, seeing performances by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Katherine Dunham Dance Company. Soon after, his close friend, the extraordinary dancer Carmen de Lavallade, convinced him to formally train under Lester Horton, the founder of one of the first racially integrated dance companies in the United States. With a keen eye for talent, Horton became a mentor to Mr. Ailey. After Horton's passing in 1953, Mr. Ailey became the director of the Lester Horton Dance Theater and began to choreograph his own works. The following year, he moved to New York City, where he performed in four Broadway shows—including House of Flowers and Jamaica—and continued to develop his choreography.

In 1958, Mr. Ailey founded Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to carry out his vision of a company dedicated to uplifting the African American experience while enriching and preserving the legacy of modern dance. The creation of his masterpiece Revelations in 1960 cemented his reputation as a choreographer of unique vision, with the ability to transcend racial barriers and connect deeply to people's humanity. Mr. Ailey established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center (now The Ailey School) in 1969 and formed the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble (now Ailey II) in 1974. He was also a pioneer of programs promoting arts in education. In 1989, he founded AileyCamp, a summer day camp for children to explore their creativity through dance and the arts—the last initiative he spearheaded before his untimely death.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Ailey collaborated with other outstanding American artists including Romare Bearden, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, and Mary Lou Williams, to name a few. He was awarded the highest distinctions in the arts, including the Kennedy Center Honors in 1988 in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to American culture. In 2014, he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the country's highest civilian honor—in recognition of his contributions and commitment to civil rights and dance in America. When Mr. Ailey died on December 1, 1989, The New York Times said, "you didn't need to have known [him] personally to have been touched by his humanity, enthusiasm, and exuberance and his courageous stand for multi-racial brotherhood."

Mr. Ailey was a trailblazer, a man fully dedicated to his art form who generously shared his passion with everyone he encountered, from artists to audiences. His legacy lives on through his ballets—which continue to resonate with millions of people—and the AILEY organization, forever dedicated to his mission of returning dance to the people.



JUDITH JAMISON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITA

Judith Jamison joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965 and quickly became an international star. Over the following 15 years, Mr. Ailey created some of his most enduring roles for her, most notably the tour-de-force solo *Cry*. During the 1970s and 80s, she appeared as a guest artist with ballet companies all over the world, starred in the hit Broadway musical *Sophisticated Ladies* , and formed her own company, The Jamison Project. She returned to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1989 when Mr. Ailey asked her to succeed him as artistic director. In the 21 years that followed, she brought the Company to unprecedented heights—including two historic engagements in South Africa and a 50-city global tour to celebrate the Company's 50th anniversary.

Ms. Jamison was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them a Primetime Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, a Kennedy Center Honor, a National Medal of Arts, a Bessie Award, the Phoenix Award, and the Handel Medallion. She was also listed in "The TIME 100: The World's Most Influential People" and honored by First Lady Michelle Obama at the first White House Dance Series event. In 2015, she became the 50th inductee into the Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance. In 2016, she received the Douglas Watt Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fred and Adele Astaire Awards.
As a highly regarded choreographer, Ms. Jamison created many celebrated works, including *Divining* (1984), *Forgotten Time* (1989), *Hymn* (1993), *HERE... NOW.* (commissioned for the 2002 Cultural Olympiad), *Love Stories* (with additional choreography by Robert Battle and Rennie Harris, 2004), and *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)* (2009).

Ms. Jamison's autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, was edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and published in 1993. In 2004, under Ms. Jamison's artistic directorship, her idea of a permanent home for AILEY was realized and named after beloved Chairman Emerita Joan Weill. Following her retirement from the helm of the Company in 2011, Ms. Jamison continued to dedicate herself to asserting the prominence of the arts in our culture, and she remained committed to promoting the significance of the Ailey legacy—using dance as a medium for honoring the past, celebrating the present, and fearlessly reaching into the future. Her death on November 9, 2024 prompted an outpouring of love and admiration around the world from those who were touched by her magnificent artistry and extraordinary spirit.

THE COMPANY LEADERSHIP



ALICIA GRAF MACK DARIA L. AND ERIC J. WALLACH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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. Her accolades include an honorary doctorate from The Juilliard School in 2025, *Smithsonian Magazine's* American Innovator of the Arts and Sciences, Columbia University's Medal of Excellence, and keynote addresses at Columbia's School of General Studies in 2008 and 2025. She received the prestigious 2023 Dance Magazine Award 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 is the host and co-producer of the *Moving Moments* podcast, featuring conversations with groundbreaking artists in the field of dance.

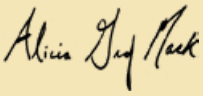
I first saw Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater when I was eight years old. It was a VHS of Donna Wood performing Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. I had never seen this kind of power and beauty—a kind in which I could see myself. It's a moment that has stayed with me my entire life.

Alvin Ailey wanted to deliver dance back to the people, and recently I've been thinking about exactly what he meant. He wanted to hold a mirror up to the audience. He imagined the theater not as a place of alienation and elitism, but of welcome and togetherness. A place to celebrate Black artistry in all its diversity and beauty. A place to feel.

We come to the theater to find new inspiration, to witness the birth of new talent, to connect to our roots, to remember what Mr. Ailey started over sixty years ago, and why his vision is as bright and essential today as it ever was. To remember how beautiful we can be.

Ailey audiences know this, and that is why we love to see you come back to the theater every year. This year's season at New York City Center will be my first as artistic director. Whether you're continuing a long-held tradition or making your first trip, I can't wait to welcome you for a season of dance that honors Mr. Ailey's gift to the world.

Thank you for joining us at the theater.
Alicia Graf Mack





MATTHEW RUSHING ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

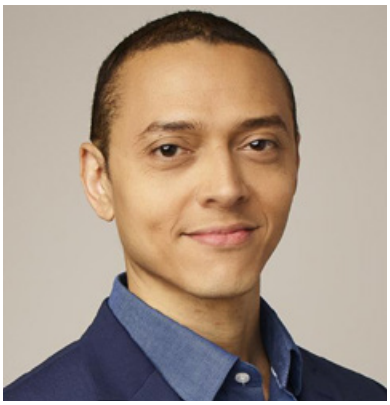
Matthew Rushing was born in Los Angeles, California. He began his dance training with Kashmir Blake in Inglewood, California, and continued his training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He is the recipient of a Spotlight Award and a Dance Magazine Award and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He was a scholarship student at The Ailey School and later became a member of Ailey II. During his career, Mr. Rushing has performed as a guest artist for galas in Vail, Colorado, as well as in Austria, Canada, France, Italy, and Russia. He has performed for Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, as well as at the 2010 White House Dance Series. During his time with the company, he has choreographed five ballets: *Acceptance In Surrender* (2005), a collaboration with Hope Boykin and Abdur-Rahim Jackson; *Uptown* (2009), a tribute to the Harlem Renaissance; *ODETTA* (2014), a celebration of "the queen of American folk music"; *Testament* (2020), a tribute to Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* created in collaboration with Clifton Brown and Yusha-Marie Sorzano; and *Sacred Songs* (2024), which resurrected and reimagined a collection of spirituals from the original 1960 version of *Revelations* that were later omitted. In 2012 he created *Moan*, which was set on PHILADANCO! and premiered at the Joyce Theater. Mr. Rushing joined the company in 1992. He became Rehearsal Director in 2010, Associate Artistic Director in 2020, and served as Interim Artistic Director 2023-2025.

THE COMPANY LEADERSHIP



BENNETT RINK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bennett Rink became Executive Director of AILEY in 2013. He first joined the organization as Manager of Special Events in 1994, became Development Director in 1998, and served as Senior Director of Development and External Affairs from 2007 to 2012. In his tenure overseeing Ailey's development and fundraising efforts, Mr. Rink led a major capital campaign to establish the organization's first permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, which opened in 2005 and attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year. Mr. Rink also oversaw the campaign to build the organization's endowment, which provides vital ongoing support for programmatic initiatives. When the Company celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008, Mr. Rink supervised an 18-month celebration including events, promotions, collaborations, and special performances, bringing public awareness of the AILEY organization to new heights. During his time as Executive Director, the Company has deepened its presence in New York City by establishing an annual spring season to complement its New York City Center winter season, while also extending its role as America's "Cultural Ambassador to the World" with tours to Africa, Europe, and South America. To reach audiences beyond live performances, Mr. Rink has broadened the organization's commitment to creating film and digital content. Mr. Rink has also extended the reach and impact of AILEY's educational offerings, including the creation of new curricula and programs that reach across generations, from elementary school children to older adults. In 2017, the organization unveiled the Elaine Wynn and Family Education Wing, providing much-needed additional studios and classroom space. The building now comprises 87,000 square feet and is the largest destination for dance in New York City. In recent years, Mr. Rink has overseen a branding initiative to express the totality of AILEY's offerings, creating greater connectivity between Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, and Ailey Extension. Most recently, he led the organization's collaboration with the Whitney Museum on Edges of Ailey, the first large scale museum exhibition celebrating the life, dances, influences, and enduring legacy of Alvin Ailey. Mr. Rink is a graduate of Syracuse University and holds a BFA in theater.



CLIFTON BROWN REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Clifton Brown, from Goodyear, Arizona, began his dance training at Take 5 Dance Academy and continued in the first class of the Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program. Brown began his professional career when he joined the Ailey company in 1999 and served as choreographic assistant to Judith Jamison. He has also danced with Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, and was a founding member and rehearsal director for Jessica Lang Dance. He was nominated in the U.K. for a Critics Circle National Dance Award for Best Male Dancer and received a Black Theater Arts Award as well as a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award. As a guest artist Brown has performed with Miami City Ballet, Rome Opera Ballet, Nevada Ballet, and Parsons Dance. He has set the work of Alvin Ailey, Earl Mosley, and Jessica Lang on various companies around the world. Television appearances as a guest artist include *So You Think You Can Dance* and *Dancing With The Stars*. He has had the privilege of performing at the White House for President Obama. Brown became Assistant Rehearsal Director in 2019.



KANJI SEGAWA ASSISTANT REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC PLANNING COORDINATOR

Kanji Segawa was a dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under the direction of Robert Battle from 2011–2023 and became Assistant Rehearsal Director in 2024. Originally from Kanagawa, Japan, he began his dance training with his mother Erika Akoh, studying ballet with Kan Horiuchi and Ju Horiuchi in Tokyo. Segawa was awarded the Japanese Government Artist Fellowship in 1997 to train at The Ailey School. A former member of Ailey II and Battleworks, he danced extensively for Mark Morris and performed as a principal dancer in John Adams' *Nixon in China* at The Metropolitan Opera. Since 1999, Segawa has been Creative Associate for Jessica Lang, assisting with her creations for companies worldwide including American Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Royal Ballet, and The National Ballet of Japan, as well as at The Royal Ballet School and the Partner School Choreographic Project at Prix de Lausanne 2025. With Lang, Segawa co-choreographed the world premiere production of *Turandot* for The Washington National Opera, directed by Francesca Zambello. He has assisted Robert Battle in staging his works at institutions including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, and The Royal Ballet School. Segawa was a nominee for *Dance Europe* magazine's Dancer of the Year 2024 for his performances with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



LEONARDO BRITO

(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) began his training with Projeto Primeiro Passo and later studied at Escola Estadual de Dança Maria Olenewa, Centro de Arte Nós da Dança, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and The Ailey School. He danced with Ailey II and then with Ballet Hispánico New York for five seasons. Brito has performed with the Mariinsky Ballet, Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro, and Focus Cia de Dança. In 2015, he received the III Brazilian Modern Dance Congress Award. He has performed works by Anabelle Lopez Ochoa, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, Cassi Abranches, and Medhi Walerski. As a multidisciplinary artist and movement director, Brito's work spans performance, fashion, and editorial projects, including credits with Número Art, Addison Rae, Willy Chavarria, Old Navy, Glossier, FX's *POSE, Out Magazine, Made in Brazil, SSAW,* and *Hong Kong Dance Magazine.* He is also proficient in capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art. He joined the company in 2024. Instagram: @leonardobrittom



MICHAEL CHERRY

(Springfield, VA) is a graduate of George Mason University, where he received a BFA in Dance with a minor in Arts Management. Cherry has had the opportunity to dance in works created or set by Rafael Bonachela, Shaun Boyle D'Arcy, Camille A. Brown, Rena Butler, Alejandro Cerrudo, Christopher d'Amboise, Fiona Jopp, Susan Shields, Doug Varone, and Manuel Vignoulle. He attended the Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive, Complexions Summer and Winter Intensives, and the LINES Ballet Summer Program. Cherry danced for two seasons (2024-2026) with Complexions Contemporary Ballet under the direction of co-founders Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson. He joined the company in 2026. Instagram: @michaelcherry12



PATRICK COKER

(Chester, VA) was awarded the American Ballet Theatre's National Trainee Scholarship from 2008 to 2010. In May 2014, Coker graduated from the Ailey School/Fordham University BFA Program, where he apprenticed with Ailey II in his final year. After graduation, he spent a year dancing for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and then went on to join Jessica Lang Dance for three seasons. He has also performed with The Mark Morris Dance Group in *The Hard Nut* and L'Allegro*, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance, HopeBoykinDance and LA-based BODYTRAFFIC. Mr. Coker joined the Company in 2019. Find him on Instagram @pcoke.



SHAWN CUSSEAUX

(St. Petersburg, Florida) began his training at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School Where he trained in ballet, modern, and jazz. In 2020, Shawn received his BFA in Modern Dance at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA under the direction of Garfield Lemonius. After graduation he joined BalletX, Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet company, where he spent three seasons. During that time, he had the privilege of dancing at The Vail International Dance Festival and Ballet Sun Valley. Shawn has performed work by Jae Man Joo, José Limón, Edwaard Liang, Camille A. Brown, Matthew Nenan, Jamar Roberts, Dwight Rhoden, Hope Boykin, Amy Hall Garner, Jennifer Archibald, and Nicolo Fonte. Mr. Cusseaux joined the Company in 2023.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



SARAH DALEY-PERDOMO

(South Elgin, IL) began training at Faubourg School of Ballet under the direction of Watmora Casey and Tatyana Mazur and furthered her studies at intensives with the Kirov Academy, Dance Theatre of Harlem, National Ballet School of Canada, and San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. She is a 2009 graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program, with a minor in Journalism. Daley-Perdomo was honored to perform in Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*, filmed for *Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance*, and was featured in *Dance Magazine*'s "On the Rise" series in 2014. She is a recipient of a Youth America Grand Prix Award, an ARTS Foundation Award, and was a member of Ailey II for two years. Daley-Perdomo is the mother of one. She joined the company in 2011. Instagram: @sarahdaleyp.



CAROLINE T. DARTEY

(Geneva, Switzerland) trained in rhythmic gymnastics in her hometown at the age of five, eventually rising to national and international levels and becoming the Swiss champion in her category from 2009 to 2011. She later began dancing at the Conservatoire Populaire de Musique, Danse et Théâtre of Geneva. Ms. Dartey also trained at The Ailey School as a scholarship student and performed in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* during Ailey's 2017 New York City Center season. She was a member of Ailey II from 2018 to 2020 and has performed works choreographed by Darrell Grand Moultrie, Uri Sands, Bradley Shelver, Troy Powell, Robert Battle, Amy Hall Garner, Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Andrea Miller, Alia Kache, and Yannick Lebrun. Ms. Dartey joined the Company in 2021. Instagram: @caroline_dartey



ISAIAH DAY

(Chicago, IL) began his dance training at New Life Covenant Southeast with Yielded Vessel Dance Ministry. He went on to study at Hubbard Street Youth Dance Center and The Chicago Academy for the Arts. A BFA graduate of The Juilliard School, Day was named a 2019 YoungArts winner in Modern/Contemporary dance and one of *Dance Magazine*'s 25 to Watch in 2025. He joined the company in 2023. Instagram: @isaiahdemarcus



SOLOMON DUMAS

(Chicago, IL) (he, him) began his lifelong journey with the Ailey organization at AileyCamp. He trained formally at The Chicago Academy for the Arts and the Russell Talbert Dance Studio — the latter proving most influential to his development — before continuing his studies at New World School of the Arts and as a Fellowship Level 1 student at The Ailey School. Dumas has performed with Garth Fagan Dance; Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, A Dance Company; Labyrinth Dance Theater; and Ailey II. He was awarded Nigel Lythgoe's Dizzy Feet Foundation scholarship. His theater credits include Goodman Theatre's *Black Nativity* directed by the late Mike Malone. He has also shared the stage with recording artists Donald Lawrence, Dee Dee Bridgewater, André De Shields, and Ledisi. Dumas joined the company in 2016. Instagram: @Solomon.Dumas

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



MASON EVANS

(Margate, FL) began his dance training at Performance Edge 2, later graduating from Dreyfoos School of the Performing Arts in 2022. He was named a YoungArts winner in Modern/ Contemporary in 2021. Evans is a 2026 graduate of the Juilliard School where, under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack, he has performed works by Chanel DaSilva, José Limón, Hope Boykin, Shen Wei, Pam Tanowitz, and Aszure Barton. He joined the company in 2025 and has recently been named a 2026 Princess Grace Award Winner for Dance Performance.



SAMANTHA FIGGINS

(Washington, D.C.) began dancing at Duke Ellington School of the Arts under the tutelage of Charles Auggins and Sandra Fortune- Greene and attended summer intensives at Dance Theatre of Harlem under Arthur Mitchell. She continued her education at SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, performing works by George Balanchine, Bill T. Jones, Paul Taylor, and Twyla Tharp. Upon graduating cum laude, Ms. Figgins became a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, performing works by Dwight Rhoden, Jae Man Joo, and Camille A. Brown. She performed at the 2014 DanceOpen Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. Ms. Figgins was featured both on the cover of Dance Spirit magazine and in Pointe magazine's "10 Careers to Watch". She has worked with Beyoncé and in the film *Enemy Within* alongsideTiler Peck and Matthew Rushing. Ms. Figgins had the pleasure of performing with Judith Jamison for TEDTalk 2019. Ms. Figgins joined the Company in 2014. Follow her on Instagram @sfigg_udigg.



SEBASTIAN GARCIA

(Bronx, NY) started dancing at AileyCamp New York under the direction of Nasha Thomas and began his formal dance training at the Harlem School of the Arts under the direction of Aubrey Lynch. He was later accepted into the ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School under the direction of Cynthia Harvey. He also received the En Avant Award from 2017-2018, which enabled him to work with choreographers including Jessica Lang and Alexei Ratmansky. Garcia continued his training at the Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia under the direction of Bo and Stephanie Spassoff. He has danced for the Black Iris Project and has worked on Broadway projects with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and at Carnegie Hall. He was a member of the Collage Dance Collective for four seasons, performing works by Wayne McGregor, George Balanchine, Christopher Huggins, Durante Verzola, Sandra Holloway, and Nacho Duato. Garcia joined the company in 2025.



JAMES GILMER

(Pittsburgh, PA) trained at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts School, Point Park University, and the Chautauqua School of Dance. After graduating from high school, he performed with Texture Contemporary Ballet, then joined Cincinnati Ballet where he performed under the direction of Victoria Morgan for six seasons. Gilmer also performed and toured as a member of Amy Seiwert's Imagery and ODC/dance based in San Francisco. He has performed in both of New York City Center's productions celebrating Twyla Tharp (2021 and 2022) as well as multiple occurrences of the annual Fall for Dance Festival. He joined the company in 2019.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



ASHLEY KAYLYNN GREEN

(Charleston, SC) began her training at Columbia City Jazz where she found her love for dance. She trained in a variety of styles including ballet, modern, jazz, tap, and hip hop. In 2020, Green received her BFA in Dance from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA, under the direction of Garfield Lemonius. There, she performed works by Peter Chu, Aszure Barton, Kyle Abraham, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. After graduation, she joined Whim W'Him Seattle Contemporary Dance where she received a Princess Grace Award in Dance. Green joined the company in 2021 and that year she was named one of "25 to Watch" by *Dance Magazine.* She has performed her own improvisational work at Into the Open Music Festival and Amalgamation and has created work with McKoy Dance Project, Jonah Bokaer Arts Foundation, and Arkansas Ballet.



JACQUELIN HARRIS

(Charlotte, NC) began her dance training at Dance Productions Studios under the direction of Lori Long. Harris received a silver ARTS award from YoungArts National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts and was a Presidential Scholar in the Arts semifinalist. She graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program. In 2016, Harris was named one of "25 to Watch" by *Dance Magazine*. She received a 2017 dance fellowship from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA. Harris has performed as a guest artist with Twyla Tharp, the Merce Cunningham Trust, and Roderick George's kNoname Artists. Most recently, Harris won a 2025 Bessie Award for outstanding Performer. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2014.



YANNICK LEBRUN

(Cayenne, French Guiana) began training in his native country at the Adaclam School under the guidance of Jeanine Verin. After graduating high school in 2004, he moved to New York City to study at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Lebrun was named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2011, and in 2013 *France-Amérique* magazine highlighted him as one of the 50 most talented French people in the United States. In November 2016, Lebrun was a guest performer with The Royal Ballet in Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*. In 2019, he choreographed *Saa Magni*, his first work for Ailey II. For ABT Studio Company he created *Lora* in 2021 and *Human* in 2024. He was a nominee for the 2024 UK Critic's Circle National Dance Award for outstanding male modern performance in *Dancing Spirit*. Lebrun was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2008. Instagram: @yannicklebrun



XAVIER MACK

(Washington, DC) began his dance training at Divine Dance Institute in Capitol Heights, MD. He went on to earn his BA in Modern Language and Linguistics from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. After graduation, he performed with Dallas Black Dance Theatre for five seasons. Mack has been featured as a guest artist in benefit concerts and festivals including The Royal Ballet's *Legacy*, TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND, Dance Fest Skopje, FINTDAZ, and Jacob's Pillow Dance. He also had the pleasure of dancing alongside legendary soprano Kathleen Battle in her concert *Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey.* Mack has performed works by Norbert De La Cruz III, Hope Boykin, Hans van Manen, Aszure Barton, and Ronald K. Brown. He joined the company in 2022. Instagram: @x.mack

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



RENALDO MAURICE

(Gary, IN) began his training with Tony Washington and graduated from Talent Unlimited High School. He attended Emerson School for Visual and Performing Arts, studying with Larry Brewer. Mr. Maurice was a scholarship student at The Ailey School, Ballet Chicago, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. He received second place in modern dance from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and received the Dizzy Feet Foundation Scholarship. In 2012 he was honored with the key to the city of his hometown. Mr. Maurice has choreographed and performed with Grammy nominated artist Jazzmeia Horn. He is the 2022 Willie Ninja Supreme Award Recipient and star of HBO Max's *Legendary*. He has also incorporated his passion for the arts with social responsibility as the co-artistic director of Indiana's South Shore Dance Alliance. He was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2011. Facebook: @Maurice Gardner. Instagram: @mauricerenaldo



JESSE KOJI OBREMSKI

(New York, NY) (he/they) trained at The Ailey School, Jacob's Pillow, Springboard Danse, and Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance. A graduate of LaGuardia High School and The Juilliard School, Obremski has performed with Kate Weare Dance, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Peter Stathas Dance, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Limón Dance Company, and Gibney Company, among others. His performances include the 2019 FINA World Championships and the White House for President Obama. Highlighted in *The New York Time*s, on NY1, and in *Dance Magazine*'s "On the Rise" (2019), Obremski received a NYSCA/NYFA 2025 Choreography Fellowship, Asian American Arts Alliance's 2016 Jadin Wong Award, and achieved Boy Scout Eagle Scout rank. Obremski, Founder/Artistic Director of Obremski/Works Inc., has presented choreography in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, notably at The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and Fall for Dance North with companies including Obremski/Works, Gibney Company's Company Created, Buglisi Dance Theatre, and WGRUV Dance Company. He joined the company in 2024. jesseobremski.com. obremskiworks.org. Instagram: @jesse_obremski



CORRIN RACHELLE MITCHELL

(Baltimore, MD) began her dance training in her hometown at LeRe's Performing Arts Center, owned by her mother and father. She attended Baltimore School for the Arts where she trained with Norma Pera and Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell. Ms. Mitchell graduated in 2017 with a BFA in Dance from Point Park University where she worked with choreographers Troy Powell, Garfield Lemonius, and Debbie Allen. After completing one year of apprenticeship, Ms. Mitchell joined Ailey II in 2017 where she performed works choreographed by Uri Sands, Bradley Shelver, Troy Powell, Robert Battle, Darrell Grand Moultrie, and Amy Hall Garner. Ms. Mitchell joined the Company in 2019. Instagram: @_slimrin_



KALI MARIE OLIVER

(Akron, OH) began her dance training with her mother and went on to train at Nan Klinger's Excellence in Dance. She attended summer intensives at Chautauqua Institution, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and The Ailey School. Oliver graduated magna cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. Upon graduating, she worked closely with Karole Armitage as a guest artist with Armitage Gone! Dance. Oliver spent three seasons in Ailey II under the direction of Francesca Harper, during which time she performed in the Holland Dance Festival. She has had the privilege of performing works by Alvin Ailey, William Forsythe, Robert Battle, Andrea Miller, Anna Sokolow, Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish, William Isaac, Baye & Asa, and Maurya Kerr. She was honored to be a guest artist during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2023 New York City Center season and was thrilled to officially join the company in 2024. Instagram: @kmo_98

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



ALISHA RENA PEEK

(Upper Marlboro, MD) is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance, and recently earned her MBA from the University of Maryland Global Campus. Peek began her formal dance training at the Washington School of Ballet and continued at the Kirov Ballet Academy, Dance Theatre of Harlem Kennedy Center Residency, and The Art of Technique. Professionally, Peek has danced in Ailey II, taught Horton in The Ailey School's Junior Division, served as an assistant to Milton Myers and Hope Boykin, participated in the HopeBoykinDance Bubble Residency, and performed in both *An Evening Of Hope* and *Moments By Hope*. Peek appeared in the hit FX series *POSE* and choreographed a short film produced by BEATS by Dre. She joined the company in 2022. Instagram @alishapeek



JESSICA AMBER PINKETT

(Baltimore, MD) began her dance training at Baltimore Dance Tech under the direction of Stephanie Powell. She graduated from George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology and earned a BFA with honors in dance performance and choreography from Towson University. She has had the privilege of performing works by Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Tally Beatty, Camille A. Brown, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Jamar Roberts, and others. She has performed as a guest artist with The Black Iris Project and was a member of Ailey II from 2016-2018. Pinkett made her New York choreographic debut and performed alongside Madison McFerrin in *OPEN AIR*. In 2023, she led the world premiere of HopeBoykinDance's *States Of Hope* at the Joyce Theater. She was a member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 2018-2021 and rejoined the Company in 2024. She continues exploring the depths of her artistry as a freelancer, teacher, choreographer, and filmmaker. Instagram: @jessica.a.pinkett



MIRANDA QUINN

(Baltimore, MD) (she/her) trained in various genres of dance from ages 2–18 at Mid-Atlantic Center for the Performing Arts under the artistic direction of Shannon McHale. Quinn graduated from The Juilliard School in 2019 under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack. Her attendance at the school was made possible by the Jerome L. Greene Fellowship. She joined the company in 2019. Since then, she has had the privilege of performing works by renowned choreographers including Alvin Ailey, Azure Barton, Jamar Roberts, Kyle Abraham, Lar Lubovitch, Matthew Neenan, Rennie Harris, Robert Battle, Ronald K. Brown, and Twyla Tharp. Quinn is extremely grateful and honored to be part of the AILEY community and legacy. She sends a special shout out to her husband for illuminating the stage!



TYRONE REESE

(Mobile, AL) (he/him) is a proud alumnus of The Juilliard School and a 2020 YoungArts Winner in Ballet. At Juilliard, he performed works by choreographers including Ohad Naharin, Aszure Barton, Rena Butler, Jamar Roberts, and Tiler Peck. Reese made his Broadway debut in Illinoise, choreographed and directed by Justin Peck, and later served as a universal swing and dance captain on the First National Tour of MJ: The Musical. He has performed at New York City's Fall for Dance Festival with kNoname Artist under the direction of Roderick George. Through his artistry, he hopes to inspire young Black people to embrace the fullness of who they are and to see the arts as a space for expression, excellence, liberation, and joy. Reese joined the company in 2026. IG: @its.tyrone_

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



HANNAH ALISSA RICHARDSON

(Toronto, Ontario Canada) graduated with honors from The Ailey School Certificate Program and danced with Ailey II for one season before joining the company in 2022. She has performed works by William Forsythe, Robert Battle, and Jamar Roberts. Richardson was featured at the Holland Dance Festival and in the world premiere of *Grace* and *Mercy* by Ronald K. Brown at Bard SummerScape. She was also a featured dancer in the inaugural *Vogue World* event and *FUTURE's DS2 Remixed: The Ballet*, choreographed by Ebony Williams. Her screen credits include *Every Day* by Orion Pictures, Disney Channel's *Backstage*, and the Creative Arts Emmy/Webby Award-winning film *Echoes of Ailey*, directed by Ezra Hurwitz with movement direction by Francesca Harper in collaboration with the Whitney Museum. Through movement, she aims to tell stories that connect, heal, and honor the cultures that have shaped her. Richardson is honored to be part of AILEY and is deeply thankful for the continued support of her community. Instagram: @hannahxrichardson



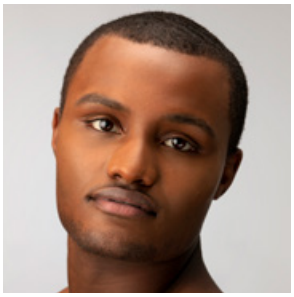
CONSTANCE STAMATIOU

(Charlotte, NC) began her dance training at Pat Hall's Dance Unlimited and North Carolina Dance Theatre. She graduated from Northwest School of the Arts and studied at SUNY Purchase and as a Fellowship student at The Ailey School. In 2009, Stamatiou received the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship. In 2022, she was one of *Sports Illustrated's* "Top 100," and in 2023, she was nominated for the UK Critic's Circle National Dance Award for outstanding female modern performance in *Cry*. She has performed at the White House, in a TED Talk with Judith Jamison, and has appeared on *So You Think You Can Dance, Dancing with the Stars,* Logo's *Trailblazer Honors, Elle's* movement series, *The View*, and *The Jennifer Hudson Show*. Stamatiou has danced in the films *Shake, Rattle & Roll, Bolden* and the commercial *I Love NY*. She is a mother of two. Stamatiou was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2007. Instagram: @constance.stamatiou



DEIDRE ROGAN

(Fort Myers, FL) began her dance training in Fort Myers, Florida under Melinda Roy, Roberto Munoz, and Cheryl Copeland. Deidre graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance in 2015. She is a YoungArts scholarship winner, performed as a United States Arts Ambassador for President Barack Obama during the Opening Ceremony of the Hannover Messe, and was the Associate Choreographer under Choreographer Hope Boykin for the City Center Encores Off-Center production of Promenade in 2019. Rogan danced with Ailey II from 2014 to 2016 and with Parsons Dance from 2016 to 2022. She joined the company in 2022. Instagram: @deidre_rogan



CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

(Newark, New Jersey) started his dance training at The Ailey School when he was 11. He later attended Arts High School in Newark. During his training, he attended AileyCamp Newark, performing numerous times at The Apollo Theater and Lincoln Center in works by Rennie Harris, Robert Battle, and other choreographers. After graduating from Arts High School, Taylor received a scholarship to The Ailey School's Professional Division. In 2022, he joined Ailey II under artistic director Francesca Harper and went on to perform works by Ms. Harper, William Forsythe, Andrea Miller, and Robert Battle. He joined the company in 2022.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



MAHALAYA TINTIANGCO–CUBALES

(San Francisco, CA) (she/her) is a proud Filipina American. She started her dance journey at the Westlake School for the Performing Arts where she trained in hip hop, ballet, contemporary, modern, jazz, and Filipino and Pacific Islander dance forms. Tintiangco-Cubales received a BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School. She has performed works by Chanel DaSilva, José Limón, Jamar Roberts, Hope Boykin, Kyle Abraham, Jermaine Spivey, Pam Tanowitz, William Forsythe, Marco Goecke, Crystal Pite, Sir Wayne McGregor, and Alvin Ailey. Tintiangco-Cubales's passion for dance also extends to centering marginalized narratives. She aspires to continually explore her artistic voice through her identity while also providing parallel opportunities to other artists. She joined the company in 2026.



ISABEL WALLACE GREEN

(Houston, TX) began her dance training at Houston Ballet Academy where she studied for nine years. She graduated summa cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance with a double major in Dance and African/African American Studies. She performed with New Chamber Ballet, Urban Souls Dance Company, and was an ensemble member of *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular.* Wallace-Green joined DBDT: Encore! before joining Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2021. While living in Texas, she partnered with University of Houston and Texas Southern University art museums to premiere her first solo show, *Resilience*. Wallace-Green joined the company in 2023.



DANDARA VEIGA

(Alegrete, RS, Brazil) began her dance training at Social Project Primeiros Passos before receiving a scholarship to her hometown school, Escola de Dança Ballerina. She also studied at Studio Margarita Fernandez in Argentina, Opus Ballet in Italy, Annarella Academia de Ballet e Dança in Portugal, and as a scholarship student at The Ailey School in 2016. From 2017 to 2023, Veiga danced with Ballet Hispánico New York, where she originated the title role in Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Doña Perón*, featured on PBS's *NEXT* at the *Kennedy Center* series. In 2023–24, she was a soloist with The Metropolitan Opera and performed with Site-Specific Dances, Opus Ballet, Noname, and the Black Iris Project. Veiga was named one of *Dance Magazine*'s "25 to Watch" in 2023. She has worked with artists including Charla Genn, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Noah Gelber, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, Edwaard Liang, Christopher Huggins, Ray Mercer, and Ebony Williams. Veiga joined the company in 2024. Instagram: @iamdandaraveiga



CHRISTOPHER R. WILSON

(Augusta, GA) is a graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School and graduated *cum laude* from the Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program. He also trained at Colton Ballet School, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and The School at Jacob's Pillow before beginning his professional career with BH*dos*, the second company of Ballet Hispánico New York. He has performed works by choreographers Judith Jamison, Alonzo King, Wayne McGregor, Camille A. Brown, and Hans van Manen, among others. He has performed as a guest artist for The Royal Ballet's Legacy Project, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Essence Festival, and with The Black Iris Project, starring in the Emmy-nominated film A Mother's Rite. Wilson was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2018. Instagram: @christopher.r.wilson

AILEY MILESTONES

1958 – Alvin Ailey, who believed passionately that "dance belongs to everyone," and a group of young black dancers **perform for the first time** as members of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at New York's 92nd Street Y.



1960 – **Alvin Ailey choreographs his classic masterpiece *Revelations***, which brings international acclaim. During the organization's first 10 years, Ailey created 20 new ballets; during his lifetime, he choreographed 79 ballets.

1962 – **AAADT is chosen to go on an extensive tour** to the Far East, Southeast Asia and Australia as part of President John F. Kennedy's progressive "President's Special International Program for Cultural Presentations."

1965 – **Judith Jamison joins Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and becomes widely recognized as an international dance star.

1967 – AAADT embarks on a three-month, 10-country **African Tour** for the State Department.

1968 – AAADT **performs for President Johnson** at the White House.

1969 – Alvin Ailey founds **The Ailey School**.



1970 – AAADT's **second State Department-sponsored tour of North Africa and Europe.** AAADT also tours the USSR–the first visit by an American modern dance company since the days of Isadora Duncan. *The Washington Post* reports that the company was kept onstage for 20 minutes of curtain calls after a sold-out opening night in Moscow

1971 – **Alvin Ailey choreographs *Cry* for Judith Jamison as a birthday present to his mother.** *Cry* becomes an instant hit, bringing even greater popularity to Mr. Ailey as a choreographer and Ms. Jamison as a dancer.

1974 – **Ailey II is founded** to develop young artists and new dance audiences.

CBS airs "**Ailey Celebrates Ellington,**" Alvin Ailey's dance tribute to the American jazz legend.

1977 – AAADT performs at the **inaugural gala for President Jimmy Carter** at the White House.

1982 – Alvin Ailey receives the **United Nations Peace Medal.**

1983 – AAADT celebrates its **25th anniversary** with a major benefit. *The New York Times* calls it "the biggest celebration of all" and further proclaims that "The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is not just a company, it is a school of thought."

1985 – AAADT is the first modern dance company to go on a US government-sponsored **tour of the People's Republic of China** since the normalization of Sino-American relations.



1988 – **Alvin Ailey receives The Kennedy Center Honors** for Lifetime Contributions to American Culture through the Performing Arts and New York's City's highest cultural honor: the Handel Medallion.

1989 – Upon Alvin Ailey's death and at his request, **Judith Jamison is named artistic director.** Under her leadership, the company flourishes, building an unparalleled reputation for performance, education, and innovation.

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey is founded and **subsequently launches the company's national AileyCamp program.**

AILEY MILESTONES



1991 – **AileyCamp**, the final program spearheaded by Mr. Ailey, is **established in New York City**, providing youth ages 11–14 with activities that build self- esteem, encourage creative expression, and impart life skills such as goal-setting, self-discipline, and teamwork. It is **successfully replicated in 10 cities nationwide** and continues to inspire thousands of inner-city youth.

1994 – **AAADT performs at the televised inaugural gala for President Bill Clinton,** seen by 80 million viewers, and is featured on *The Phil Donahue Show*, reaching 18 million viewers.

Judith Jamison's autobiography, *Dancing Spirit,* edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, is published by Doubleday.

Ailey in the Park attracts 30,000 spectators, who congregate in New York City's Central Park to see the live performance.

1995 – Judith Jamison and the company are featured in a commercial broadcast on the Academy Awards and Super Bowl telecasts as part of a very successful American Express ad campaign. Advertising Age calls it "**the campaign of the decade**."

1996 – Jennifer Dunning's biography, *Alvin Ailey: A Life in Dance,* is published by Addison Wesley.

1997 – Historic AAADT residency in **South Africa,** signaling the end to a long cultural boycott of the old apartheid regime by the world performing arts community.

1998 – The Ailey organization pioneers its new **BFA program, a joint venture between The Ailey School and Fordham University,** which offers students a unique opportunity to receive both superb dance training and a superior liberal arts education.



1999 – **Judith Jamison receives The Kennedy Center Honors** for Lifetime Contributions to American Culture through the Performing Arts.

Orlando Bagwell's **documentary, *"A Hymn for Alvin Ailey,"*** is broadcast nationally on PBS' Great Performances, inspired by Judith Jamison's work *Hymn*, her powerful tribute to Alvin Ailey, in collaboration with Tony nominee Anna Deavere Smith. Judith Jamison wins a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Choreography.

2002 – President George W. Bush awards **the 2001 National Medal of Arts to both Judith Jamison and the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation.** The Foundation is the first dance organization in history to be given this prestigious award and it is the first time ever that an arts organization and its artistic director have been recognized independently for this honor.

Judith Jamison carries the Olympic torch in Salt Lake City, UT prior to the opening of the **2002 Winter Olympics.** AAADT performs Jamison's *HERE...NOW,* commissioned for the Olympic Arts Festival.

2003 – **AAADT performs at the White House State Dinner** honoring President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya.



2004 – **The United States Postal Service issues a first-class postage stamp honoring Alvin Ailey** as part of the American Choreographers stamp series.

2005 – The Ailey organization celebrates the official **opening and public dedication of its new home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance,** New York's largest building dedicated to dance.

AAADT returns to Russia, becoming the only American company to perform in the Stars of the White Nights Festival and the first modern dance company presented at the legendary Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

The Ailey organization **launches Ailey Extension,** a new program that offers public classes in a variety of techniques.

AILEY MILESTONES

2006 – **The Library of Congress announces the donation of the Ailey archives to "the nation's library,"** which will preserve the materials, digitize them and make them more widely available to future generations. According to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, it is "...a major achievement for the Library."



PBS Dance in America's *Beyond the Steps: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater*, which chronicles the 2005 tour to Russia, the Ailey organization's move into its new home, and the creation of the acclaimed ballet *Love Stories*, premieres.

2007 – AAADT is featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and the season opening of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

2008 – The Ailey organization launches its **50th anniversary celebration** with 18 months of special performances, projects, and events, including: The Library of Congress in Washington, DC, opens the exhibit *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: 50 Years as Cultural Ambassador to the World;* AAADT performs on ABC's ***Dancing With the Stars*** and FOX's ***So You Think You Can Dance.*** AILEY creates special commemorative merchandise including a **Barbie® Doll, Hallmark greeting cards, a Movado Museum Timepiece, and a photographic art book *Ailey Ascending: A Portrait in Motion*** by renowned photographer Andrew Eccles. AILEY holds **free summer performances in all five boroughs** of New York City, including a street party on 55th street in front of New York City Center for an estimated 40,000 people; AAADT launches its five-week 50th anniversary season at New York City Center with a **Golden Anniversary Gala** with Honorary Chair Oprah Winfrey including special live performances with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Sweet Honey in the Rock; And the US Congress passes a resolution naming Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater a vital American **"Cultural Ambassador to the World."**

2009 – AAADT kicks off its **50th anniversary US tour** to 26 cities in Washington, DC, where President Obama and the First Family attend a performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

2010 – **Tracy Inman and Melanie Person become co-directors of The Ailey School,** succeeding the late Denise Jefferson, who led the School for about 25 years.



First Lady Michelle Obama honors Ms. Jamison at The White House Dance Series: *A Tribute to Judith Jamison,* celebrating her career as an American dancer, choreographer and artistic director of the company for the past 20 years.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg presents Judith Jamison with highest honor awarded by the City of New York: the Handel Medallion for distinguished achievement in the arts.

2011 – During Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2011 International tour **Judith Jamison passes the mantle of artistic director to Robert Battle on July 1, 2011.** He becomes only the third person in the company's history to hold that position.

AileyCamp launches in Newark.



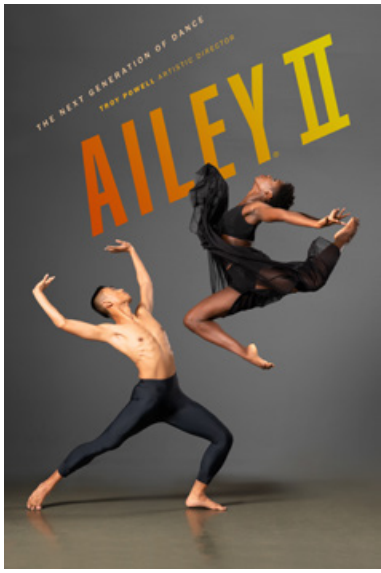
New York City Center designates Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as the venue's **Principal Dance Company,** providing financial support for the creation of one new dance work for the company's performances during each of the following ten seasons.

The US Senate passes a resolution recognizing the artistic and cultural contributions of AAADT and the 50th anniversary of the first performance of Alvin Ailey's masterwork, *Revelations*, honoring this timeless classic "beloved by people around the world" with universal themes "that illustrate the strength and humanity within all of us."

AILEY MILESTONES

2012 – **The Ailey Legacy Residency launches.** The new lecture, technique, and repertory program for college-level students looks definitively into the history and creative heritage of Alvin Ailey, led by Sylvia Waters, who steps down as artistic director of Ailey II after 38 years.

The Ailey board appoints Bennett Rink as the new executive director of Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, succeeding Sharon Gersten Luckman, who planned to step down in January 2013 after over two decades with the organization.



2013 – An **historic engagement at Lincoln Center,** the first in 13 years, **launches the 2013-14 season led by Robert Battle,** which also includes visits to Brazil and Argentina and a record-breaking five-week engagement at New York City Center. Ailey II's first New York season also breaks box office records.

2014 – For the second consecutive year, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater broke New York City Center season box office records**—nearly 70,000 audience members attend a total of 39 performances during the five-week engagement from December 4, 2013, to January 5, 2014.

Ailey II celebrated its 40th anniversary, performing for approximately 40,000 people in 33 cities worldwide, including five cities across France, Germany, Poland, and Luxembourg, and 28 cities in the United States and Canada.

President Obama awards the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, the country's highest civilian honor, posthumously to Alvin Ailey in recognition of his contributions to civil rights and dance in America.



2015 – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater makes an **historic return to South Africa** after nearly 20 years, performing in Johannesburg and Cape Town, and leading workshops, master classes, and lecture demonstrations in over two dozen schools, universities, and community centers.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater makes its national cinema debut as part of ***Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance.*** Shown on approximately 600 screens across the country, the film includes *Chroma* by Wayne McGregor, *Grace* by Ronald K. Brown, *Takademe* by Robert Battle, and Alvin Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*, along with a rare look behind the scenes and exclusive interviews with the artists.

Simon & Schuster publishes ***MY STORY, MY DANCE: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey***, an inspiring children's book based on Mr. Battle's life.

2016 – Judith Jamison's contributions to dance are celebrated at a White House Black History Month event hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama.

AileyCamp expands to ten cities nationwide, including Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Berkeley/Oakland, CA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, KS; Kansas City, MO; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Newark, NJ; and Seattle/Tacoma, WA.



First Lady Michelle Obama recognizes AileyCamp Miami with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award for being one of the country's best after-school and out-of-school-time creative youth development programs using engagement in the arts and the humanities to increase academic achievement, graduation rates, and college enrollment.

Jamar Roberts is awarded a 2016 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for Sustained Achievement **"for impeccably representing the traditional values of classic modern dance while forging new paths with his sublime artistry, technical precision, and passionate presence with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater."**

AILEY MILESTONES

2017 – Ailey Arts In Education launches a **new curriculum initiative, *Night Creature: An Imaginative Journey Through Dance,*** a program for elementary-age youth in 3rd through 5th grades based on the study of Alvin Ailey's *Night Creature* using imaginative thinking to provide connections to music, visual arts, socials studies, science, and literacy.

Logo Trailblazer Honors recognizes Alvin Ailey as pioneer who bravely fought for equality. The tribute aired nationally on Logo and VH1.

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation opens The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing, a 10,000-square-foot expansion of AILEY's permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance. Designed by The Center's original architects, Iu + Bibliowicz Architects, The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing adds three floors to the west side of the building to provide four additional dance studios, two new flexible classrooms, and added administrative office space

AILEY's Artistic Director Emerita, Judith Jamison, is inducted in November 2017 into the Crain's Hall of Fame, which **honors business leaders who have transformed New York City** in their professional work and in their civic and philanthropic activities.



2018 – **Ailey II performs at the opening ceremony of the National Museum for Peace and Justice,** the nation's first comprehensive memorial dedicated to racial terror lynchings of African-Americans and the legacy of slavery and racial inequality in America, and the **Legacy Museum** in Montgomery, AL, in April.

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs launches **AileyDance for Active Aging, a residency program for adults ages 50 and older,** emphasizing the importance of strength training and mobility through movement while providing an outlet for artistic expression, creativity and building a greater sense of community.



BET and BLACK GIRLS ROCK! honor Judith Jamison with the Living Legend Award on national telecast which featured a special performance of *Cry* danced by Jacqueline Green.

Heinemann Publishers created a Guided Reading Book for 1st and 2nd grade students about the Ailey Athletic Boys Dance program, which are **distributed to schools nationwide beginning in the fall of 2018.**

The Ailey organization honors **Mr. Ailey's pioneering legacy with a 60th Anniversary celebration titled *Ailey Ascending***. The celebration consists of an international tour, a Choreography Unlocked festival of performance, and masterclasses, discussions and legacy panels at partner institutions throughout New York City, and a momentous New York City Center season of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which features the company's first two-act ballet, *Lazarus*, created by the organization's inaugural artist-in-residence Rennie Harris.



2019 – **The Ailey Spirit Gala launches The Ailey School's 50th anniversary celebration.** To honor the milestone, **one hundred students from the School performed Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* in the 93rd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.**

Acclaimed company member **Jamar Roberts is named Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's first ever resident choreographer and premieres *Ode*,** a powerful and personal meditation on the beauty and fragility of life in a time of growing gun violence.



The company celebrates **Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya's final New York City Center season with** a special performance program after nearly four decades with the company and took on a new role as director of the Alvin Ailey Choreographic Legacy Project. Mr. Chaya is honored with the prestigious ***2019 Dance Magazine Award,*** lauded by the magazine as "a diplomat and a direct connection to the Ailey legacy."

AILEY MILESTONES

2020 – In January, the company welcomes **Matthew Rushing into the role of associate artistic director,** after serving as rehearsal director and guest artist since 2010 and inspiring Ailey audiences since 1992 with performances that led him to be praised as one of the great male dancers on the American stage.



Since the launch of **Ailey All Access** in March 2020, AILEY has reached over **50 million people in 121 countries globally,** with the first-ever free streaming of full-length ballets from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II repertory, along with classes, conversations, and original short films created by the Ailey dancers. Ailey All Access won *TimeOut New York*'s "Time In" Archive Treasure award for best archival streaming series and outlets like *Vogue* and *Dance Magazine* included works by Ailey artists on their "Best Of" lists for dance films created during the pandemic.

Ailey's first virtual season, *Ailey Forward*, reaches over 717,000 viewers, with eight unique programs from December 2–31. **Two dance films were created and premiered: *A Jam Session for Troubling Times*** by Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts and ***Testament***, a collaboration between Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Clifton Brown, and Yusha-Marie Sorzano, in honor of the 60th anniversary of Ailey's classic *Revelations*.



2021–Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater marks **the 50th anniversary of Alvin Ailey's signature solo *Cry*,** with the streaming of a new video adaptation in May.

In January, director Jamila Wignot's **powerful *AILEY* documentary premieres at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival** heralded as a must-see and later in June a Tribeca Film

Festival critics pick. In early 2022, the national television broadcast premiere of the acclaimed documentary opens the 36th season of ***PBS American Masters.***

Internationally renowned performer, choreographer, director, and multidisciplinary artist **Francesca Harper is appointed Ailey II artistic director.** Ms. Harper's personal connections with Ailey are deeply rooted, as she received training at The Ailey School while her mother, the late Denise Jefferson directed the program from 1984–2010.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater participates in Lincoln Center's premiered **BAAND Together Dance Festival** August 17–21, a celebration of dance, that for the first time joined together New York City's iconic dance companies **B**allet Hispánico, **A**lvin Ailey American Dance Theater, **A**merican Ballet Theatre, **N**ew York City Ballet, and Dance Theatre of Harlem, which has become an annual tradition.

September marked the launch of **"Champion Tears,"** a dynamic clothing collaboration between Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, artist and creative director of Denim Tears, Tremaine Emory, and the iconic Global sportswear brand, Champion.

2022 – For the first time, the Ailey organization presents ***Ailey Moves NYC!,*** a summer celebration of free outdoor performances, dance classes, and documentary screenings throughout all five boroughs, July 23–August 1, 2022. Featuring Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Ailey Extension, and Ailey Arts In Education programs, the festival delivered dance back to people of all ages across New York City, the cultural capital of the world.

AILEY MILESTONES

2023– **Matthew Rushing** is named **interim artistic director,** leading the company forward during its 65th anniversary season.

At the invitation of First Lady Jill Biden, members of **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** visited The White House to perform an excerpt from Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* at the National Governors Association meeting.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to **Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)** for the first time since 2010 for its one-week Spring Season, with the return of Ronald K. Brown's ***Dancing Spirit***, a tribute to living legend Judith Jamison in her 80th year.

The UK Critics' Circle recognized Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater with four nominations in the **2023 National Dance Awards**. The company won **Outstanding Company**, and Kyle Abraham's *Are You in Your Feelings?* won **Best Modern Choreography**. Yannick Lebrun was nominated for Best Male Modern Performance for Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*, and Constance Stamatiou was nominated for Best Female Modern Performance for Alvin Ailey's *Cry*.

Disney's 2023 *The Little Mermaid* employed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater members to serve as the movement inspiration for 3D animation in the dynamic "Under the Sea" musical number.

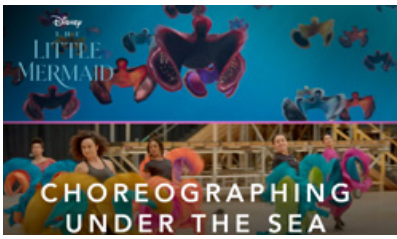
Ailey II celebrated its **50th Anniversary**. Commemorating Ailey II's highly anticipated return to the UK for the first time in over a decade, the Company was photographed in Canterbury Cathedral performing a preview of Ailey's *Revelations*. The photos were selected among the UK's top outlets for "best photo of the day".

The Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program celebrated its **25th anniversary**. Longtime faculty of The Ailey School, **Ana Marie Forsythe**, receives **Dance Teacher's 2024 Awardee of Distinction**, recognized for continuing Lester Horton's legacy and preserving the Horton technique for over five decades.

Ailey Extension collaborated with **Noggin** to create and launch ***Dance Squad with Ailey,*** a series of six on-demand dance videos featuring Ailey instructor Keith Alexander, encouraging the development of creative expression through dance.

AileyCamp Atlanta launches its inaugural partnership with Purpose Built Schools, aligning with Mayor Dickens' *Atlanta Year of the Youth* initiative.





Click photo above to watch behind the scenes video

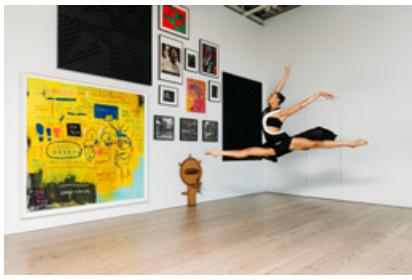
50 YEARS OF
AILEY II



Click photo above to watch behind the scenes video

AILEY MILESTONES

2024– **The Whitney Museum of American Art** opens ***Edges of Ailey*** on September 25, 2024, the first large-scale museum exhibition to celebrate the life, creativity, influence, and enduring legacy of Alvin Ailey. Through a multimedia display on the museum's fifth floor, paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, film, rehearsal footage, and archival materials situate Mr. Ailey within a broad social, creative, and cultural context. Through February 5, 2025, *Edges of Ailey* brings together art, history, live performance, music, and new commissions by choreographers influenced by Mr. Ailey to capture the full range of his passions, curiosities, obsessions, and creative output.



Click photo above to watch behind the scenes video

Portrait of Ailey, an eight-part docuseries conceived of and directed by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters, launches in February. Available for free on *PBS Learning Media, Portrait of Ailey* tells the compelling story of the life, work, and legacy of Alvin Ailey through rare historical film and still images.

Executive Director **Bennett Rink** is highlighted in *Politics NY* for being honored in the City & State inaugural "**Arts & Culture Power 100**," highlighting leaders in New York.



AILEY partners with **Google Arts & Culture** to share the life and legacy of Alvin Ailey with a larger online audience.

AileyDance for Active Aging receives a resolution from the Newark Municipal Council commending the program for its positive health and wellness benefits to the senior community in Newark, New Jersey.

2025– **Alicia Graf Mack is named AILEY's fourth artistic director** on July 1, 2025 and featured in *EBONY Magazine*'s 2025 Power 100 List.

Sylvia Waters receives the **2025 Dance Teacher Award.**



The Dance Hall of Fame inaugural induction ceremony in Los Angeles honors 10 visionaries and dance legends, including Alvin Ailey, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Stephen "tWtich" Boss, Misty Copeland, Bob Fosse, Martha Graham, Gene Kelly, Kenny Ortega, Jerome Robbins, and Twyla Tharp.

Several artists from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater were recognized at the 2025 Bessie Awards: Lar Lubovitch won Outstanding Choreographer for his creation of *Many Angels* on the company; Ailey dancer Jacquelin Harris won Outstanding Performer for Lubovitch's *Many Angels*; Clifton Taylor won Outstanding Visual Design for Lubovitch's *Many Angels*; and Ronald K. Brown won Outstanding Revival for his ballet *Grace*, originally created for the Ailey company in 1999 and returned to the repertory in 2024.

AILEY MILESTONES

2026– Daria L. and Eric J. Wallach Endowment: Chair of AILEY's Board of Trustees, Daria L. Wallach, made a generous gift of $10 million to endow the organization's artistic director position. In recognition of this contribution, leaders who hold the role will now be known as the Daria L. and Eric J. Wallach Artistic Director. The gift is one of the largest in AILEY's history.

AGOLDE collaborates with AILEY: Defined by technical precision and expressive artistry, the dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater bring the spirit of AGOLDE's FLYWEIGHT collection to life in the denim campaign's photoshoot. Created in support of AILEY, AGOLDE will 10% of Flyweight sales to the organization, contributing to its mission of advancing dance, education and cultural expression.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Rockefeller Center unveil their first-ever dance film, Rise. The short film features seven Ailey dancers moving throughout Rockefeller Center, performing versions of signature choreography reimagined by Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing. Reinforcing the collaborations central message, "New York is best experienced together," the partnership also included free public workshops led by AILEY teaching artists.

Ailey Arts In Education and Dance Education Lab at 92Y collaborate and launch a new Finding Grace dance curriculum for students in grades K-12, inspired by Ronald K. Brown's rapturous work Grace (1999). The successful program was implemented during national residencies in Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Miami, and the New York City metropolitan area.



Click photo above to watch behind the scenes video

Alicia Graf Mack debuts her first children's book, Introducing Rhythm. With full-color illustrations by artist Justin Campbell, the book invites readers ages 4-12 into a joyful world of movement, music and self-discovery.



BROADCAST HIGHLIGHTS 2026-27 SEASON



ABC7: Ailey's new "Power of Love" ballet brings Luther Vandross classics to the stage



Pix 11's New York Living: Alicia Graf Mack on dance, courage and her debut book



Ms. Monica: Learn about Rhythm with Special Guest Alicia Graf Mack



PBS News Hour: Alicia Graf Mack Reflects on leading the legendary AILEY company



CNN: New Leader of AILEY Shares Vision for Iconic Institution



Tamron Hall Show: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performs *Revelations*



Fox Good Day NY: Alicia Graf Mack Joins in studio, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Yannick Lebrun performs



CBS News: Alicia Graf Mack Joins AILEY as Artistic Director



ABC7: AILEY's new artistic director calls role a full-circle moment



The Jennifer Hudson Show: Alvin Ailey Dancers Deliver a Breathtaking Performance



The View: Honoring Iconic Alvin Ailey Dancer and Choreographer Judith Jamison



NBC News Now: Legacy of Alvin Ailey Lives on at his New York Dance Theater



ABC7 Chicago: Alvin Ailey dancers help expose Chicago students to the arts



NYC Tourism: "The Freedom to Be" featuring Ailey's Yannick Lebrun & Caroline Dartey



TED Talk: "Revelations from a Lifetime in Dance" with Judith Jamison and excerpts of Ailey's classic works *Cry* and *Revelations*

Radio & Podcasts

- ***Agree to Understand* Podcast**: Samantha Figgins talks Hearing Loss Journey
- ***WBUR's Here & Now:*** Alicia Graf Mack takes the stage as new artistic director of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater
- ***WQXR:*** Dancing On-Air: Blink of an Eye. In Conversation with Alicia Graf Mack
- ***WCLK's Local Take with Kiplyn Primus***: Alicia Graf Mack talks Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Portrait of Ailey Documentary