ALVIN AILEY
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON DECEMBER 2, 2026 - JANUARY 3, 2027

Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack Leads Company in Five-Week Holiday Engagement Featuring World Premiere of Jamar Roberts' *Power of Love* Tribute to Musical Icon Luther Vandross

Highlights Include World Premiere of *A Matter of Time* by Yue Yin, Company Premiere of *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated* by William Forsythe and New Productions of Judith Jamison's *Hymn* and Alvin Ailey's *Pas de Duke*

Opening Night Gala Celebration on December 2 with One-Night-Only Performance and Party

Tickets on Sale Now

NEW YORK — UPDATED NOVEMBER 10, 2026 — Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center's Principal Dance Company, returns to the theater's mainstage **December 2, 2026 through January 3, 2027** for a five-week holiday engagement. Led by Daria L. and Eric J. Wallach Artistic Director **Alicia Graf Mack**, the season promises the passionate artistry and technical brilliance that make an Ailey performance a singular experience. Audiences will be treated to premieres by contemporary choreographers Jamar Roberts, Yue Yin, and William Forsythe, alongside groundbreaking classics like Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*, Judith Jamison's *Hymn*, and Alvin Ailey timeless *Revelations*— the ultimate anthem to resilience and joy.

"Over the past year, it's been an astonishing honor for me to witness Alvin Ailey's legacy in motion, manifesting his audacious vision for dance, community, and humanity," stated Alicia Graf Mack. "I am so excited to raise the curtain on a new season revealing the breathtaking artistry of 32 world-class dancers breaking new ground in premieres by renowned choreographers— including a celebration of the power of love honoring legendary musical force Luther Vandross— as well as new productions of revered classics by Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison. We boldly dance in the footsteps of the greats and carry their courageous spirit with us on a path of inspiration that transcends generations and continues to move and connect us all with the magic of Ailey."

A glittering **Opening Night Gala** celebration launches the holiday season on **Wednesday, December 2** with a 6:30pm performance at New York City Center followed by a dinner-dance party at Ziegfeld Ballroom. The one-night-only program will mark the exciting world premiere of **Jamar Roberts' *Power of Love***, inspired by legendary musical artist Luther Vandross, as well as excerpts of the iconic ***Hymn***, Artistic Director Emerita **Judith Jamison's** Emmy Award–winning tribute to Alvin Ailey, which has returned to the repertory after nearly 15 years. **The evening's Honorary Chairs are multiple Grammy Award–winning artist SZA and Award–winning filmmakers Spike Lee and Tonya Lee.**

Power of Love is a newly commissioned ballet in collaboration with Primary Wave Music and the Luther Vandross Estate. R&B, soul, and pop legend **Luther Vandross** is beloved for songs that chronicled universal emotions and experiences and became the soundtrack to millions of lives. To celebrate what would be his 75th birthday, renowned choreographer **Jamar Roberts** brings Vandross' romantic, funky, and eminently danceable music exuberantly to life with his intuitive, emotionally resonant movement, with costumes designed by **Andre Landeros Michel of LANDEROS NEW YORK.**

In honor of Mr. Vandross, Marcus Miller, Ron Gillyard, and Reginald Hudlin are partners in developing *Power of Love*, with Miller and Gillyard working on the music. "This, in my opinion, is a match made in heaven; Luther and AILEY," stated Marcus Miller. "Luther's A&R person Ron Gillyard and I, are creating special arrangements of songs that reflect the breadth of Luther's career to help bring this exceptional dance to life. We chose songs that EVERY Luther song list MUST include, and I know this celebration is going to create many great memories for folks!"

For nearly 25 years, from 1981 to 2005, Vandross dominated the American R&B music charts like no other artist before or since. He released eight #1 R&B albums, seven #1 R&B singles, and another five Top 20 R&B singles. He achieved crossover success with eight Billboard Top 10 albums, including "Dance With My Father," which reached #1in 2003, and five Top 10 Billboard Hot 100 singles. He saw 13 albums go platinum and has received an astounding 31 Grammy nominations, winning 8 times. On November 14, 2026, Luther will be officially inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame after being honored in his very first year of eligibility, cementing his legacy as one of the most defining vocalists in music history. This is yet another honor recognizing Luther's multi-dimensional talents as a singer, performer, songwriter and producer. In the years since his passing, one constant has remained to define his life and musical success: his voice.

In her first work for Ailey, ***A Matter of Time***, **Yue Yin's** signature FoCo Technique—rooted in Chinese ethnic folk movement—is thrillingly paired with the urgent sounds of Javanese musical group Raja Kirik. This dynamic, high-endurance piece illuminates the power of collective action as the individuals ready their minds and bodies for the conflicts and challenges of modern life.

As the first modern dance-based company to perform **William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated***, Ailey brings new perspective to a landmark of late twentieth-century ballet. Created in 1987 for the Paris Opera Ballet and propelled by Thom Willems' driving score, the work crackles with immediacy, energy, and risk, balancing rigorous structure with a unique visceral spontaneity.

The company revisits ***Hymn***, Artistic Director Emerita **Judith Jamison's** stunning tribute to Alvin Ailey featuring explosive dances with the entire company and quiet solos that illuminate Mr. Ailey's humanity and the dancers' unique qualities. An exceptional collaboration between two highly acclaimed talents from the worlds of dance and theater, *Hymn* features personal reflections from Ms. Jamison and company members collected, arranged, and narrated by the multi-talented actor and playwright Anna Deavere Smith, along with a driving percussive score by Robert Ruggieri, to create a landmark work that's as intimately moving as it is awe-inspiring. In 1999, *A Hymn for Alvin Ailey* became a television special as part of PBS' *Great Performances: Dance in America* and received an Emmy award for Ms. Jamison's choreography.

A new production of ***Pas de Duke*** will also grace the stage this season. Alvin Ailey's modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux feels as fresh and stylish as it did when it premiered 50 years ago as a star vehicle for Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov. The choreography is elegant and deliciously flirtatious, capturing the sassy sophistication of Duke Ellington's jazz music and accentuating the dancers' exuberant virtuosity as they engage in a playful game of one-upmanship.

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

Three new company members join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater this season: **Michael Cherry,** previously with Complexions Contemporary Ballet; **Tyrone Reese**, formerly dance captain on the First National Tour of *MJ: The Musical*; and **Mahalaya Tintiangco-Cubales,** a dancer from The Juilliard School.

A **Passport to Rhythm** interactive series invites families to join in the dance following select Sunday matinees in celebration of 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. Ms. 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.

AILEY has a variety of programs all year round to welcome young people into the world of dance and explore their own rhythm, including:

- **Ailey Extension** hosts weekly drop-in dance classes for the general public at our home on West 55th Street, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, including **Kids & Teens Sunday series**, where dancers ages 2 and up explore a wide range of popular techniques like ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, West African, and more.
- **AileyCamp**, held in 9 cities nationwide, is a fun-filled six-week summer dance camp that nurtures middle-school students through daily affirmations and dance and art classes, developing their self-esteem, creativity, and leadership skills.
- **The Ailey School's Junior Division** offers dance training programs for students ages 3–17, from a child's first dance class to professional level training and intensives, all in an encouraging environment.

Following the New York City Center engagement, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's season will travel to over 20 cities from coast-to-coast during a North American tour from January through May 2027.

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

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

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

AILEY is generously supported by AARP, American Express, Anonymous, Bank of America, BNY Mellon, Booth Ferris Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, New York City Center, Mellon Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Southern Company, Thompson Family Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

AILEY's New York City Center Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

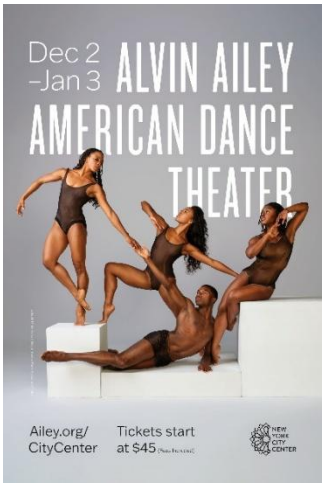
The world premiere of *A Matter of Time* is made possible with support from The Fred Eychaner New Works Endowment Fund, The Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn & Nicolas S. Rohatyn New Works Endowment Fund and Leanne Lachman.
***A Matter of Time* is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.**
***A Matter of Time* is co-commissioned by the Pasculano Collaborative for Contemporary Dance at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.**

Leadership support for *Hymn* was provided by The Pamela D. Zilly and John H. Schaefer New Works Endowment Fund.
The original creation of *Hymn* was made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and grants from The Rockefeller Foundation, and Diego Della Valle.
Generous support for this new production of *Hymn* is provided by Kathleen & Ernest Abrahamson, Judith McDonough Kaminski & Joseph Kaminski, Alma Scott, Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach, and The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey—Sara and Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund.

Support for this new production of *Pas de Duke* is provided by Leigh F. Butler, Celestine & Howard Campbell, The Ellen Jewett & Richard L. Kauffman and Ethel Klein & Edward Krugman.
The original Ailey production of *Pas de Duke* was made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and by a grant from Ford Foundation.
Generous support for this production was also received from Laren and Jesse Brill.

The company premiere of *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated* is made possible by The Red Moose Charitable Fund and Pamela D. Zilly and John H. Schaefer Endowment Fund.

***Power of Love* is a newly commissioned ballet in collaboration with Primary Wave Music and the Luther Vandross Estate.**
The creation of *Power of Love* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.
The world premiere of *Power of Love* is made possible with major support from AARP and Denise Littlefield Sobel. Costumes for *Power of Love* are made possible with the generous support of Debra L. Lee.
Generous support for *Power of Love* is provided by Michele & Timothy Barakett, Maury & Joseph Bohan, Julie C. Down, Nancy & Michael Feller, Ann & Weston Hicks, Crawford Parker, M.D., Tracy Elise Poole, Paula & Michael Price, and Vera F. Wells in memory of Patricia Scipio Brim.



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**** All Programming – Subject to Change***

CLICK HERE FOR FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE - TICKETS ON SALE NOW
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
December 2, 2026 – January 3, 2027, at New York City Center
131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY
(212) 581-1212 / www.nycitycenter.org

CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to New York City Center from December 2, 2026 –January 3, 2027, for its five-week holiday engagement that has become one of the most joyous traditions in New York's cultural calendar. Led by Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack, Ailey's extraordinary dancers will move audiences with world premieres by Jamar Roberts and Yue Yin, a company premiere by William Forsythe, a new production of Judith Jamison's *Hymn* and Alvin Ailey's *Pas de Duke,* as well as a variety of repertory favorites, including Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece *Revelations*. Tickets starting at $45 (fees included) are on sale at the New York City Center Box Office, through Customer Care at 212-581-1212, or online at www.ailey.org or www.nycitycenter.org. For further information, visit www.ailey.org/CityCenter.

WORLD PREMIERES

Power of Love

Choreography by Jamar Roberts

Music: Arranged & mastered by Marcus Miller

Power of Love by renowned choreographer **Jamar Roberts** is a newly commissioned ballet in collaboration with Primary Wave Music and the Luther Vandross Estate. R&B, soul, and pop legend Luther Vandross is beloved for songs that chronicled universal emotions and experiences and became the soundtrack to millions of lives. To celebrate what would be his 75th birthday, renowned choreographer Roberts brings Vandross' romantic, funky, and eminently danceable music exuberantly to life with his intuitive, emotionally resonant movement, with costumes designed by Andre Gerard Michel Jr. of LANDEROS NEW YORK.

A Matter of Time

Choreography by Yue Yin

Music: Raja Kirik

In her first work for Ailey, **Yue Yin's** signature FoCo Technique—rooted in Chinese ethnic folk movement—is thrillingly paired with the urgent sounds of Javanese musical group Raja Kirik. This dynamic, high-endurance piece illuminates the power of collective action as the individuals ready their minds and bodies for the conflicts and challenges of modern life.

COMPANY PREMIERE

In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated **(1987)**

Choreography by William Forsythe

Music: Thom Willems

As the first modern dance-based company to perform **William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated***, Ailey brings new perspective to a landmark of late twentieth-century ballet. Created in 1987 for the Paris Opera Ballet and propelled by Thom Willems' driving score, the work crackles with immediacy, energy, and risk, balancing rigorous structure with a unique visceral spontaneity.

NEW PRODUCTIONS

Hymn **(1993)**

Choreography by Judith Jamison

Text Conceived, Written and Performed by: Anna Deavere Smith

Music: Robert Ruggieri

Hymn, Artistic Director Emerita **Judith Jamison's** stunning tribute to Alvin Ailey, features explosive dances with the entire company and quiet solos to illuminate Mr. Ailey's humanity and the dancers' unique qualities. An exceptional collaboration between two highly acclaimed talents from the worlds of dance and theater, *Hymn* features personal reflections from Ms. Jamison and company members collected, arranged, and narrated by the multi-talented actor and playwright Anna Deavere Smith, along with a driving percussive score by Robert Ruggieri, to create a landmark work that's as intimately moving as it is awe-inspiring. In 1999, *A Hymn for Alvin Ailey* became a television special as part of PBS' "Great Performances: Dance in America" and received an Emmy award for Ms. Jamison's choreography.

Pas de Duke **(1976)**

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Duke Ellington

Pas de Duke, **Alvin Ailey**'s modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux, feels as fresh and stylish as it did when it premiered 50 years ago as a star vehicle for Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov. The choreography is elegant and deliciously flirtatious, capturing the sassy sophistication of Duke Ellington's jazz music and accentuating the dancers' exuberant virtuosity as they engage in a playful game of one-upmanship.

RETURNING FAVORITE

Grace **(1999)**

Choreography by Ronald K. Brown

Music: Duke Ellington, Roy Davis, Fela Anikulapo Kut

Ronald K. Brown's spellbinding ***Grace*** is fueled by Duke Ellington's classic "Come Sunday," Peven Everett's hit "Gabriel," and the irresistible pulse of Fela Kuti's Afro-Pop. Here, the secular and sacred meet in a tour-de-force connecting African and American dance. Infused with Brown's signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms, the piece follows 12 dancers on a moving journey illustrating Brown's idea of individuals going through everyday life without acknowledging the 'grace' surrounding us all.

SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE

***Revelations* (1960)**

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

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

ABOUT ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by US Congressional resolution as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," grew from a now-fabled March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Forged during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, the company was established to uplift the African American experience while transcending boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and for 21 years she brought the company to unprecedented success. Alicia Graf Mack, widely celebrated for her dance artistry during her years with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, was appointed Artistic Director of AILEY as of July 1, 2025. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on six continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end holiday tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA, and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark (where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the world during extensive tours. AILEY also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs (1992), which brings dance into the classrooms, communities, and lives of people of all ages; and Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey's permanent home— the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world— named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit ailey.org.

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