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AILEY II

AILEY II, THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE, LAUNCHES 2026-27 SEASON WITH 27-CITY US TOUR

Artistic Director Francesca Harper Presents World Premiere *In the Moment*
New Productions of Works by Alvin Ailey and Ronald K. Brown Will Grace the Stage

New York Engagement at The Ailey Citigroup Theater
March 31–April 11, 2027

NEW YORK, NY – September 2, 2026 – [Ailey II](#), the dynamic second company to [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), will embark on a 27-city tour across the country, September 22, 2026–April 11, 2027. The next generation of dance will present a riveting repertory featuring a world premiere by Ailey II's very own Artistic Director [Francesca Harper](#) in collaboration with Jermaine Spivey, mesmerizing new productions by Alvin Ailey and Ronald K. Brown, and cherished classics that showcase the company's virtuosity. The season concludes with a [New York City spring engagement](#) at the Ailey Citigroup Theater from March 31 to April 11.

Founded as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble in 1974, Ailey II serves as a bridge between The Ailey School and the professional dance world. The company embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission of cultivating the next generation of emerging artists and inspiring audiences of all backgrounds. Under the artistic direction of Francesca Harper, Ailey II features some of the most promising rising stars redefining modern dance today.

"This season, Ailey II continues to embody the bold and fearless spirit of the next generation of dance while honoring the legacy that brought us here," Francesca Harper said. "I am thrilled for audiences across the country to experience the passion and artistry of these twelve extraordinary artists on stage, and to close out the season at home in New York City."

Francesca Harper's [In the Moment](#) is a meditation on presence, transformation, and the profound impact of being truly seen. The work is inspired by a small but powerful gesture of recognition and enduring friendship. Through movement and text, the work explores the ways empathy can become action and how one generation can affirm, guide, and empower the next.

Renowned for his fusion of African and modern dance, Ronald K. Brown added new flavor to his signature style in [Open Door](#), an enlivening work set to recordings by Arturo O'Farrill & the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. With co-choreographer Arcell Cabuag, Brown combines the impassive swagger of club dance with the undulant torso, winging arms and rhythmic feet of West African dance.

Alvin Ailey's [*Night Creature*](#) is a bubbly champagne cocktail of a dance, a perfect fusion of Mr. Ailey's buoyant choreography and Duke Ellington's sparkling music. At once wistful and sassy, it beckons viewers into a nocturnal world populated by jazz babies and night owls. Ellington said that "night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night—they come ON, each thinking that, before the night is out, he or she will be the star." This ensemble work is full of such stars—strutting, leaping, and slinking through a variety of dance idioms as they flaunt and flirt with each other and the audience. It's the definitive dance homage to the exuberance of The Duke's sophisticated symphonic work.

[*Flight Time*](#) is an excerpt from Alvin Ailey's work *Phases*, choreographed in 1980 at the height of his artistry. *Phases* is a startling, classic jazz dance that is divided into five sections, each composed by a significant African American jazz musician. This excerpt, *Flight Time*, features music composed by L. Mizell, performed by jazz trumpeter Donald Byrd.

The 2026-27 tour repertory includes a solo excerpted from Judith Jamison's [*Divining*](#), her first choreographic work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1984; Houston Thomas' [*Down the Rabbit Hole*](#), a work inspired by *The Matrix* film series exploring how technology weaves into the fabric of daily life; Rena Butler's [*In Session*](#), a collective portrait of coming of age within a community; Renée I. McDonald's [*Likes vs Life*](#), a binding trio battling through the effects of social media; and My'Kal Stromile's [*Third Person Point of View*](#), a ballet inviting the audience to witness from the outside, observing a relationship as it unfolds without ever being directly addressed. In addition to the two company premieres by Mr. Ailey, the audience's enduring favorite, [*Revelations*](#), will also be performed throughout the tour.

Ailey II welcomes back—[Kamani Abu](#), [Jada Ammons](#), [Christian Butts](#), [Adanna Smalls](#), and [Eric J. Vidaña](#)—along with seven new dancers: [Julie Colotroc](#), [Daijia Monaé](#), [Vic E. Davis](#), [Jaydin Javier De Jesús](#), [Michelle Osanya](#), [Jalyn Postadan](#), and [Dominic A. Roberts](#).

Chosen by Alvin Ailey to guide and develop Ailey II after its inception in 1974 until she stepped down in 2012, Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita [Sylvia Waters](#) conceived and directed [*Portrait of Ailey*](#), an eight-part documentary series available for free on [AILEY.org](#) or [PBS LearningMedia](#). The exceptional series combines rare historical film and still images with contemporary footage to create a sweeping narrative of Mr. Ailey as a performer, choreographer, celebrity, teacher, social activist, arts advocate, and the creator of an enduring institution.

Please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org/ailey-ii for bios, hi-res downloadable photos, and b-roll.



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2026-27 Tour Schedule

(As of 08.25.2026)

2026

Sept. 22	Nantucket, MA	Dreamland Film and Performing Arts Theatre
Sept. 24	Westport, CT	Westport Country Playhouse
Sept. 25	Morristown, NJ	Mayo Performing Arts Center
Sept. 30	Manchester, NH	Dana Center – Koonz Theatre / St. Anselm College
Oct. 3	Greenwich, CT	Berkley Theater / Greenwich Library
Oct. 6	Lexington, VA	The Lenfest Center for the Arts / Washington & Lee University
Oct. 8	Danville, VA	George Washington High School
Oct. 11	Annapolis, MD	Maryland Hall
Oct. 14	Charleston, WV	Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences
Oct. 15	Marietta, OH	Peoples Bank Theatre
Oct. 18	St. Bonaventure, NY	Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts / St. Bonaventure University
Oct. 21	Princess Anne, MD	Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts / University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Oct. 27	Des Moines, IA	Des Moines Civic Center
Oct. 29	Fairfield, IA	Fairfield Arts & Convention Center

2027

Jan. 26	Wenatchee, WA	Numerica Performing Arts Center
Feb. 1	Port Angeles, WA	Field Arts & Events Hall
Feb. 4	Kalispell, MT	Wachholz College Center
Feb. 6	Gallatin Gateway, MT	Warren Miller Performing Arts Center
Feb. 12	Colorado Springs, CO	Ent Center for the Arts / Colorado Springs Dance Theatre
Feb. 15	Tulsa, OK	Tulsa Performing Arts Center
Feb. 16	Oklahoma City, OK	OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center
Feb. 20	Huntsville, AL	Mark C. Smith Concert Hall / Von Braun Center
Feb. 23	Jacksonville, FL	Moran Theater / Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts
Feb. 25	Tampa, FL	Ferguson Hall / Straz Center for the Performing Arts
Feb. 27	Key West, FL	Tennessee Williams Theatre
Mar. 5-6	Kansas City, MO	Folly Theater
Mar. 31 – Apr. 11	New York, NY	Ailey Citigroup Theater

About Ailey II

Ailey II—the second company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater—is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country’s best early-career dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today’s most outstanding and emerging choreographers. Founded in 1974 as a bridge between The Ailey School and the professional dance world, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey’s pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Ailey II flourished into one of the most popular dance companies in the country under the leadership of Sylvia Waters from 1974–2012, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. With Artistic Director Francesca Harper at the helm, Ailey II is forging a new path for modern dance—one that’s inclusive, experimental, and transformative. For more information, visit ailey.org/aileyii.

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