

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Returns to The Music Center in Multi-Year Exclusive Southern California Residency With Two Inspiring Programs During Tour Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Judith Jamison

Performance Dates: April 2–6, 2025

The Company's Diverse Repertory for the 22nd Season of 'Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center' Includes L.A. Premieres of 'Sacred Songs' and 'Many Angels,' New Production of 'Grace,' 'Cry' Tribute Performance; Timeless Masterpiece 'Revelations,' and More

LOS ANGELES (February 26, 2025) --The Music Center continues its 22nd season of **Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center** with a stupendous seven-performance engagement by the acclaimed **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**. The New York-based Company's dancers will captivate audiences at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion over five days, April 2-6, 2025, celebrating the life and legacy of Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison, who passed away in 2024. Led by Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, the beloved company returns to L.A.'s performing arts center for its second of an exclusive four-year Southern California residency with Los Angeles premieres, new productions, repertory favorites and Ailey classics.

The first program (Program A) includes the L.A. premieres of *Sacred Songs* (2024), choreographed by Los Angeles native Matthew Rushing; *Many Angels* (2024), choreographed by Lar Lubovitch; and a restaging of *Treading* (1979), choreographed by Elisa Monte. **Program A will be performed in the evenings of April 2, 4 and 6 and as a matinee on April 5.** The second program (Program B) includes a new production of Ailey favorites: *Grace* (1999), choreographed by Ronald K. Brown; *Ailey Excerpts*, choreographed by Alvin Ailey, comprised of excerpts from *Pas De Duke* (1976), *Masekela Langage* (1969), *Opus McShann* (1988), *Love Songs* (1972) and *For 'Bird' - With Love* (1984); and *Cry* (1971), choreographed by Alvin Ailey, a tribute to Judith Jamison. **Program B will be performed in the evenings of April 3 and 5 and as a matinee on April 6.**

Every performance will conclude with the must-see American masterpiece *Revelations*, acclaimed around the world for sending hearts soaring and lifting audiences to their feet with its perfect blend of reverent grace and spiritual elation.

"Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater never ceases to amaze and delight Angelenos and dance enthusiasts of all ages. We are truly honored to have one of the world's most beloved dance companies as our partner in residence and performing in Los Angeles at this moment in time," said Rachel S. Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. "The company's unbridled spirit, coupled with the dancers' extraordinary techniques, are a source of joy and solace many of us--still recovering from and rebuilding after this year's wildfires--are seeking right now. With two distinct programs comprised of L.A. premieres, new productions of audience favorites, Ailey classics and a celebration of the company's legendary Judith Jamison, our audiences can expect to be transported on a soulful journey filled with inspiration, hope and rejuvenation."

In May 2023, The Music Center and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater jointly announced the company's commitment to perform in an exclusive Southern California residency for four consecutive years at The Music Center's iconic Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, beginning with the 2023-2024 season of *Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*. The multi-year residency is the first of its kind in The Music Center's 61-year history.

The L.A. premiere of *Sacred Songs*, created by Interim Artistic Director (and 1991 Grand Prize winner in the dance category of The Music Center's **Spotlight** competition) Matthew Rushing, features music used in the original 1960 premiere of Alvin Ailey's seminal *Revelations* but which was later omitted when the piece was edited into the current version that has captivated audiences for decades. Drawing inspiration from the roots of Mr. Ailey's most venerated and consummate creation, this stirring new work resurrects and reimagines those spirituals with the collaboration of creative associate and musical director Du'Bois A'Keen, as an offering to audiences' present need for lamentation, faith and joy.

Many Angels features Lar Lubovitch's renowned lush choreography and musicality set to Gustav Mahler's Symphony

No. 5, inspired by the question "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" posed by 13th century theologian St. Thomas Aquinas, which illustrates that some questions have no logical response but are understood as a question of faith. In his first premiere for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Lubovitch says: "It is not really about angels. (Well, maybe a little.)"

In Elisa Monte's *Treading*, two dancers come together in fluid, intricate movements that combine with Steve Reich's meditative music to create an aura of mystery and sensuality.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Ronald K. Brown's spellbinding *Grace* is set to Duke Ellington's classic *Come Sunday*, Peven Everett's hit *Gabriel* and the irresistible pulse of Fela Kuti's afro-pop music. *Grace* depicts individuals on a journey to the promised land, expanding from a single angel-like figure in white to the fireball intensity of 12 powerful dancers. The secular and sacred meet this tour-de-force connecting African and American dance.

When Alvin Ailey's *Cry* premiered at New York City Center in 1971, it was an immediate sensation. It propelled Judith Jamison, who was Mr. Ailey's muse and who would become the artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, to international stardom in the dance world with her unparalleled grace and power. The female soloist represents all Black women, depicting their African origins, the trials and tribulations they have endured, and their joyful triumph over those hardships in this 16-minute solo. To pay tribute to the late Judith Jamison, there will be performances of the finale of *Cry* set to the Voices of East Harlem singing *Right On, Be Free*.

Since its debut in 1960, Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* has been moving audiences with its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope and transcendence. An intimate reflection of Mr. Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the South and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African American community and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

"This season we celebrate the lineage and legacy of Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison, who paved the way for the extraordinary artistry of today's choreographers and dancers," said Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing. "As I return to my hometown with the Company for inspiring performances, I reflect on my unexpected journey since seeing Ailey for the first time as a student in Los Angeles - the same city where a young Alvin Ailey discovered the life-changing power of dance. It is so meaningful for me to be back at The Music Center to share the area premiere of my *Sacred Songs* and present all this season's repertory demonstrating that dance is both a reflection of our past and a guide to our future, as Ailey's rich story continues to be written together with audiences."

Audiences also will be enthralled by Coral Dolphin, another Los Angeles native, who is among the Ailey company's renowned dancers bringing their passionate spirit and exceptional technique to The Music Center stage. Dolphin, who joined the company in 2023, will be one of the lead dancers in the new productions of *Grace* and *Treading*.

To engage and inspire students and educators with dance and movement, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's residency will include a special matinee performance at The Music Center for more than 3,000 middle school and high school students on **Friday, April 4, 2025**. During the week of **March 10, 2025**, Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs will also visit two middle schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District for a weeklong arts-learning experience entitled "*Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*." The program will entail classroom workshops for students to examine the work and historical impact of Alvin Ailey, a writing project on students' self-reflection and a discussion on the choreography of Mr. Ailey's masterpiece, *Revelations*. These students will then attend the company's student matinee performance at The Music Center.

Additionally, The Music Center has arranged, in partnership with non-profit organization **EngAGE, Inc.**, for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to provide an *AileyDance for Active Aging* workshop for older adults to express themselves through movement at The Piedmont Senior Apartments in North Hollywood.

Tickets to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performances are available for purchase now by visiting musiccenter.org/ailey or calling (213) 972-0711.

CALENDAR LISTING

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 7:30 p.m. (Program A)

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 7:30 p.m. (Program B)

Friday, April 4, 2025, 7:30 p.m. (Program A)

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 2:00 p.m. (Program A)

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 7:30 p.m. (Program B)

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m. (Program B)

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 7:30 p.m. (Program A)

Program A:

Sacred Songs (2024, **L.A. Premiere**)

Choreography: Matthew Rushing

Assistant to the Choreographer: Alexandria Johnson

Creative Associate and Music: Du'Bois A'Keen

Costumes: Danté Baylor

Lighting: Andre A. Vazquez

Scenic Design: Matthew Rushing and Joseph Anthony Gaito

Many Angels (2024, **L.A. Premiere**)

Choreography: Lar Lubovitch

Assistant to the Choreographer: Katarzyna Skarpetowska

Music: Gustav Mahler

Costumes: Harriet Jung and Reid Bartelme

Lighting: Clifton Taylor

Scenic Design: Lar Lubovitch

Treading (1979, New Production 2024)

Choreography: Elisa Monte

Rehearsal Associate: Clymene Aldinger

Music: Steve Reich

Costumes: Marisol

Original Lighting: Tina Charney

Lighting Design: Clifton Taylor

Revelations (1960)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

Décor and Costumes: Ves Harper

Redesigned Costumes for *Rocka My Soul*: Barbara Forbes

Lighting: Nicola Cernovitch

Program B:

Grace (1999, New Production 2024)

Choreography: Ronald K. Brown

Rehearsal Associate: Arcell Cabuag

Music: Various Artists

Costumes: Omatayo Wunmi Olaiya

Lighting: Tsubasa Kamei

Ailey Excerpts

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Excerpt from *Pas De Duke* (1976)

Music: Duke Ellington

Costumes: Rouben Ter-Arutunian

Lighting: Chenault Spence

Excerpt from *Masekela Langage* (1969)

Music: Hugh Masekela

Scenic Design: William Hammond

Costumes: A. Christina Giannini

Lighting: Chenault Spence

Excerpt from *Opus McShann* (1988)

Music composed by: Jay McShann and Walter Brown

Performed by: Jay McShann

Sets and costumes: Randy Barcelo

Lighting: Timothy Hunter

Excerpt from *Love Songs* (1972)

A Song for You, music and lyrics: Leon Russell

Sung by Donny Hathaway

Costume: Ursula Reed

Lighting: Shirley Prendergast

Excerpt from *For 'Bird' - With Love* (1984)

Bird Lives music by Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson

Set and costume design: Randy Barcelo

Lighting: Timothy Huntera

Cry: A Tribute to Judith Jamison (1971) (Excerpt)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Music: Chuck Griffin

Costume: A. Christina Giannini

Lighting: Chenault Spence

Revelations (1960)

Choreography: Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

Décor and Costumes: Ves Harper

Redesigned costumes for *Rocka My Soul*: Barbara Forbes

Lighting: Nicola Cernovitch

ABOUT GLORYA KAUFMAN PRESENTS DANCE AT THE MUSIC CENTER

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, a TMC Arts program, is one of the leading presenters of dance on the West Coast. The celebrated series offers significant works by prestigious ballet and contemporary dance artists from around the world. Now in its 22nd year, *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* is a powerful force, bringing works by today's most influential companies and choreographers to audiences in Los Angeles. Performances are complemented by special experiences for both ticket buyers and the public with opportunities to learn more about the choreography and the themes explored, including panels, master classes, dance film festivals, interactive experiences and more. The 22nd season of *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* is generously supported by Glorya Kaufman Foundation, Center Dance Arts, Dorothy B. Chandler Program Fund and Elisabeth Katte Harris.

ABOUT CENTER DANCE ARTS

Center Dance Arts is a dynamic community of patrons with a passion for dance. Center Dance Arts members bring dance to life in Los Angeles by promoting The Music Center's world-class dance performances, extensive educational outreach and free and low-cost community experiences so all may experience the transformative power of dance. For more information, visit musiccenter.org/cda.

ABOUT THE MUSIC CENTER

The Music Center convenes artists, communities and ideas with the goal of deepening the cultural lives of every resident in Los Angeles County. The \$80 million non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: TMC Arts and TMC Ops. TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on Jerry Moss Plaza, outside at Gloria Molina Grand Park--a 12-acre adjacent green space--in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County. TMC Arts presents world-class dance with *Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*, free and low-cost public concerts and events, live and digital K-12 arts education programs, workshops, performances, interactive experiences and special events. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the Plaza and Gloria Molina Grand Park, which comprise \$3 billion in county assets, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles. The Music Center is also home to four renowned resident companies--Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Master Chorale, LA Opera and LA Phil. For more information, visit musiccenter.org. Follow The Music Center on social media @MusicCenterLA.

ABOUT ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. 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. Founded by Alvin Ailey, the posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom--the nation's highest civilian honor. Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and for 21 years she led the Company to unprecedented success. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents--as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms--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 tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; 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 United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization 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, 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 www.ailey.org.

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