



**For Immediate Release**

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*Digital Photos Available*

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**WORLD-RENOWNED ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER  
CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH PERFORMANCES AT THE  
AUDITORIUM THEATRE OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY APRIL 1 – 5, 2009**

Opening night performance features a special live onstage performance by  
Grammy Award-winning female a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock

CHICAGO — The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University (ATRU), 50 E. Congress Parkway, proudly presents the 50th Anniversary celebration of the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, performing as part of ATRU's International Dance Series in a Chicago exclusive engagement April 1 – 5, 2009. Tickets are now on sale.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Clifton Brown. Photo by Andrew Eccles from "Ailey Ascending: A Portrait in Motion." (Chronicle Book, 2008). Celebrating Ailey's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, on sale nationwide beginning November 2008.

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.\*

Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 4 at 2 and 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m.

\* April 1 performance features a special **live ONSTAGE** performance by Sweet Honey in the Rock

Programming details will be announced at a later date.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater tickets are now on sale. Single ticket prices are \$30 / \$45 / \$59 / \$69 / \$82. For tickets, visit the Auditorium Theatre box office at 50 E. Congress Parkway; call Ticketmaster at (312) 902-1500; or log on to ticketmaster.com. For more information, visit auditoriumtheatre.org. Discounted tickets are currently available for groups of 10 or more. For more information on group sales, call Beth Bullock at (312) 431-2357 or e-mail [bbullock@auditoriumtheatre.org](mailto:bbullock@auditoriumtheatre.org).

**RUSSIAN POINTE RECEPTION**

An elegant pre-show opening night reception will be held at Russian Pointe (333 N. Michigan Ave.), a theater-inspired boutique featuring burgundy velvet curtains and French crystal chandeliers. This special event includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and appearances by company artists, as well as trolley transportation to the theatre. The Russian Pointe Reception takes place Wednesday, April 1 from 5 – 7 p.m. Admission is \$50, and reservations are required by calling (312) 922-2110 x 300.

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**ABOUT ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER**

On March 30, 1958 in New York City, Alvin Ailey led a group of young African American modern dancers in a performance that forever changed the perception of American dance. Although he created some 79 ballets during his lifetime, Ailey was a pioneer in establishing a multi-racial repertory company that presented important American dance works from the past as well as new works by both dance pioneers and emerging choreographers.

Today, with Artistic Director Judith Jamison's remarkable vision and the artistry of 30 extraordinary dancers, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, America's Cultural Ambassador to the World, continues to celebrate the African American cultural experience and to preserve and enrich the American modern dance tradition. Regarded as one of the world's premier modern dance companies, The New York Times declares that "Ailey's phenomenal popularity is unmatched by any other company."

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 21 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, becoming not only the most-traveled dance company, but also an ambassador of American culture, inspiring and uniting people of all backgrounds around the globe. With a repertory of over 200 works by more than 70 choreographers and a permanent home in New York City, the nation's largest building dedicated to dance, the Ailey legacy flourishes, using the universal language of dance as a medium for honoring the past, celebrating the present and fearlessly reaching into the future.

**ABOUT THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY**

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, located at 50 E. Congress Parkway, is an independent, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural and community programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theater tours, call (312) 922-2110 or visit [auditoriumtheatre.org](http://auditoriumtheatre.org), now featuring *Chicago's Landmark Stage*, a comprehensive online history of the Auditorium from 1889 through today, made possible by the generous support of the American Express Performing Arts Fund.

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