

**AUDITORIUM
THEATRE**
of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE[®]
AUDITORIUM THEATRE EST. 1889

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**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO THE AUDITORIUM
THEATRE MARCH 22-26 FOR SIX PERFORMANCES FEATURING THREE
CHICAGO PREMIERES**

**REPERTORY SHINES A SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND CELEBRATES
BIRTH CENTENNIALS OF JAZZ LEGENDS ELLA FITZGERALD AND DIZZY
GILLESPIE**



[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) brings four new programs to the Auditorium Theatre for six shows March 22-26, showcasing the company's diverse style that blends ballet, modern dance, jazz, and African dance techniques. The company also presents two [student matinees](#) to K-12 groups on Thursday, March 23, and Friday, March 24.

Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, the company presents Chicago premieres of three new works: *Deep* by Mauro Bigonzetti, set to the music of rising global music stars Ibeyi; *r-Evolution, Dream*. by long-time company member Hope Boykin, inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. and set to

narration by Tony Award winner Leslie Odom, Jr. (*Hamilton*) and original music by Ali Jackson (Jazz at Lincoln Center); and *Untitled America*, a work by MacArthur Fellow Kyle Abraham that examines the impact of incarceration on African American families.

This season, the company aims to exemplify how the arts and social movements can connect to be a vehicle for change. Many of the works Ailey will perform in Chicago shine a spotlight on social issues – from *r-Evolution*, *Dream*, and *Untitled America* to a new production of Alvin Ailey's *Masekela Langage*, which draws parallels between violence in 1960s Chicago and the South African apartheid.

The company also will perform pieces new to its repertory, including Johan Inger's *Walking Mad* and Robert Battle's *Ella*, which celebrates the birth centennial of Ella Fitzgerald. Other works in the Chicago programs include Christopher Wheeldon's *After the Rain Pas de Deux*, Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon* (honoring the birth centennial of Dizzy Gillespie), and Battle's *In/Side*.

Each performance will close with Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece *Revelations*, which has been seen by more people around the world than any other modern work.

"It is an honor to be the Chicago home of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater," says **Tania Castoverde Moskalenko**, Auditorium Theatre CEO. "We are looking forward to the company's return to our landmark stage as they continue nearly half a century of tradition with programs that are incredibly powerful, timely, and captivating."

"Now more than ever, I'm proud to use dance to unite and uplift. For over four decades the Ailey company has been welcomed to the stage of the Auditorium Theatre for an exchange with Chicago audiences that celebrates our common humanity," says **Robert Battle**, Alvin Ailey Artistic Director. "This season, Ailey's renowned dancers will bring to life premieres that hold a mirror up to society, showcase daring choreographic voices, and pay tribute to the jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie and Ella Fitzgerald on their birth centennials with the marriage of modern dance and jazz – America's two original art forms."

On Tuesday, March 21, the Auditorium Theatre will host a private Ailey Circle reception at the Stony Island Arts Bank with Battle, co-chaired by renowned Chicago artist Theaster Gates and Navy Pier's Chief Program and Civic Engagement Officer Michelle Boone. Tickets are \$350 each, which includes entry to the reception as well as one VIP orchestra ticket to an Ailey performance. All proceeds from the Ailey Circle reception benefit the Auditorium Theatre and the annual presentation of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. For more information regarding the Ailey Circle reception, please visit the [Fundraising Events](#) page or contact Kelly Saroff at 312.341.2364 or via email at ksaroff@auditoriumtheatre.org.

NIB FOUNDATION – Dance Sponsor | The PRIVATEBANK and THE ROBERT THOMAS BOBINS FOUNDATION – Student Matinee Sponsors | AVISON YOUNG – Opening Night Sponsor | This presentation is supported by the ARTS MIDWEST TOURING FUND, a program of ARTS MIDWEST that is funded by the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, with additional contributions from ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL and THE CRANE GROUP.

Program Information

[After the Rain Pas de Deux](#) – Tony Award winner Christopher Wheeldon's dreamlike male-female duet set to Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*.

[Deep \(CHICAGO PREMIERE\)](#) – A new work by Mauro Bigonzetti, set to the music of rising global music stars Ibeyi (twin sisters who sing in both English and Yoruba).

[Ella \(CHICAGO COMPANY PREMIERE\)](#) – Artistic Director Robert Battle's tribute to the legendary Ella Fitzgerald, performed by Ailey in Chicago for the first time in celebration of the centennial of Fitzgerald's birth. Set to the song "Airmail Special."



In/Side – Set to Nina Simone’s haunting rendition of the Oscar-nominated song “Wild is the Wind,” Robert Battle’s *In/Side* offers audiences an intimate look at a man’s most private struggles.

Masekela Langage (NEW PRODUCTION) – Alvin Ailey’s theatrical work from 1969, drawing parallels between South African apartheid and the race-induced violence of Chicago in the 1960s, set to the driving music of trumpeter and composer Hugh Masekela.

Night Creature (STUDENT MATINEES) – First premiered in 1974, a signature ballet by Alvin Ailey that celebrates the joyful, kinetic music of jazz legend Duke Ellington.

Revelations – Alvin Ailey’s must-see American masterpiece uses African American spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs, and holy blues to fervently explore the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

r-Evolution, Dream (CHICAGO PREMIERE) – Veteran company member Hope Boykin – inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a company visit to the Center for Civil and Human Rights – created this large ensemble work, which melds creative storytelling with music by Ali Jackson (from *Jazz at Lincoln Center*) and writings narrated by Tony Award winner Leslie Odom, Jr. (*Hamilton*).

Untitled America (CHICAGO PREMIERE) – Choreographed by MacArthur Fellow Kyle Abraham, *Untitled America* examines the impact of the prison system on African American families, set to soul, ambient, and electronic music mixed with spoken word narration by those affected.

Walking Mad (CHICAGO COMPANY PREMIERE) – Johan Inger’s work for nine dancers, a daring contemporary take on Ravel’s *Bolero*.

The Winter in Lisbon (NEW PRODUCTION) – Billy Wilson’s 1992 work pays tribute to jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, evoking an atmosphere in which the dancers challenge, tease, and pursue romance against a backdrop of rhythm and color. The company is performing the piece this season in celebration of the centennial of Gillespie’s birth.

Performance and Ticket Information

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Wednesday, March 22 | 7:30PM *Deep / Walking Mad / Ella / Revelations*

Thursday, March 23 | 7:30PM *r-Evolution, Dream. / Masekela Langage / After the Rain Pas de Deux / Revelations*

Friday, March 24 | 7:30PM *The Winter in Lisbon / Untitled America / In/Side / Revelations*

Saturday, March 25 | 2PM *The Winter in Lisbon / r-Evolution, Dream. / Revelations*

Saturday, March 25 | 8PM *Deep / Walking Mad / Ella / Revelations*

Sunday, March 26 | 3PM *The Winter in Lisbon / r-Evolution, Dream. / Revelations*

Tickets start at \$33, and are available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by phone at 312.341.2300, or in person at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E Congress Parkway). Discounts available for [groups of 10+](#).

One Hour Student Matinee Performances

Thursday, March 23 | 11AM *Night Creature (excerpt) / Revelations*

Friday, March 24 | 11AM *Night Creature (excerpt) / Revelations*

Student matinee tickets are \$15 and can be ordered by phone at 312.341.2357 or via email at sales@auditoriumtheatre.org. Please find more information on the Auditorium’s Student Matinee programs at AuditoriumTheatre.org.



Auditorium Theatre's 2016-17 Season Upcoming Events

March 11: [Thodos Dance Chicago](#)

March 22-26: [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

March 31: [The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra with Bernadette Peters](#)

May 19-21: [Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg - Red Giselle](#)

June 10: [Giordano Dance Chicago](#)

About The Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E Congress Pkwy in Chicago, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark.

The Auditorium Theatre 2016-17 Season is made possible in part with support from the **MacArthur Foundation**, the **Illinois Arts Council**, and the **Palmer House Hilton**. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call 312.341.2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click [here](#).

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, photos by Paul Kolnik | Auditorium Theatre, photo by Tatyana Perreault



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