ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER CELEBRATES 60th ANNIVERSARY AND MARKS 50 YEARS SINCE FIRST PERFORMANCE AT THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE

Company Gives Midwest Premieres to Its First Ever Two-Act Ballet, Rennie Harris’ Lazarus; Wayne McGregor’s Kairos; and Jessica Lang’s EN

Timeless Ailey Performance Features Treasured Ailey Works Including Perennial Favorites Cry, Night Creature, and Memoria, Plus Rarely-Seen Gems Including Mary Lou’s Mass and The Lark Ascending

Honoring a Chicago Tradition, Each Performance Ends with Ailey’s Masterpiece Revelations

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on March 6-10, 2019
(CHICAGO, IL) The Auditorium Theatre announces programming for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's return to Chicago March 6-10, commemorating the company's 60th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of its first performances at the Auditorium, its Chicago home. During these special engagements, Ailey gives Midwest premieres to its first ever two-act ballet, Rennie Harris' Lazarus; Wayne McGregor's Kairos; and Jessica Lang's EN. The company also performs the Timeless Ailey program, a curated selection of classic pieces by company founder and visionary Alvin Ailey.

"The Auditorium Theatre is honored to be the Chicago home for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since 1969, and we are excited to celebrate our longstanding partnership with three incredible programs that represent the past, present, and future of this legendary company," says C.J. Dillon, Auditorium Theatre Chief Programming Officer.

Lazarus, choreographed by the renowned hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris and co-commissioned by the Auditorium Theatre, is inspired by the life and legacy of Ailey himself. Lazarus powerfully addresses the racial inequalities that America faced when the company was founded in 1958 and still faces today. Harris, recently named the inaugural artist-in-residence for Ailey, is the founder of Rennie Harris Puremovement and the recipient of a Pew Charitable Trust Choreographer Initiative Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Dance Magazine award. His previous works for Ailey include Love Stories Judith Jamison’s dynamic collaboration with Harris and Robert Battle (2004), Home (2011), and Exodus (2015).

Ailey is the first American company to stage British choreographer Wayne McGregor’s Kairos, created in 2014 and set on the Ailey company in 2018. Kairos (a word which means both “the most opportune time to take action” and “weather”) is an angular, synchronistic ballet set to experimental composer Max Richter’s reimagined version of Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons. McGregor is the resident choreographer for The Royal Ballet and has created works for companies including Paris Opera Ballet, New York City Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theatre, and more. The Ailey company previously worked with McGregor to stage his work Chroma (2013).

EN, New York choreographer Jessica Lang’s first work for Ailey, is a celebratory ensemble work set to original music by composer Jakub Ciupinski. The title for the piece has multiple meanings in Japanese, signifying circle, destiny, fate, and karma. According to Lang, the work "reflects on the
universal experience of coming full circle and, as time passes, we recognize the people we meet along life's journey who play a part in the fate and destiny of our lives." Lang is the Artistic Director of Jessica Lang Dance and has created 100 original works, including for American Ballet Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet, the National Ballet of Japan. She is married to Ailey dancer Kanji Segawa, who served as assistant to the choreographer for the creation of EN.


Since its creation in 1960, Revelations has consistently enraptured audiences all over the world with its perfect blend of reverent grace and spiritual elation. Alvin Ailey’s signature masterpiece pays homage to and reflects the cultural heritage of the African-American, which Ailey considered one of America’s richest treasures – “sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful.” Choreographed when he was only 29 years old, Revelations is an intimate reflection inspired by childhood memories of attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, and by the work of writers James Baldwin and Langston Hughes. Set to a suite of traditional spirituals, Revelations explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition, from the deepest of grief to the holiest joy. A classic tribute to the resolve and determination of a people, the ballet has been seen by more people around the world than any other modern work.

About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. 60 years after its founding, Ailey continues to move forward under the leadership of Robert Battle, revealing time and again why Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the world’s most beloved dance companies. Visit AlvinAiley.org or AuditoriumTheatre.org for further information.

Commissioning support for Lazarus provided by the Auditorium Theatre with sponsorship support from ARIEL INVESTMENTS, AVISON YOUNG, and SVOBODA CAPITAL PARTNERS.

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Additional support provided by ARTS MIDWEST

Performance Information

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Wednesday, March 6 | 7PM
Lazarus / Revelations
Thursday, March 7 | 7:30PM
*Kairos / EN / Revelations*

Friday, March 8 | 11AM
One hour Student Matinee performance

Friday, March 8 | 7:30PM
*Timeless Ailey / Revelations*

Saturday, March 9 | 2PM
*Kairos / EN / Revelations*

Saturday, March 9 | 8PM
*Lazarus / Revelations*

Sunday, March 10 | 3PM
*Lazarus / Revelations*

Tickets start at $34 and are available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by phone at 312.341.2300, or in person at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E Ida B Wells Dr). Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is part of the International Dance Series (which also includes American Ballet Theatre and Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg), which offers a 25% discount on tickets.

The Auditorium Theatre also offers $15 student rush tickets to full-time college students and $5 to young people ages 13-19 with Urban Gateways’ Teen Arts Pass program. The Auditorium Theatre’s ADMIT ONE program, launched in 2016, offers complimentary tickets to Chicago-area community groups. Community groups may apply for ADMIT ONE here.

Tickets to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Student Matinee are $12 per person. More information is available here.

**Celebrating Ailey Soirée**

Celebrate Ailey’s 60th anniversary and its 50th anniversary performing at the Auditorium Theatre at the post-performance Celebrating Ailey Soirée with Ailey artistic director Robert Battle and members of the Ailey company, hosted at Venue Six10. The event includes cocktails, a buffet supper, and music provided by a DJ. All proceeds from the Celebrating Ailey Soirée benefit the Auditorium’s presentation of the Ailey company in Chicago.

Tickets to the Celebrating Ailey Soirée, which include a seat to the opening night performance, start at $350 and may be purchased online here. For tables, please contact Kelly Saroff Allen by phone at 312.341.2364 or by email at ksaroff@auditoriumtheatre.org.

**CIBC and THE ROBERT THOMAS BOBINS FOUNDATION Celebrating Ailey Soirée Presenting Sponsors**

Press photos are available here.

**Upcoming Events at the Auditorium Theatre**

December 7-30: The Joffrey Ballet – The Nutcracker

January 19+20: Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah

January 24: National Geographic Live – Pink Boots and a Machete

February 1: Shhh...Trivia Night!

February 2: Trinity Irish Dance Company

February 13-24: The Joffrey Ballet – Anna Karenina
March 2+3: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago/Malpaso Dance Company
March 6-10: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
March 16: ICCA Great Lakes Semifinal, presented by Varsity Vocals
March 30: A Whole New World of Alan Menken

About The Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E Ida B Wells Dr at Roosevelt University in Chicago, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community, and educational programming to all of Chicago and beyond as The Theatre for the People. The organization also is committed to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark.

The Auditorium Theatre 2018-19 Season is made possible in part with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, The Chicago Community Trust, and the Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel. Michigan Avenue Magazine is the official magazine sponsor. For more information about programming, volunteer, and donor opportunities or theatre tours, please call 312.341.2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click here.