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## Celebrating a decade of Robert Battle's leadership, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater leaps back onto the Paramount stage

Every performance concludes with Ailey's iconic American masterpiece *Revelations*

2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, March 26

2 p.m. on Sunday, March 27

Tickets: \$35 –\$125 at [stgpresents.org](http://stgpresents.org)

SEATTLE— With their trademark technical brilliance and passionate artistry, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Seattle](#) for performances at The Paramount Theatre on March 26 and 27 with a variety of new and classic works, including [Alvin Ailey's](#) American masterpiece *Revelations*. Paramount audiences will be treated to an *All Ailey* and a *Battle 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* program, which includes the Seattle premiere of Artistic Director Robert Battle's work *For Four*.

"I am deeply humbled to have led this seminal company for a decade, joined by incomparable dancers and choreographers," Battle said. "It's been a journey of discovery extending from the powerful works of our founder, to the important voices of today—an ongoing dance dialogue that shines a light on the strength and resilience of our common humanity around the world."

For the Saturday and Sunday matinees, the *Battle 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* program features a new production of Battle's [Unfold](#). This sensuous, swirling duet evokes the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria "Depuis Le Jour" sung by legendary soprano Leontyne Price. Audiences will be treated to the Pacific Northwest premiere of [For Four](#), capturing the pent-up energy of a world cooped up during the pandemic, and set to a Wynton Marsalis jazz score written in 4/4 time. Battle's dynamic works [Mass](#), [In/Side](#), [Ella](#), [Takademe](#), and [Love Stories](#) (finale) round-out the evening with music by greats such as Nina Simone, Ella Fitzgerald and Stevie Wonder.

Saturday evening's *All Ailey* program includes [Blues Suite](#), the founding choreographer's original masterpiece that helped launch the company in 1958. Viewers will experience [Reflections in D](#) and [Pas de Duke](#), which celebrate the musical genius of eminent American composer Duke Ellington. A modern-dance translation of a ballet dance for two, *Pas de Duke* honors two of the most renowned dancers in the world, Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov. *Reflections in D* highlights both Ellington's masterful expression, and the grace of the male dancer in solo performance.

All performances conclude with Ailey's [Revelations](#), acclaimed around the world for sending hearts soaring and lifting audiences to their feet. Since its debut in 1960, *Revelations* has been seen by more people than any other modern dance work. Audiences remember the powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music that evoke determination, hope, and transcendence. Springing from the choreographer's childhood memories of the south and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas,

*Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of African Americans and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

“Alvin Ailey’s vision opened the door for generations of artists to use dance to inspire, unite, and enlighten,” Battle said. “Despite twists and turns on the road we have all traveled together, we are excited to be returning to our Seattle home at The Paramount Theatre while finding new ways to share artistry that renews our spirit of courage, hope, and joy.”

STG has been the presenter of record for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since 1996. In addition to the company’s powerful performances at the Paramount, the impact of this group in Seattle has reverberated through residencies, master classes, lecture-demonstrations and AileyCamp—a free summer program for middle-school students—90 percent of whom identify as Black, Mixed Race, or as People of Color.

“After an evening of watching Ailey, you will leave the theater and still be thinking about what you witnessed the next day,” said **Shawn Roberts** who leads STG AileyCamp. “It’s rare that we get to see such a diverse group of beautiful dancers on stage doing what they love, inspiring all of us in the audience toward greatness.”

#### **ADDITIONAL PRESS INFORMATION:**

Join the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for the milestone 2022 engagement in Seattle, as Ailey’s breathtaking artists return to the stage celebrating the human spirit and inspiring all people through dance. For more information on Ailey’s upcoming performances, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, members of the media may visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).



(L to R): Artistic Director Robert Battle with members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Dario Calmese; Members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

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#### **ABOUT SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP (STG)**

Seattle Theatre Group (STG) is a 501©(3) nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to make diverse performing arts and education an integral part of the region’s cultural identity while keeping three historic venues, The Paramount, Moore and Neptune, alive and vibrant. STG presents a range of performances from Broadway, dance and jazz, to comedy, concerts of all genres, speakers and family shows—these three iconic theatres in Seattle and venues throughout the Puget Sound region and in Portland, Oregon. For more information visit [stgpresent.org](http://stgpresent.org). STG Education and Community Programs extend beyond the Paramount, Moore and Neptune Theatre stages and into the lives of the greater Seattle community. Each season, STG offers over 260 education programs impacting over 55,000 students and community members from diverse ages and backgrounds. These programs deepen significance to performances through opportunities to engage with artists, inspire youth and local artists through training and performance opportunities, and provide exposure to the arts through access initiatives. For more information visit [stgpresents.org/education](http://stgpresents.org/education).

#### **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. Founded by Alvin Ailey, posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom —the nation’s highest civilian honor—and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on six continents, 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 the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., 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 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 The 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.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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