



## ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 20-CITY U.S. TOUR CELEBRATING JUDITH JAMISON ON HER 20<sup>th</sup> YEAR AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater recognized by U.S. Congress as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," will inspire, enlighten and entertain audiences from February through June in 20 U.S. cities, continuing the celebration of the legendary Judith Jamison's 20th year as artistic director. Jamison, who has guided the Ailey organization to new heights and into a permanent home – the nation's largest building for dance – kicked off the tour with Ailey's extraordinary artists on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center. Performances across the country will continue through June 20<sup>th</sup> with an engagement in Memphis for three performances: March 19<sup>th</sup> thru March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Orpheum Theatre. Tickets start at only twenty dollars and are on sale now at the Orpheum box office, Davis Kidd Booksellers, at all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling (901)525-3000.

Acclaimed for their beauty, passion and power, the dancers of Ailey will move audiences with exciting premieres, dramatic new productions, revered classics, and repertory favorites. The premieres for Memphis are ***Hymn***, **Judith Jamison's** Emmy Award-winning homage to Alvin Ailey; and **Robert Battle's *In/Side***, a gripping solo that plays out to the vivid emotions of **Nina Simone's** "Wild is the Wind". The Company will also showcase a diverse repertory, including favorites such as **Alvin Ailey's** signature masterpiece ***Revelations***, a must-see for all people. "I can't wait to see audiences join my extraordinary dancers on this season's inspiring journey through the past two decades and into the future," says **2009 TIME 100 Honoree Judith Jamison**. "We know how to fly, we really do." One of the most renowned figures in modern dance, Jamison is a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors, a National Medal of Arts and many of the nation's most prestigious honors given to artists. Jamison recently led a 50-city tour celebrating Ailey's 50th Anniversary and was acknowledged by *The New York Times* as "surely the most stellar and admired artistic director of any repertory dance company in America."

Founded by Alvin Ailey in 1958, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's inspiring performances, seen in over 70 countries on 6 continents, honor and enrich the African American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition, uniting people of all backgrounds in a celebration of the human spirit through the universal language of dance. Ailey's mission of bringing dance to the people will reach young people through a special student performance on Monday, March 22 at the Orpheum Theatre a master class at Colonial Middle School. Additional master classes open to the general public will take place on Saturday, March 20 at the University of Memphis and First Baptist Broad.

### Ailey Classics repertoire for Memphis

Fri 3/19 8:00pm NIGHT CREATURE, IN/SIDE, SUITE OTIS, REVELATIONS

Sat 3/20 8:00pm LOVE STORIES, EPISODES, REVELATIONS

Sun 3/21 3:00pm HYMN, SUITE OTIS, REVELATIONS

#### ***Suite Otis* (1971)**

**Choreography: George Faison Music: Otis Redding**

**The timeless music of pioneering soul singer Otis Redding** sets the stage for former AAADT company member and Tony Award winning choreographer **George Faison's** playful battle of the sexes. The yearning sensuality of soul stirring songs such as "Satisfaction," "Try a Little Tenderness," "I've Been Loving You Too Long" and other favorites burst through this wildly popular six part suite of dances ripe with romance and humor.



### ***Night Creature (1975)***

**Choreography: Alvin Ailey Music: Duke Ellington**

Combining modern dance, classical ballet and jazz, and juxtaposed within Ellington's jazz idiom, *Night Creature* captivates with Ailey's sexy nocturnal rituals that propel the movement into a fast paced climatic catharsis. **Duke Ellington** first composed the phenomenal, "Suite For Orchestra" in 1955, later adding the second and third movements in 1963. *Night Creature* is the definitive Ailey homage to the exuberance of The Duke's jazz, and remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works.

### ***Revelations (1960)***

**Choreography: Alvin Ailey Music: Traditional**

**Alvin Ailey** said that one of America's richest treasures was the cultural heritage of the African-American—"sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful". This enduring classic is a tribute to that heritage and to Ailey's genius. Using African-American religious music--spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues--this suite fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul.

### ***Episodes (1987)***

**Choreography: Ulysses Dove Music: Robert Ruggieri**

**Ulysses Dove** created this explosive choreographic masterpiece, *Episodes*, for the classical London Festival Ballet in 1987, exploring the battle of the sexes with original and daring choreographic feats to the provocative sound score by Robert Ruggieri. A former member of AAADT, Mr. Dove re-choreographed the dance on pointe for Patrick Dupond's Ballet Francais de Nancy in 1988 and set it on the Ailey dancers in 1989.

### ***Love Stories (2004)***

**Choreography: Judith Jamison, Rennie Harris, Robert Battle Music:**

**Stevie Wonder** Inspired by Sankofa, the Akan word which means "go back" (Sanko) and "take" (fa), **Judith Jamison's** dynamic collaboration with hip-hop pioneer **Rennie Harris** and modern dance maverick **Robert Battle** examines the technique, energy, movement and rhythm of African-American social dances on a journey through past, present and future. Under Jamison's direction, the unique styles, expressive voices and no-limits choreography of these artists draw on variations on the lindy-hop, Philly-bop, hip-hop and eclectic modern dance techniques to explore a love of movement, all set to the soundscape of engineer Darrin Ross and the music of the legendary **Stevie Wonder**.

Cultural Arts For Everyone (CAFÉ) incorporated in 2000, provides culturally diverse artistic experiences that enrich the lives of school-age children and their families. To date CAFÉ has presented more than 76 outstanding, culturally diverse music, dance and theatrical performances to over 80,000 Memphians, half of whom were students ages 5-18. CAFE views the arts as a bridge-builder bringing diverse cultures together and makes a concerted effort to reach audiences from a variety of backgrounds. This performance is sponsored in part by Tennessee Arts Commission and the Southern Arts Federation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

March 19-21, 2010

Orpheum Theatre

Tickets \$20 - \$57



525-3000

Master Class – Horton Method  
University of Memphis – Dance Studio  
Saturday, March 20  
10:00 AM  
Cost \$20 312-9787

Master Class – Revelation Workshop  
First Baptist Broad  
Saturday, March 20  
11:00 AM  
Cost \$20 – Free with ticket stub – 312-9787

### Season Image Highlights

Additional images are available on the press section of [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) with  
username: aaadt2006 / password: jamison (all lower case)



AAADT's Jamar Roberts. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT's Constance Stamatiou. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT's Clifton Brown. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT's Rachael McLaren. Photo by Andrew Eccles



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT's M. Rushing, C. Stamatiou and C. Brown in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT's Kirven James Boyd. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



AAADT's Matthew Rushing. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT's Clifton Brown and Jamar Roberts. Photo by Andrew Eccles



Judith Jamison, Artistic Director. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



Judith Jamison and AAADT members. Photo by Nan Melville





## Repertory Images

### ***Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)***



AAADT's Clifton Brown in Judith Jamison's *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



AAADT's Jamar Roberts in Judith Jamison's *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



AAADT's Hope Boykin and Kirven James Boyd in Judith Jamison's *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



AAADT's Clifton Brown in Judith Jamison's *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims in Judith Jamison's *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

### **"Best of 20 Years"**



Judith Jamison with AAADT members in "Best of 20 Years" program costumes. Photo by Paul Kolnik



Judith Jamison with AAADT members in "Best of 20 Years" program costumes at Ailey's home - The Joan Weill Center for Dance. Photo by Paul Kolnik

### ***Dancing Spirit***



AAADT's Matthew Rushing In Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT in Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims in Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Matthew Rushing In Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

### ***Dancing Spirit***



AAADT's Y. Lebrun, V. Gilmore and J. Roberts in Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



Ronald K. Brown and AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims during rehearsal of Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

## ***Uptown***



AAADT's Amos J. Machanic, Jr. in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT member and choreographer Matthew Rushing (front) rehearsing Amos J. Machanic, Jr. for Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Amos J. Machanic, Jr. in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

## ***Uptown***



AAADT in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Y. Sorzano, A. Machanic, Jr. and L. Sims in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Yusha -Marie Sorzano and Linda Celeste Sims in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's L. Sims, A. Machanic, Jr., T. Williams and R. Deshauteurs in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's L. Sims, R. Deshauteurs and T. Williams in Matthew Rushing's *Uptown*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

## *Hymn*



AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Nan Melville



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AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Nan Melville



AAADT's Jamar Roberts in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Nan Melville



AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Andrew Eccles



AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Clifton Brown and Rosalyn Deshauteurs in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Nan Melville



AAADT in Judith Jamison's *Hymn*. Photo by Nan Melville

## *In/Side*



AAADT's Samuel Lee Roberts in Robert Battle's *In/Side*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Samuel Lee Roberts in Robert Battle's *In/Side*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



AAADT's Matthew Rushing in Robert Battle's *In/Side*. Photo by Paul Kolnik

## *Love Stories*



AAADT's Clifton Brown in Judith Jamison with Robert Battle and Rennie Harris' *Love Stories*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



AAADT's D. Smallwood, C. Brown and H. Boykin in Judith Jamison with Robert Battle and Rennie Harris' *Love Stories*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Linda Celeste Sims in George Faison's *Suite Otis*. Photo © Steve Vaccariello

### ***Suite Otis***



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in George Faison's *Suite Otis*. Photo © Steve Vaccariello.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in George Faison's *Suite Otis*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



**Revelations**



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's M. Le Nost, K. Boyd and A. Douthit in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Renee Robinson in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's M. Rushing, B. Reed and R. Deshauteurs in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Amos Machanic Jr. in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Linda Celeste Sims and Glenn Allen Sims in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.  
*Revelations*

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's M. Rushing, R. Robinson and C. Stamatiou in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Nan Melville.



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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Amos J. Machanic Jr. in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Nan Melville.



AAADT's B-roll  
**(Click on DVD icon to download video)**



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Clifton Brown in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Nan Melville.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Nan Melville.