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## **ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER TO HAVE ARTISTIC RESIDENCY AND PERFORMANCES AT THE BROWARD CENTER**

*Performances include Matthew Rushing's "ODETTA" a tribute to "The Voice of Civil Rights Movement"  
and Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece "Revelations"*

**FORT LAUDERDALE – Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, will hold an artistic residency **Thursday, February 19 through Sunday, February 22** at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts including five performances featuring three programs of repertoire, a student performance and a public master class.

Prior to the launch of Ailey's exciting new season, Artistic Director Robert Battle visited the White House to accept the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation's highest civilian honor - on behalf of Alvin Ailey. Bestowed 25 years after the passing of the Company's legendary founder, President Obama proclaimed that "through him, African-American history was told in a way that it had never been told before -- with passionate, virtuoso dance performances that transfixed audiences worldwide."

The company carries on Alvin Ailey's pioneering legacy of uplifting, uniting and celebrating the human spirit as Ailey's extraordinary dancers bring life to a wide variety of premieres, new productions and classic works.

The *Associated Press* proclaimed that "... the timing could hardly be more apt for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's new civil rights-themed piece" **ODETTA**. The world premiere choreographed by renowned Ailey dancer Matthew Rushing is a tribute set to the musical repertoire of celebrated singer and civil rights activist Odetta Holmes. Holmes was known as "the voice of the Civil Rights Movement" and anointed as "the queen of American folk music" by Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition to this season's world premiere of *ODETTA*, Broward Center audiences will be introduced to different and respected choreographers whose works are being performed by Ailey for the first time. **After The Rain Pas de Deux**, the iconic and sensual duet by famed choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, "... is set to Arvo Pärt's 'Spiegel Im Spiegel'...which prompts languid and soaring moves that Mr. Wheeldon's choreography inventively embodies..." stated *The Wall Street Journal*. **Suspended Women**, created by celebrated former Martha Graham dancer, choreographer and master teacher Jacquelyn Buglisi to a score by Maurice Ravel is called a "...complicated delight..." by *New York* magazine.

Other premieres and new productions to be performed at the Broward Center include **Awassa Astringe/Ostrich**, by Sierra Leone-born choreographer Asadata Dafora; **Polish Pieces** by Hans van Manen; and **Bad Blood**, by former Ailey dancer and renowned choreographer Ulysses Dove with music by Laurie Anderson and Peter Gabriel.

Alvin Ailey's signature work **Revelations**, which celebrates African-American culture using gospel and blues, will be danced at all performances and will be one of the works performed for students at the Broward Center.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will offer many educational and enriching programs during the residency. On Friday, February 20 at 10:30 a.m., Alvin Ailey Dance Theater presents a Smart Stage Matinee with tickets priced at \$7 with \$3 lap seats for infants 12 months and under. Student group tickets are \$5 and can be purchased by calling 954.660.6307. Alvin Ailey Dance Theater presents a master class for experienced dancers ages 14 years to adult on Saturday, February 21 at 10:30 a.m. This 90-minute session will be conducted by an Ailey company member and will focus on the Horton Technique. Space in the class is limited and the fee to participate is \$35. A limited number of observer seats are available for \$10. Reservations for the Alvin Ailey master class are available by calling 954.468.2689.

The performances and artistic residency are generously supported by Funding Arts Broward, Inc. and by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

Performances on Thursday, February 19 and Saturday, February 21 at 8 p.m. will feature **Polish Pieces, After the Rain Pas de Deux, Bad Blood and Revelations**. Performances on Friday, February 20 at 8 p.m. Saturday, February 21 at 2 p.m. feature **ODETTA, Suspended Women and Revelations**. The program on Sunday, February 22 at 3 p.m. features **LIFT, Awassa Astrig/Ostrich, D-Man in the Waters (Part I) and Revelations**.

Tickets for performances of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater are \$35 to \$95 with \$135 Club Level seating. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org) or, [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com); by phone at 954.462.0222 or TTD/TTY at 800.359.2525; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

ADT Security Services, AutoNation, Bank of America, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, MasterCard, Paramount Refreshment Solutions, Rick Case Automotive Group and *Sun Sentinel* are proud sponsors of the Broward Center.

All dates, programs and artists are subject to change.

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**CALENDAR BRIEF:** The electrifying, joyful and powerful, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** performs and is in residency **Thursday, February 19 through Sunday, February 22**. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater carries on Alvin Ailey's pioneering legacy of uplifting, uniting and celebrating the human spirit in programs that include this season's world premiere *ODETTA*, based on the music of African American folk singer Odetta Holmes, and Alvin Ailey's signature work *Revelations*, which celebrates African-American culture using gospel and blues. Performances are Thursday, February 19 and Friday, February 20 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, February 21 at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, February 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$35 to \$95 with \$135 Club Level seating. The performances and artistic residency

are generously supported by Funding Arts Broward, Inc. and by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org) or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com); by phone at 954.462.0222 or TTD/TTY at 800.359.2525; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

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#### About The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is one of America's premier performing arts venues. Presenting more than 700 performances each year to more than 600,000 patrons, the Center showcases a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events, and offers one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, serving more than 150,000 students annually. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org).

The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Consortium is a cultural partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera, Fort Lauderdale History Center and the Historic Stranahan House Museum. It is supported by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

#### 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, recent 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 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 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 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, 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 United States and 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).