

AILEY



MATTHEW RUSHING

INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments

July 1, 2023
– June 30, 2024

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Two World Premieres | Four New Productions | Twenty-one Cities Visited



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*. Photo by Steven Pisano.

JULY 25 - 29

BAAND Together Dance Festival

The Company participated in the third annual BAAND Together Dance Festival, which brought together Ballet Hispánico, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and Dance Theatre of Harlem to share the spotlight at Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park. More than 10,000 audience members attended the week-long festival free of charge.

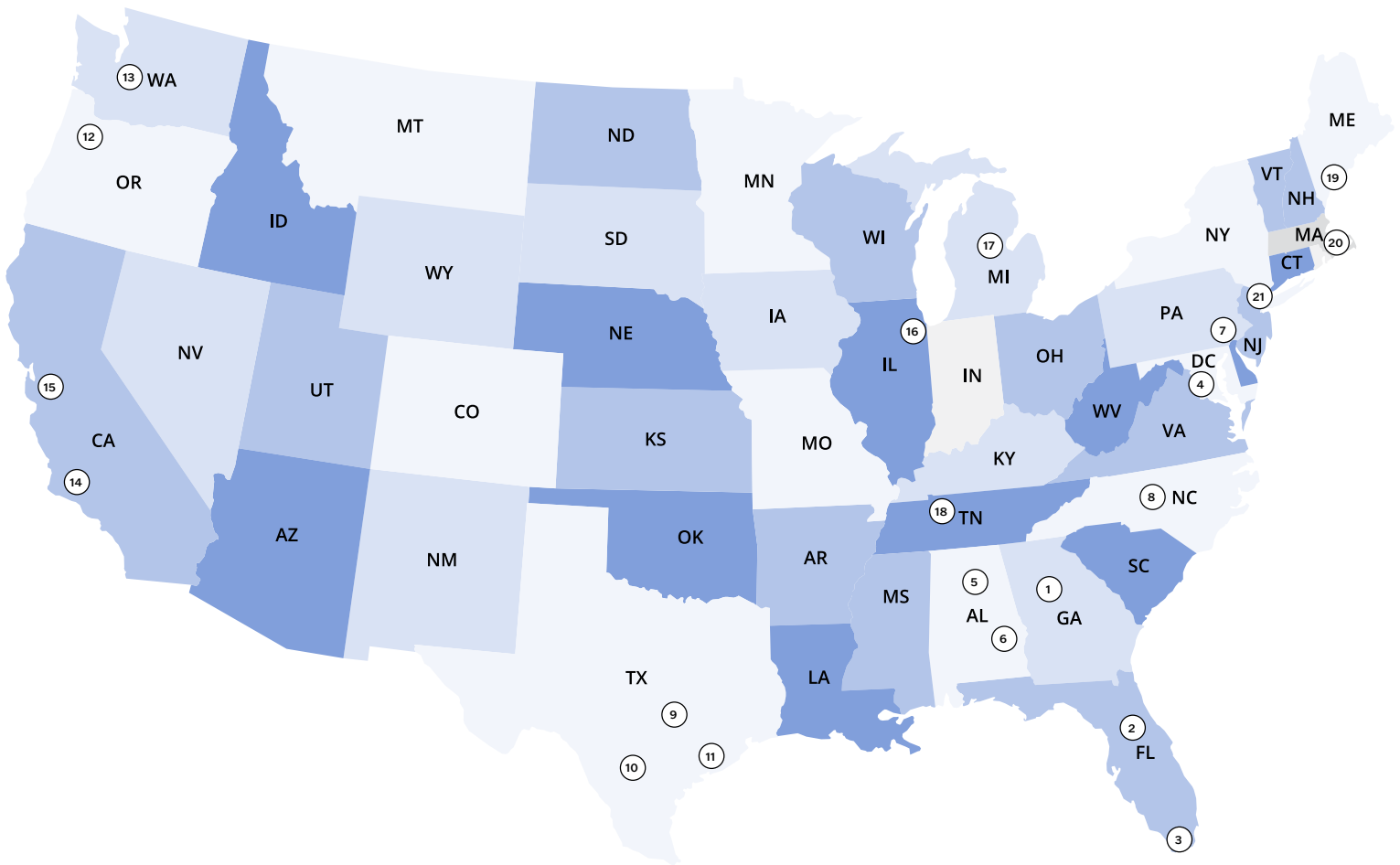
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 31

Annual New York City Center Season

The Company returned to New York City Center for its first full five-week season since the pandemic, reaching more than 40,000 patrons. The season featured two world premieres: *CENTURY* by Amy Hall Garner and *Me, Myself and You* by Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrich. The Opening Night Gala performance celebrated Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison and featured a live performance by Tony®, Emmy®, and GRAMMY® Award-winning and Oscar-nominated actress, singer, author, and producer Cynthia Erivo.

“Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater remains a national treasure.”

– Portland Press Herald



JANUARY 25 – MAY 12

National Tour

The Company embarked on a 21-city national tour, which included the 24th annual Washington, DC Gala Benefit at the Kennedy Center in February, the highest grossing DC Gala to date.

JUNE 4 – 9

Spring Season at Brooklyn Academy of Music

The Company returned for another spring season at BAM, once home to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and The Ailey School. Audiences were enthralled with the season featuring contemporary works and Ailey classics over seven performances.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Atlanta, GA | 12. Portland, OR |
| 2. Orlando, FL | 13. Seattle, WA |
| 3. Miami, FL | 14. Los Angeles, CA |
| 4. Washington, DC | 15. Berkeley, CA |
| 5. Birmingham, AL | 16. Chicago, IL |
| 6. Auburn, AL | 17. Midland, MI |
| 7. Philadelphia, PA | 18. Nashville, TN |
| 8. Chapel Hill, NC | 19. Portland, ME |
| 9. Austin, TX | 20. Boston, MA |
| 10. San Antonio, TX | 21. Newark, NJ |
| 11. Houston, TX | |

NEW WORKS

CENTURY

by Amy Hall Garner

A deeply personal piece inspired by her grandfather on the eve of his 100th birthday, Garner's first work for the Company shimmers with life, resilience, and joy—set to the music of Ray Charles, Count Basie, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, and more.

"...a highly charged celebration of life."

– The Ballet Herald



Photo Credit:
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Amy Hall Garner's *CENTURY*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.

Me, Myself and You

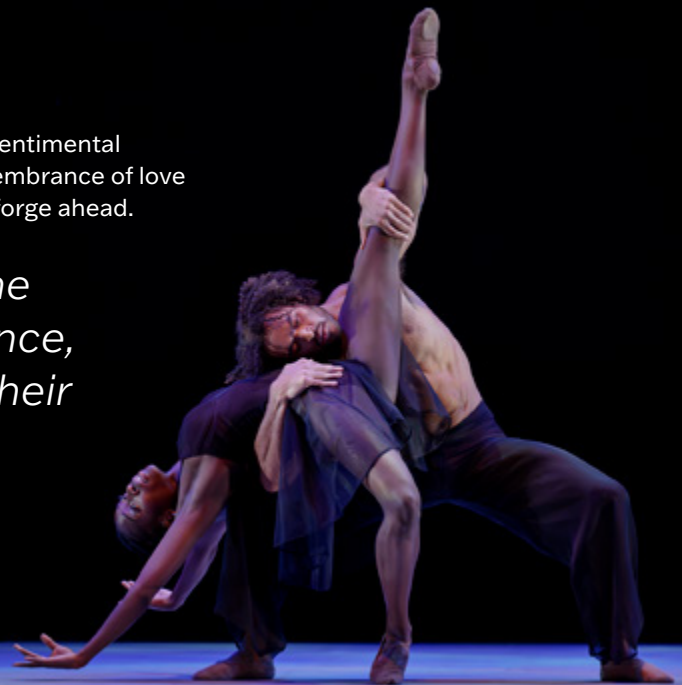
by Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish

Set to Damien Sneed and Brandie Sutton's rendition of "In a Sentimental Mood," Roxas-Dobrish's *Me, Myself and You* conjures the remembrance of love and passion for a woman asking herself if she should let go or forge ahead.

"It's almost impossible not to love the dancers... such is their stage presence, their infectious joy in dancing, and their total commitment to their art."

– Ballet 2000

Photo Credit:
Caroline T. Dartey and James Gilmer in Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish's *Me, Myself and You*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.



FOUR NEW PRODUCTIONS:

Dancing Spirit

by Ronald K. Brown

Following the Subtle Current Upstream

by Alonzo King

Ode

by Jamar Roberts

Solo

by Hans van Manen

AILEY II

THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE

2 World Premieres | 35 Cities Visited | 40,000+ Audience Members
2,100 Students Reached Through Outreach Activities



SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 – MAY 19, 2024

National and International Tours

Ailey II's US tour reached audiences in 14 cities with additional performances in 21 cities across the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, and Spain.

50th Anniversary Season at the Joyce Theater

Ailey II celebrated its 50th anniversary in April with sold-out performances at the Joyce Theater. The engagement sold more than 3,200 tickets across eight performances and featured the world premieres of *John 4:20* by choreographer duo Baye & Asa and *Luminous* by Artistic Director Francesca Harper.



Photo Credit: Ailey II in Baye & Asa's *John 4:20*. Photo by Steven Pisano | Photo Credit: Ailey II's Tamia Strickland and Patrick Gamble in Francesca Harper's *Luminous*. Photo by Christopher Duggan.

THE AILEY SCHOOL

Students Enrolled **794** | Scholarships Awarded **284** |
Total Graduates from BFA Program program this year **32**



“At Ailey, our teachers say you should never feel as if you have to fit yourself to the technique. It should work with you and it should grow with you.”

– Naia Neal, Ailey/Fordham BFA student and Denise Jefferson Memorial Scholarship Recipient

The Ailey School continued to advance the dance careers of hundreds of talented students, offering the best diverse dance education available. The School's Junior Division trained 497 students ages 3–17, with the First Steps and Bounding Boys Programs (ages 3–6) introducing children to dance and the Pre-Professional Program (ages 7–17) helping students take their skills to the next level. The Professional Division (ages 17–25) furthered the dance education of 217 students through its innovative and diverse programs.



OTHER SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

The Ailey/Fordham Bachelor of Fine Arts Program celebrated its 25th anniversary and graduated its 22nd class in May, bringing the total number of graduates to date to 501.

The Ailey School gave 284 financial aid awards amounting to \$1,754,456 in the form of tuition remission scholarships and subsidized housing to talented students with financial need.

AILEY EXTENSION

Classes a Week **76** | Unique Workshops **78** | Students **4,500**



In 2023-24, Ailey Extension offered 74 in-person and hybrid classes and 2 exclusively virtual classes per week.

Class attendance grew from 35,000 to 45,000 in total, with a notable 14% increase in new client acquisition within the same period.

The Kids & Teens Program has seen a remarkable 63% revenue increase year-over-year, while Private Group visits have experienced an 81% revenue growth. The Extension anticipates forging more alliances with organizations in the coming year.

The Ailey Experience Tour traveled to six American cities in 2024, providing young dancers of all skill levels with the opportunity to learn from esteemed Ailey dancers and instructors. The series of weekend long workshops were held in:

- Charlotte, NC
- Dallas, TX
- Atlanta, GA
- Washington, DC
- Detroit, MI
- Philadelphia, PA

The number of workshops offered by the Extension increased from 56 to 78 courses. Performance Workshops were in high demand in 2023-24, and they enjoyed the highest grossing revenue since their inception.

AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

10 AileyCamps Serving **600** Students | **89** Residencies serving **800** students
750 Older Adults Reached Through AileyDance for Active Aging |
11,000 Students Reached



AileyCamp served 600 middle school-age students in 10 AileyCamps across the country—the most since the program’s inauguration—which were conducted in-person during the summer of 2023. AileyCamp took place in:

- Atlanta, GA
- Baltimore, MD
- Berkeley/Oakland, CA
- Chicago, IL
- Kansas City, KS
- Kansas City, MO
- Miami, FL
- New York, NY
- Newark, NJ
- Seattle, WA

AileyDance Kids reached more than 11,000 students through 89 residencies at 76 schools and 25 single events for schools and community organizations across New York City, Newark, and the greater New York area.



Launched in 2018, AileyDance for Active Aging continued in New York and for a second year in Newark, NJ, receiving a resolution from the Newark Municipal Council commending the program for its positive health and wellness benefits to the senior community in Newark. 750 older adults were reached through 31 residencies and nine single virtual workshops at 17 older adult sites.

National Residencies were conducted in eight tour cities, reaching 800 students through workshops in schools (additional students are reached each year through school-time performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II); 160 older adults in AileyDance for Active Aging workshops, and over 700 people of all ages through the *Revelations* Celebration Community workshop.

HONORS AND OTHER NEWS AT AILEY

Additional recognition and updates from across the organization



Yannick Lebrun



Constance Stamatiou

The UK Critics' Circle recognized Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater with four nominations and two wins in their 2023 National Dance Awards. Yannick Lebrun was nominated for Best Male Modern Performance for Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*, and Constance Stamatiou was nominated for Best Female Modern Performance for Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. The Company won in the Outstanding Company category, while Kyle Abraham's *Are You in Your Feelings?* won for Best Modern Choreography.

Longtime Ailey School teacher Ana Marie Forsythe received Dance Teacher's 2023 Awardee of Distinction, recognized for continuing Lester Horton's legacy and preserving the Horton technique for over five decades.

AILEY partners with Google Arts & Culture to share the life and legacy of Alvin Ailey with a larger audience through online photo and video galleries.

Photos Credits: Left: Yannick Lebrun. Right: Constance Stamatiou. Photos by Dario Calmese.

DANCING FORWARD

AILEY's strategic initiatives continued to propel the organization forward, reaching new milestones and achieving more growth:

AILEY continued to offer free summer programming in 2023, beginning with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's participation in the third annual BAAND Together Dance Festival at Lincoln Center, July 25–29. The organization then presented six days of free performances, dance classes, and workshops across New York City's five boroughs for Ailey Moves NYC! from July 31–August 5. Rounding off our summer programming, Ailey Extension offered a series of free classes in Times Square, including one celebrating the 50th anniversary of hip hop.



Alvin Ailey. Photo by John Lindquist.

Isaiah Day, Christopher Taylor, and Patrick Coker in Alonzo King's *Following The Subtle Current Upstream*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

The Alvin Ailey Choreographic Legacy Project made significant progress in digitizing and formally documenting select ballets from Alvin Ailey's repertory for restaging and research purposes. The fourth ballet chosen for the project was *For 'Bird' - With Love* (1984). The initiative is led by Ailey Conservator Masazumi Chaya, along with Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters and Ailey Archivist Dominique Singer.

Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison inaugurated the Jamison Women of Ailey Fund, designed to amplify the current and future women choreographers, artistic collaborators, dancers, and arts managers who follow in Judith Jamison's footsteps and work to drive AILEY towards a very bright future. This fund celebrates the life and spirit of Ms. Jamison and her dedication to mentoring the next generation of artists and arts leaders.

Ailey Extension continued to offer unique workshops throughout the year. In September, it offered an exclusive Deaf Awareness Month Workshop, led by Hard of Hearing Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer Samantha Figgins. The workshop encouraged participants to feel their bodies through the rhythm of the music and testified to Ailey Extension's mission of inviting all people to dance. In February, the Extension also hosted a series of workshops for Black History Month that recognized Black artists on Broadway and featured Camille Brown and Disney Teaching Artists from *The Lion King*.

In January, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returned to the Fox Theatre for its annual engagement in Atlanta, which was met with critical acclaim and greatly surpassed ticket sale projections. Ailey Arts In Education residencies were also offered in Atlanta's public schools, as well as AileyDance for Active Aging workshops.

To honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day, AILEY partnered with AREA Atlanta for a performance of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King once served as co-pastor with his father. Former Ailey dancer and Director of Ailey Extension Lisa Johnson-Willingham taught local dance students excerpts of *Revelations*, which they performed at the historic church.

Portrait of Ailey, the eight-part docuseries conceived of and directed by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters, launched in February, and is currently available on PBS Learning Media. Each chapter is also accompanied by a curriculum on the PBS website.



THANK YOU

AILEY is deeply grateful to the many individuals, government agencies, and corporate and foundation partners whose dedication helps us deliver performances, training, classes, and community outreach throughout the country and around the world. We are delighted to share the highlights of AILEY's achievements during our 2023-24 season.

Matthew Rushing
Interim Artistic Director

Bennett Rink
Executive Director

Chairman
Daria L. Wallach

President
Anthony S. Kendall

Vice Chairmen
Sela Thompson Collins
Jaishri Kapoor
Stephen J. Meringoff
Arthur J. Mirante II

Board Members

Joy Allen-Altimare
Jolen V. Anderson
Eleanor S. Applewhaite
Laura D. Corb
Suzan Kereere
Robert Kissane
Anthony A. Lewis
Leslie Maheras
Lucinda Martinez
Jack Pitts
Muhammad Qubbaj
Lata N. Reddy
Bennett Rink
Oti Roberts
Danielle M. Robinson, PhD
Cara Sabin
Joan H. Weill
Julia C. Wellborn
Edna Kane Williams
DeJuan V. Wilson
Jean-Rene Zetrenne
Pamela D. Zilly

Chairmen Emeriti

Philip Laskawy
Stanley Plesent, Esq.*
Joan H. Weill

Presidents Emeriti

Debra L. Lee
Henry McGee

Honorary Trustees

Gina F. Adams
Simin N. Allison*
Anthony M. Carvette
Kathryn C. Chenault
Guido Goldman*
Bruce S. Gordon
John H. Schaefer
Lemar Swinney

**In Memoriam*

