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| A group of women dancing  Description automatically generated with low confidence | A picture containing text  Description automatically generated | **A group of people dancing  Description automatically generated with medium confidence** |

L to R: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Kyle Abraham’s *Are You in Your Feelings?,* Photo by Paul Kolnik, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s Jacquelin Harris. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations*. Photo by Dario Calmese.

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**The Auditorium Theatre Proudly Presents**

**THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED ANNUAL RETURN OF**

**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER**

**FOR SIX PERFORMANCES ONLY, MARCH 8-12, 2023**

**Three distinct programs showcase Chicago premieres from Kyle Abraham and Jamar Roberts, Company premieres of works by Ailey peers Paul Taylor and Twyla Tharp, and an all-Ailey program of classics; plus, Ailey’s must-see masterpiece *Revelations* is the inspiring finale of all performances.**

**Opening Night Gala Celebration honors two Chicago cultural dynamos:**

**Ann Nash to receive Adler & Sullivan Award, Amina Dickerson to receive inaugural Beatrice Spachner Award**

January 26, 2023 (CHICAGO, IL) The Auditorium Theatre (50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive) proudly welcomes the return of **Alvin Ailey American** **Dance Theater**, America’s beloved cultural ambassador to the world, for six performances only, March 8-12, 2023, during their 22-city North American tour. Under the acclaimed artistic direction of [**Robert Battle**](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/directors/robert-battle), Ailey’s renowned artists will move audiences with three distinct mixed repertory programs highlighting new works from celebrated choreographers along with repertory favorites. Throughout the engagement audiences will witness the Chicago premieres of Kyle Abraham’s [***Are You in Your Feelings?***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/are-you-in-your-feelings), a celebration of Black culture scored to a ‘mixtape’ of soul, hip-hop, and R&B, and Jamar Roberts’ [***In A Sentimental Mood***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/in-a-sentimental-mood),an intimate duet using an original composition by Duke Ellington. Audiences will also be treated to the recent Company premieres from Alvin Ailey peer choreographers Paul Taylor, with the simplicity and beauty of [***DUET***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/duet); and Twyla Tharp, seen in her rollicking best in [***Roy’s Joys***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/roy-s-joys);, as well as a new production of Ailey’s 1986 impassioned tribute to Nelson and Winnie Mandela, [***Survivors***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/survivors).As is tradition, Alvin Ailey’s American masterpiece [***Revelations***](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/revelations), which has inspired generations through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring spirituals since its creation in 1960, will serve as the finale for all performances.

“For over five decades, the Auditorium Theatre has proudly presented the iconic Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as one of its Visiting Resident Companies,” said Auditorium Theatre CEO **Rich Regan**. “This annual Spring visit has become a highly anticipated tradition and treasure on Chicago’s arts calendar. Count us among Ailey’s many fans looking forward to welcoming back the company.”

“I am excited to see the brilliance of Ailey’s dancers back on the Auditorium Theatre stage in this season’s repertory filled with some of Alvin Ailey’s most memorable works while premiering choreography by Kyle Abraham and Jamar Roberts that explore Black culture and love through soulful and inventive musical journeys,” said **Artistic Director Robert Battle.** “For decades, we’ve been proud to bring to Chicagoans our vision of resilience, artistry and spirit, using dance to inspire, entertain and share the joy of connections.”

**PROGRAMMING:**

**Program A**

***Ailey Anew***, debuting dynamic new works (\*=Chicago Premiere):

*Are You in Your Feelings?\* / Unfold / Revelations*

Opening Night: Wednesday, March 8 at 6PM

*In a Sentimental Mood\* / Duet / Are You in Your Feelings?\* / Revelations*

Friday, March 10 at 7:30PM

**Program B**

***Ailey Allies***, featuring a new production of Twyla Tharp’s *Roy’s Joys*

*Roy’s Joys / Survivors / Revelations*

Thursday, March 9 at 7:30PM

Saturday, March 11 at 8PM

**Program C**

***Ailey Always***, showcasing all Alvin Ailey works:

*Night Creature / Cry / The River / Revelations*

Saturday, March 11 at 2PM

Sunday, March 12 at 3PM

All Programming – Subject to Change

**WORKS:**

[***Are You in Your Feelings?***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/are-you-in-your-feelings) (2022 World Premiere, 2023 Chicago Premiere)

**Choreography by Kyle Abraham**

In his third commission for the Ailey company, Kyle Abraham’s newest work is a celebration of Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a “mixtape” of soul, hip-hop, and R&B, it explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory.

[***Unfold***](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/unfold) (2007)

**Choreography by Robert Battle, Music: Gustave Charpentier**

Artistic Director Robert Battle’s sensuous, swirling duet evokes the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier’s aria. With its fluid grace, this gem exemplifies the choreographer’s skill for nuanced gesture and vivid imagery.

[***In a Sentimental Mood***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/in-a-sentimental-mood) (2022 World Premiere, 2023 Chicago Premiere)

**Choreography by Jamar Roberts, Music: Duke Ellington and Rafiq Bhatia**

An intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple becomes an exploration of love and desire in this new work by Jamar Roberts. Using an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia, Roberts bridges the past and present, making these musical classics freshly relevant and timely.

[***DUET***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/duet) (1964 / 2022 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Paul Taylor, Music: Franz Josef Haydn**

Paul Taylor’s 1964 DUET, set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn, is a testament to the simplicity and clarity of Taylor’s craft. Brief and beautifully shaped, it portrays a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true.

[***Roy’s Joys***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/roy-s-joys) (1997 / 2022 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Twyla Tharp**

This silky, sultry work embodies the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, it exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Twyla Tharp at her rollicking best.

[***Survivors***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/survivors)(1986 / New Production 2022)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey and Mary Barnett, Music: Max Roach ("Survivors" and "Triptych"), strings orchestrated by Peter Phillips**

Alvin Ailey’s impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela is, more broadly, a portrait of people transformed by injustice. Max Roach’s richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln’s vocals set the emotional tone for this powerful work that lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

[***Night Creature***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/night-creature) (1974 / Ailey Company Premiere 1975)

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

In *Night Creature*, Alvin Ailey’s classically influenced choreography is juxtaposed with Duke Ellington’s jazz idiom. One of Ailey’s most popular works, it captivates with Ailey’s sensual nighttime rituals, propelling the movement into a fast-paced climactic catharsis using slow jazz walks, boogie woogie, and ballet arabesques to create prowling patterns and communal configurations.

[***Cry***](https://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/cry) (1971)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey, Music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro & Chuck Griffin**

Ailey choreographed his signature solo Cry as a birthday present for his dignified mother, and created the dance on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison. He dedicated this piece to "all Black women everywhere--especially our mothers." In this three-section solo, the dancer, clad in a white leotard and long ruffled skirt, brings the audience on a journey of bitter sorrow, brutal hardship and ecstatic joy.

[***The River***](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/the-river) (1970 / New Production 2021)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey, Original Score: Duke Ellington**

Alvin Ailey’s acclaimed collaboration with Duke Ellington was choreographed and composed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre and first performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1980. One of 14 dances Ailey created to Ellington’s music, *The River* is set to Ellington’s first symphonic score written specifically for dance. Combining classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz, the suite suggests tumbling rapids and slow currents on its voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of life. With Ailey’s mixture of light and playful yet also dark and romantic choreography balanced with Ellington’s score, the work is an abstract celebration of birth, life, and rebirth.

In addition to this variety of exciting works, the inspiring finale of all programs will be Alvin Ailey’s American masterpiece, [***Revelations***,](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org/alvin-ailey-american-dance-theater/repertory/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 and has moved audiences around the world through its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. Springing from Ailey’s childhood memories of growing up in the south and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, *Revelations* pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African American and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** performs at the Auditorium Theatre: Wednesday, March 8 at 6PM; Thursday and Friday, March 9-10 at 7:30PM; Saturday, March 11 at 2PM and 8PM; and Sunday, March 12 at 3PM. Tickets start at $40 and are now available at [AuditoriumTheatre.org,](https://e.wordfly.com/click?sid=NjUzXzE5NzA2XzQyMDIzMl83MzM5&l=5f138488-e073-ec11-a82d-0050569dd3d9&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PressReleaseBalletFolkloircodeMexico&utm_content=version_A&promo=) by calling 312.341.2300, or at the Box Office at 50 E Ida B Wells Drive in Chicago, IL. [Click here for phone and in-person hours.](https://e.wordfly.com/click?sid=NjUzXzE5NzA2XzQyMDIzMl83MzM5&l=63138488-e073-ec11-a82d-0050569dd3d9&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PressReleaseBalletFolkloircodeMexico&utm_content=version_A&promo=)

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**OPENING NIGHT GALA**

The **Auditorium Theatre 2023 Annual Gala** celebrates the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Opening Night, Wednesday, March 8, at 6pm. Following the 90-minute Ailey dance program at the Auditorium, Gala guests will enjoy a festive evening of cocktails, dinner, an awards presentation, and dancing at the Palmer House Hilton. The Auditorium will honor two Chicago cultural dynamos: Auditorium Theatre’s most recent past chair and longtime board member **Ann Nash** and veteran arts and philanthropy consultant **Amina Dickerson**. Nash will be honored with the Adler & Sullivan Award for her lasting contributions to the arts and her longstanding and exceptional commitment to the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre, the crowning achievement of famed architects Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan. Dickerson receives the inaugural Beatrice Spachner Award for substantially enhancing the cultural fabric of Chicago by demonstrating an exemplary commitment to issues of civic concern, social justice and community development. This honor is named for the late Beatrice T. Spachner, the Roosevelt University Trustee who established the Auditorium Theatre Council in 1960 to raise much needed funds for the restoration of the theater. Individual Gala tickets start at $600.00; for more information on tickets or sponsorships, please call 312.341.2382 or write Rsnedekermeier@auditoriumtheatre.org.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

The Auditorium Theatre is grateful for the support of the 2022-23 Season Global and Chicago Dance Series Sponsor, The Florian Fund; Opening Night Sponsor, Avison Young; Performance Sponsor: Denise Littlefield Sobel; and Student Matinee Sponsors, Denise Littlefield Sobel and the Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation.

The Auditorium Theatre 2022-23 Season is made possible in part with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. The Auditorium’s official hotel partner is the Palmer House Hilton.

**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 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents—as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms—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; 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 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). Bank of America is Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s North American Tour Sponsor. The 2023 National Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The **Auditorium Theatre**, located at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive 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 this National Historic Landmark that originally opened in 1889.

This Auditorium Theatre’s 2022-23 performance season features a dynamic mix of acclaimed global dance companies (**Step Afrika!**, **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**, **American Ballet Theatre**) while closer to home, beloved Chicago dance companies also take the stage (**Deeply Rooted Dance Theater**, **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater**, **South Chicago Dance Theatre**, and an evening with **Trinity Irish Dance Company**, **M.A.D.D. Rhythms**, and special guest, New York-based **Dorrance Dance**. In addition, the critically acclaimed **National Geographic Live** speaker series, offering first-hand accounts and expert voices on cultural and environmental issues, returns with three offerings and a new lower ticket price.

For more information on the Auditorium Theatre and a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org.](https://e.wordfly.com/click?sid=NjUzXzE5NzA2XzQyMDIzMl83MzM5&l=6f138488-e073-ec11-a82d-0050569dd3d9&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PressReleaseBalletFolkloircodeMexico&utm_content=version_A&promo=)

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