



V I L A R  
P E R F O R M I N G  
A R T S C E N T E R

# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

**Alvin Ailey – FOUNDER**



**JUDITH JAMISON – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**Masazumi Chaya – ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

## **Company Members**

Guillermo Asca  
Kirven James Boyd  
Hope Boykin  
Clifton Brown  
Rosalyn Deshauteurs  
Khilea Douglass  
Antonio Douthit  
Vernard J. Gilmore  
Abdur-Rahim Jackson  
Olivia Bowman Jackson

Megan Jakel  
Josh Johnson  
Yannick Lebrun  
Amos J. Machanic, Jr.  
Michael Francis McBride  
Rachael McLaren  
Aisha Mitchell  
Akua Parker  
Briana Reed  
Jamar Roberts

Samuel Lee Roberts  
Renee Robinson  
Matthew Rushing  
Glenn Allen Sims  
Linda Celeste Sims  
Yusha-Marie Sorzano  
Constance Stamatiou  
Tina Monica Williams  
Marcus Jarrell Willis

**Sharon Gersten Luckman – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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*March 17, 2010*

**EVENING PROGRAM**

**NIGHT CREATURE**

(1974)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey  
Music by Duke Ellington (“Night Creature”)  
Costumes by Jane Greenwood  
Costumes recreated by Barbara Forbes  
Lighting by Chenault Spence

*“Night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night – they come ON, each thinking that before the night is out he or she will be the star.” —Duke Ellington*

**Movement 1**

Renee Robinson, Guillermo Asca & The Company

**Movement 2**

Renee Robinson, Amos J. Machanic, Jr.,  
Constance Stamatiou, Rachael McLaren, Yusha-Marie Sorzano,  
Akua Parker, Aisha Mitchell, Megan Jakel,  
Antonio Douthit, Yannick Lebrun, Marcus Jarrell Willis,  
Josh Johnson, Michael Francis McBride, Samuel Lee Roberts

**Movement 3**

Renee Robinson, Guillermo Asca & The Company

This production was made possible, in part, by a grant from  
Ford Foundation and with public funds from  
the National Endowment for the Arts.

Born in Washington, DC in 1899, American composer, pianist and jazz-band leader **Duke Ellington** was one of the most influential figures in the history of music. In the early 1930's his band became renowned at the legendary Cotton Club in Harlem. Later, the band toured nationally and internationally. The “Duke” wrote over 900 compositions before his death in 1974; among his classics are *Mood Indigo*, *Solitude*, *Caravan*, *Sophisticated Lady*, and *Black, Brown, and Beige*.

Fabric dyeing of costumes by Elissa Tatigikis Iberti.

“Night Creature” used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

**-PAUSE-**



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



## IN/SIDE

(2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle  
Music sung by Nina Simone ("Wild Is The Wind")  
Lighting by Burke Wilmore

Matthew Rushing

**Robert Battle** is a graduate of the New World School of the Arts and holds a B.F.A. in dance from The Juilliard School. He was a member of the Parsons Dance Company from 1994 to 2001, where he began setting his work in 1998 and had his choreography featured in five New York City seasons. Founded by Mr. Battle in 2001, Battleworks Dance Company has performed in New York City at the Joyce Theater, St. Mark's Church, Evening Stars, The Juilliard Theater and Dance Theater Workshop. He has been commissioned for both new and restaged works by numerous companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, River North Chicago, Introdans, Ballet Memphis, Koresh Dance Company and PARADIGM. In 2005, Mr. Battle was honored in the Masters of African-American Choreography program at the Kennedy Center, and in 2007 he received the prestigious Statue Award from The Princess Grace Foundation.

"Wild Is The Wind" words by Ned Washington, music by Dimitri Tiomkin © 1957, renewed 1985 Patti Washington Music (ASCAP), Catharine Hinen Music (ASCAP), Chappell & Co., Inc. (ASCAP), Anne Rachel Music Corporation (ASCAP) and Volta Music Corp (ASCAP). All rights for Catharine Hinen Music (ASCAP) in the United States and Canada administered by Helene Blue Musique Ltd. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



**AileyConnect:** 212-514-0010 (Free Call\*)

To learn more about *In/Side* press **8#**.

\*Free service. Cell phone minutes apply.

As a courtesy to the artists, please remember to turn off your cell phones during the performance.

### -INTERMISSION-

## SUITE OTIS

(1971)

*A Tribute to the late Otis Redding  
Dedicated to Thelma Hill*

Choreography and costumes by George Faison  
Music performed by Otis Redding  
Lighting by Chenault Spence

Antonio Douthit, Rachael McLaren, Glenn Allen Sims, Michael Francis McBride,  
Yannick Lebrun, Marcus Jarrell Willis, Samuel Lee Roberts, Yusha-Marie Sorzano,  
Aisha Mitchell, Akua Parker, Megan Jakel, Khilea Douglass

Generous support for this production was provided by The Pamela D. Zilly &  
John H. Schaefer New Works Endowment Fund, The Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn &  
Nicolas Rohatyn New Works Endowment Fund and Elaine & Stephen Wynn.

**George W. Faison** danced with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 1967 through 1970. He was the first African-American choreographer to win a Tony Award for his choreography in *The Wiz* (1975). In the early 1970s, he created two modern American dance classics, *Suite Otis* and *Slaves* for the George Faison Universal Dance Experience. He choreographed for Broadway and choreographed and directed numerous productions for regional theaters. In the early 1980s, he changed his professional career focus to writing, directing and choreographing dramatic and musical theater pieces. He co-produced and wrote the *Cosby Salutes Ailey* NBC TV special celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He is co-founder and the producing artistic director of the Faison Firehouse Theatre, located in a former Harlem firehouse. In addition to the theatre, he has developed a unique performing arts-based outreach and youth theatre project, the Faison Firehouse Respect Project. [www.faisonfirehouse.org](http://www.faisonfirehouse.org)

All music performed by Otis Redding. All rights reserved. Used by permission. "Just One More Day" written by Steve Cropper, Otis Redding & McEvoy Robinson © IRVING MUSIC, INC. on behalf of EAST MEMPHIS MUSIC CORP. (BMI). "Can't Turn You Loose" written by Otis Redding © IRVING MUSIC, INC. (BMI). "My Lover's Prayer" written by Otis Redding © IRVING MUSIC, INC. on behalf of EAST MEMPHIS MUSIC CORP. (BMI). "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" written by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, Worldwide copyright owner ABKCO Music, Inc. "I've Been Loving You Too Long" written by Jerry Butler, Otis Redding © IRVING MUSIC, INC. (BMI). "Try A Little Tenderness" written by Harry M. Woods, Jimmy Campbell and Reg Connelly, used by permission of EMI ROBBINS CATALOG INC. and CAMPBELL-CONNELLY & CO. LTD.

-INTERMISSION-

**REVELATIONS**  
(1960)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey  
Music: Traditional  
Décor and costumes by Ves Harper  
Costumes for “Rocka My Soul” redesigned by Barbara Forbes  
Lighting by Nicola Cernovitch

**PILGRIM OF SORROW**

**I Been 'Buked** ..... The Company  
Music arranged by Hall Johnson\*

**Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel** ..... Samuel Lee Roberts, Khilea Douglass,  
Aisha Mitchell  
Music arranged by James Miller+

**Fix Me, Jesus** ..... Akua Parker, Amos J. Machanic, Jr.  
Music arranged by Hall Johnson\*

**TAKE ME TO THE WATER**

**Processional/Honor, Honor** ..... Michael Francis McBride, Megan Jakel,  
Marcus Jarrell Willis, Samuel Lee Roberts  
Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts

**Wade in the Water** ..... Yusha-Marie Sorzano, Kirven James Boyd,  
Briana Reed  
Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts  
“Wade in the Water” sequence by Ella Jenkins.  
“A Man Went Down to the River” is an original composition by Ella Jenkins.

**I Wanna Be Ready** ..... Guillermo Asca  
Music arranged by James Miller

**MOVE, MEMBERS, MOVE**

**Sinner Man** ..... Josh Johnson, Yannick Lebrun,  
Abdur-Rahim Jackson  
Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts

**The Day is Past and Gone** ..... The Company  
Music arranged by Howard A. Roberts and Brother John Sellers

**You May Run On** ..... The Company  
Music arranged by Howard A. Roberts and Brother John Sellers

**Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham** ..... The Company  
Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts

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+ Used by special arrangement with Galaxy Music Corporation, New York City.

**All performances of *Revelations* are permanently endowed by a generous gift  
from Donald L. Jonas in celebration of the birthday of his wife Barbara  
and her deep commitment to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.**



**AileyConnect:** 212-514-0010 (Free Call\*)

To learn more about *Revelations* press **2#**.

\*Free service. Cell phone minutes apply.

As a courtesy to the artists, please remember to turn off your cell phones during the performance.

## ALL ABOUT AILEY

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from the now-fabled performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y in New York. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, that performance changed forever the perception of American dance. The Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 23 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on six continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa. In 2008, the U.S. Congress designated the Company as “a vital American cultural ambassador to the world,” promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance heritage.

Born in Rogers, Texas on January 5, 1931, Alvin Ailey was introduced to dance by performances of the Katherine Dunham Dance Company and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. His formal dance training began with an introduction to Lester Horton's classes by his friend, Carmen de Lavallade.

When Mr. Ailey began creating dances, he drew upon his "blood memories" of Texas, the blues, spirituals and gospel as inspiration, which resulted in the creation of his most popular and critically acclaimed work—*Revelations*.

Although he created 79 ballets over his lifetime, Alvin Ailey maintained that his company was not exclusively a repository for his own work. Today, the Company continues Mr. Ailey's mission by presenting important works of the past and commissioning new ones. In all, more than 200 works by over 80 choreographers are part of the Ailey company's repertoire.

Before his untimely death in 1989, Alvin Ailey asked Judith Jamison to become Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. This year, Jamison celebrates her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in that role. Remaining committed to furthering Alvin Ailey's legacy, she has brought the Company to unprecedented success. Ms. Jamison wrote in her autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, “I hope I'm a continuation of Alvin's vision. He has left me a road map. It's very clear. It works.”

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges  
**The Joan & Sandy Weill Global Ambassador Fund,**  
which provides vital support for Ailey's national and international tours.

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Clifton Brown in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.

**JUDITH JAMISON**  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
*Celebrating 20 Years*

Judith Jamison was appointed Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in December 1989 at the request of her mentor, Alvin Ailey, who personally chose her to succeed him before his untimely death. A native of Philadelphia, she studied with Marion Cuyjet, was discovered by Agnes de Mille and made her New York debut with American Ballet Theatre in 1964. She became a member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965 and danced with the Company for 15 years to great acclaim. Recognizing her extraordinary talent, Mr. Ailey created some of his most enduring roles for her, most notably the tour-de-force solo, *Cry*.

After leaving the Company in 1980, Ms. Jamison appeared as a guest artist with ballet companies all over the world and starred in the hit Broadway musical *Sophisticated Ladies*. In 1988, she formed her own company, The Jamison Project; a PBS special depicting her creative process, *Judith Jamison: The Dancemaker*, aired nationally the same year.

As a highly regarded choreographer, Ms. Jamison has created works for many companies. Her new work, *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)*, premieres this season. Her 2005 ballet *Reminiscin'* was inspired by great female jazz artists and Edward Hopper's famous painting *Nighthawks*. *Love Stories*, with additional choreography by Robert Battle and Rennie Harris, was created in 2004. In 2002, *HERE . . .NOW* was commissioned for the Cultural Olympiad in Salt Lake City. She choreographed *Double Exposure* for the Lincoln Center Festival in July 2000. *Divining* (1984), *Rift* (1991), *Riverside* (1995), *Sweet Release* (1996), *Echo: Far From Home* (1998) and *Hymn* (1993), her stirring tribute to Mr. Ailey, are other major works she has choreographed for the Company.

Ms. Jamison is an author whose autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, was edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and published by Doubleday in 1993. She is the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees, including a prime time Emmy Award and an American Choreography Award in the PBS "Great Performances: Dance In America" special, *A Hymn for Alvin Ailey*, and an honorary doctorate from Howard University. In December 1999, Ms. Jamison was presented with the Kennedy Center Honor, recognizing her lifetime contributions to American culture through the performing arts. In 2001, she received the Algur H. Meadows Award from Southern Methodist University and was presented with a National Medal of Arts, the most prestigious award presented to artists in the United States. She received the "Making a Difference" Award by the NAACP ACT-SO, the Paul Robeson award from Actors' Equity Association in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the performing arts and commitment to the right of all people to live in dignity and peace, and a Bessie Award for her lifetime commitment to the preservation and development of dance and the arts. This year, Ms. Jamison was honored at "The BET Honors," an event that recognizes the lives and achievements of leading African-American luminaries, and she was listed in the *TIME* 100: The World's Most Influential People. Most recently, she was awarded the highest rank of the Order of Arts and Letters, an award that recognizes eminent artists and writers, and those who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world.

Today, Judith Jamison presides over the artistically and fiscally vibrant Ailey organization. Her presence has been a catalyst, propelling the organization in new directions – the development of the Women's Choreography Initiative; performances at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and the 2002 Cultural Olympiad in Salt Lake City where she carried the Olympic torch during the relay prior to the opening ceremonies; and two historic engagements in South Africa. Recently, she led the Company on a 50-city global tour celebrating Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a year-long series of special performances, collaborations, events and commemorative merchandise including an Ailey Barbie® Doll by Mattel designed by Ms. Jamison. She has continued Mr. Ailey's practice of showcasing the talents of emerging choreographers from within the ranks of the Company. As Artistic Director of The Ailey School, official school of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ms. Jamison has helped to implement a multicultural curriculum including the dances of West Africa and South India. She is an advocate for education in the arts and was a guiding force in establishing the B.F.A. program between The Ailey School and Fordham University, which offers a unique combination of world-class dance training and a superior liberal arts education. Following the tradition of Alvin Ailey, Ms. Jamison is dedicated to asserting the prominence of the arts in our culture, spearheading initiatives to bring dance into the community and programs that introduce children to the arts. She remains committed to promoting the significance of the Ailey legacy--dance as a medium for honoring the past, celebrating the present and fearlessly reaching into the future. The move to Ailey's permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, in 2004, a state-of-the-art building located at 55<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, was the realization of her long-awaited dream.

**MASAZUMI CHAYA**  
**ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Masazumi Chaya was born in Fukuoka, Japan, where he began his classical ballet training. Upon moving to New York in December 1970, he studied modern dance and performed with the Richard Englund Repertory Company. Mr. Chaya joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1972 and performed with the Company for 15 years. In 1988, he became the Company's Rehearsal Director after serving as Assistant Rehearsal Director for two years. A master teacher, both on tour with the Company and in his native Japan, he served as choreographic assistant to Alvin Ailey and John Butler. In 1991, Mr. Chaya was named Associate Artistic Director of the Company. He continues to provide invaluable creative assistance in all facets of its operations. In 2002, Mr. Chaya coordinated the Company's appearance at the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, broadcast on NBC.

Mr. Chaya has staged numerous ballets including Alvin Ailey's *Flowers* for the State Ballet of Missouri (1990) and *The River* for the Royal Swedish Ballet (1993), Ballet Florida (1995), National Ballet of Prague (1995), Pennsylvania Ballet (1996) and Colorado Ballet (1998). He has also restaged *The Mooche*, *The Stack-Up*, *Episodes*, *Bad Blood*, *Hidden Rites*, *Urban Folk Dance* and *Witness* for the Company. At the beginning of his tenure as Associate Artistic Director, Mr. Chaya restaged Ailey's *For "Bird" - With Love* for a "Dance in America" program entitled *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Steps Ahead*. In 2000, he restaged Ailey's *Night Creature* for the Rome Opera House and *The River* for LaScala Ballet. In 2003, he restaged *The River* for North Carolina Dance Theatre and for Julio Bocca's Ballet Argentina. Most recently, Mr. Chaya restaged *Blues Suite* and Judith Jamison's *Hymn* for the Company.

As a performer, Masazumi Chaya appeared on Japanese television in both dramatic and musical productions. He wishes to recognize the artistic contribution and spirit of his late friend and fellow artist, Michihiko Oka.

**RONNI FAVORS**  
**REHEARSAL DIRECTOR**

Ronni Favors began dancing as a child in her hometown of Iowa City, Iowa. After studying at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, MI as the recipient of the Camp Scholarship, she traveled to New York to continue her training at The Ailey School as a fellowship student. Ms. Favors was a member of Ailey II, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, and she is a recipient of the Min-On Art Award. As the assistant to Lar Lubovitch, Ms. Favors set his works on several companies, including Cleveland Ballet, the Juilliard Dance Ensemble, Ballet du Nord and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Ms. Favors served as the ballet instructor at the 1989 inaugural session of AileyCamp in Kansas City and served as Artistic Director of the Camp in 1990. She is the founding Director of New York's CAS/AileyCamp and provided guidance in the national implementation of the program. In 1997, Ms. Favors was named Assistant Rehearsal Director of the Company and became Rehearsal Director in 1999. Ms. Favors engaged and rehearsed local dance students who performed with the Company in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* in Johannesburg during Ailey's return to South Africa in 1998, as well as in Seattle in 2003 and 2008 and in Copenhagen this past September.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

**GUILLERMO ASCA** (Rego Park, NY) or "Moe," as he is affectionately known, graduated from LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts. He was a fellowship student at The Ailey School and danced with Ailey II, Ballet Metropolitan de Caracas, Ballet Hispanico, Dance Compass, Shapiro & Smith and Footprints Dance Project. Mr. Asca joined the Company in 1994.

**KIRVEN JAMES BOYD** (Boston, MA) began his formal dance training at the Boston Arts Academy and joined Boston Youth Moves in 1999 under the direction of Jim Viera and Jeannette Neill. He also trained on scholarship at the Boston Conservatory and as a fellowship student at The Ailey School. Mr. Boyd has danced with Battleworks Dance Company, The Parsons Dance Company and Ailey II. He joined the Company in 2004.

**HOPE BOYKIN** (Durham, NC) is a three-time recipient of the American Dance Festival's Young Tuition Scholarship. She attended Howard University and while in Washington, DC she performed with Lloyd Whitmore's New World Dance Company. Ms. Boykin was a student and intern at The Ailey School. She was assistant to the late Talley Beatty and an original member of Complexions. Ms. Boykin was a member of Philadanco and received a New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award. In 2005, Ms. Boykin choreographed *Acceptance In Surrender* in collaboration with Abdur-Rahim Jackson and Matthew Rushing for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Most recently she choreographed *Go In Grace* with award-winning singing group Sweet Honey In The Rock for the Company's 50th anniversary celebration. Ms. Boykin joined the Company in 2000.

**CLIFTON BROWN** (Goodyear, AZ) trained at various schools including Take 5 Dance Academy, Ballet Arizona, New School for the Arts and The Ailey School, where he was a student in the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. Mr. Brown is a recipient of a Donna Wood Foundation Award, a Level 1 ARTS award given by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, and was a 2005 nominee in the U.K. for a Critics Circle National Dance Award for best male dancer. In 2007, Mr. Brown received a Bessie Award in recognition of his work with the Ailey company. He has performed with Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance and as a guest artist with the Miami City Ballet. Mr. Brown joined the Company in 1999.

**ROSALYN DESHAUTEURS** (New Orleans, LA) studied at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. She trained at Perry Mansfield, the School of American Ballet and The Ailey School. After receiving her B.F.A. degree from The Juilliard School, Mrs. Deshauteurs became a member of Ailey II. She joined the Company in 2000.

**KHILEA DOUGLASS** (Baltimore, MD) received her dance training from Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Baltimore School for the Arts and The Ailey School, where she was a fellowship student. Ms. Douglass danced with the Lula Washington Dance Theatre and was a member of Ailey II. She joined the Company in 2005.

**ANTONIO DOUTHIT** (St. Louis, MO) began his dance training at age 16 at the Center of Contemporary Arts under the direction of Lee Nolting and at the Alexandra School of Ballet. He also trained at North Carolina School of the Arts, the Joffrey Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet and the Dance Theatre of Harlem School. After graduating from high school in 1999, Mr. Douthit became a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem where he appeared in featured roles in the ballets *South African Suite*, *Dougla*, *Concerto in F*, *Return* and Dwight Rhoden's *Twist*. He was promoted to soloist in 2003. He also performed with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Mr. Douthit joined the Company in 2004.

**VERNARD J. GILMORE** (Chicago, IL) began dancing at Curie Performing and Creative Arts High School in Chicago and later studied at the Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theater with Marquita Levy, Harriet Ross and Emily Stein. He attended Barat College as a dance scholarship recipient, received first place in the all-city NAACP ACT-SO Competition in Dance in 1993 and studied as a fellowship student at The Ailey School. Mr. Gilmore is also a teacher and choreographer and a former member of Ailey II. He joined the Company in 1997.

**ABDUR-RAHIM JACKSON** (Philadelphia, PA) is a graduate of Franklin Learning Center High School and received his B.F.A. from The Juilliard School. He received scholarships from Freedom Theatre, Philadanco, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Boston Ballet and The Ailey School. Mr. Jackson received a Marion D. Cuyjet Award and was featured in the 2003 PBS "American Masters" documentary *Juilliard*. He danced with Ailey II in 2000 and joined the Company in 2001.

**OLIVIA BOWMAN JACKSON** (Brooklyn, NY) graduated from LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts. She received scholarships from North Carolina School of the Arts and was a fellowship student at The Ailey School. Mrs. Jackson was a member of Donald Byrd/The Group and Complexions. She joined the Company in 2001.

**MEGAN JAKEL** (Waterford, MI) trained in ballet and jazz in her hometown. As a senior in high school, she spent a year dancing with the City Ballet of San Diego. In 2005, Ms. Jakel was an apprentice and rehearsal director for the Francesca Harper Project. She graduated with honors in May of 2007 from The Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. Ms. Jakel has performed works by choreographers David Parsons, Debbie Allen, Thaddeus Davis, Hans van Manen, and Dwight Rhoden. She was a member of Ailey II. Ms. Jakel joined the Company in 2009.

**JOSH JOHNSON** (San Fernando, CA) began dancing under Eartha D. Robinson and Otis Sallid. He was a scholarship student at the Marat Daukayev School of Ballet where he worked with Karen McDonald. Mr. Johnson attended Hollywood High School and studied with Keny Long before entering The Ailey School as a fellowship student. Mr. Johnson performed in the Francesca Harper Project *Modo Fusion*, worked with Buglisi Dance Theatre and was a member of Ailey II. He joined the Company in 2009.

**YANNICK LEBRUN** (Cayenne, French Guiana) began training in his native country at the Adaclam School under the guidance of Jeanine Verin. After graduating high school in 2004, he moved to New York City to study at The Ailey School as a fellowship student. Mr. Lebrun performed works by choreographers Troy Powell, Matthew Rushing, Debbie Allen, Scott Rink, Thaddeus Davis, Nilas Martins and Dwight Rhoden and danced with the Francesca Harper Project *Modo Fusion*. He was also a member of Ailey II. Mr. Lebrun joined the Company in 2008.

**AMOS J. MACHANIC, JR.** (Miami, FL) studied dance at the New World School of the Arts and continued his training at The Ailey School, where he was a fellowship recipient. He was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 1996.

**MICHAEL FRANCIS MCBRIDE** (Johnson City, NY) is currently a senior in the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. He began his training at the Danek School of Performing Arts and later trained at Amber Perkins School of the Arts in Norwich, NY. In addition to The Ailey School, Mr. McBride attended Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts for two consecutive summers. He was also the assistant to choreographer Fredrick Earl Mosley when he set the piece *Saddle UP!* on the Company in 2007. Mr. McBride joined the Company in 2009.

**RACHAEL MCLAREN** (Manitoba, Canada) began her formal dance training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. After graduating high school, she joined the Toronto cast of *Mamma Mia!* Ms. McLaren moved to New York to study at The Ailey School as a fellowship student and later joined Ailey II. She has performed works by Karole Armitage, Dwight Rhoden, Francesca Harper and Nilas Martins. Ms. McLaren joined the Company in 2008.

**AISHA MITCHELL** (Syracuse, NY) received her primary dance training at the Onondaga Dance Institute, Dance Centre North and with Tony Salatino of Syracuse University. She studied at North Carolina Dance Theatre, Lines Ballet School, The Joffrey Ballet School and The Ailey School as a fellowship student. Ms. Mitchell is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance and was a member of Ailey II. She performed works by choreographers Alonzo King, Dwight Rhoden, Debbie Allen, Seán Curran and Nacho Duato. Ms. Mitchell is a bronze medalist of a 2001 NAACP National ACT-SO competition. She joined the Company in 2008.

**AKUA PARKER** (Kinston, NC) began her ballet training at age three. In 2000, she joined Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she danced lead roles in *Giselle*, *Agon* and *The Four Temperaments*. Thereafter she danced with Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet San Jose. Ms. Parker has had the opportunity to perform around the world and had the pleasure of working with legendary icons Fredric Franklin and Geoffrey Holder. She joined the Company in 2008.

**BRIANA REED** (St. Petersburg, FL) began her dance training at the Academy of Ballet Arts and The Pinellas County Center for Arts. She also studied at The Ailey School as a fellowship student. In 1997, Ms. Reed graduated from The Juilliard School and was a member of Ailey II. She joined the Company in 1998.

**JAMAR ROBERTS** (Miami, FL) graduated from the New World School of the Arts. He trained at the Dance Empire of Miami and as a fellowship student at The Ailey School. Mr. Roberts was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2002.

**SAMUEL LEE ROBERTS** (Quakertown, PA) began his dance training under the direction of Kathleen Johnston and attended The Juilliard School. He performed in the first international show of Radio City Christmas Spectacular in Mexico City and danced with the New York cast from 1999-2004. Mr. Roberts performed during the award ceremony at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, worked with Corbin Dances and Keigwin and Company and was a founding member of Battleworks Dance Company. He performed several roles in Julie Taymor's *Across the Universe* and the original opera *Grendel*. Mr. Roberts joined the Company in 2009.

**RENEE ROBINSON** (Washington, DC) began her training in classical ballet at the Jones-Haywood School of Ballet. She was the recipient of two Ford Foundation scholarships to the School of American Ballet and was awarded full scholarships to the Dance Theatre of Harlem School and The Ailey School. In 2003, she performed at The White House State Dinner in honor of the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki. Ms. Robinson was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 1981.

**MATTHEW RUSHING** (Los Angeles, CA) began his dance training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He received a Spotlight Award and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He trained at The Ailey School in New York City and later became a member of Ailey II, where he danced for a year. During his career, Mr. Rushing has performed as a guest artist for galas in France, Russia, Canada and Hungary and performed for former president Bill Clinton's inaugural presidential celebration. In 2003, he performed at The White House State Dinner in honor of the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki. This season, Mr. Rushing choreographed the new ballet *Uptown* for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He joined the Company in 1992.

**GLENN ALLEN SIMS** (Long Branch, NJ) began his dance training at the Academy of Dance Arts in Red Bank, NJ. He was a fellowship student at The Ailey School and performed in the Garden State Arts Center's Talent Expo in 1993. He attended The Juilliard School under the artistic direction of Benjamin Harkavy and performed works by Glen Tetley, Paul Taylor and Lila York. Mr. Sims has performed for the King of Morocco with choreography by Fred Benjamin and with Urban Dance Theater and Creative Outlet Dance Theater of Brooklyn. In 2004, Mr. Sims was inducted into the Long Branch High School's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. He joined the Company in 1997.

**LINDA CELESTE SIMS** (Bronx, NY) began her dance training at Ballet Hispanico School of Dance and is a graduate of LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts. In her senior year, Mrs. Sims won a Presidential Scholar award given by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. During the summers of 1993 and 1994, she was a scholarship student at the Pennsylvania Ballet School. She has danced with El Piccolo Teatro del la Opera and Ballet Hispanico. Mrs. Sims joined the Company in 1996.

**YUSHA-MARIE SORZANO** (Miami, FL) is originally from Trinidad. She received her primary dance training from New World School of the Arts, The Miami Conservatory and Dance Theatre of Harlem. Ms. Sorzano is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance and was a member of Ailey II in her junior year. She performed with Nathan Trice/Rituals and TU Dance (Artistic Directors Uri Sands and Toni Pierce-Sands) and was a member of Complexions. Ms. Sorzano also performed with recording artists Destiny's Child and Rihanna. She joined the company in 2007.

**CONSTANCE STAMATIOU** (Charlotte, NC) began her dance training at Pat Hall's Dance Unlimited and North Carolina Dance Theatre. In May 2002, she graduated from Northwest School of the Arts and studied at SUNY Purchase before becoming a fellowship student at The Ailey School. In 2009, Ms. Stamatiou received the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Performing and Visual Arts, which is awarded to exceptionally talented and promising artists. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2007.

**TINA MONICA WILLIAMS** (Elizabeth, NJ) started dancing at a local dance school under the direction of Michele Selvanto-Kowalski. In 1994, Ms. Williams began her formal training at The Ailey School, receiving a fellowship after her first year. She danced with Footprints Dance Company, The Millennium Project and The Shore Ballet Company and was invited to perform in Italy in 1994 as part of a youth cultural exchange tour. In 1998, she was invited to join Ailey II. Ms. Williams joined the Company in 2000.

**MARCUS JARRELL WILLIS** (Houston, TX) began his formal training at the Johnston Performing Arts Middle School, the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and Discovery Dance Group in Houston, Texas. At age 16, he moved to New York City and studied at The Ailey School as a fellowship student. Mr. Willis is a recipient of a Level 1 ARTS award given by the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts and has received scholarships to many schools including the Juilliard School. He was a member of Ailey II and also worked with Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater and Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza. Mr. Willis joined the Company in 2008.

The Ailey dancers are supported, in part, by **The Judith McDonough Kaminski Dancer Endowment Fund**.



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

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*Recipient of a National Medal of Arts*

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## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Lighting system provided by 4Wall Entertainment. Touring sound system provided by New York Audio Services Inc.

American Airlines is the Official Airline of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

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Kirven James Boyd in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Andrew Eccles.