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ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S 18-CITY UNITED STATES TOUR TO PLAY THE BUSHNELL IN HARTFORD MARCH 24

February 26, 2015/Hartford, CT — Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, will travel to 18 cities coast-to-coast presenting 80 performances, including a performance Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. at The Bushnell's Mortensen Hall in Hartford. Tickets, starting at \$25, are on sale now and available online at www.bushnell.org, by phone at 860-987-5900, or at The Bushnell box office, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. The Hartford engagement of the Alvin Ailey tour is sponsored by Fairview Capital.

Ailey Artistic Director Robert Battle recently announced that, following the tour, the Company will return to **Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater from June 10th to 21st for 15 performances**, continuing a new tradition for the company by hosting a second annual New York City season. The 2015 Lincoln Center engagement opens with a performance featuring the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater joined by rising stars of **Ailey II**, gifted young dancers from **The Ailey School**, and inspiring students from **AileyCamp** in an "Ailey Spirit" spring gala benefit for scholarships and Arts in Education programs. The full program will be announced at a later date and tickets, starting at \$25, go on sale Monday, April 13th.

A few days prior to the launch of Ailey's exciting 2014-15 season at New York City Center in December, Artistic Director Robert Battle visited the White House and accepted 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.**" Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's national tour begins at the start of Black

History Month and carries on the 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 Bushnell performance will highlight classics including Alvin Ailey's signature American masterpiece *Revelations*, **Bill T. Jones'** modern dance classic *D-Man in the Waters*; *LIFT*, by **Aszure Barton**; and Battle's own work, *Takademe*.

Audience members are invited to "join in the dance" during their next trip to New York City by taking a **complimentary class at The Ailey Extension using a ticket stub from any Ailey performance**. The Ailey Extension's popular program of 80 weekly "real classes for real people" has been experienced by over 85,000 at Ailey's building The Joan Weill Center for Dance, New York's largest building dedicated to dance. Each free class offer is good for one year from the performance date for first time students, and when purchasing a 10-class card for returning students.

The Ailey Organization continues its mission of using dance to educate young people through special student performances and master classes on the tour. ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*** curriculum program will be implemented in public schools in Miami, FL; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Los Angeles, CA; and Houston, TX. Utilizing Alvin Ailey's signature work, *Revelations*, the program is an inspirational framework for a comprehensive study of language arts, social studies, and dance.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater inspires all in a universal celebration of the human spirit using the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. For further details on the Ailey organization's performances, training programs and educational activities, visit www.alvinailey.org.

Program at The Bushnell:

Repertory Favorites & Classics

LIFT (2013)

Choreography: Aszure Barton

Music: Curtis Macdonald

A world premiere by in-demand choreographer **Aszure Barton**, *LIFT* is an exhilarating new work that celebrates and challenges the cast of 19. Created with Barton's collaborative stylistic approach that is constantly evolving like no other. Ailey's renowned dancers inspired the process, movement and composition, as well as the original percussive score by Curtis Macdonald.

D-Man in the Waters (Part I) (1998/ Ailey Company Premiere 2013)

Choreography: Bill T. Jones

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, Octet for Strings in E-flat major, Op. 20 (1825)

A true modern dance classic and a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award-winning work by modern dance innovator **Bill T. Jones**, a Tony Award-winner for *Fela!* and *Spring Awakening*. Originally created in 1989, it is a celebration of life and the resiliency of the human spirit that embodies loss, hope and triumph with non-stop movement set to **Mendelssohn's** Octet for Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 20 (1825).

Takademe (1999)

Choreography by Robert Battle

Music: Sheila Chandra

The complex, tightly woven rhythms of Indian Kathak dance are deconstructed and abstracted in this percussive, fast-paced work, where clear shapes and propulsive jumps mimic the vocalized rhythmic syllables of Sheila Chandra's jazzy score.

Revelations (1960)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional Spirituals

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans. An American classic acclaimed as a must-see for all, **Alvin Ailey's** signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage and genius. Using African-American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience, with audiences cheering, singing along and dancing in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

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.

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