

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2016

[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
ANNUAL BERKELEY RESIDENCY WITH
FOUR WEST COAST PREMIERES MARCH 29–APRIL 3**

**Residency events include community dance classes, a *Revelations* flash mob,
and SchoolTime matinee performance**

BERKELEY, March 7, 2016—Cal Performances welcomes back the esteemed [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) in its annual residency, featuring three distinct programs and four works receiving their West Coast premieres, from Tuesday, March 29 through Sunday, April 3 in Zellerbach Hall. Artistic director Robert Battle brings two of his own dances to the Bay Area for the first time: *Awakening* (2015), a Cal Performances co-commission and Battle’s first work created specially for the company since he took the post in 2011; and *No Longer Silent* (2007); as well as two works recently created for the company: *Exodus* (2015), by hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris; and Ronald K. Brown’s *Open Door* (2015). Classic Ailey repertory rounds out the program, including Ailey’s *Revelations* (1960) and a new restaging of the solo *Cry* (1971), as well as works by Judith Jamison, Talley Beatty, Paul Taylor, and Matthew Rushing.

As part of the company’s annual Cal Performances’ residency, three programs are offered for members of the community. For the very first time, community members may participate in an event called Berkeley Dances *Revelations*, hosted by Cal Performances with UC Berkeley’s Dance and Physical Education Departments on Friday, April 1. Participants sign up for a free 30-minute workshop where they will learn choreography from Alvin Ailey’s masterpiece, *Revelations*. There are three sessions available for workshops that take place in the Hearst Gym: 10-10:30am; 10:45-11:15am; and 11:30 am-12pm. Then, everyone will gather at the Campanile Esplanade to dance selections from “Take Me to the Water,” the second section of Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* in a flash-mob-style performance.

In addition, Cal Performances hosts a free Community Dance Class on Sunday, April 3 from 11am – 12:30pm, in the Bancroft Studio on the UC Berkeley campus. Taught by a senior dancer from the Ailey company, the class includes technique and choreographic phrases from the current repertory, and is open to participants of all ages and abilities. Space is limited and pre-registration is required at calperformances.org. A SchoolTime matinee performance for grades K–12 will take place in Zellerbach Hall on Thursday, March 31 at 11am. SchoolTime performances are hour-long matinee programs for students K-12, and seats are sold in advance only.

Program A, performed Tuesday, March 29 and Friday, April 1 at 8pm, and Sunday, April 3 at 3pm, includes the West Coast premiere of Ronald K. Brown’s Cuban-inspired *Open Door* (2015), with music by Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. *Awakening* (2015), also receiving its West Coast premiere, is artistic director Robert Battle’s first work created for the Ailey company, and features the choreographer’s signature taut, ritualistic choreographic style and a restless score by American composer John Mackey. Judith Jamison’s emotional and sensual duet *A Case of You* (2004), set to music by Joni Mitchell, is performed in a new restaging. True to tradition, the program closes with Ailey’s 1960 masterpiece celebrating the African American experience, *Revelations*.

Program B, performed Wednesday, March 30 and Saturday, April 2 at 8pm, features the West Coast premiere of acclaimed hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris’s recent work, *Exodus* (2015), which *The New York Times* likened to Ailey’s *Revelations*, with “rich dancing...testifying through quick and intricate footwork.” The score combines gospel with house music and spoken word by Raphael Xavier and Ost & Kjex. Robert Battle’s *No Longer Silent* (2007) is a large ensemble work featuring the imaginative interplay of four groups of dancers evoking a complex and mysterious ritual set to composer Erwin Schulhoff’s percussive score *Ogelala*. Originally created as part of a concert of choreography that revived forgotten scores by composers whose music had been banned by the Nazis – being Jewish, Schulhoff’s music and career was cut short by the Nazis and he perished in the camps - , the work makes its West Coast premiere in this program. *Revelations* (1960) closes the performance.

Program C, performed Thursday, March 31 at 8pm, and Saturday, April 2 at 2pm, includes a restaging of Talley Beatty's jazz-infused *Toccata* (1960), with music by Argentine composer Lalo Schifrin. Ailey's *Cry* (1971), a 16-minute solo dedicated to "all black women everywhere—especially our mothers," was first danced by Judith Jamison, and has also been restaged. The solo is made up of three parts—the first set to Alice Coltrane's "Something about John Coltrane," the second to Laura Nyro's "Been on a Train," and the last has the Voices of East Harlem singing "Right On, Be Free." Created in 1997, Paul Taylor's *Piazzolla Caldera* is a sensual exposé of tango as reinterpreted and reimagined by the great American modern dance master, with music by Astor Piazzolla and Jerzy Peterburshsky. And finally, *Odetta* (2014) is acclaimed Ailey dancer Matthew Rushing's tribute to gospel singer and civil rights activist Odetta Holmes, choreographed to a selection of her most powerful songs.

For the most current casting information, please contact the Cal Performances press office at (510) 643-6714. Casting is subject to change.

Founded in 1958 by its namesake, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) has performed throughout the world for millions of dance fans. Dancer, choreographer, and activist Alvin Ailey led the company for its first 30 years, creating dozens of works that often drew on African American music, history, and culture. Former Ailey dancer Judith Jamison led the company from 1989 to 2011, introducing works by leading choreographers as well as adding her own creations to its repertory. Robert Battle, the company's current artistic director, has continued Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's tradition of impassioned, meaningful dance grounded in the African American experience since his appointment in 2011. A recent interview with Battle aired on the PBS *NewsHour* and can be streamed [here](#).

This summer is the 15th anniversary of **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances**. AileyCamp is a nationally acclaimed summer day camp that uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-worth among sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students (ages 11–14). The mission of AileyCamp is not to train the students to be professional dancers, but to challenge the participants to develop self-esteem, discipline, and a capacity for critical thinking. Conceived by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and run locally by Cal Performances, AileyCamp combines professional level dance training with personal development activities. The first

AileyCamp was founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey; there are now nine camps throughout the country. Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances opened its doors in June 2002 and offers Bay Area children an opportunity to learn and perform on a full scholarship. Over the course of the past decade, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances has served nearly 1,000 Bay Area young people. The program is produced by Cal Performances and directed by AileyCamp director and teaching artist **David McCauley**. A video about Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances can be viewed [here](#).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** from Tuesday, March 29–Friday, April 1 at 8pm, Saturday, April 2 at 2pm and 8pm, and Sunday, April 3 at 3pm in Zellerbach Hall range \$36 to \$150 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/buy/discounts.

#

Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

#

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

SchoolTime Performance Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1 at 11am. Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Cal Performances presents a matinee performance for grades K–12 by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Pre-registration is required at calperformances.org.

#

Workshops: Berkeley Dances *Revelations*

Friday, April 1, 10am to 12:30pm

Hearst Gym, UC Berkeley Campus

Three choreography workshops: 10-10:30am; 10:45-11:15am; and 11:30am-12pm. Members of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater teach a section of Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*, to be performed flash-mob style on the Campanile Esplanade on the UC Berkeley campus. Free and open to the public; all ages and abilities may participate. Reserve a space in a workshop at calperformances.org. Go to "related events" on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater event page for more information.

#

Flash Mob Performance: Berkeley Dances *Revelations*

Friday, April 1, 12:30pm – 1pm

Campanile Esplanade
UC Berkeley Campus

Workshop participants re-group flash-mob-style beneath the iconic UC Berkeley Campanile to dance selections from "Take Me to the Water," the second section of Alvin Ailey's masterpiece, *Revelations*.

#

Community Dance Class

Sunday, April 3 at 11am-12:30pm

Bancroft Studio, UC Berkeley Campus

A dancer from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater leads a free community dance class including technique and choreographic phrases from the current repertory. For all ages and abilities; capacity is limited and pre-registration is required at calperformances.org.

#

Tuesday, March 29–Friday, April 1 at 8pm

Saturday, April 2 at 2pm and 8pm

Sunday, April 3 at 3pm

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, Artistic Director

Program:

Program A: Tuesday, March 29 and Friday, April 1 at 8pm, Sunday, April 3 at 3pm

Open Door (2015): music by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra; choreography by Ronald K. Brown (West Coast premiere)

Awakening (2015): music by John Mackey; choreography by Robert Battle (West Coast premiere)

A Case of You (2004/2015): music by Joni Mitchell; choreography by Judith Jamison

Revelations (1960): traditional spirituals; choreography by Alvin Ailey

Program B: Wednesday, March 30 and Saturday, April 2 at 8pm

Exodus (2015): music by Raphael Xavier, Ost & Kjex; choreography by Rennie Harris (West Coast premiere)

No Longer Silent (2007): music by Erwin Schulhoff; choreography by Robert Battle (West Coast premiere)

Revelations (1960): traditional spirituals; choreography by Alvin Ailey

Program C: Thursday, March 31 at 8pm, Saturday, April 2 at 2pm

Toccata (1960/2015): music by Lalo Schifrin; choreography by Talley Beatty

Cry (1971/2015): music by Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, and Chuck Griffin; choreography by Alvin Ailey

Piazzola Caldera (1997): music by Astor Piazzolla and Jerzy Petersburski; choreography by Paul Taylor

Odetta (2014): music by Odetta Holmes and Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell; choreography by Matthew Rushing

Tickets: Prices range from \$36–\$150 and are subject to change.

#