

For Immediate Release: March 5, 2025

[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#). A video showing excerpts from works being performed on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2025 tour may be viewed on [YouTube](#).

A video of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performing excerpts from *Revelations* can be found on [YouTube](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN
DANCE THEATER
APRIL 8–13 AT ZELLERBACH HALL

Performances feature the Bay Area premieres of four new works and two new productions

This year's annual Ailey residency and Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp are dedicated to the life and legacy of Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Berkeley, March 5, 2024—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** back to Berkeley for its annual campus residency, this year featuring four programs over seven performances and the Bay Area premieres of four new works and two new productions. The company's current season celebrates the life and legacy of Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison, who passed away on November 9, 2024, and Cal Performances dedicates the April 2025 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater residency and Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp to her legacy as well.

In its 57th year of engagement with Cal Performances, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater brings four programs that showcase the passionate spirit and extraordinary technique of the Ailey dancers in new and classic works that synthesize an array of cultural influences including a range of spirituals, jazz, and classical music and a dynamic blend of contemporary and African dance and ballet. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is renowned for preserving and elevating the American contemporary dance tradition and the richness and uniqueness of African American culture in performances that are a universal celebration of the human spirit.

This year's programs feature the Bay Area premieres of four new works—Jamar Roberts' *Al-Andalus Blues*, Matthew Rushing's *Sacred Songs*, Hope Boykin's *Finding Free*, and Lar Lubovitch's *Many Angels*— as well as new productions of Ronald K. Brown's *Grace* (1999) and Elisa Monte's *Treading* (1979). As is tradition, Alvin Ailey's beloved *Revelations* (1960) is the closing work on three of the four programs.

Judith Jamison

Celebrated for her talents as a performer, choreographer, and a company leader and founder, Judith Jamison had an international reach and inspired many generations of dancers and dance-lovers. She was a powerhouse performer, visionary leader, and groundbreaking cultural figure. As a dancer, Jamison embodied Alvin Ailey's tenet to "Use my steps, but show yourself" and left her personal mark on many performances, most famously in the solo work *Cry*, which Alvin Ailey choreographed on her in 1971 and dedicated to "all Black women everywhere, especially our mothers." She became Artistic Director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1989, when Ailey asked her to succeed him before his untimely death. Her legacy includes championing choreographers, nurturing dancers, expanding arts-in-education programs, and leading the effort to achieve the long-time dream of building the Ailey company's permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance in New York City. Read more about Judith Jamison on the [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's blog](#) and learn about her connection to Cal Performances on the organization's [Beyond the Stage blog](#).

Repertoire

Program A, performed Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30pm and Friday, April 11 at 8pm, opens with the Bay Area premiere of a new production of Ronald K. Brown's *Grace* (1999), featuring choreography that connects African and American dance and is fueled by Duke Ellington's classic "Come Sunday,"

Peven Everett's hit "Gabriel," and Fela's "Shakara." It is followed by the Bay Area premiere of former company member Jamar Roberts' *Al-Andalus Blues* (2024), an abstract ensemble piece evoking the northern African Moors performed to Roberta Flack's recording of "Angelitos Negros" and Miles Davis' *Sketches of Spain*. Alvin Ailey's enduring American classic *Revelations* (1960), performed to spirituals like "Wade in the Water" and "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham," concludes the performances.

Program B, performed Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30pm, opens with the Bay Area premiere of Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing's *Sacred Songs* (2024), performed to spirituals used in the original 1960 premiere of Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* but later omitted when the piece was edited into the version that has captivated audiences for decades; the songs have been resurrected and reimagined with the collaboration of creative associate and musical director Du'Bois A'Keen. *Sacred Songs* is followed by the Bay Area premiere of Lar Lubovitch's *Many Angels* (2024), a piece that leaves its references to angels up to viewer interpretation. *Many Angels* is the first ballet created especially for the Ailey company by Lubovitch; it is danced to Gustav Mahler's Adagietto from Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor. Ronald K. Brown's *Grace* (described in Program A above) is the final work on the program.

Program C, performed Thursday, April 10 at 7:30pm; Saturday, April 12 at 8pm; and Sunday, April 13 at 3pm, opens with the Bay Area premiere of former company member Hope Boykin's *Finding Free* (2024), an exploration of personal freedom and endurance performed to a jazz- and gospel-influenced score by composer and pianist Matthew Whitaker, who has appeared on Cal Performances' stages three times in recent seasons. The Bay Area premiere of a new production of *Treading*, Elisa Monte's 1979 sculptural duet, is then performed to Steve Reich's iconic *Music for 18 Musicians*. These two pieces are followed by Hans van Manen's *Solo* (1997), choreographed for three male dancers. The program concludes with Alvin Ailey's rousing celebration of African American heritage, *Revelations*.

Program D, performed on Saturday, April 12 at 2pm, features Matthew Rushing's *Sacred Songs* and Lar Lubovitch's *Many Angels* (both described in Program B above). Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* completes the performance.

Education and Community Engagement

In addition to the public performances by the company, Cal Performances offers two special performances moderated by an Ailey dancer for K–12 schoolchildren as part of the Cal Performances SchoolTime series, on Wednesday and Thursday, April 9–10 at 11am. Pre-registration and ticket purchase is required by filling out the order form at calperformances.org/learn/k-12.

Two months following the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s April residency, Cal Performances produces its 23rd annual [Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp](#). The tuition-free, six-week summer program that uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical thinking skills was originally conceived by Alvin Ailey. One of 10 AileyCamps nationwide, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is also one of only two that are situated on a college campus and has always been locally produced and fully funded by Cal Performances. Since its launch, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has touched the lives of approximately 1,300 young people from the Bay Area. Every spring, when the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns for its annual campus visits, recent Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp graduates are invited to reunite by taking a free master class with an Ailey dancer and attending one of the Ailey company performances.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, Cal Performances offers a live audio description—a live audio track delivered by a professional audio describer to audience members through a wireless headset system— at the 2pm performance on Saturday, April 12. This is intended to provide clear and engaging descriptions of the meaningful visual details of a performance., is offered at no extra charge, and employs headsets that can be reserved at the time of ticket purchase or by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

UC Berkeley students are eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the performance on Tuesday, April 8 through the [Golden Bear Circle](#) seating program beginning at 12pm on Tuesday, March 25. Information about all UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:
CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm
Wednesday, April 9, 7:30pm
Thursday, April 10, 7:30pm
Friday, April 11, 8pm
Saturday, April 12, 2pm
Saturday, April 12, 8pm
Sunday, April 13, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley Campus

Dance

[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

PROGRAM A Tue, Apr 8, 7:30pm; Fri, Apr 11, 8pm

Ronald K. Brown	<i>Grace</i> (1999; Bay Area Premiere of a new production [2024]; music: Duke Ellington, Peven Everett, Fela Anikulapo Kuti)
Jamar Roberts	<i>Al-Andalus Blues</i> (2024; Bay Area Premiere; music: Roberta Flack and Miles Davis)
Alvin Ailey	<i>Revelations</i> (1960; music: traditional spirituals)

PROGRAM B Wed, Apr 9, 7:30pm

Matthew Rushing	<i>Sacred Songs</i> (2024; Bay Area Premiere; Du'Bois A'Keen, <i>music and creative associate</i>)
Lar Lubovitch	<i>Many Angels</i> (2024; Bay Area Premiere; music: Gustav Mahler)
Ronald K. Brown	<i>Grace</i> (1999; Bay Area Premiere of a new production [2024]; music: Duke Ellington, Peven Everett, Fela Anikulapo Kuti)

PROGRAM C Thu, Apr 10, 7:30pm; Sat, Apr 12, 8pm; Sun, Apr 13, 3pm

Hope Boykin	<i>Finding Free</i> (2024; Bay Area Premiere; music: Matthew Whitaker)
Elisa Monte	<i>Treading</i> (1979; Bay Area Premiere of a new production [2024]; music: Steve Reich)
Hans Van Manen	<i>Solo</i> (1997; music: Johann Sebastian Bach)
Alvin Ailey	<i>Revelations</i> (1960; music: traditional spirituals)

PROGRAM D

Sat, Apr 12, 2pm

Matthew Rushing	<i>Sacred Songs</i> (2024; Bay Area Premiere; Du'Bois A'Keen, <i>music and creative associate</i>)
Lar Lubovitch	<i>Many Angels</i> (2024; Bay Area Premiere; music: Gustav Mahler)
Alvin Ailey	<i>Revelations</i> (1960; music: traditional spirituals)

Description:

Strength, precision, and passion remain the hallmarks of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater more than 65 years after its inception. The company's legendary dancers return to Berkeley with vibrant programs of new and classic works that synthesize an array of cultural influences, including a range of spirituals, jazz, and classical music and a dynamic blend of contemporary and African dance and ballet. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is renowned for preserving and elevating the American contemporary dance tradition and the richness and uniqueness of African American culture in performances that are a universal celebration of the human spirit.

For blind and visually impaired audience members, live audio descriptions are available for the 2pm performance on Saturday, April 12. Headsets may be reserved at the time of ticket purchase or by contacting the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or tickets@calperformances.org.

Tickets: \$45–\$158 (prices subject to change). Tickets for all performances are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. There is a \$15 per order service charge on ticket purchases made by phone or online that are not part of a subscription package. There is no fee for tickets purchased in person at the Zellerbach Hall Ticket Office unless they are part of a subscription. There is a \$20 service charge on all subscription orders.

UC Berkeley students can access exclusive discounts, including half-price tickets in all sections of the theater, and are also eligible to purchase a limited number of \$10 tickets for the best seats in the house for the 8pm performance of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on Tuesday, April 8 beginning at 12pm on Tuesday, March 25 through the [Golden Bear Circle](#) seating program. Information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students; information about other discounts can be found at calperformances.org/discounts.

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PRESS CONTACT:

Louisa Spier
Cal Performances

Media Relations Manager
(510) 643-6714
lspier@calperformances.org