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[Cal Performances at Home online press kit](#)

For a complete list of all *Cal Performances at Home* performances currently available visit
calperformances.org/buy

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
IN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF JAMAR ROBERTS' *HOLDING SPACE*
AS PART OF THE *CAL PERFORMANCES AT HOME*
PERFORMING ARTS STREAMING SERIES
THURSDAY, JUNE 10 AT 7PM (PDT)**

Program also includes new films spotlighting the 50th Anniversary of Alvin Ailey's *Cry* and his signature masterpiece *Revelations*

This performance will be viewable on demand for three months, through September 8, 2021

Berkeley, May 10, 2021 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in a virtual performance debuting with an interactive digital watch party on June 10, 2021. The program will mark the World Premiere of Ailey dancer and Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts' *Holding Space*, a Cal Performances Co-commission. The ensemble work centers on healing and the quest for sustainable pathways towards wholeness, giving shape to the complex emotions of this unique moment in time. Created against a backdrop of civil unrest and relentless threats upon the natural world, *Holding Space* asks: in what ways can we collectively accommodate one another to better traverse this new and unprecedented terrain? Roberts' other works for the Ailey Company include *Members Don't Get Weary* (2017), *Ode*, (2019) and the dance film *A Jam Session for Troubling Times* (2020).

The program will also include excerpts from Alvin Ailey's classic *Revelations*, reimagined for this moment of COVID-19 and the necessity of social distancing. Historic film footage brings Alvin Ailey and the Company from six decades ago to the virtual stage for a dance dialogue alongside current company members in this newly created dance film of Ailey's signature work, filmed at Wave Hill Public Garden & Cultural Center in New York.

Additionally, Ailey dancer Constance Stamatiou will perform the third section *Cry*, set to the Voices of East Harlem singing “Right On, Be Free,” in a new film adaptation celebrating the 50th anniversary of the beloved work Alvin Ailey created as a birthday gift for his mother and dedicated to “all Black women everywhere – especially our mothers.”

Following its debut, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s performance will be available for viewing on demand through September 8, 2021. The performance is one of 12 newly produced, full-length performances in the Spring 2021 *Cal Performances at Home* performing arts streaming series, a continuation of the ambitious series launched in fall 2020. Filmed on stages all over the world—in renowned venues and recording studios in the locations where the artists are sheltering in place—all artists currently planned for the spring series were originally booked to perform in person at UC Berkeley as part of Cal Performances’ 2020–21 live season, which was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The debut of each performance, on select Thursday evenings through June 10, 2021, will be celebrated with a digital watch party accompanied by participatory live chat. Every performance (except where noted) will be viewable on demand for three months following its debut. A complete list of all *Cal Performances at Home* performances currently available can be found at calperformances.org/buy. The performances will be supplemented with free artist talks, interviews, lectures, and panel discussions shared on the **Beyond the Stage** web page at calperformances.org/learn/beyond-the-stage.

WHO Although the Ailey company’s annual Berkeley residency cannot take place in 2021, the acclaimed dance ensemble offers a video program intended to remind us of the power and resilience of live performance. The centerpiece of this exclusive *Cal Performances at Home* presentation is the World Premiere of Jamar Roberts’ *Holding Space*, which gives shape to the complex emotions of this unique moment in time. Roberts, the company’s resident choreographer, has been praised for creating works that engage artfully with contemporary issues such as gun violence and—most recently—the devastating effect the pandemic and police misconduct have had on Black bodies and Black lives. The program also includes new films spotlighting Alvin Ailey’s *Cry* on its 50th anniversary and his signature masterpiece *Revelations*.

WHAT Newly produced, full-length, streaming performance.

Robert Battle, *artistic director*

Matthew Rushing, *associate artistic director*

Program:

Jamar Roberts/*Holding Space* (World Premiere, Cal Performance Co-Commission)
Alvin Ailey/*Cry* (Third section)
Alvin Ailey/*Revelations* (Processional section to the finale, *Rocka My Soul*)

WHEN Streaming debut Thursday, June 10 at 7pm (PDT). Following the debut, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months until September 8, 2021.

WHERE Viewable online, streamed to any device with an internet connection. Access to the event will be provided upon registration. For more information on how to view *Cal Performances at Home*, please visit calperformances.org/at-home/frequently-asked-questions.

TICKETS \$15 for a single viewer, \$30 for two viewers, and \$60 per household viewing. \$5 tickets are available for UC Berkeley students.

Tickets are available at calperformances.org/buy or by phone at (510) 642-9988.

MORE

CONTENT: By the time the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater's performance debuts on June 10, the *Cal Performances at Home* library of offerings will feature Spring 2021 performances streamable on demand by pianist **Mitsuko Uchida**, soprano **Christine Goerke**, pianist **Craig Terry**, pianist **Jeremy Denk**, vocalist **Jazzmeia Horn**, soprano **Renée Fleming**, **Bang on a Can**, pianist **Beatrice Rana**, **yMusic**, and **Jordi Savall**. For a complete list of all *Cal Performances at Home* performances currently available visit calperformances.org/buy. All performances are available for three months following their debut date except where indicated.

More than 60 *Now, More Than Ever* YouTube playlists of the performing arts, curated by Jeremy Geffen since the beginning of the pandemic, can be found at calperformances.org/nmte.

PRESS Complimentary press passes are available for reviewing journalists. To request a press pass for this performance, please email publicrelations@calperformances.org.

Photos of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater are available to download from the [online press kit](#).

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

DEBUT WATCH PARTY

Thursday, June 10, 7pm (PDT)

Following the debut, this performance will be available to view on demand for three months, from June 11 through September 8, 2021.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, *artistic director*

Matthew Rushing, *associate artistic director*

Program: Although the Ailey company’s annual Berkeley residency cannot take place in 2021, the acclaimed dance ensemble offers a video program intended to remind us of the power and resilience of live performance. The centerpiece of this exclusive *Cal Performances at Home* presentation is the World Premiere of Jamar Roberts’ *Holding Space*, which gives shape to the complex emotions of this unique moment in time. Roberts, the company’s resident choreographer, has been praised for creating works that engage artfully with contemporary issues such as gun violence and—most recently—the devastating effect the pandemic and police misconduct have had on Black bodies and Black lives. The program also includes new films spotlighting Alvin Ailey’s *Cry* on its 50th anniversary and his signature masterpiece *Revelations*.

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