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[Images Available Here](#)

[Videos Available Here](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
WITH FOUR BAY AREA PREMIERES AND CLASSIC WORKS
TUESDAY–SUNDAY APRIL 21–26**

Residency activities are planned on campus and in the community, including a Community Dance Class open to the public on April 26, and SchoolTime performances on April 23 and 24

BERKELEY, March 12, 2015—[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) (AAADT) returns to Cal Performances for its annual residency, featuring four Bay Area premieres as well as timeless works spanning decades of the company’s extensive repertory. Led by Artistic Director **Robert Battle**, the company performs three distinct programs, with ten different works, in seven performances Tuesday-Sunday, April 21-26 in Zellerbach Hall. Two recent dances created for the company receive their Bay Area premieres: local choreographer **Robert Moses’** first work for AAADT, *The Pleasure of the Lesson* (2014), and **Matthew Rushing’s** *ODETTA* (2014), which the longtime Ailey dancer—and now rehearsal director—choreographed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. **Jacquelyn Buglisi’s** signature work, *Suspended Women* (2000) and **Hofesh Shechter’s** *Uprising* (2006) also make their Bay Area premieres with this residency. “The [Ailey] dancers are in terrific form, perhaps better than ever” (*The Washington Post*).

Two SchoolTime performances for Bay Area schoolchildren will be held on Thursday, April 23 and Friday, April 24 at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall, featuring Ailey’s seminal work *Revelations*, among other favorites. Tickets for these performances are available in advance only [here](#). In addition, members of AAADT host a Community Dance Class in the Bancroft Dance Studio on the UC Berkeley campus, Sunday, April 26 at 11:00 a.m. The workshop is presented by Cal Performances in association with the UC Berkeley Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, and is free and open to the public.

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Program A, performed Tuesday, April 21 and Friday, April 24 at 8:00 p.m., features the Bay Area premiere of *ODETTA* (2014), 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 and songs by Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock. *Bad Blood* (1986) is Ulysses Dove's fiercely emotional work for seven dancers, with music by Laurie Anderson and Peter Gabriel. David Parsons' signature solo, *Caught* (1982) is a virtuosic meditation on flight starring a dancer executing more than 100 leaps synchronized to the flashes of a strobe light. True to tradition, the program closes with Ailey's 1960 masterpiece celebrating the African American experience, *Revelations*.

Program B, performed Wednesday, April 22 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m., includes the Bay Area premiere of local choreographer Robert Moses' first dance for AAADT, *The Pleasure of the Lesson* (2014), a sensual work created for ten dancers featuring the Moses' original music score. Dutch choreographer Hans Van Manen's *Polish Pieces* (1995) is a kaleidoscopic ensemble work driven by the rhythms of a Henryk Górecki score. Sierra Leone-born choreographer Asadata Dafora's *Awassa Astringe/Ostrich* is a groundbreaking solo from 1932 that blends traditional African dance with Western staging and a score by Carl Riley. The program concludes with *Revelations*.

Program C, performed Thursday, April 23 and Saturday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m., features two dramatically contrasting Bay Area premieres: *Uprising* (2006), Israeli-born choreographer Hofesh Shechter's aggressive, energetic work for seven male dancers with a percussive score, and *Suspended Women* (2000), Jacquelyn Buglisi's intricate work featuring an ensemble of ghost-like female dancers with music by Ravel. Christopher Wheeldon's dreamlike pas de deux *After the Rain* (2015) is danced to music by Arvo Pärt. The program concludes with *Revelations*.

For the most current casting information, please contact the Cal Performances press office at (510) 642-9121. Casting is subject to change.

Founded in 1958, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) has performed around the world for millions of dance enthusiasts. 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 1980 to

2011, introducing works by leading choreographers as well as adding her own creations to its repertoire. 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. In addition, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater offers Bay Area children an opportunity to learn and perform in its annual AileyCamp in Berkeley, produced and presented by Cal Performances.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater* Tuesday-Sunday, April 21-26 in Zellerbach Hall range from \$40.00 to \$96.00 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 www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2014—2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Residency

Residency activities with members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will be held on campus and in the community. For more information visit www.calperformances.org.

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Sunday, April 26, at 11:00 a.m.
Community Dance Class

Bancroft Dance Studio, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater host a free community dance class, presented by Cal Performances in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies. The class is free and open to the public.

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Tuesday–Friday, April 21–24, at 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Saturday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley
Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, Artistic Director

Program A: Tuesday, April 21 and Friday, April 24 at 8:00 p.m.:

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

Bad Blood (1986): choreography by Ulysses Dove; music by Laurie Anderson and Peter Gabriel

Caught (1982): choreography by David Parsons; music by Robert Fripp

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

Program B: Wednesday, April 22 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.:

Polish Pieces (1995): choreography by Hans Van Manen; music by Henryk Górecki

Awassa Astrige/Ostrich (1932): choreography by Asadata Dafora; music by Carl Riley

The Pleasure of the Lesson (2014): choreography by Robert Moses; music by Robert Moses and David Worm (Bay Area premiere)

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

Program C: Thursday, April 23 and Saturday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m.:

Uprising (2006): music by Hofesh Shechter and Vex'd; choreography by Hofesh Shechter (Bay Area premiere)

Suspended Women (2000): music by Maurice Ravel; choreography by Jacquelyn Buglisi (Bay Area premiere)

After the Rain (2015): choreography by Christopher Wheeldon; music by Arvo Pärt

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

Tickets: Prices range from \$40.00 to \$96.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24, at 11:00 a.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

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