

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperformances.org
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 8, 2012

**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER BRINGS
THREE DISTINCT PROGRAMS TO CAL PERFORMANCES
FOR A WEEK-LONG RESIDENCY,
TUESDAY, MARCH 13 – SUNDAY, MARCH 18**

**NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE DELIVERS
BAY AREA PREMIERE OF RENNIE HARRIS' *HOME*
AND AILEY CLASSICS INCLUDING *STREAMS* AND *REVELATIONS***

***SchoolTime*: The Ailey Company also present one-hour mini-programs for
Bay Area students on Thursday & Friday, March 15 & 16 at 11:00 a.m.**

BERELEY, February 8, 2012—Longtime Cal Performances favorite, the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** makes its annual visit to **Zellerbach Hall** with three distinct programs over six days starting on **Tuesday, March 13** and concluding on **Sunday, March 18**. Led by new Artistic Director **Robert Battle**—the third artistic director in the company's 54-year history—the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will dance eight separate works over the course of its stay, including the Bay Area premiere of *Home* (2011) by hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris**, the company's first Bay Area performance of **Paul Taylor's** 1981 classic *Arden Court*, and **Ohad Naharin's** 1999 high-energy audience-participation piece *Minus 16*. Each program by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will conclude with Alvin Ailey's signature work from 1960, *Revelations*. "You can ... just let yourself be swept along with the infectious good spirits of an Ailey performance, sway along to the spirituals of 'Revelations,' and maybe even get pulled onstage to dance in 'Minus 16.' The rest of the audience will welcome you, as they do every other dancer up there" (*Associated Press*).

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will also give two *SchoolTime* performances for Bay Area students on Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Zellerbach Hall. Tickets are sold in advance only.

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PROGRAMS

Program A, presented Tuesday, March 13 at 8:00 p.m. and Friday, March 16, at 8:00 p.m., opens with *Minus 16* (1999), by dancemaker Ohad Naharin with an eclectic score that ranges from Dean Martin to mambo, techno to traditional Israeli music. Unlike any other work in the Ailey repertory, *Minus 16* challenges the dancers to improvise and includes audience participation. The Bay Area premiere of *Home* (2011), created by hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris using gospel house music by Dennis Ferrer and Raphael Xavier, follows. This new work is inspired by the stories of people living with or affected by HIV, as shared through poems and images submitted to a contest called “Fight HIV Your Way” sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb. The program closes with the Alvin Ailey classic *Revelations* (1960), which uses African-American spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs, and holy blues to explore deepest grief and joy.

Program B, presented Wednesday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m., begins with the Ailey company’s first Bay Area presentation of *Arden Court* (1981) by American choreographer Paul Taylor. Set to a sumptuous baroque score by William Boyce (1711–1779), *Arden Court* combines playful motion with classical lifts and spins. It will be followed by *Takademe* (1999), created by Artistic Director Robert Battle to music by English pop singer Sheila Chandra. One of Battle’s first works, *Takademe* mixes humor and high-flying movement in a savvy deconstruction of Indian *kathak* dance rhythms. It will be followed by *The Hunt* (2001), an athletic work for six men, also choreographed by Battle to a thundering soundtrack created by the French industrial percussion band Les Tambours du Bronx. *The Hunt* examines the connections between modern sports and the rituals of ancient gladiators. The program will close with *Revelations* (see Program A).

Program C, presented Thursday, March 15 and Saturday, March 17 at 8:00 p.m., kicks off with a new production of *Streams* (1970). Ailey’s first full-length dance created without a plot, *Streams* is built on a percussion score by Czech composer and conductor Miloslav Kabelac (1908–1979) and explores the architecture of bodies in space. It will be followed by *Urban Folk Dance* (1995), choreographed by Ulysses Dove using music by American jazz-minimalist composer Michael Torke to explore the raw complexity of modern relationships. The last two works on the program are *Home* and *Revelations* (see Program A).

SchoolTime performances, presented Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16 at 11:00 a.m., open with an excerpt from *Night Creature* (1975). Set to Duke Ellington's song of the same name, *Night Creature* is one of Alvin Ailey's most classically choreographed ballets and is considered the choreographer's definitive homage to Ellington. Also on the program is *Takademe* (see Program B) and *Revelations* (see Program A).

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

In March 1958, a 27-year-old dancer named **Alvin Ailey** from Rogers, Texas, collected a group of African-American dancers at the 92nd Street Y in New York to perform. Fifty-four years later, that event is recognized as the birth of the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** (AAADT), a company that has since performed for tens of millions of people on six continents. For years Ailey was both dancer with and choreographer for his namesake company, creating 79 ballets in his lifetime—many set to blues music, spirituals, and gospel. Ailey also insisted that works from other significant choreographers be incorporated into AAADT's repertory, and as such the company has performed more than 200 works by more than 70 choreographers in its history. Ailey died in 1989, bequeathing his artistic legacy to **Judith Jamison**; Jamison retired last year, and was succeeded in July 2011 by **Robert Battle**.

The company has been recognized by congress as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," and its organization has been called "one of [New York's] most solid, well-managed modern dance companies" by the *Wall Street Journal*. The AAADT today includes two dance companies, a school, a BFA in Dance program at Fordham University, extension and community education classes, and 10 AileyCamps—six-week summer day camps for underserved youth—including one in Berkeley produced by Cal Performances. For further information go to alvinailey.org.

ROBERT BATTLE

Robert Battle became artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in July 2011. He has been a frequent choreographer and artist-in-residence with the Ailey Company since 1999. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, and students of The Ailey School have performed several of Battle's works over more than two decades, and the Company's current

repertory includes his ballets *The Hunt*, *In/Side*, and *Love Stories* (a collaboration with Ms. Jamison and Rennie Harris).

Battle was born in 1972 in Jacksonville, Florida, and developed his interest in dance at a high school arts magnet program and at Miami's New World School of the Arts. He studied at the Juilliard School under Benjamin Harkarvy and met his mentor, Carolyn Adams. From 1994 to 2001, Battle danced with, and later created choreography for, the Parsons Dance Company. Battle created Battleworks Dance Company in 2002, and has since created new works and restaged his ballets for companies including Hubbard Street Repertory Ensemble, River North Chicago Dance Company, Koresh Dance Company, Introdans, PARADIGM and Ballet Memphis. Battle was honored as one of the "Masters of African American Choreography" by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005, and he received the Statue Award from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA in 2007.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets prices for **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** in **Zellerbach Hall** from **Tuesday, March 13 – Sunday, March 18** range from **\$30.00-\$80.00** and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988 and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit www.calperformances.org.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,

and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday–Friday, March 13–16 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, Artistic Director

Program:

Program A: Tuesday, March 13 and Friday, March 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Minus 16 (1999): music including American pop, cha-cha, techno-pop, and traditional Israeli music; choreography by Ohad Naharin

Home (2011): gospel house music; choreography by Rennie Harris (Bay Area premiere)

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

Program B: Wed., Mar. 14 at 8:00 p.m.; Sat., Mar. 17 at 2:00 p.m.; Sun., Mar. 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Arden Court (1981): music by William Boyce; choreography by Paul Taylor (Bay Area premiere with the Ailey company)

Takademe (1999): music by Sheila Chandra; choreography by Robert Battle

The Hunt (2001): music by Les Tambours du Bronx; choreography by Robert Battle

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

Program C: Thursday, March 15 and Saturday, March 17 at 8:00 p.m.

Streams (1970): music by Miloslav Kabelac; choreography by Alvin Ailey (new production)

Urban Folk Dance (1990): music by Michael Torke; choreography by Ulysses Dove

Home (2011): gospel house music; choreography by Rennie Harris (Bay Area premiere)

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

Tickets: Range from \$30.00-\$80.00 and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Thurs. & Fri., Mar. 15 & 16 at 11:00 a.m.
SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Robert Battle, Artistic Director

Program:

Excerpt from *Night Creature* (1975): music by Duke Ellington; choreography by Alvin Ailey

Takademe (1999): music by Sheila Chandra; choreography by Robert Battle

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

Tickets: \$5.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

– Cal Performances –