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[Press Room](#)



Images of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
TUESDAY–SUNDAY, MARCH 29 – APRIL 3
AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ROBERT BATTLE'S
ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP AND FEATURING SEVEN OF HIS WORKS,
INCLUDING THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF *FOR FOUR*.**

**RESIDENCY FEATURES THE WEST COAST STAGED PREMIERE OF
JAMAR ROBERTS' *HOLDING SPACE*, A CAL PERFORMANCES CO-COMMISSION**

This summer Cal Performances marks 20 years of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

Berkeley, February 25, 2022 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes the return of the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**—in person at Zellerbach Hall for the first time in two years—in a diverse repertory of more than two dozen works, including premieres, new productions, and Ailey classics, from Tuesday, March 29 through Sunday, April 3. The company, now in its seventh decade, has been performing regularly on the UC Berkeley campus for more than half a century—appearing at Zellerbach Hall more than any other place in the world outside of their home base in New York City.

This season’s residency features seven performances made up of five distinct programs presented over the course of five days. This year the company celebrates Artistic Director **Robert Battle**’s decade of leading the Ailey dancers, where he has continued the work of founder Alvin Ailey through focusing on the importance of artistic excellence, unbounded creativity, and the power of art to transform and engage. Highlights of the company’s five Berkeley programs include a *Robert Battle 10th Anniversary* program; the Bay Area premiere of Battle’s *For Four*; and the West Coast staged premiere of *Holding Space* by Ailey Resident Choreographer **Jamar Roberts**, a Cal Performances’ co-commissioned work given its streaming world premiere as part of last year’s *Cal Performances at Home* online series. Other highlights of the engagement include the return of hip-hop innovator **Rennie Harris**’ *Lazarus*; and an *All Ailey* program celebrating 50 years of *Cry*, Ailey’s legendary solo dance; and featuring a new 2021 production of the Duke Ellington-inspired *Pas de Duke*.

Program A, a *Robert Battle 10th Anniversary* celebration, is performed Tuesday, March 29 at 7:30pm and Friday, April 1 at 8pm, and features seven works by Battle that span more than 20 years of his artistic output. *For Four*, in its Bay Area premiere, captures the energy of a world forced to live in isolation during the pandemic, and is set to a Wynton Marsalis jazz score. The work was created on video last year and is now presented for the first time for in-person company performances. The earliest Battle works in the program are *Takademe* (1999), a percussive, fast-paced dance that deconstructs the tightly woven rhythms of Indian *kathak* with a score by Sheila Chandra; the finale to the ballet *Love Stories* (2004), danced to songs by Stevie Wonder; and the ensemble work *Mass* (2004), with a score by composer John Mackey. The duet *Unfold* (2007) is presented in a new production, set to a recording of Leontyne Price singing Gustave Charpentier’s aria “Depuis le Jour.” *Ella* (2008) showcases the voice of its namesake, Ella Fitzgerald. The solo *In/Side* (2008) is set

to Nina Simone’s performance of the song “Wild is the Wind.” Alvin Ailey’s masterpiece *Revelations*, which has inspired generations through its powerful storytelling set to American spirituals since its creation in 1960, closes the evening.

Program B, performed Wednesday, March 30 at 7:30pm and Saturday, April 2 at 8pm, pairs *Revelations* with hip-hop innovator Rennie Harris’ *Lazarus* (2018), a two-act ballet inspired by Alvin Ailey’s life and legacy. Set to a soundtrack produced by Darrin Ross, with his original music, and featuring the voices of Nina Simone, Terrence Trent D’Arby, Michael Kiwanuka, and Odetta. The creation of *Lazarus* is featured in the *AILEY* documentary currently streaming on Hulu and PBS Passport. Director Jamila Wignot’s film explores the life of the visionary who changed American dance and culture and his legacy which continues today in the performances of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Program C, performed Thursday, March 31 at 7:30pm, features the West Coast in-person premiere of Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts’ *Holding Space*, which examines the ways in which we can collectively heal and nurture each other in a time of unprecedented upheaval. *Holding Space* features an original score by composer Tim Hecker, and distinctive lighting design. Like Battle’s *For Four*, it was created on video during the pandemic and is having its first in-person performances this season. The program rounds out with Aszure Barton’s layered, intricate *BUSK* (2009) and Alvin Ailey’s *Reflections in D* (1962), a solo performance highlighting the grace of the male dancer moving to Duke Ellington’s composition.

The *All Ailey* Program D, performed Saturday, April 2 at 2pm, features cherished Ailey classics, including a new production of *Pas de Duke* (1976), another one of the many ballets Ailey created to celebrate the musical genius of composer Duke Ellington. *Pas de Duke* was Ailey’s modern dance translation of a classical *pas de deux* created for renowned dancers, Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov. This season, the legendary solo *Cry* celebrates 50 years as an enduring Ailey masterpiece, a work he dedicated to “all Black women everywhere—especially our mothers.” The 16-minute *tour-de-force* features music by Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, and the Voices of East Harlem, premiered in 1971. Ailey’s *Blues Suite* (1958), created when the choreographer was just 27 years old, explores Ailey’s “blood memories” of rural, Depression-era southern Texas. *Revelations* concludes this performance.

The 2022–23 Ailey engagement closes, on Sunday, April 3 at 3pm, with Program E featuring encore performances of works by two of the most in-demand choreographers of their generation—*BUSK* by Azure Barton and *Holding Space* by Jamar Roberts, followed by the finale of Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations*.

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp Turns 20

This summer, Cal Performances celebrates 20 years of producing Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. A tuition-free, six-week summer program that promotes personal development through dance for middle school students, AileyCamp uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical thinking skills. Students from the Berkeley, Oakland, West Contra Costa, and Albany unified school districts participate in the full-scholarship program.

The camp, one of nine AileyCamps nationwide, was originally conceived by Alvin Ailey and is locally produced and fully funded by Cal Performances. AileyCamp was brought to the West Coast 20 years ago, when Ailey company alumnus David McCauley was tapped by Cal Performances to lead the program in Berkeley. McCauley led the camp until his retirement in 2020. In the 20 years since its launch, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has touched the lives of more than 1,000 young people in the Bay Area.

Cal Performances is marking the occasion of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp’s 20th anniversary with an ambitious fundraising campaign designed to ensure that the camp will continue to provide even more young people with opportunities for personal discovery and growth through the power, beauty, and joy of dance.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater* on Tuesday–Thursday, March 29–31 at 7:30pm; Friday, April 1 at 8pm; Saturday, April 2 at 2pm and 8pm; and Sunday, April 3 at 3pm at Zellerbach Hall range from \$42–\$150 (prices 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, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

For information about the most current COVID-19 safety protocols in place at Zellerbach Hall, please visit calperformances.org/safety-first.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday, March 29, 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 30, 7:30pm
Thursday, March 31, 7:30pm
Friday, April 1, 8pm
Saturday, April 2, 2pm
Saturday, April 2, 8pm
Sunday, April 3, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Dance

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Robert Battle, *artistic director*

Matthew Rushing, *associate artistic director*

Program A (Tues, Mar 29, 7:30pm & Fri, Apr 1, 8pm)

Robert Battle 10TH Anniversary

ROBERT BATTLE

Mass (2004; music: John Mackey)

In/Side (2008; music: “Wild is the Wind,” recorded by Nina Simone)

Ella (2008; music: Ella Fitzgerald)

For Four (2021; Bay Area Premiere; music: Wynton Marsalis)

Unfold (2007; music: Gustave Charpentier, recorded by Leontyne Price)

Takademe (1999; music: “Speaking in Tongues II,” performed by
Sheila Chandra)

Love Stories finale (2004; music: Stevie Wonder)

ALVIN AILEY

Revelations (1960; music: traditional spirituals)

Program B (Wed, March 30, 7:30pm & Sat, Apr 2, 8pm)

RENNIE HARRIS

Lazarus (2018; music: Darrin Ross)

ALVIN AILEY

Revelations (1960; music: traditional spirituals)

Program C (Thu, March 31, 7:30pm)

JAMAR ROBERTS

Holding Space (2021; West Coast Premiere, staged version;
Cal Performances Co-Commission; music: Tim Hecker)

ROBERT BATTLE

For Four (2021; Bay Area Premiere; music: Wynton Marsalis)

ALVIN AILEY

Reflections in D (1962; music: traditional spirituals)

ASZURE BARTON *BUSK* (2009; music: various artists)

Program D (Sat, Apr 2, 2pm)

All Ailey

ALVIN AILEY *Blues Suite* (1958; music: traditional; performed by Brother John Sellers)
Pas de Duke (1976; music: Duke Ellington)
Cry (1971; music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, and The Voices of East Harlem)
Revelations (1960; music: traditional spirituals)

Program E (Sun, Apr 3, 3pm)

ASZURE BARTON *BUSK* (2009; music: various artists)

JAMAR ROBERTS *Holding Space* (2021; West Coast Premiere, staged version;
Cal Performances Co-Commission; music: Tim Hecker)

ALVIN AILEY *Revelations* (1960; music: traditional spirituals)

Description: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has been performing regularly in Berkeley for more than half a century—appearing at Zellerbach Hall more than any other place in the world outside of their home base in New York City. Following its video performance for *Cal Performances at Home* last June, the Ailey dancers return—in person at Zellerbach Hall for the first time in two years—as the company resumes its annual residency with programs that uplift and inspire. Under the leadership of Robert Battle for the last decade, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues the work of founder Alvin Ailey through focusing on the importance of artistic excellence, unbounded creativity, and the power of art to transform and engage. Highlights of the company’s five Berkeley programs over seven performances include a *Robert Battle 10th Anniversary* celebration; the Bay Area premiere of *For Four* by Robert Battle; and the West Coast in-person premiere of *Holding Space* by Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts, a work given its world premiere as part of the *Cal Performances at Home* online streaming series in 2021; the return of hip-hop innovator Rennie Harris’ *Lazarus*; and an *All-Alvin Ailey* program celebrating 50 years of Ailey’s legendary *Cry* and featuring a new 2021 production of the Duke Ellington-inspired *Pas de Duke*.

Tickets: \$42–\$150 (prices subject to change) For information about the most current COVID-19 safety protocols in place at Zellerbach Hall visit calperformances.org/safety-first.