



ARTIST  
SERIES

# AILEY II

Feb. 17, 2018

CU ★ PRESENTS

# AILEY II

THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE

## **Troy Powell, Artistic Director**

Sylvia Waters, Artistic Director Emerita

### **Company Members**

Tara Bellardini, Antuan Byers, Khalia Campbell, Yazzmeen Laidler,  
Kyle H. Martin, Corrin Rachelle Mitchell, Adrien Picaut, Jessica Amber Pinkett,  
Martell Ruffin, Arianna Salerno, Marcus Williams, Christopher R. Wilson

Fana Fraser, Rehearsal Director

## **Robert Battle, Artistic Advisor**

## **Bennett Rink, Executive Director**

Ailey II gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by  
**The Gloria Kaufman Dance Foundation**, the New York State Council on the Arts  
and The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
in partnership with the City Council.

The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment  
of any kind during performances is strictly prohibited.

Programming and casting is subject to change.

# Program

## CIRCULAR (2016)

Choreography by Jae Man Joo  
Music by Various Artists\*  
Costume design by Christine Darch  
Lighting design by Rob Ross

### The Company

Choreographer and ballet master Jae Man Joo began his classical ballet training in his hometown of Kwang-Ju, Korea. After graduating from Dankook University in Seoul, he danced with many companies, including The Korea Contemporary Dance Company and as a principal dancer for Complexions Contemporary Ballet and Ballet Hispanico. Joo is the recipient of the 2009 Prince Grace Award for Excellence in Choreography and received The Best Individual Artist Award from Bagnolet International Dance Festival in Paris in 1996. He has also worked with Shen Wei, Zvi Gotheiner, Igal Perry, Jessica Lang and Michel Ellian.

\* "Pieces for Cello and Piano (1967): Allegro," "Pieces for Cello and Piano (1967): Lento," performed by Alexander Zagorinsky, Alexei Shmitov from the album Denisov: Music for Cello, published by Et'Cetera

"Sonata for Cello and Piano, Recitativo" Composed by Edison Denisov ©1973 by C.F. Peters Corporation.  
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"Four Studies: II. Fast Canons" composed by Nico Muhly from the album Glass: In the Summer House, published by Chester Music, St Rose Music Publishing Co, ASCAP

"Keyboard Suite No. 3 in D minor, HWV 428: V. Air" composed by George Frideric Handel, performed by Byron Schenkman from the album Handel, G.F.: Keyboard Suites, published by Centaur Records

"Rinaldo, HWV 7, Act II: Lascia Ch'io Pianga" composed by George Frideric Handel, performed by David Dq Lee from the album Arianna A Naxos, published by ATMA Classique

"Duet for Heart & Breath" composed by Richard Reed Parry from the album Parry (RR): Music for Heart & Breath, published by Deutsche Grammophon/ Universal Music Classics

**-INTERMISSION-**

# Program

## **BREAKING POINT (2017)**

Choreography by Renee I. McDonald

Music by Audiomachine\*

Costume design by Taylor S. Barnett

Lighting design by Brandon Stirling Baker

### **Opening Duet:**

Khalia Campbell, Christopher R. Wilson

### **1st Solo:**

Jessica Amber Pinkett

### **Duet:**

Yazzmeen Laidler, Marcus Williams

### **2nd Solo:**

Kyle H. Martin

### **3rd Solo:**

Arianna Salerno

Jamaican-born choreographer and dancer Renee I. McDonald began her dance training at the Tony Wilson School of Modern Dance in Kingston, Jamaica. She holds a Bachelor of Science in marketing and a Bachelor of Law with first-class honors from the University of the West Indies, Mona. Ms. McDonald was a member of The Company Dance Theatre (CDT) in Kingston, where she also served as rehearsal mistress. As a choreographer, she has created works for many companies including The CDT, The National Dance Theatre Company, L'Acadco, Deh Jah Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre Xaymaca, The Quilt Performing Arts Company and The Emma Willard School in New York. She has also choreographed award-winning pieces for the American International School of Kingston, Campion College and the St. Andrew High School for Girls. Ms. McDonald is also engaged with The Desiree Dance Center, University Dance Society and Campion College Dance Society, training students in modern and jazz technique. Currently, Ms. McDonald is a final year student at the Norman Manley Law School in Kingston, Jamaica.

\* "Beyond Good and Evil," "Sands of Time," "Black Cauldron," "Hell's Battalion," "Lost Generation," "House of Cards," "Creation" and "Lost Raiders" from the album "Chronicles"; "Attack on the Winter Wall" from the album "Decimus", published by Audiomachine

**-INTERMISSION-**

# Program

## REVELATIONS (1960)

Choreography by Alvin Ailey

Music: Traditional

Décor and costumes by Ves Harper

Costumes for “Rocka My Soul” redesigned by Barbara Forbes

Lighting by Nicola Cernovitch

### Pilgrim of Sorrow

I Been ‘Buked

Music arranged by Hall Johnson\*

The Company

Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel

Music arranged by James Miller+

Marcus Williams, Tara Bellardini, Khalia Campbell

Fix Me, Jesus

Music arranged by Hall Johnson\*

Jessica Amber Pinkett, Christopher R. Wilson

### Take Me to the Water

Processional/Honor, Honor

Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts

Kyle H. Martin, Arianna Salerno, Antuan Byers,  
Adrien Picaut

Wade in the Water

Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts

“Wade in the Water” sequence by Ella Jenkins

“A Man Went Down to the River” is an original composition  
by Ella Jenkins

Yazzmeen Laidler, Martell Ruffin, Corrin Rachele Mitchell

I Wanna Be Ready

Music arranged by James Miller+

Christopher R. Wilson

\* Used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.

+ Used by special arrangement with Galaxy Music Corporation, New York City.

All performances of “Revelations” are permanently endowed by a generous gift from Donald L. Jonas in celebration of the birthday of his wife, Barbara, and her deep commitment to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

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*\*In Memoriam*

# Biographies

## Company Story

For more than 40 years, Ailey II has merged the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. Started in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Ailey II embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training and community programs for all people. Mr. Ailey personally selected the veteran dancer Sylvia Waters to lead this junior company, and as its artistic director for 38 years, she developed Ailey II into one of America's most popular dance companies. In June 2012, Ms. Waters retired and named her longtime associate Troy Powell as the new artistic director. With Mr. Powell at the helm, Ailey II continues to thrive as he brings a fresh dimension to this beloved company.

The critically-acclaimed Ailey II has a distinctive repertory that has included works by dance masters Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Donald Byrd, Ulysses Dove, George W. Faison, Lar Lubovitch, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle and Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison. The company has also performed innovative works by rising choreographers such as Kyle Abraham, Jennifer Archibald and Ray Mercer. Touring throughout the United States and abroad, Ailey II will reach dozens of cities during its 2017-2018 tour.

"The entire company looks terrific. Clearly, the future is theirs."  
—The New York Times

## TROY POWELL, Artistic Director

On July 1, 2012, Troy Powell became only the second person to lead Ailey II since its inception in 1974. A native New Yorker, Mr. Powell began his dance training at the age of 9 as a scholarship student at The Ailey School. Following his graduation from The High School of Performing Arts, he became a member of Ailey II and then joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1991. He toured throughout the U.S., South America, Europe and South Africa for 10 years with the company before becoming a master teacher at The Ailey School and resident choreographer of Ailey II. Mr. Powell has choreographed ballets for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, Dallas Black Dance Theater, National Dance Company of the Bahamas and Alaska Dance Theater, as well as three episodes of "Sesame Street." His guest artist credits include performing with companies including Batsheva, Dallas Black Dance Theater and Complexions. Mr. Powell has been featured in an American Express commercial with the Ailey company and has also appeared on television in George C. Wolfe's "The Colored Museum," the PBS Great Performances: Dance in America special "A Hymn for Alvin Ailey," choreographed by Judith Jamison, "America's Next Top Model," and most recently the Polish version of "So You Think You Can Dance."

## SYLVIA WATERS, Artistic Director Emerita

Sylvia Waters was personally selected by Alvin Ailey in 1974 as artistic director of Ailey II and led the company for 38 years. A graduate of The Juilliard School, Ms. Waters earned a BS in dance prior to moving to Paris, where she appeared regularly on television. She has also performed in Brussels and at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City. In 1968, Ms. Waters joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and toured with the Company until assuming leadership of Ailey II. In 1997, she received an honorary doctorate from the State University of New York at Oswego, and she has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. Ms. Waters is a recipient of the Legacy Award as part of the 20th Annual IABD Festival, Syracuse University's Women of Distinction Award, a

Dance Magazine Award, and a "Bessie" Award. Currently, Ms. Waters leads The Ailey Legacy Residency, a lecture, technique and repertory program for college-level students that looks definitively into the history and creative heritage of Alvin Ailey.

## FANA FRASER, Rehearsal Director

Fana Fraser (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad) began her dance training at Caribbean School of Dancing. An honors graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program in dance, she has performed with Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Sidra Bell Dance New York, The Francesca Harper Project, The Metropolitan Opera, Andrea Miller for Hermès, Ryan McNamara for Performa 13, Art Basel and Works & Process at the Guggenheim. She has appeared in digital commercials for Google and Twitter. Ms. Fraser was also a member of Ailey II. As a choreographer, her works have been presented at Emerging Artists Theatre, BAAD! (Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance) and Trinidad Theatre Workshop. She was a selected artist-in-residence at the Dance & Performance Institute in Trinidad & Tobago and at Open Call, a project partnership between BAAD! and Pepatían. Ms. Fraser has served as a teaching artist with Purelements and Notes in Motion Teaching Ensemble and as a rehearsal assistant to choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie. She is also a certified Gyrotonic® trainer. Most recently, Ms. Fraser became a Movement Research 2017 Artist-in-Residence Van Lier Fellow.

## AILEY II WHO'S WHO

**TARA BELLARDINI** (Mine Hill, New Jersey) trained with East Coast Movement under the direction of Billy Larson. She graduated from Morris County School of Visual and Performing Arts and is a graduate of The Ailey School Certificate Program. Ms. Bellardini has trained in summer intensives at Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and performed in the 2013 Cedar Lake Installation Chess. She danced in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* during Ailey's 2014 and 2015 New York City Center (NYCC) seasons and has worked with choreographers Adam Barruch, Norbert De La Cruz III, Ray Mercer and Alexandra Damiani. During Ailey's 2016 NYCC season, Ms. Bellardini performed in Hope Boykin's *r-Evolution, Dream*. with the company. This is her second season with Ailey II.

**ANTUAN BYERS** (Dallas) is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program in dance and is an alumnus of Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He was a scholarship student at Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Dallas Ballet Center, and he attended several summer programs, including Northwest Dance Project, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Jacob's Pillow. Mr. Byers also danced for recording artists Erykah Badu, Jennifer Holliday, The Skins and D.R.A.M. Prior to joining Ailey II, he performed in many productions with The Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Mr. Byers has performed works by choreographers Kyle Abraham, Kim Brandstrup, Johan Inger, Jiří Kylián, Alexei Ratmansky, Hofesh Shechter and Christopher Wheeldon. This is his first season with Ailey II.

**KHALIA CAMPBELL** (Bronx, New York) is a graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. She began her formal dance training at Uptown Dance Academy. She also studied at Dance Theatre of Harlem and as a scholarship student at The Ailey School. In 2012, Ms. Campbell was a part of the international tour of *Aida*. She has performed with Kymera Dance, Dance Iquail and in the 40th anniversary performance of "The Wiz" at SummerStage. Ms. Campbell also danced as a guest artist with Richard Siegal's Ballet of Difference. In 2016, she was featured in the Christian Dior commercial for the fragrance Poison. This is her second season with Ailey II.

# Biographies

**YAZZMEEN LAIDLER** (Miami) trained at New World School of the Arts and at Mrs. Traci Young-Bryon's Young Contemporary Dance Theatre. Ms. Laidler received her BFA from University of the Arts and was a company member of Eleone Dance Theatre. She has worked with choreographers Christopher Huggins, Dwight Rhoden, Doug Varone, Peter London, Anthony Burrell and Tommie Waheed-Evans. This is her second season with Ailey II.

**KYLE H. MARTIN** (Montclair, New Jersey) began his dance training at Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts in New Jersey. He continued his training at The Ailey School, where he trained in the junior division and where he is currently a student in the professional division's certificate program. Mr. Martin performed in Alvin Ailey's "Memoria" during Ailey's 2015 and 2016 New York City Center seasons. He has worked with choreographers Hope Boykin, Christopher L. Huggins, Carlos dos Santos, Amy Hall Garner, Ray Mercer, Freddie Moore, Frederick Earl Mosley, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Pascal Riout, Pedro Ruiz, Matthew Rushing, Christian von Howard, Bradley Shelver, Winston Dynamite Brown and Robert Battle. This is his first season with Ailey II.

**CORRIN RACHELLE MITCHELL** (Baltimore) began her dance training in her hometown at LeRe's Performing Arts Center, owned by her mother and father. She attended Baltimore School for the Arts where she trained with Norma Pera, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell and Barry Hughson. Ms. Mitchell graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in dance and worked with choreographers Troy Powell, Gary Jeter, Garfield Lemonius and Debbie Allen. In 2016, she was an Ailey II apprentice. This is her first season with the company.

**ADRIEN PICAUT** (Chaumontel, France) started dancing at Takadanser dance school in Lamorlaye and went on to train at the Institut de Formation Professionnelle de Rick Odums (IFPRO) in Paris. He is a two-time gold medal winner of the French Federation of Dance and has attended summer intensives at New York City Ballet and Jacob's Pillow Dance. Mr. Picaut trained at The Ailey School as a scholarship student and performed in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* during Ailey's 2016 New York City Center season. He also danced with ZEST Collective. Mr. Picaut has worked with choreographers Matthew Rushing, Kyle Abraham, Emily Molnar, Clifton Brown and Matjash Mrozewski. This is his first season with Ailey II.

**JESSICA AMBER PINKETT** (Randallstown, Maryland) began her dance training at Baltimore Dance Tech. She trained in summer intensives at Dance Theatre of Harlem and The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Awards she has received include a bronze medal in the national ACT-SO competition and several scholarships. Ms. Pinkett has worked with choreographers Ray Mercer, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Marcus Jarrell Willis and others. In 2017, she performed on Good Morning America with Ailey II and with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for the 2017 Logo Trailblazer Honors tribute to

Alvin Ailey. She graduated from Towson University with honors and earned a BFA in dance performance and choreography. This is her second season with Ailey II.

**MARTELL RUFFIN** (Chicago) began his formal dance training at the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago in 2009. He attended Chicago High School for the Arts under then-director Lisa Johnson-Willingham, former dancer of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Mr. Ruffin has attended dance intensives at Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Complexions and received first place in the all-city NAACP ACT-SO Competition 2011. Mr. Ruffin trained at The Ailey School as a scholarship student and has performed works by Lisa Johnson-Willingham, Earl Mosley, George Faison, Darrell Grand Moultrie and Matthew Rushing. This is his second season with Ailey II.

**ARIANNA SALERNO** (San Diego) began her formal dance training at the California Ballet School under the direction of Maxine Mahon. She is a graduate of Chula Vista High School, where she majored in dance. Ms. Salerno trained at The Ailey School summer intensive as a scholarship student and recently completed her final year in the certificate program. She has performed works by choreographers Christian von Howard, Ray Mercer, Brice Mousset, Matthew Rushing, Darrell Grand Moultrie and Robert Battle and danced in Alvin Ailey's "Memoria" during Ailey's 2015 and 2016 New York City Center seasons. This is her first season with Ailey II.

**MARCUS WILLIAMS** (Dallas) began his dance training at age 17 at American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in California. He also studied at Debbie Allen Dance Academy, where he worked with choreographers Debbie Allen, Terry Beeman, Madame Dellas and Otis Salid. Mr. Williams continued his dance training at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. He performed in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* during Ailey's 2015 and 2016 New York City Center seasons and has danced as a guest artist with ZEST Collective and Cross Performance, Inc. Mr. Williams was an Ailey II apprentice in 2016. This is his first season with the company.

**CHRISTOPHER R. WILSON** (Augusta, Georgia) is a graduate of John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School and most recently graduated cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program in dance. Mr. Wilson has attended summer programs at Alonzo King LINES Ballet and the school at Jacob's Pillow, among others. He began his professional career with BHDos, the second company of Ballet Hispanico, and has performed at The World Monument Fund's Hadrian Gala honoring Queen Sofía of Spain as well as the 2017 Essence Festival in New Orleans. He has performed works by choreographers Matthew Rushing, Kyle Abraham, Emily Molnar, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Eduardo Vilaro, Stefanie Batten Bland and Nicholas Villeneuve. This is his second season with Ailey II.

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# Lila Downs

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