



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey
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**Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey welcomes the return of the Ailey Trio to the Gem Theater
Thursday, January 12, 2023, 7:00pm.**

Kansas City, MO – For the first time since 2020, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey will present the Ailey Trio at the Gem Theater, Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7:00 PM. This will be a FREE performance for the community.

The Ailey Trio is comprised of three current members of the **world-renowned [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater \(AAADT\)](#)**. It was established in 1993 by KCFAA as a key component of its arts education programming and has been replicated by AAADT across the country.

The Trio travels from AAADT’s home in New York to share Alvin Ailey’s artistic vision through dance. The presentation is a unique opportunity for students, supporters, and community members to not only see **excerpts of AAADT’s current repertory**, it’s also an engaging, **interactive experience, giving the audience a glimpse of the life of a professional dancer. This free performance is open to the public including children of all ages.**

“The Ailey Trio is particularly memorable and delightful because the audience can both watch and participate in a gorgeous dance performance with world class dancers! It is a unique and exciting event for people of all ages,” observes KCFAA CEO Melanie Miller.

The 2023 Ailey Trio features AAADT company members Jacquelin Harris, Yazzmeen Laidler, and Kanji Segawa. The dancers arrive in Kansas City on Monday to tour over a dozen Missouri and Kansas grade schools and high schools throughout the week, culminating in the Thursday, January 12 evening performance at the historic Gem Theater.

THE AILEY TRIO

January 12, 2023, 7:00pm

Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th St Kansas City, MO

Admission: FREE

About Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey

The mission of Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) is making dance accessible to all people by presenting the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, teaching young people critical life skills through dance, and modeling interracial and multi-cultural community partnerships. For more information, visit [kcfaa.org](#).

About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” grew from a now-fabled March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Founded by Alvin Ailey, recent posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation’s highest civilian honor, and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents – as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms - promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, which brings dance into the classrooms, communities and lives of people of all ages; and The Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey’s permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world —named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

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