

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey Presents “Setting the Stage 2023”

Performance Features Modern African American Dance

February 16, 2023 – (Kansas City, MO) – Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) highlights cultural diversity and the performing arts all year-round. KCFAA will once again celebrate Black History Month by honoring African American legacies and visionaries in the world of dance with a special presentation of Setting the Stage at the Gem Theater.

Setting the Stage is Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gem Theater, 1615 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108. Admission is free.

Setting the Stage is a unique multi-media program combining live dance performances with pictures and narration starting with the Middle Passage and continuing through the present day. Created, directed, and choreographed by KCFAA's Chief Artistic Officer Tyrone Aiken, Setting the Stage is an exciting visual journey through African American dance history and is performed by talented local and national artists providing insights into the history and legacies of African American pioneers in Minstrel, Jazz, Ballet, Afro-Caribbean, and Modern dance - including Katherine Dunham and Alvin Ailey.

“This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Setting the Stage created to reopen the Gem Theater while telling a compelling story of African American dance history,” Aiken said. “We have a superb group of new and returning dancers and performers joining the cast in addition to a live vocalist for the first time. In this time of racial reckoning, Setting the Stage is more important than ever.”

In addition to the public performance on February 22, Ailey dancers will perform 9 outreach performances of Setting the Stage for various schools throughout the metropolitan Kansas City area during the week prior.

For more information: www.kcfaa.org/setting-the-stage

The Mission of KCFAA

To make 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. Visit www.kcfaa.org.

Contact

James Wright

Marketing & Outreach Leader

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey

(816) 304-7490
james@kcfaa.org

####