



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey
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Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey raises \$500,000 at the 2023 Annual Benefit Gala

Kansas City, MO – Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) had the pleasure of hosting the “Glorious Return” of the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** (AAADT) at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in partnership with the Harriman-Jewell Series. Spanning four performances, the First Company performed for over **4,600 guests** the weekend of **March 24-25, 2023**.

During the two-day residency, AAADT conducted a performance for nearly 1,000 students from greater Kansas City and a public performance on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. The weekend culminated with KCFAA’s sold out annual benefit gala. Approximately 800 attendees enjoyed an awe-inspiring performance by the First Company and celebrated this year’s **Janet K. Miller Award** recipient, civic leader, and community activist **Dianne Cleaver**. The evening continued with dinner, dancing, and a live auction at the Loews Kansas City hotel.

Thanks to the generous patrons, the KCFAA 2023 Gala raised **\$500,000** in support of Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey’s mission to make dance accessible to all, including programs that help youth learn critical life skills through dance. KCFAA graciously received contributions from over 100 valued sponsors, including presenting sponsor, T-Mobile. For more information, visit kcfaa.org/gala.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, founded in 1958 by the ultra-talented dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey, has reached worldwide audiences with their moving repertory. They’ve performed for an estimated 25 million people in 48 states and 71 countries across six continents. Their dance combines modern works of today with timeless past works of Ailey including his classic, *Revelations*.

KCFAA was honored to bring the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater back to Kansas City for the first time since 2017. “The Company brought pure magic into the theater with their dazzling performance of new works like *Are You in Your Feelings* by the fabulous Kyle Abraham, and their signature piece and crowd favorite, *Revelations*. I am grateful to our Kansas City audience who came out in big numbers to let AAADT know how much they are loved by this community,” says Melanie Miller, KCFAA’s Chief Executive Officer.

Save the date for April 19-20, 2024, when Ailey II will perform at the Folly Theater.

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 alvinailey.org.

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