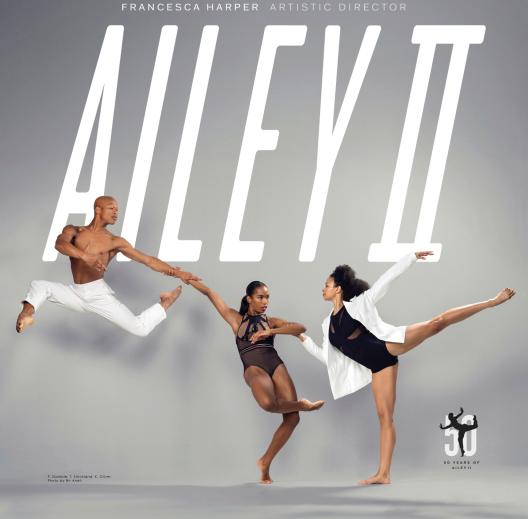
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LUMINOUS

(2023)

Choreography by Francesca Harper Choreographic Assistants: Tim Stickney, Rachel Yoo, and Raven Joseph Music by Nona Hendryx* Costume design Elias Gurrola Lighting design by Tsubasa Kamei

The Company

Francesca Harper's *Luminous* has been made possible, in part, by a commissioning grant from the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation.

* "Testimony" performed by Sweet Honey in the Rock, written by Ferron, courtesy of Nemisis Publishing. "Angelica" by Duke Ellington and John Coltrane, courtesy of Sony Music Publishing. "Philadelphia Morning" by Bill Conti, courtesy of EMI Music Publishing.

-INTERMISSION-

DIVINING (Excerpt) (1984)

Choreography by Judith Jamison Restaged by Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish Music by Kimati Dinizulu and Monti Ellison Original costume design by Masazumi Chaya Costumes redesigned by Andy Kay Original lighting by Chenault Spence Lighting redesign by Timothy Hunter

Maya Finman-Palmer

-PAUSE-

ENEMY IN THE FIGURE

(Excerpt) (2023)

Choreography, stage, original lighting, and costume design by William Forsythe Staged with Thomas McManus Music by Thom Willems Lighting design recreated by Ethan Saiewitz Lighting consultant: Francesca Harper

The Company

William Forsythe has been active in the field of choreography for over 50 years. His three decades of work with his ensembles Ballet Frankfurt and The Forsythe Company in Frankfurt, Germany, exerted significant influence upon generations of artists in a wide array of creative practices.

The creation of Enemy in the Figure is supported by Robert Press.

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 The Company

Music arranged by Hall Johnson*

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel

Music arranged by James Miller+

Xhosa Scott, Jennifer M. Gerken, Kayla Mei-Wan Thomas

Fix Me, Jesus Kali Marie Oliver, Andrew Bryant

Music arranged by Hall Johnson*

Take Me to the Water

Processional/Honor, Honor Darion Turner, Maggy van den Heuvel, Music adapted/arranged by Howard A. Roberts Xhosa Scott, Patrick Gamble

Wade in the Water

Music adapted/arranged by Howard A. Roberts

Kiri Moore, Alfred L. Jordan,

Maya Finman-Palmer

"Wade in the Water" sequence by Ella Jenkins.

"A Man Went Down to the River" is an original composition by Ella Jenkins.

I Wanna Be Ready Andrew Bryant

Music arranged by James Miller+

Move, Members, Move

Sinner Man Xhosa Scott, Spencer Everett, Jaryd Farcon Music adapted/arranged by Howard A. Roberts

The Day is Past and Gone The Company

Music adapted/arranged by Howard A. Roberts and Brother John Sellers

You May Run On The Company

Music adapted/arranged by Howard A. Roberts and Brother John Sellers

Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham

Music adapted/arranged by Howard A. Roberts

The Company

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+ 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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Francesca Harper, Artistic Director

Sylvia Waters, Artistic Director Emerita

Company Members

Andrew Bryant, Spencer Everett, Jaryd Farcon, Maya Finman-Palmer, Patrick Gamble, Alfred L. Jordan II, Kiri Moore, Corinth Moulterie, Kali Marie Oliver, Tamia Strickland, Kayla Mei-Wan Thomas, Maggy van den Heuvel

Alia Kache, Rehearsal Director

Apprentices

Jennifer M. Gerken, Xhosa Scott, Darion Turner, Jordyn White

Bennett Rink, Executive Director

Ailey II gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by The Glorya Kaufman Dance Foundation.

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

Programming and casting subject to change.

Company Story

This season, Ailey II marks its 50th anniversary of merging the spirit and energy of the country's finest early-career dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's outstanding and emerging choreographers.

Founded in 1974, the company embodies Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Sylvia Waters was selected by Mr. Ailey to be its founding Artistic Director, serving in that role for 38 years and helping Ailey II to flourish into one of the most popular modern dance companies, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs.

Today, Francesca Harper sits at the helm as Artistic Director of Ailey II. Ms. Harper – who trained at The Ailey School and who has choreographed for both Ailey companies – brings fresh perspectives to Mr. Ailey's legacy, while nurturing new creative voices and propelling the company forward.

FRANCESCA HARPER. Artistic Director

Francesca Harper began her professional dance career with Dance Theatre of Harlem. She was also a member of Ballett Frankfurt from 1991-1999 under the direction of William Forsythe, and she has performed on Broadway in productions including Fosse, All Shook Up, The Color Purple, Sweet Charity, and Sophisticated Ladies, and was nominated for Best Actress in a Musical by Broadway.com for her role as Billie Holiday in Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill. Ms. Harper created her first play, 50 minutes with Harriet and Phillis, produced by Anna Deavere Smith, with her aunt, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Margo Jefferson, and Paul Miller, a.k.a DJ Spooky. In 2014, she debuted her critically acclaimed one-woman show, The Look of Feeling, as a writer, actor, dancer, and vocalist. She is also the writer, producer, composer, and narrator of the documentary film To Lillian (2021). Ms. Harper has choreographed works for companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Dance Theater of Harlem, Hubbard Street II, and Tanz Graz, as well as The Francesca Harper Project, which she had founded in 2005. Her television and film credits include appearances on Boardwalk Empire, Late Night with David Letterman, and The Oprah Winfrey Show. She served as ballet consultant for the motion picture Black Swan and was featured in Zinnias – The Life of Clementine Hunter, directed by Robert Wilson. In 2013, Ms. Harper received a Living History Award during Black History Month from Long Island University and the Innovation and Technology Award for her choreography for Fashion Week with designer Louis Vuitton. She also served as co-director and choreographer for the musical Rose's War and as movement director for Tommy Hilfiger and Zendaya for their fashion show at the Apollo Theater in 2019. Ms. Harper was the creator and directorial consultant for 16 world premiere virtual films. Her latest works include a new creation for Wendy Whelan, Associate Artistic Director of New York City Ballet, and poet Marc Bamuthi Joseph. Currently, Ms. Harper is engaged as Executive Producer with Sony Pictures on a series in development, and recently she received her Masters of Fine Arts degree from Goddard College.

SYLVIA ATERS, 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 B.S. in Dance prior to moving to Paris, where she appeared regularly on television. She toured in the European company of Black Nativity and worked with Michel Descombey, then director of the Paris Opera Ballet, as well as Milko Šparembleck. She also performed in Donald McKayle's European production of Black New World and worked with Maurice Béjart's company performing 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. She has

received honorary doctorates from the State University of New York at Oswego and The Juilliard School, 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.

ALIA KACHE, Rehearsal Director

Alia Kache is the founder and director of Kachal Dance. She trained at Chattanooga Ballet and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program. Ms. Kache's dance credits include Ailey II, Companhia Dança Contemporânea, Pilobolus Creative Services, Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Metropolitan Opera's Champion, AIDA and Disney's The Lion King. As a choreographer, her works have been performed by BalletX, Ballet Memphis, Ailey II, Madison Ballet, and Houston Contemporary. Ms. Kache is a two-time Lincoln City Fellow and former artist-in-residence with RestorationART. She is reprising her role as Ailey II rehearsal director; a role she previously held from 2012-2016.

AILEY II WHO'S WHO

ANDREW BRYANT (Miami, FL) began his formal dance training at the Young Contemporary Dance Theatre in his hometown, under the direction of Traci Young Byron. He received his BFA from Towson University where he studied under renowned artists Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Vincent Thomas, and Runqiao Du. After graduating, Mr. Bryant trained at The Ailey School as a scholarship student where he performed works by Alvin Ailey, Bradley Shelver, and Rebecca Margolick. This is his second season with Ailey II.

SPENCER EVERETT (Stratford, ON, Canada) graduated from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in 2022 with an honorable mention in dance and departmental honors in visual arts. He began his dance training in a variety of techniques at a local studio in his hometown. Mr. Everett also trained at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre as a scholarship student. He has worked with chorographers Omar Roman de Jesus, Helen Simoneau, Yusha Marie-Sorzano, Jamar Roberts, and Yoshito Sakuraba, and performed in Alvin Ailey's Memoria during Ailey's 2019 and 2021 New York City Center seasons. This is his second season with Ailey II.

JARYD FARCON (Fords, NJ) received his degree from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program and is a graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. Mr. Farcon is a National YoungArts Foundation winner in dance and worked with Mikhail Baryshnikov and Julie Taymor. He appeared on Dancing With The Stars, So You Think You Can Dance, and in recording music group BTS's "Permission to Dance" United Nations General Assembly music video. He trained in summer programs at Jacob's Pillow, Orsolina 28, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, and Ballet Hispánico. This is his second season with Ailey II.

MAYA FINMAN-PALMER (Madison, WI) graduated from The Ailey School where she trained in the Certificate Program. She attended summer intensives at Ballet Hispánico, Jennifer Archibald's ArchCore40, Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, Kanopy Dance Academy, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and The Ailey School. Ms. Finman-Palmer performed as a soloist in Prelude & Fugue, choreographed by Lisa Thurrell, and in Next@Graham. She also danced in Memoria during Ailey's 2021 New York City Center season. Ms. Finman-Palmer has performed works by choreographers Patrick Coker, Amy Hall Garner, Martha Graham, Bradley Shelver, and Alvin Ailey. This is her second season with Ailey II.

PATRICK GAMBLE (Queens, NY) began his dance training at the age of five in The Ailey School's Junior Division. He recently graduated from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program with a double major in Art History, through the generosity of the Glorya Kaufman Scholarship. Mr. Gamble also trained at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Jacob's Pillow, Move NYC's Sweat, Orsolina 28, and Springboard Danse Montreal. He performed works by Robert Battle, Ohad Naharin, William Forsythe, Rena Butler, and Francesca Harper, and has appeared on the television shows Saturday Night Live, Gossip Girl, and HBO's Random Acts of Flyness. This is Mr. Gambles second season with Ailey II.

ALFRED L. JORDAN II (Memphis, TN) began his dance training at the age of 12 at a local studio in his hometown. He later studied at The Ailey School where he trained as a scholarship student. In 2021, Mr. Jordan performed in Alvin Ailey's Bird Live during Ailey's New York City Center gala, and in 2022, he danced in Robert Battle's Awakening at Ailey's Spirit Gala at Lincoln Center. He has worked with choreographers including Amy Hall Garner, Bradley Shelver, Stephanie Batten Bland, and Judine Somerville. This is Mr. Jordan's first season with Ailey II.

KIRI MOORE (Culpeper, VA) began her dance training in Virginia at the Orange School of Performing Arts, and continued to study in Philadelphia, PA at The Rock School for Dance Education. She is a graduate of The Ailey School Certificate Program where she performed in Alvin Ailey's Memoria during Ailey's 2021 New York City Center season. Ms. Moore has also worked with choreographers Amy Hall Garner, Bradley Shelver, Patrick Coker, Hollie Wright, and Judine Somerville. This is her first season with Ailey II.

CORINTH MOULTERIE (Brooklyn, NY) graduated from Brooklyn High School of the Arts, where he began his formal dance training, while also studying at Harlem School of the Arts. He has trained at MOVE | NYC | 's Young Professionals Program, Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive, Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts, and at The Ailey School as a Scholarship student. Mr. Moulterie has worked with choreographers, including Jeroboam Bozeman, Francesca Harper, Earl Mosley, Jermaine Spivy, Spenser Theberge and Leyland Simmons, and performed in Alvin Ailey's Memoria during Ailey's 2022 New York City Center Season. This is his first season with Ailey II.

KALI MARIE OLIVER (Akron, Ohio) graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program. She began her formal dance training with her mother and attended summer intensives at Chautauqua Institution, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and The Ailey School. Ms. Oliver has performed works by Alvin Ailey, Karole Armitage, William Forsythe, Andrea Miller, William Isaac, and Maurya Kerr. She also performed in Mr. Ailey's Memoria during the 2018, 2019, and 2021 Ailey New York City Center seasons and represented The Ailey School in the 2019 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This is Ms. Oliver's second season with Ailey II.

TAMIA STRICKLAND (Silver Springs, MD) began her dance training at the age of six. She is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program, where she received the 2021 Denise Jefferson Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Strickland performed in the 2020 Ailey Virtual Season, and in Ailey's 2021 Opening Night Gala at New York City Center. She has worked with choreographers, including Hope Boykin, Clifton Brown, Freddie Moore, Matthew Rushing, Janice Rosario, Chuck Wilt, and Sarah O'Gleby. This is her second season with Ailey II.

KAYLA MEI-WAN THOMAS (Cleveland, OH) graduated summa cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in 2022 with a double major in Digital Technologies and Emerging Media. In 2020, she was the recipient of the Denise Jefferson Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Thomas has performed works by Robert Battle, Hope Boykin, and Helen Simoneau, and has danced with the Nai Ni Chen Dance Company. This is her first season with Ailey II.

MAGGY VAN DEN HEUVEL (Houten, Utrecht, Netherlands) graduated in 2018 from Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts in Amsterdam. She trained as a scholarship student at The Ailey School where she received the Joan Weill Spirit Award. Ms. van den Heuvel has performed works by Anthony Burrell, Yusha-Marie Sorzano, Ray Mercer, Norbert De La Cruz, and Kirven J. Boyd. She has appeared on The Today Show, Good Morning America, Extra TV, and was a lead dancer in Teyana Taylor's music video Lose Each Other featuring Elton John. She is also a recipient of a Young Talent Award by Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds. This is Ms. van den Heuvel's second season with Ailey II.

APPRENTICES

JENNIFER M. GERKEN (Houston, TX) began her dance training at age six. In 2016, she was accepted into Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. In 2019, Ms. Gerken received the Mary Martha Lappe Dance Scholarship, and performed in an excerpt of Appalachian Spring by Martha Graham in the roles of the Bride and Follower. She was a student in the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program where she graduated in 2023. Ms. Gerken has performed works by Helen Simoneau, Mark Caserta, Ethan Colangelo, José Limón, and Paul Taylor. This is her first season as an apprentice with Ailey II.

XHOSA SCOTT (Los Angeles, CA) was raised in Virginia where he began his dance training at The School of Richmond Ballet. He also trained at Baltimore School for the Arts, and attended summer intensives at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and The Juilliard School. Mr. Scott graduated from the Professional Children's School in New York City, and attended The University of Virginia where he majored in Art History with a minor in Anthropology. He is in the Scholarship Program at The Ailey School and has performed works by choreographers including Ronald K Brown, Amy Hall Garner, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. This is Mr. Scott's first season as an apprentice with Ailey II.

DARION TURNER (Clayton County, GA) began his dance training at AileyCamp Atlanta and attended Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts. He studied on scholarship at Atlanta Ballet, Eagles Landing Dance Center, and in The Ailey School's Summer Intensive. Mr. Turner is a graduate from the Certificate Program at The Ailey School and worked with choreographers Darrell Grand Moultrie, Anthony Burrell, Amy Hall Garner, and Ronald K. Brown. He also performed works by Robert Battle, Geoffrey Holder, and danced in Alvin Ailey's Memoria during Ailey's 2022 New York City Center season. This is his first season as an apprentice with Ailey II.

JORDYN WHITE (West Palm Beach, FL) graduated from Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts high school. She began her dance training at Raskin Dance Studio in Florida and attended summer intensives at Joffrey, Modas Dance, and The Ailey School. Ms. White performed works by choreographers Elyse Borne, Judine Somerville, Solomon Dumas, and Ronald K. Brown, and danced in Alvin Ailey's Memoria during Ailey's 2022 New York City Center season. She is currently a student in The Ailey School's Certificate Program, and she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at the University of Florida. This is Ms. White's first season as an apprentice with Ailey II.

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by Mark Dunn

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