



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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The Joan Weill Center for Dance 405 West 55th St, New York NY 10019-4402 (212) 405-9000 AlvinAiley.org

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director  
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER RETURNS TO NEW YORK CITY CENTER NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 24

**Celebratory Opening Night Gala Launches Four-Week Season Featuring  
World Premiere of Kyle Abraham's *Are You in Your Feelings?*, Company Premiere of  
Twyla Tharp's *Roy's Joys*, and New Production of Alvin Ailey's *Survivors***

**Highlights Also Include New York City Center Premieres of Ailey Performing Paul Taylor's  
*DUET*, Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*, as well as  
Ailey & Jazz Live Music Performances**

**Tickets Starting at \$29 are on Sale Now!**

**NEW YORK — UPDATED September 29, 2022 —** [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#), New York City Center's Principal Dance Company and America's cultural ambassador to the world, announces highlights of its always-anticipated annual season at New York City Center. Returning to its "home" theater for four weeks November 30 - December 24, 2022, the Ailey company presents a world premiere by Kyle Abraham, the company premiere of Twyla Tharp's *Roy's Joys*, and a new production of Alvin Ailey's *Survivors*. Programs also feature the Company's City Center premieres of Paul Taylor's *DUET*, Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*, and *Ailey & Jazz* programs performed with live music. Beginning with a one-night-only Opening Night Gala special program on November 30, the season showcases over half a dozen classic works by founder Alvin Ailey, including the always-inspiring, must-see masterpiece *Revelations*.

**Artistic Director Robert Battle** says, "The repertory I have chosen for this season puts audiences back in touch with some of the richest, deepest works Alvin Ailey ever choreographed, shows off the brilliance of our dancers in pieces by great contemporaries of Mr. Ailey—Twyla Tharp and Paul Taylor—and introduces everyone to amazing new works by Kyle Abraham and Jamar Roberts that find reservoirs of love and resilience in our complicated lives and times. This is going to be a season overflowing with the joy of connections—eclectic, surprising, moving connections—between eras, between dancemakers, and between people."

On **Friday, December 2 at 8pm** acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham presents his third commission for the Ailey company, *Are You In Your Feelings?*, celebrating Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a "mixtape" of soul, hip-hop, and R&B, the work explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory.

Continuing to expand its diverse repertory, the company offers its premiere of Twyla Tharp's silky and sultry *Roy's Joys* (1997), embodying the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge on **Friday, December 9 at 8pm**. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, *Roy's Joys* exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Tharp at her rollicking best.

Taking the stage on **Tuesday, December 7 at 7:30pm** is a new production of [Survivors](#) (1986), Alvin Ailey's impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, which has not been seen since 1988. A soundtrack of Max Roach's richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln's powerful vocals sets the emotional tone for a work that presents a portrait of people transformed by injustice and lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

Following acclaimed premieres earlier this year, the Company presents Paul Taylor's 1964 [DUET](#), set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn and portraying a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true; and [In a Sentimental Mood](#) by Jamar Roberts, an intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple that becomes an exploration of love and desire. The work is set to an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia. Along with Alvin Ailey's classics [Cry](#), [Memoria](#), and [Revelations](#), the season features a number of the founder's works set to the music of the great Duke Ellington, including [Night Creature](#), [Reflections in D](#), [Pas de Duke](#), and [The River](#).

Special season programs include **Ailey & Ellington**, showcasing four ballets Alvin Ailey created that celebrate the musical genius of Duke Ellington (December 3, 4 mat); **All Ailey** performances comprised entirely of works by Alvin Ailey (December 7, 10 eve); **Ailey Classics** spotlighting timeless favorites (December 10 mat, 13 eve); and **All New** programs of season premieres and new productions (December 17, 21, 23 eve). **Ailey & Jazz live music performances** featuring rising stars of the future of jazz will take place on December 16 eve, 17 mat and 18 mat. The **Ailey Classics** program on **December 13** will pay tribute to cherished **Chairman Emeritus Stanley Plesent**, who was pivotal in establishing the Board of Trustees 50 years ago and leading it for 16 years. A close confidante of Mr. Ailey and a constant presence at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater events and performances, Stanley was a passionate supporter who remained actively involved on the Board until his passing earlier this year.

The engagement also includes **Family Matinee** performances each **Saturday at 2pm** (December 3, 10, 17 \*except Christmas eve), followed by a Q&A session with Ailey's revered dancers. Whether watching as a child for the first time, as a parent remembering his or her childhood experience with dance, or as a family that has made Ailey a holiday tradition, all can enjoy the magic of Ailey. Ailey fans are in for a treat Saturday, December 10 when Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, who is **celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, is featured in a Q&A session. Inspiring Ailey audiences since 1992, Matthew was acclaimed as "The Peyton Manning of Dance" and has been revered as one of the great male dancers on the American stage. For three decades he has dedicated his life to the Ailey organization by touching the hearts and minds of audiences around the world with his unparalleled artistry and electrifying spirit. **A performance schedule is attached (subject to change).**

This season Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater proudly welcomes five new dancers, four of whom trained in the Ailey organization. [Alisha Rena Peek](#) (Upper Marlboro, MD) and [Deidre Rogan](#) (Fort Myers, FL) are both graduates of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program and former members of Ailey II, [Hannah Alissa Richardson](#) (Toronto, Ontario Canada) is a former member of Ailey II and a graduate of The Ailey School Certificate Program, while [Christopher Taylor](#) (Newark, NJ) is a former Ailey School scholarship student and former member of Ailey II. [Xavier Mack](#) (Washington, D.C.) previously performed for five years with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

**Tickets starting at \$29 are on sale Tuesday, October 11** at the New York City Center box office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). Discount tickets are available for Ailey Super Fans who purchase tickets for more than one performance, for students with an appropriate ID, and for groups of 10 or more (discounts do not apply to \$29 tickets). For group sales, call 212-405-9082 or email [groupsales@alvinailey.org](mailto:groupsales@alvinailey.org). Ailey Young New York invites those between the ages of 21 – 35 to purchase 50% off tickets \$75 and over for all performances December 1 – December 24 with promo code MODERN (up to 4 tickets). For further information about Ailey's New York City Center season, please visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

Your health and safety are our top priority. Masks must be worn by all audience members at all times. [Read more here](#) about performance COVID-19 protocols.

Ahead of the New York City Center engagement, fans can join in learning classic Ailey style and choreography from cherished former Company members during [Ailey Extension's](#) Saturday workshop series. Associate Artistic Director [Matthew Rushing](#) celebrates his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Company by leading a [Contemporary Modern Masterclass](#) on **November 19 at 3pm ET** teaching participants how to explore their personal dance style and discover unfamiliar ways of moving. Students from all corners of the earth can learn classic moves from Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece when Director of Ailey Extension [Lisa Johnson-Willingham](#) leads a free online [Revelations Around the World Workshop](#) on **December 3 at 3pm ET**. Dancers can dive into Alvin Ailey's classically influenced choreography during a [Night Creature Workshop](#) on **December 10 at 3pm ET** led by Ailey Extension Instructor [Sarita Allen](#), a world-renowned dancer who was in the original cast of [Night Creature](#) and chosen by Mr. Ailey himself to perform the lead role. Ailey Extension's special workshops and weekly "real classes for real people" are open to students of all levels—no prior dance experience is necessary to join in the fun! For more details or to sign up, please visit [alvinailey.org/extension](http://alvinailey.org/extension).

Following Ailey's season launch in New York, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will reach over 20 cities from coast-to-coast during a [North American tour](#), which kicks off **Black History Month** with a **Friday, February 3** opening in **Toronto**. Other stops on the 22-city tour include Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, and Boston, **culminating with a Mother's Day performance in Newark on Sunday, May 14**. A tour schedule is below (subject to change).

*The 2022 Winter Season is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.*

*In a Sentimental Mood* is made possible with support from Maury & Joseph Bohan, Peter S. Croncota, and Tarell Alvin McCraney.

Leadership support for the world premiere of *For Four* is provided by Pamela D. Zilly & John H. Schaefer.

The world premiere of *For Four* is made possible with major support from Melinda & Paul Pressler, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn & Nicolas S. Rohatyn, The Ellen Jewett & Richard L. Kauffman New Works Endowment Fund, Elaine & Lawrence J. Rothenberg, Denise Littlefield Sobel, and the Red Moose Charitable Fund.

*For Four* is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Support for this production of *Pas de Duke* was provided by The Ellen Jewett & Richard L. Kauffman New Works Endowment Fund, and Daria L. & Eric J. Wallach.

The original Ailey production was made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, and by a grant from Ford Foundation.

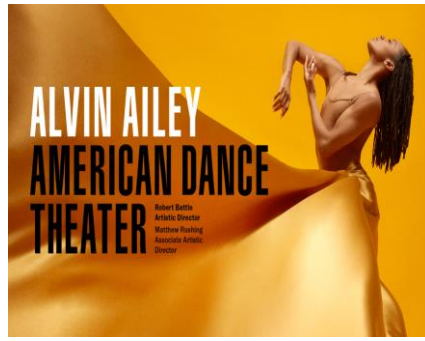
Generous support for the original production was also received from Laren & Jesse Brill.

Generous support for this production of *The River* was provided by Celestine & Howard Campbell, Denise Littlefield Sobel, and The Jaharis Family Foundation.

The original Ailey production was made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, and by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

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.

For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org). Press materials and photos are available at [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).



L to R: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Ghrai DeVore-Stokes and Chalvar Monteiro in Jamar Roberts' *In a Sentimental Mood*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; 2022 New York City Center Season Image. Photo by Dario Calmese; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Dario Calmese.

Please credit photos. [Ctrl+Click the photos for hi-res download](#)

## **WORLD PREMIERE**

***Are You in Your Feelings?*** (2022 World Premiere)

**Choreography by Kyle Abraham**

Acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham's newest work is a celebration of Black culture, Black music, and the youthful spirit that perseveres in us all. Scored to a "mixtape" of soul, hip-hop, and R&B, it explores the connections among music, communication, and personal memory.

## **COMPANY PREMIERE**

***Roy's Joys*** (1997 / 2022 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Twyla Tharp**

This silky, sultry work embodies the spontaneity of a 1940s and 50s jazz soundtrack by Roy Eldridge. Mixing vernacular dance with ballet and modern technique, it exudes an easy, carefree energy that shows Tharp at her rollicking best.

## **NEW PRODUCTION**

***Survivors*** (1986 / New Production 2022)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey and Mary Barnett**

**Music: Max Roach ("Survivors" and "Triptych"), strings orchestrated by Peter Phillips**

Alvin Ailey's impassioned tribute to the profound courage and terrible anguish of Nelson and Winnie Mandela is, more broadly, a portrait of people transformed by injustice. Max Roach's richly varied drumming and Abbey Lincoln's vocals set the emotional tone for this powerful work that lifts up those who resist oppression in any form.

## **CITY CENTER PREMIERES**

***In a Sentimental Mood*** (2022 World Premiere)

**Choreography by Jamar Roberts**

**Music: Duke Ellington and Rafiq Bhatia**

An intimate scene from the domestic life of a couple becomes an exploration of love and desire in the world premiere by Jamar Roberts. Using an original composition by Duke Ellington and four jazz standards given an avant-garde twist by composer Rafiq Bhatia, Roberts bridges the past and present, making these musical classics freshly relevant and timely.

***DUET*** (1964 / 2022 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Paul Taylor**

**Music: Franz Josef Haydn**

Paul Taylor's 1964 *DUET*, set to the music of Franz Josef Haydn, is a testament to the simplicity and clarity of Taylor's craft. Brief and beautifully shaped, it portrays a love, perhaps not new, but rather tried and true.

## **RETURNING FAVORITES**

**BUSK** (2009 / 2019 Company Premiere)

**Choreography by Aszure Barton**

**Music: Marcus Vinicius da Cruz de M. Morales, August Soderman, Ljova, Camille Saint-Saëns, Moondog, Daniel Belanger**

Internationally renowned choreographer Aszure Barton invites us to enjoy the fragility, tenderness, and resilience that exist within the human experience. Set to a spirited score, *BUSK* has been described as watching the physical unfurling of the human psyche. Under Barton's direction, every facet of the dancers' bodies and minds is engaged, and the complex layering of movement reveals the inherent wisdom of the body. The dancers must tap into the collective—a hive mind—in order to execute Barton's layered and intricate choreographic structures that then give way to the nuance of each individual. The audience is invited into the work and the performers—as they are—are celebrated as enough.

**Night Creature** (1975)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Duke Ellington**

A bubbly champagne cocktail of a dance, *Night Creature* perfectly fuses Alvin Ailey's buoyant choreography and Duke Ellington's sparkling music in a definitive homage to The Duke's jazz that remains one of Mr. Ailey's most popular works. Ellington said "night creatures, unlike stars, do not come OUT at night— they come ON, each thinking that, before the night is out, he or she will be the star." The large ensemble work is full of stars - strutting, leaping and slinking using modern dance, classical ballet and jazz.

**Pas de Duke** (1976 / New Production 2021)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Duke Ellington**

*Pas de Duke* was Alvin Ailey's modern dance translation of a classical pas de deux honoring two of the most renowned dancers in the world, Judith Jamison and Mikhail Baryshnikov, and celebrating the musical genius of Duke Ellington (1899-1974). Originally presented as part of the festival "Ailey Celebrates Ellington" at Lincoln Center's New York State Theater in 1976, it commemorated the nation's bicentennial with America's two great art forms—modern dance and jazz music. Its five sections reflect the sassy sophistication of Ellington's music: the introduction to "Such Sweet Thunder" (1957); the pas de deux to "Sonnet for Caesar" (1975); the male solo to "Sonnet for Hank Cinq" (1957); the female solo to "Unclothed Woman" (1948); and the finale to "Old Man's Blues" (1930), which captured the exuberance of the star dancers' qualities and techniques as the male and female soloists mirror each other toe-to-toe and line-for-line in this playful, good-natured competition.

**Reflections in D** (1962 / New Production 2021)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Duke Ellington**

Alvin Ailey originally created this stunning, masterful expression of Duke Ellington's music in 1962 as a strong yet serene solo for himself. Known to highlight the grace, artistry, and power of the male dancer, the three-minute ballet has been called "a tone poem, a quiet, sparking jewel" by Judith Jamison. *Reflections in D* has been performed over the years by some of the most formidable of Ailey dancers, including Dudley Williams and Matthew Rushing.

**The River** (1970 / New Production 2021)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Original Score: Duke Ellington**

Alvin Ailey's acclaimed collaboration with Duke Ellington was choreographed and composed in 1970 for American Ballet Theatre and first performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1980. One of 14 dances Ailey created to Ellington's music, *The River* is set to Ellington's only symphonic score written specifically for dance. Combining classical ballet, modern dance, and jazz, the suite suggests tumbling rapids and slow currents on its voyage to the great sea, mirroring the journey of life. With Ailey's mixture of light and playful yet also dark and romantic choreography balanced with Ellington's score, the work is an abstract celebration of birth, life, and rebirth. Robert Battle commented: "*The River* shows Alvin Ailey's range as a choreographer, and certainly the versatility of the dancers. Mr. Ailey always seemed to have a passport through all the different genres of dance while still retaining his essence."



## **SIGNATURE MASTERPIECE**

**Revelations** (1960)

**Choreography by Alvin Ailey**

**Music: Traditional Spirituals**

More than just a popular dance work, *Revelations* has become a cultural treasure, beloved by generations of fans and acclaimed as a must-see for all. Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece is a tribute to his heritage. Using African American spirituals, the work fervently explores the places of deepest grief and holiest joy in the soul. Seeing *Revelations* for the first time or the hundredth can be a transcendent experience. Audiences cheer, sing along, and dance in their seats from the opening notes of the plaintive "I Been 'Buked" to the rousing "Wade in the Water" and the triumphant finale, "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham."

**\* All Programming – Subject to Change**

## **Season Repertory**

In addition to the premieres, new productions, and returning favorites listed above, the season repertory includes:

*Blues Suite* – Alvin Ailey (1958)

Music: Traditional, Brother John Sellers

*Cry* – Judith Jamison (1971)

Music: Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, Voices of East Harlem

*For Four* – Robert Battle (2021)

Music: Wynton Marsalis

*Memoria* – Alvin Ailey (1970)

Music: Keith Jarrett

**CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE - TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

**Nov 30 – Dec 24, 2022, at New York City Center**

**131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues, New York, NY**

**(212) 581-1212 / [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org)**

## **CALENDAR LISTING INFORMATION**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, beloved as one of the world's most popular dance companies, returns to **New York City Center November 30 – December 24, 2022**, for a season that has become a joyous holiday tradition. Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, Ailey's extraordinary dancers move audiences with world and company premieres by Kyle Abraham, Jamar Roberts, Paul Taylor, and Twyla Tharp. In addition to repertory favorites and the must-see American masterpiece *Revelations*, founder Alvin Ailey's choreography is spotlighted with a new production of *Survivors* and the staging of over half a dozen classics, including works from the legendary collaboration with Duke Ellington danced to live music at some performances. **Tickets starting at \$29 go on sale October 11** at the New York City Center Box Office, through CityTix® at (212) 581-1212, or online at [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org) or [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). For further information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

## **Performance Times:**

Opening Night Gala (November 30)	7:00pm (note earlier curtain time)
Tuesday - Thursday evenings	7:30pm
Wednesday matinee (December 21)	2:00pm
Friday & Saturday evenings	8:00pm
Saturday matinees	2:00pm
Sunday matinees	3:00pm

## **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, 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 six continents, 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 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 world during extensive 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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER**  
**2023 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR**  
(as of 8/18/22)

Feb 3-4	Toronto, ON	Meridian Hall
Feb 7-12 <a href="#">Arts</a>	Washington, DC	<a href="#">Opera House, John F. Kennedy Center for the Perf.</a>
Feb 16-19	Atlanta, GA	The Fox Theatre
Feb 21-22	Charlotte, NC	<a href="#">Belk Theater, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center</a>
Feb 24-26	Philadelphia, PA	<a href="#">Academy of Music, Kimmel Cultural Campus</a>
Feb 28-Mar 1	Blacksburg, VA	<a href="#">Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech</a>
Mar 3-5	Memphis, TN	<a href="#">Orpheum Theatre</a>
Mar 8-12	Chicago, IL	<a href="#">Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University</a>
Mar 17-19	Detroit, MI	<a href="#">Detroit Opera House</a>
Mar 21	Lincoln, NE	<a href="#">Lied Center for the Performing Arts</a>
Mar 24-25	Kansas City, MO	<a href="#">Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts</a>
Apr 4-5	San Diego, CA	<a href="#">San Diego Civic Theatre</a>
Apr 7-8	Mesa, AZ	<a href="#">Mesa Arts Center</a>
Apr 11-16	Berkeley, CA	<a href="#">Zellerbach Hall, Univ. of CA at Berkeley</a>
Apr 18-19	Davis, CA	<a href="#">Mondavi Center for the Perf. Arts, Univ. of CA at Davis</a>
Apr 22-23	Dallas, TX	<a href="#">Music Hall at Fair Park</a>
Apr 25	Newport News, VA	<a href="#">Ferguson Center for the Arts</a>
Apr 28-30	Norfolk, VA	<a href="#">Chrysler Hall</a>
May 2	Burlington, VT	The Flynn
May 4-7	Boston, MA	<a href="#">Boch Center Wang Theatre</a>
May 9	Pittsburgh, PA	<a href="#">Benedum Center for the Performing Arts</a>
May 12-14	Newark, NJ	<a href="#">Prudential Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center</a>