

FOCUS

The celebrated Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Portland for two performances, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14 and 15 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, presented by White Bird.

For over 45 years, the Alvin Ailey dancers have earned a reputation as one of the most celebrated ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of African American cultural expression and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance heritage.

Under the incomparable direction of Ailey's legendary dancer and artistic director Judith Jamison, the company has built a reputation as the premier American dance company, one displaying unparalleled artistry, electrifying energy and boundless passion.

The company is scheduled to perform two different programs while in Portland, both culminating in Alvin Ailey's masterpiece "Revelations." Set to the African-American spirituals Ailey heard as a child, Revelations was inspired by his memories of attending Baptist services in Texas and his acquaintances with African-American writers James Baldwin and Langston Hughes.

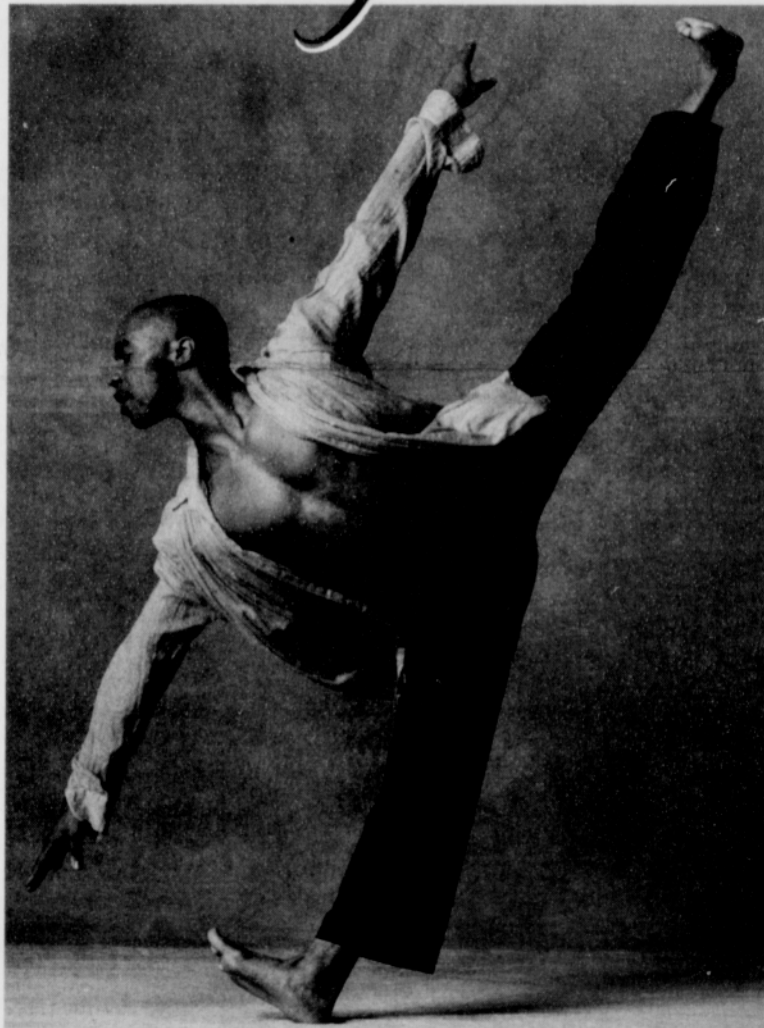
The first program on Tuesday, March 14, will open with Jamison's *Reminiscent*. Taking its inspiration from the great female jazz artists Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Roberta Flack, Regina Carter and Diana Krall as well as Edward Hopper's painting *Nighthawks*, *Reminiscent* captures the essence of loving relationships.

The second program is *Vespers*, a dramatic work for the Ailey women, full of raw energy and profound grace. Next on the program is *Caught*, a breathtaking fusion of art and tech-



The thrilling Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's world premiere of *Reminiscent* is set to music by jazz greats.

Beauty and Grace Alvin Ailey dancers are ambassadors of culture



Matthew Rushing brings African American culture and expression to life with the Alvin Ailey dancers.

nology.

The Wednesday March 15, performance opens with *IFE/My Heart* by Ronald K. Brown for the Ailey Company. Using his signature fusion of modern, hip-hop and African dance, Brown has created a stirring piece about love and family.

Next on the program is *Urban Folk Dance*, a compact dance displaying the seamless blend of expressive theatricality and heart-stopping

athleticism. *Solo*, a seven-minute tour-de-force work for three male dancers, follows. Expressing three sides of the same man, the kinetic work launches the three dancers across the stage in an explosive display of physicality and wit.

Tickets are available at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office or at any Ticketmaster outlet, 503-790-2787 or online at ticketmaster.com.



Judith Jamison



Dezarie



Ikahba

Roots Reggae at Berbati's Pan

Two popular musicians will bring their roots reggae sounds from the island of St. Croix to Portland on Friday, March 3 for a 9 p.m. performance at Berbati's Pan, 231 S.W. Ankeny.

Dezarie and Ikahba blend rootsy rhythms with conscious chanting to give reggae a unique sound. The style of singing is personified by younger DJs pelting out firebrand lyrics at break neck speeds. Voting rights, social justice and other real life issues make their performances clearly a "people's

music."

Dezarie has been given the royal title of "Roots Empress." Her mesmerizing soothing vocals counteract with sharp, caustic and forceful chants to create sounds that resonate on all wavelengths. Ikahba (Ariel Peterson) also has some very soothing vocals which balance out nicely with his tough chants.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and available at Berbati's Pan, Jackpot Records locations or the New Born Tribe at Northeast Martin Luther King Boulevard and Fremont Street.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

JUDITH JAMISON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, Masazumi Chaya ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

"Wherever they go...they raise the roof...the sheer joy flooding across the footlights is irresistible."

-Time Out London



2 Exciting programs each featuring Ailey's Masterpiece "Revelations"

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

MARCH 14 & 15, 7:30PM

ARLENE SCHNITZER CONCERT HALL

Tickets: \$19-\$60 plus service fee. Discounts for students/seniors/groups. PCPA Box Office and ticketmaster 503-790-2787. Info./Groups: 503.245.1600 ext.201

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WELLS FARGO

CLIFTON BROWN PHOTO BY ANDREW ECCLES