

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Learn more about the upcoming performance of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

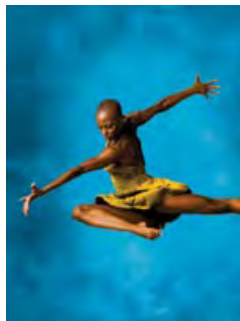
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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

A Visions and Voices event



Friday, April 15, 2011

5:15pm - 11:00pm

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
Los Angeles

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Research Guide for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

This research guide is designed to support the April 15, 2011, Visions and Voices event, [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)

*This trip is for current USC students only. You must use the provided transportation to participate. Space is limited and advance registration is required. Due to high demand, tickets will be distributed on a lottery basis. Check-in for the event will begin at 5:15 p.m. on campus. Buses will depart at 6 p.m. and return to campus at 11 p.m. Dinner will be provided at check-in.

For further information on this event:
visionsandvoices@usc.edu

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About Alvin Ailey and the Company

Though born in Rogers, Texas in 1931, Alvin Ailey spent much of early life in Los Angeles after his family moved here in 1942. His formative years in dance occurred under the tutelage of modern dance choreographer Lester Horton at the Horton school and company, where many modern dancers and choreographers such as Ailey and [Bella Lewitzky](#) got their start. Ailey formed the his dance company in 1958 after arriving in New York. His choreography is vibrant and dynamic, drawing from his broad training in modern dance, ballet, jazz, and African dance techniques. Following his death in 1989, the company has continued under Judith Jamison, a long time friend and dancer with the company. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues to present works of its founder as well as create new works.

At this performance the audience will experience an all Alvin Ailey choreography program: *Memoria*, *Three Black Kings*, *Cry* (a signature piece for current Artistic Director Judith Jamison), and Ailey's signature work *Revelations*.

More information about the Company can be found on at the [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) website.

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About Modern Dance

Modern dance began as a fluid and natural response to the strictures of ballet. It became an American tradition through Isadora Duncan (1877-1927), whose simple and basic movement entered into the vocabulary of dance. Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn established the foundation of the modern dance tradition through their Denishawn school which began in 1915. Many American modern dancers and choreographers today trace their antecedents to this tradition. Dance relies on the transfer of knowledge through physical instruction passed down from one dancer and/or choreographer to the next. Alvin Ailey could trace his technique to the Denishawn school through his teacher and mentor Lester Horton.

An extensive article on modern dance can be found in [Oxford Music Online](#). For more information about modern dance, follow search strategies included in this guide.

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Subject Guide



Melinda Hayes

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Featured Books



Ailey Ascending: a portrait in motion - Eccles, Andrew

Call Number: GV1786.A42A35 2008

ISBN: 9780811864800

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, this dazzling book includes both original black and white and full-color photographs by Andrew Eccles.



Ailey spirit: the journey of an American dance company - Tracy, Robert

Call Number: GV1786.A42T73 2004

ISBN: 2004005580

A breathtaking collection of photographs from the best dance photographers, along with behind-the-scenes and candid shots, illustrate every aspect of the company's history.



Dancing revelations: Alvin Ailey's embodiment of African American culture - DeFrantz, Thomas

Call Number: GV1785.A38D44 2004

ISBN: 0195154193

DeFrantz examines the most celebrated Ailey dances, including Revelations, drawing on video recordings of Ailey's dances, published interviews, oral histories, and his own interviews with former Ailey company dancers.

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About Articles in Music

Search for information about modern dance and Alvin Ailey at the resources on this page.

To expand your research, try these interdisciplinary databases, which include all of the major U.S. newspapers as well as a wide variety of journals and periodicals.

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Dance & Music Databases

- **Dance in video**
Contains 250 dance productions and documentaries by the most influential performers and companies of the 20th century.
- **Oxford Music Online**
Oxford Music Online, home of the Grove Music Online is an integrated music resource on the web, including dance.
- **International Index to Music Periodicals**
Scholarly and popular articles in music. Abstracts included for all citations. Full-text available for more recent articles. 1996-present.
- **RILM: Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale**
Abstracts of international articles, books, festschriften, dissertations, and conference proceedings in over 200 languages.
- **Music Index Online**
Index of nearly 900 domestic and international journals in music. Full-text for some articles available through JSTOR. 1973-present.

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Interdisciplinary Databases

- **IIPA: International Index to the Performing Arts**
Scholarly and popular articles in the performing arts. Abstracts for articles from 1998; full-text for more recent articles.
- **Expanded Academic ASAP**
Abstracts or citations for articles from more than 3,500 scholarly, trade and general-interest publications, as well as citations for The New York Times. Many articles are available in full-text.
- **LexisNexis Academic**
Database of full text online news, business, financial, legal, medical, biographical, government and domestic and international newspaper resources.
- **ProQuest Research Library**
ProQuest Research Library is a multi-disciplinary index. It covers dozens of subject areas and indexes thousands of scholarly and general titles and provides full-text for a significant number of the articles included. It is an excellent starting place for research for a paper, particularly if one isn't sure where to begin their research.

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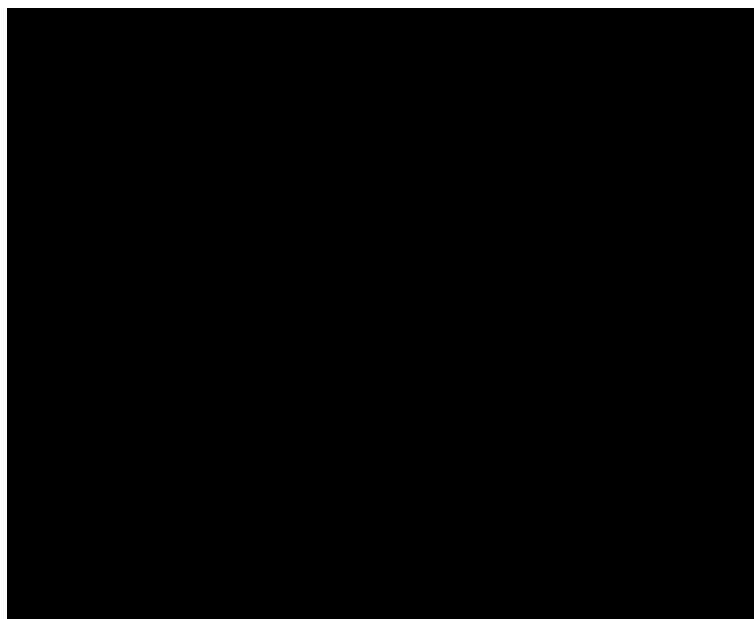
You will find more videos of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the company's website.

- YouTube**

To find more videos about the Corella Ballet Castilla y León and the simply type in the phrase "Corella Ballet" in the search box at the top of the page.

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Alvin Ailey's "Revelations"



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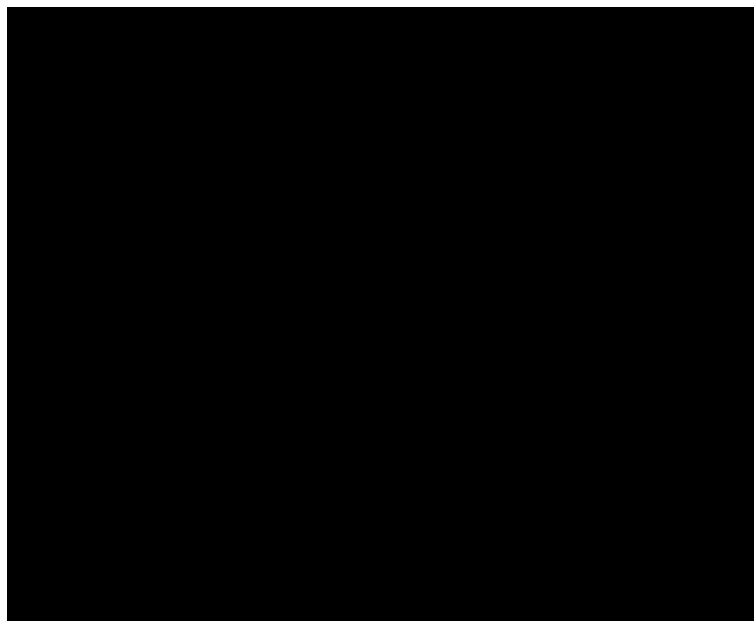
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Alvin Ailey's "Cry"



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- [First Listen: Sean Rowe, 'Madman'](#)

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Recordings at USC

Music for the dances the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performs include works by Keith Jarrett for *Memoria*, works by Duke and Mercer Ellington for *Three Black Kings*, music by Alice Coltrane, Laura Nyro, and Chuck Griffin for *Cry*, and traditional spirituals for *Revelations*.

Search [Homer](#), the USC Libraries' catalog, for CDs and LPs of these composers' music at USC. CDs are located in the [Music Library](#) and circulate for three days. LPs are located at [Grand Avenue Library](#) and can be paged through Homer.

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Streaming Audio Services

- [Music Online](#)
Music Online is the unified interface for all music databases from Alexander Street Press. These include: American Song, Classical Music Library, Contemporary World Music, and Jazz Music Library.
- [DRAM: Database of Recorded American Music](#)
Independent record label-based service. Offers a variety of music, but is especially strong in 20th century and contemporary music.
- [Naxos Music Library](#)
Comprehensive database for classical music, drawn mostly from the Naxos labels. All standard repertoire is represented.
- [Naxos Music Library: Jazz](#)
Wide selection of classic and modern jazz recordings.
- [Smithsonian Global Sound](#)
World music resource which grew from the Smithsonian Folkways recordings. Historic and contemporary releases are included.

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