



Quick Reference

Dance Event

Ailey II

Date

Wed, Oct 26, 7:30 pm

Place

Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts
2132 Hillside Road
UConn campus, Storrs, CT

Tickets

\$40, \$37, \$34

Box Office

860.486.4226
Mon–Fri, 10 am–5 pm

The Box Office window is also open for walk-up ticket sales 90 minutes before showtime.

For Immediate Release

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AILEY II DANCE TROUPE BRINGS ALVIN AILEY'S *REVELATIONS* AND MORE TO JORGENSEN

Wed, Oct 26, 2016 at 7:30 pm / Post-performance Q&A

Critically acclaimed for their stirring performances and off-the-charts-energy, the brilliant young dancers of Ailey II - the cutting edge training and touring offshoot of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater led by Artistic Director Troy Powell - will captivate audiences at UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday evening, October 26 with their performance of Alvin Ailey's timeless, spirit-lifting classic *Revelations* and two thrilling new works by emerging choreographers Ray Mercer and Kyle "JustSole" Clark. Doors open at 7:00 pm and show begins at 7:30 pm. A Q&A session will take place after the performance.

Described by The Boston Herald as "one of the most sublime dances ever choreographed", Alvin Ailey's signature masterpiece *Revelations* pays homage to and reflects the cultural heritage of the African-American, what Ailey thought of as one of America's richest treasures —"sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful." Choreographed when he was only 29 years old, *Revelations* is an intimate reflection inspired by childhood memories of attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, and by the work of writers James Baldwin and Langston Hughes. Set to a suite of traditional gospel spirituals, *Revelations* zealously explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition, from the deepest of grief to the holiest of joy. A classic tribute to the resolve and determination of a people, the ballet has been seen by more people around the world than any other modern work.

The evening's program will also feature Ailey II's presentation of *Something Tangible*. Inspired by everyday emotions that awaken and bring color to the human spirit, choreographer Ray Mercer, winner of Joffrey Ballet's Choreographers of Color Award, leads the ensemble cast into a series of vignettes that reflect sensations of love, passion, fear, and self-doubt. The work features a wide range of musical styles that include artists Max Richter, Ólafur Arnalds, Geoff Bennett, and an original score by Bongji Duma.

Also on the program is *I Am the Road*, a pulsating ensemble work in which hip-hop choreographer Kyle "JustSole" Clark treats audiences to a generous glimpse into his life as a dancer. Capturing the struggles and triumphs of a young ambitious artist finding his place in the world, Clark presents his personal journal in dance form. House dance music by Vikter Duplaix, Jeff Samuel, Nuyorican Soul, and Markus Enochson illuminate Clark's depictions of taking risks, falling in love, and remaining true to one's self.

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers.

Founded in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Ailey II's brilliant young dancers have captivated audiences for over four decades. Led by Artistic Director Troy Powell, the company brings Alvin Ailey's timeless classics and exciting new works by outstanding emerging choreographers to cities across the country and internationally, along with innovative

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AILEY II, continued

community programs that make dance accessible to all. With powerful performances rooted in a steadfast creative vision, Ailey II brings a fresh dimension to the Ailey spirit.

This year Jorgensen was voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the Hartford Courant's CTNow, as well as Connecticut Magazine's Best of Performing Arts Venues (College) for 2016. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state's educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor seats - \$40; Mezzanine - \$37; Balcony - \$34; Students & Youth Under 18 – All seats \$15.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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