

# NEWS RELEASE

## UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

[www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 2009**

**WHAT: UMass Fine Arts Center Presents  
THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER  
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
Wednesday, May 13, 7:30PM  
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall**

**Tickets available at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS or online at  
[www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com).**

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### **SPECIAL EVENT: UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER PRESENTS THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER IN THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup>-ANNIVERSARY TOUR**

Exhilarating and endlessly inspirational, the extraordinary dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater have dazzled audiences from New York City to China with their thrilling fusion of power, grace, and unparalleled artistry. The UMass Fine Arts Center is helping to mark the troupe's 50th anniversary with a very special appearance at the Concert Hall on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30PM. There will be a pre-performance talk at 6:45 in the Rand Theater adjacent to the Concert Hall lobby.

In celebration of the company's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the evening's performance begins with a screening of the short film *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at 50 – A Golden Anniversary Celebration*. The rest of evening then belongs to the dancers as they perform excerpts from some of the company's best loved pieces: *Blue's Suite*, *Cry*, *Night Creature*, *For Bird – With Love* and more. The evening concludes with the full production of the ever-popular and critically acclaimed *Revelations*.

For those who would like to gain a more historical perspective on the Ailey company, there will be a free screening of the film "Alvin Ailey: Beyond the Steps," on Sunday, May 3 at 5PM in Herter Hall on the UMass campus. A dazzling cinematic treat by award-winning filmmaker Phil Bertelsen, the film illuminates the fascinating world of modern

dance and the legacy of Alvin Ailey through breathtaking performance footage and personal stories. All are welcome.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from the now fabled performance in March 1958, at the 92nd Street Young Men's Hebrew Association in New York. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, that performance changed forever the perception of American dance.

Today, led by Artistic Director, Judith Jamison, AAADT has gone on to perform for an estimated 21 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on six continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa. The company has earned a reputation as one of the most acclaimed international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance.

This very special evening of dance is also the occasion for a Fine Arts Center Global Gourmet dinner. Join fellow audience members at the University Club and Restaurant for a prix fixe dinner. Seating begins at 5PM. For more information and reservations, patrons should call the Fine Arts Center box office.

Tickets for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater are \$50, \$40, and \$20; Five College/GCC students and youth 17 and under are \$20. Tickets are available at the Fine Arts Center Box Office, 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or online at [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com). Subscription discounts do not apply to this special event. This performance is sponsored by The Davis Group, The Daily Hampshire Gazette and WFCR 88.5FM/WNNZ 640AM

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