



VAN CURA BALLET
CONSERVATORY

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Founding Directors

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AILEY II PRESENCE IMPACTS CHATTANOOGA

History is in the making as Ballet Tennessee presents Ailey II celebrating its 50th anniversary in a return visit to Chattanooga. Ailey II will perform at the Tivoli Theater and teach master classes for children and dance students. *See itinerary below*

Ballet Tennessee brings the best of professional dance to Chattanooga's neighborhoods in the upcoming visit by Ailey II, the dynamic contemporary dance company. Ailey II embodies the spirit of Alvin Ailey's pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances. Last year's sold out performance left the audience breathless and cheering in the aisles. 'To be able to bring this fabulous company back this year is credit to the tremendous support from the city of Chattanooga, Ballet Tennessee, and dance lovers, young and old,' said Barry VanCura, executive director of Ballet Tennessee. Many audience members had never before seen a professional dance performance, including hundreds of children who were helped by the City Parks and Recreation Department and Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga in providing tickets and bus service to the event.

Another direct outcome of Ailey II's prior visit was the interest generated by the boys in the free Ailey II master class held at Brainerd Recreation Center. 'Having the male dancers work with them in the master class and then seeing these same dancers perform at the Tivoli created an excellent visual image of a positive male role model,' says Artistic Director of Ballet Tennessee Anna Baker-VanCura.

Ballet Tennessee and Parks and Recreation built on this enthusiasm by recruiting many more boys as well as girls to audition for and attend the two-week summer Dance Alive Program. Out of the 20 boys selected for the 2008 Dance Alive Program, 14 participated in the entire two weeks of daily classes and performed two all-boys dances in the culminating performance. Five of the boys from this performance received full tuition Talent Identification Program scholarships to continue their dance training at VanCura Ballet Conservatory and work towards performing with Ballet Tennessee.

The Ailey organization has inspired Ballet Tennessee's programs on many levels. Both companies have cultural diversity as a priority. Director of the Ailey School Denise Jefferson and former Ailey dancers have served as guest artists and consultants. 'What an exciting moment it will be, when the next generation of professional dancers includes young men and women came from Chattanooga's neighborhoods,' says Mr. VanCura.

November 14, Friday

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Free Master Classes for Youth taught by Ailey II Dancers from New York
The classes are geared for children ages 8-12 years of age with no or little previous dance training. They will be held at three recreation centers. To can find out more information, contact the following:

South Chattanooga Center: Call Tracy Wamp at 425-3550

Carver Center: Call Tana Walker at 697-1280

Brainerd Center: Call Jacqueline Tankersly at 425-3600

November 14, Friday

6:30-11:30 p.m.

Ballet Tennessee's Annual Fundraiser Gala at the Sheraton Read House. Tickets for the evening are \$75.00 per person to enjoy the music of OGYA, wine, dinner, a silent auction and dancing. Guests of honor are the Ailey II directors and dancers. Come meet the company in an informal social setting. **SOLD OUT**

November 15, Saturday

10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Advanced and Intermediate Master Classes are hosted by Ballet Tennessee at the Patten Recreation Center, 3202 Kelly's Ferry Road in Lookout Valley. Reservations are required to attend the master class. The fee is \$20 to be paid in cash only. Call the Ballet Office for more information and to reserve a space: 821-2055

November 15, Saturday

8:00 p.m.

Ailey II Returns to the Tivoli Theater for one performance only!
Tickets range from \$12 to \$35. The critically acclaimed New York dance company will present Alvin Ailey's timeless masterpiece, *Revelations* plus *Movin' On*, choreographed by George Faison, *Takadme* by Robert Battle and Jessica Lang's *Splendid Isolation II*.
Call the Tivoli Box Office for tickets: 757-5050 or www.ChattanoogaOnStage.com .