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The Ailey Spirit Shines at Tacoma's Pantages Theater with Ailey II With Two Performances on February 11 & 12

Presenting Partner: [Seattle Theatre Group](#)

Sponsors: [CHI Franciscan](#), [Columbia Bank](#), [DaVita](#), L.T. Murray Family Foundation | Media: [KUOW](#)

TACOMA, WASH. – Seattle Theatre Group and Broadway Center have partnered to present the critically-acclaimed dance ensemble [Ailey II](#) with two performances at Tacoma's historic Pantages Theater on February 11 and 12. The young company of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 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. [Tickets are on sale now.](#)

As one of the most popular dance companies in the country, **Ailey II** combines a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs. In his fifth year leading the company, Artistic Director Troy Powell announces four dynamic new commissions.

"These diverse and powerful new works – along with the eight returning favorites – showcase the strength, grace, and versatility of these gifted young dancers," said Artist Director Troy Powell.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater first performed in 1958 in New York, and since has expanded to include a dance school called the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. In 1974, **Ailey II** was formed as a junior company with the intention of bridging the gap between The Ailey School and the professional dance world. During Ailey II's two-year program, dancers gain invaluable performing and teaching experience and emerge as accomplished professionals. Many have gone on to become members of professional dance companies and perform on Broadway.

In this performance, six new dancers – Tara Bellardini, Khalia Campbell, Yazzmeen Laidler, Jessica Amber Pinkett, Martell Ruffin, and Christopher R. Wilson – join the six returning members – Lloyd A. Boyd III, Gabriel Hyman, Jacob Lewis, Jacoby Pruitt, Courtney Celeste Spears, and Terri Ayanna Wright. In addition to Powell's four new commissions, Ailey II's touring repertory will include [Gêmeos](#) by Jamar Roberts, [I Am The Road](#) by Kyle "JustSole" Clark, [In & Out](#) by Jean Emile, [Something Tangible](#) by Ray Mercer, [Streams](#) by Alvin Ailey, and [Takademe](#) and [The Hunt](#) by Robert Battle.

[Tickets for Ailey II are on sale now and start at \\$19.](#) For tickets call the Broadway Center Box Office at 253.591.5894, toll-free 1.800.291.7593, online at BroadwayCenter.org, or in person at 901 Broadway in Tacoma's Theater District.

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