

UCSD presents Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on Feb. 14-15 at Spreckels Theatre

January 30, 1995

Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 534-4090 or Alixandra Williams, 534-0361

Few who have witnessed Judith Jamison's tour de force performance of "Cry," her tall, sinewy form adorned in the now-famous long, white circular skirt, can soon forget the choreographic talents of Alvin Ailey. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, now under the artistic direction of Judith Jamison, will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 14 and 15, at the Spreckels Theatre, in downtown San Diego.

Tickets for the event are: main floor, \$40; mezzanine, \$35; Balcony, \$25, and may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office and from TicketMaster outlets.

The program for Feb. 14 will be: "The Winter in Lisbon" (1992); "Hymn" (1993) and "Revelations" (1960).

The program for Feb. 15 will be: "Memoria" (excerpt), (1979); "Night Creature" (Ailey Celebrates Ellington), (excerpts), (1979); "Opus McShann" (excerpt), (1988); "A Song for You" (excerpted from "Love Songs"), (1972); "The Lark Ascending" (excerpt), (1972); "For Bird With Love From All of Us Forever Touched by His Magic" (excerpts), (1984); "Blues Suite" (excerpts), (1958); "Cry" (excerpt), (1971); and "Revelations" (1960).

Judith Jamison's "Hymn" received its premiere in New York City, opening the company's season. The work is a collaboration with playwright Anna Deavere Smith, who used excerpts from her interviews with Ailey Company members, Jamison and associate artistic director Masazumi Chaya to create the libretto. "Hymn" is set to a commissioned score by Robert Ruggieri, with original costumes by Toyce Anderson.

Ailey's "Love Songs," sometimes called "a masculine bookend" to "Cry," is a solo work recently brought back into performance. The piece originally was created as an exposition of the talent of the now-retired company dancer, Dudley Williams.

"Revelations," one of Ailey's most recognized works and the company's signature piece, is performed to more than a dozen African American spirituals.

Billy Wilson's "The Winter in Lisbon" sports sultry boy/girl choreography, danced to a background of jazz music inspired by Dizzy Gillespie.

Jamison, who has been the artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and the Ailey American Dance Center since 1989, has performed on Broadway in the musical

"Sophisticated Lady," and has danced with the American Ballet Theatre, Harkness Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and with Maurice Bejart's Ballet of the Twentieth Century. She choreographed her first work, "Divining," in 1984, for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She went on to create new works for the Bejart, the Washington Ballet and Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas. Her PBS special, "Judith Jamison: The Dancemaker," was aired nationally in 1989.

This work is brought to San Diego by UCSD's University Events Office (UEO). For more information on this and other UEO events, call 534-4090.

(January 30, 1995)