Guide to the Jack Mitchell Photography of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Collection

Laurainne Ojo-Ohikuare

Processing of the collection was funded by the Smithsonian Collection Information Systems IRM Funds.

January 2017
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Collection Overview

Repository: National Museum of African American History and Culture
Title: Jack Mitchell Photography of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Collection
Identifier: NMAAHC.A2013.245
Date: 1961-2004
Extent: 16 Linear feet
Creator: Ailey, Alvin
           Mitchell, Jack, 1925-
Language: English
Summary: Jack Mitchell (1925-2013) was an acclaimed photographer who began chronicling the work of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1961. Alvin Ailey (1931-1989), one of the most influential African American choreographers of modern dance, dedicated himself and his dance company to creating ballets that not only accelerated the careers of young African American dancers, but also stole the attention of national and international audiences in displaying the racial perspective of dance in the African American experience. This collection serves as Mitchell's documentation of the dance company's evolution while capturing the true idiosyncrasies and physicality of movement through still images. Through Alvin Ailey and Jack Mitchell's partnership, they were able to collaborate and produce a unique production of art, fusing the meaning and movements of dance and the techniques of photography.

Digital Content: Image(s): A2013.245-Representative-Image

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Acquired from the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc. in 2013.

Separated Materials
There were 3 inscribed copies of "Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Jack Mitchell Photographs" originally stored in the collection. One copy of this text can be found in Series IV: Reference Materials with the publication draft, another copy is housed in the National Museum of African American History and Culture Library, and the last copy has been designated to serve as an archival reference text.
Processing Information
Collection processed, arranged, and described by Laurainne Ojo-Ohikuare in 2016. This project received Federal support from the Smithsonian Collection Information Systems IRM Funds.

Preferred Citation
Photography by Jack Mitchell © Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc. and Smithsonian Institution, All rights reserved.

Restrictions
Collection is open for research. Access to collection materials requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use
Jack Mitchell Photography of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre Collection is jointly owned by the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation. Permission for commercial use or publication of the digital images may be requested from the Smithsonian Institution.

Biographical / Historical
Jack Mitchell was born on September 13, 1925 in Key West, Florida. Although he was not in the field of photography, Mitchell's father bought him his first camera when Jack was a teenager. His first published photograph was of actress, Veronica Lake, for a War Bond Tour, a tour issued by the government that promoted debt securities to soldiers to finance military operations and expenditures. He enlisted in the United States army and became a photographer in Italy at the end of World War II. In 1949, Ted Shawn, a dancer and choreographer who is respected among the dance community as a pioneer of American modern dance, invited Mitchell to Massachusetts photograph his dancers at his dance center, Jacobs's Pillow. It was during this time where Mitchell's interest and appreciation for moving bodies was realized. In the lifespan of his career, Mitchell created over 150 covers for Dance Magazine, the New York Times, Time, Life, Newsweek, Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, and Vogue.

As Jack Mitchell started to photograph the poses and ballets of the American Ballet Theater throughout the late 1950s, Alvin Ailey saw some of Mitchell's photographs. By 1961, Mitchell had established himself as a distinguished photographer of dance, coining the term, "moving stills". His photographs became the benchmark and standard that other dance photographers measured their work. In November 1961, Ailey invited Mitchell to a performance space in Clark Center, NY, and with his dancers, they performed for Mitchell's camera; some of the photographs from that first photo session can be found in this collection.

Alvin Ailey was born on January 5, 1931 in Rodgers, Texas, during the Great Depression. As his repertory reflected, the beginning of his life was defined by a tight-knit, predominantly African American folk culture. At age 12, Ailey and his mother, Lula Cooper, moved Los Angeles, California. It is here that he was exposed to the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, which led him to study under the Lester Horton Dance Theater, where he danced with Carmen DeLavallade, James Truitte, and Joyce Trisler. After 3 years of performing and training, he was positioned as a choreographer and later became the director of the company when Lester Horton suddenly died in 1953. His influence from Lester Horton, Martha Graham, and Katherine Dunham help to establish his philosophy that "Everything in dancing is style, allusion, the essence of many thoughts and feelings, the abstraction of many moments. Each movement is the sum total of moments and experiences". After Horton's death, Ailey went to perform at Ted Shawn's
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and then on to New York with his longtime schoolmate and fellow dancer, Carmen DeLavallade, to perform in the 1954 Broadway production of "House of Flowers". The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Company was established in 1958.

From the beginning of his journey as a dancer and choreographer, Ailey wanted to show African American experience in his performances. He embedded folk culture in his early works "Revelations" and "Blue Suites". In reflection, before his first South Asian Tour, Alvin expressed, "The cultural heritage of the American Negro is one of America's richest treasures. From his roots as a slave, the American Negro-sometimes sorrowing, sometimes jubilant but always hopeful -has touched, illuminated, and influenced the most preserved of world civilization. I and my dance theater celebrate this trembling beauty." "Revelations" was well-received by national and international audiences, Ailey recognized by the dance community as a choreographer with promise and his company and ballets he created were highly anticipated. By 1965, Ailey went from being a dancer to being the company's choreographer. From the onset, Ailey embraced diversity and invited interracial and interdisciplinary perspectives at of the company. He also created ballets for other notable companies including the American Ballet Theatre, Royal Danish Ballet, London Festival Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, and LaScala Opera Ballet. He was invited to choreograph Samuel Barber's Anthony and Cleopatra for the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center in 1966, and Leonard Bernstein's Mass for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1971.

As the company embraced racial diversity, Ailey never lost his sense of obligation to the African American community. In 1969, he established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, which became the Ailey School, formed the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, and pioneered programs promoting arts in education, particularly those that benefitted deprived communities. Among his numerous distinctions were the Dance Magazine Award (1975), the NAACP Spingarn Medal (1976), given for "the highest and noblest achievement by an American Negro during the previous year or years" 8, the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award (1987), the most prestigious award for modern dance for a lifetime contribution to the field, the Kennedy Center Award (1988) and Honorary Doctorates from Princeton University (1972), Bard College (1977), and Adelphi University (1977). President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Ailey the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014, the country's highest civilian honor, in recognition of his contributions and commitments to civil rights and dance in America.

Through Jack Mitchell and Alvin Ailey's work, they were able to collaborate and create something "rich in historical connotations, the liveliest kind of permanent record of the works of important creators and creations that formed the nucleus of Ailey's remarkable vision of American dance and what it could be" 12. Alvin Ailey's reputation for creating eclectic dance methods produced movements and poses that are still studied and idolized today. Mitchell was able to pay homage to many of the world's best dance artists from James Truitte, Carmen DeLavallade, Dudley Williams, Donna Wood, Renee Robinson, Gary DeLoatch, as well as Ailey, through his photography. With Ailey's longstanding and established stature within the dance community, and Mitchell's pronouncement of the detailed through his use of lighting in his photographs, this collection highlights the incredible collaboration between Ailey and Mitchell, and serves as a unique document of one of the world's most renowned American dance company's.

Alvin Ailey's vision for a dance company was dedicated to enriching the American modern dance heritage and preserving African American culture. In a 1989 interview with Dance Magazine, shortly before his death, Ailey discussed how he took pride in knowing that "No other company around [today] does what we do, requires the same range, and challenges both the dancers and the audience to the same degree." Ailey searched for a collaborator that would help him display the value of communicative movement; he found his match in Mitchell. Ailey's influence went beyond the stage and Jack Mitchell's images in this collection document that evolution. With Alvin Ailey's passing in 1989 at age 58 and Jack Mitchell's death in 2013 at age 88, these photographs of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Collection serves as one of the few sources of this dynamic dance company, from its early days to an internationally recognized troupe.
Footnotes

3) Jennifer Dunning, Alvin Ailey: A Life in Dance. (New York; Addison- Wesley, 1996), 123
4) Ibid, 146.
7) Ibid.
8) Ibid.

Scope and Contents

The Jack Mitchell Photography of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Collection is comprised of approximately 10,000 black and white prints of solo and ensemble acts, portraits of principle dancers and various associates of the company, color slides and transparencies for private photo sessions and performances, black and white film strips and their corresponding contact sheets, and reference materials.

Arrangement

The material in this collection has been kept primarily at the folder level in the order that was declared by the initial owner and photographer, Jack Mitchell. Oversize prints were separated and housed in an associated series in the collection. The order of the material has been organized based on the medium of the material. Each subseries has been organized based on the following:

Series I: Black and White Prints
Subseries A: Solo and Ensemble Images and Portraits were organized alphabetically by ballet name. Subseries B: Prints for Jack Mitchell Publication were organized by page number in the publication.

Series II: Color Photography
Subseries A: Original Slide Boxes were organized numerically based on Jack Mitchell's label assignments. Subseries B: Color Slides were organized numerically based on subseries A's label assignments. Subseries C: Color Transparencies were organized numerically based on subseries A's label assignments.

Series III: Black and White Negatives
Subseries A: Black and White Film Strips were organized chronologically by date. Subseries B: Contact Sheets were organized chronologically by date.

Series IV: Reference Material
OVERSIZE Series I: Black and White Prints were organized chronologically by date.

General

COLLECTION LIST OF FEATURED REPERTORY


Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Choreography -- United States
Dance
Dance -- North America
Dance -- Production and direction
Dance companies
Dance schools -- United States
Dancers -- Photographs

Types of Materials:

Dance photography.
Modern dance -- United States -- 20th century

Names:

Allen, Sarita
Chaya, Masazumi
DeLavallade, Carmen, 1931-
DeLoatch, Gary, 1953-1993
Jamison, Judith
Roxas, Elizabeth
Truitte, James
Tyson, Andre
Williams, Dudley
Wood, Donna, 1954-
Container Listing

Series 1: Black and White Prints

1.1: Solo and Ensemble Images and Portraits

Box 1, Folder 1  Note from Alvin Ailey, Mar. 24, 1975
Box 1, Folder 2  Company group photo annotated with names & note, 1993
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 3  Test print of Company group photo, 1993
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 4  Alvin Ailey with Eric Bruhn & Natalia Makarova, "The River", 1971
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 5  Ballet Repertory Company: Masazumi Chaya, undated
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 6  "Jacob's Pillow": Alvin Ailey & James Truitte, undated
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 7  "Blue Suite": Desmond Richardson, David St. Charles, Carl Bailey, Kevin Brown, & Dereque Whiturs, undated
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 8  "Blues Suite": Kelvin Rotardier & Loretta Abbott, 1967
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 9  "Carmina Burana": Sara Yarborough, John Parks, Michihiko Oka, & Judith Jamison, 1973
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 10 "Congo Tango Palace": company members, 1969
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 11 "Cry": Deborah Manning, 1990
                Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 12 "Cry": Debora Chase, undated
<table>
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<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Image(s)</th>
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<td>&quot;Cry&quot;: Judith Jamison, 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 14</td>
<td>&quot;Cry&quot;: Judith Jamison, 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 15</td>
<td>&quot;Dance at the Gym&quot;: Four couples, undated</td>
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<td>1, 16</td>
<td>&quot;District Storyville&quot;: Marilyn Banks &amp; Wesley Johnson III, 1976</td>
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<td>1, 17</td>
<td>&quot;District Storyville&quot;: Marilyn Banks, undated</td>
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<td>&quot;District Storyville&quot;: the company, undated</td>
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<td>1, 19</td>
<td>&quot;District Storyville&quot;: Alvin Ailey and the company, 1979</td>
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<td>1, 20</td>
<td>&quot;Divining&quot;: Judith Jamison rehearsing Masazumi Chaya &amp; Donna Wood, 1984</td>
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<td>1, 21</td>
<td>&quot;Divining&quot;: Judith Jamison rehearsing Masazumi Chaya &amp; Donna Wood, 1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 22</td>
<td>&quot;Divining&quot;: Elizabeth Roxas, undated</td>
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<td>1, 23</td>
<td>&quot;Episodes&quot;: the company, undated</td>
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<td>1, 24</td>
<td>&quot;Episodes&quot;: Dwight Rhoden, Renee Robinson, Desmond Richardson, &amp; Debora Chase, undated</td>
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<td>1, 25</td>
<td>&quot;Episodes&quot;: Dwight Rhoden &amp; Elizabeth Roxas, undated</td>
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<td>1, 26</td>
<td>&quot;Episodes&quot;: Debora Chase &amp; Dwight Rhoden, , undated, undated</td>
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Box 1, Folder 28  "Facets": Judith Jamison, 1976, 1976
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Box 1, Folder 30  "For 'Bird'- With Love": the company, , undated, undated
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Box 1, Folder 32  "For 'Bird'- With Love": Adrienne Armstrong & April Berry, , undated, undated
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Box 1, Folder 35  "Forgotten Time": Jonathan Riseling & Andre Tyson, , undated, undated
Box 1, Folder 36  "Frames": Michael Thomas, , undated, undated
Box 1, Folder 37  "Gazelle": Donna Wood, 1977
Box 1, Folder 38  "Hermit Songs": Alvin Ailey, 1961
Box 1, Folder 39  "Hermit Songs": Alvin Ailey, 1961
Box 1, Folder 40  "Hermit Songs": Alvin Ailey (cropped) , 1961
Box 1, Folder 41  "Hermit Songs": Alvin Ailey , 1961
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 42  "Hermit Songs": Alvin Ailey, 1961
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 43  "Hidden Rites": David St. Charles, 1990
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 44  "Hidden Rites": Renee Robinson & Don Bellamy , undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 45  "Hidden Rites": Nasha Thomas & David St. Charles, undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 46  "Hymn": Debra Chase or Raquelle Chavis, Leonard Meek, Renee Robinson, Elizabeth Roxas, Desmond Richardson, undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 47  "Lament": the company, 1985
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 48  "Lament": Renee Robinson & Danny Clark, 1985
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 49  "Lament": Renee Robinson & Danny Clark, 1985
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 50  "Lament": Kevin Brown & April Berry , undated
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 51  "The Lark Ascending": Elizabeth Roxas, 1986
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Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 53  "Masekela Language": Elizabeth Roxas, Andre Tyson, Renee Robinson, Desmond Richardson, undated
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Box 1, Folder 55  "Masekela Language: Andre Tyson, undated
Box 1, Folder 56  
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Box 1, Folder 57  
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Box 1, Folder 58  
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Box 1, Folder 59  
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"Northstar": the company, undated  
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Box 1, Folder 61  
"Northstar": Desmond Richardson, undated  
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Box 2, Folder 1  
"Pigs and Fishes": Sarita Allen & Elisa Monte, 1982  
[Image(s)]

Box 2, Folder 2  
"Pigs and Fishes": Sarita Allen, 1982  
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"Prodigal Prince": Miguel Godreau, 1967  
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"Prodigal Prince": Miguel Godreau, 1967  
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"Prodigal Prince": Judith Jamison in profile, 1967  
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"Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder": Renee Robinson & Carl Bailey, 1989  
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Box 2, Folder 7  "Revelations": Judith Jamison, 1967 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 8  "Revelations": Desmond Robinson, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 9  "Revelations": Dudley Williams, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 10  "Revelations": Michael Joy, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 11  "Revelations": Andre Tyson & Elizabeth Roxas, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 12  "Revelations": James Truitte & Joyce Trisler, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 13  "Revelations": James Truitte & Minnie Marshall, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 14  "Revelations": the company, 1991 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 15  "Revelations": Don Martin, Ella Thompson, Alvin Ailey, Myrna White, James Truitte, Minnie Marshall, 1961 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 16  "Revelations": Don Martin, Ella Thompson, Alvin Ailey, Myrna White, James Truitte, Minnie Marshall, 1961 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 17  "Revelations": Don Martin, Ella Thompson, Alvin Ailey, Myrna White, James Truitte, Minnie Marshall, 1961 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 18  "Revelations": Judith Jamison poses with Company, 1992 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 19  "Rift": Leonard Meek & Nasha Thomas, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 20  "The River": Matthew Rushing, Roger Bellamy, Linda- Denise Fisher, & Johnathan Phelps, undated Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 21  "The River": Matthew Rushing, Roger Bellamy, Linda- Denise Fisher, & Johnathan Phelps, undated

Box 2, Folder 22  "The Road of the Phoebe Snow": James Truitt & Joyce Trisler, 1964

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Box 2, Folder 24  "Roots of the Blues": Carmen DeLavallade & Alvin Ailey in Silhouette, 1961

Box 2, Folder 25  "Roots of the Blues": Carmen DeLavallade & Alvin Ailey under a ladder; Bruce Langhorne & Brother John Sellers on a ladder, 1961

Box 2, Folder 26  "Roots of the Blues": Carmen DeLavallade, Alvin Ailey in the Forefront, Bruce Langhorne, & Brother John Sellers, 1961

Box 2, Folder 27  "Shards": Andre Tyson & Dana Hash, undated

Box 2, Folder 28  "Shards": Desmond Richardson & Raquelle Chavis, undated

Box 2, Folder 29  "Shards": Desmond Richardson, undated

Box 2, Folder 30  "Shelter": Raquelle Chavis, Danielle Gee, Deborah Manning, Desiree Vlad, & Toni Pierce, 1992

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Box 2, Folder 32  "Speeds": Deborah Manning, Gary DeLoatch, Deborah Chase, undated

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Box 2, Folder 34  "Suite Otis": Five male dancers, undated
Box 2, Folder 35  "Suite Otis": Five males dancers, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 36  "Suite Otis": Carl Bailey & Marilyn Banks, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 37  "Three Black Kings": Dudley Williams, Clive Thompson, & Elbert Watson, 1976 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 38  "Three Black Kings": Dudley Williams, Clive Thompson, & Elbert Watson, 1976 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 39  "Three Black Kings": close-up portraits of Dudley Williams, Clive Thompson, & Elbert Watson, 1976 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 40  "Three Black Kings": Dudley Williams, Elbert Watson, Clive Thompson, 1976 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 41  "Treading": Carl Bailey & Deborah Manning, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 42  "Variegations": Joyce Trisler, 1964 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 43  "Variegations": Joyce Trisler, 1964 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 44  "Vespers": Adrienne Armstrong, Ruthlynn Solomon, Sharrell Mesh, Deborah Chase, & Neisha Foulkes, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 45  "The Winter in Lisbon": the company, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 46  Don Bellamy, undated Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 47  Clive Thompson, 1978 Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 48  Andre Tyson & Dana Hash, 1991
Box 2, Folder 49  Alvin Ailey Choreographing with Marilyn Banks, Dudley Williams, & Gary DeLoatch, 1988
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 50  Alvin Ailey Choreographing with Marilyn Banks, Dudley Williams, & Gary DeLoatch, 1988
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 51  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1962
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 52  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1962
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 53  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1963
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Box 2, Folder 54  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1972
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Box 2, Folder 55  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1973
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Box 2, Folder 56  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1973
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Box 2, Folder 57  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1975
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Box 3, Folder 1  Alvin Ailey & Lula Cooper, 1988
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 2  Alvin Ailey & Lula Cooper, 1988
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Box 3, Folder 4  Alvin Ailey & Lula Cooper, 1988
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Box 3, Folder 6  Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison, 1968
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Box 3, Folder 7  Judith Jamison in earrings from "The Mooche", 1979
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Box 3, Folder 8  Masazumi Chaya Leaping, undated
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Box 3, Folder 9  Masazumi Chaya, undated
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Box 3, Folder 10  Close up of Judith Jamison, 1990
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 11  Leonard Meek in profile, undated
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Box 3, Folder 12  Gregory Stewart, undated
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Box 3, Folder 13  Mary Lou Williams, John Parks, & Sara Yarborough, undated
Image(s)

1.2: Prints for Jack Mitchell Publication


Box 6 Folders 27 to 30 are broken down segments of the entire Jack Mitchell publication in order by page number.

Box 3, Folder 14  "Lament": Danny Clark & Cover Page, 1986
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 15  "Hermit Songs" at New York City Center: Alvin Ailey, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 16  "Hermit Songs" at New York City Center: Alvin Ailey, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 17  "Hermit Songs" at New York City Center: Alvin Ailey, 1961
Series 1: Black and White Prints
Jack Mitchell Photography of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Collection
NMAAHC.A2013.245

Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 18  "Hermit Songs" at New York City Center: Alvin Ailey, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 19  "Hermit Songs" at New York City Center: Alvin Ailey, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 20  "Hermit Songs" at New York City Center: Alvin Ailey, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 21  "Roots of the Blues": Alvin Ailey & Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 22  "Roots of the Blues": Alvin Ailey & Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 23  "Roots of the Blues": Alvin Ailey & Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 24  "Roots of the Blues": Alvin Ailey & Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
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Box 3, Folder 25  "Roots of the Blues": Alvin Ailey & Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 26  "Roots of the Blues": Alvin Ailey & Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 27  "The Letter": Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 28  "The Letter": Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 29  "The Letter": Carmen DeLavallade, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 30  "The Beloved": Carmen DeLavallade & James Truitte, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 31  "Revelations": the company , 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 32  "Revelations": Alvin Ailey, Myrna White, James Truitte, Ella Thompson, Minnie Marshall, & Don Martin , 1961
Box 3, Folder 33
"Revelations": Minnie Marshall & James Truitte, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 34
"Revelations": Minnie Marshall & James Truitte, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 35
"Revelations": Alvin Ailey, Ella Thompson Moore, & Myra White, 1961
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 36
"Revelations": Myrna White, Minnie Marshall, Ella Thompson Moore, 1961
Image(s): "Revelations": Alvin Ailey, Ella Thompson Moore, & Myra White

Box 3, Folder 37
"Revelations": Alvin Ailey, Myrna White, James Truitte, Minnie Marshall, Don Martin, & Ella Thompson Moore, 1961
Image(s): "Revelations": Myrna White, Minnie Marshall, Ella Thompson Moore

Box 3, Folder 38
"Revelations": Minnie Marshall, James Truitte, & Ella Thompson Moore, 1961
Image(s): "Revelations": Alvin Ailey, Myrna White, James Truitte, Minnie Marshall, Don Martin, & Ella Thompson Moore

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Frontal Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1962
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Series 2: Color Photography

2.1: Original Slide Boxes
Subseries 1: Slide Boxes contains the original slide boxes of Jack Mitchell's negatives of the performances and photographic sessions.

Box 7 Slide box # 137- 1562 and File Cards, 1969- 1994

2.2: Color Slides
Subseries 2: Color Slides contains the color slides that were originally housed in their assigned boxes in subseries 1 and embedded digitized images of the color slides.

Binder 8, Folder 1  #137: Judith Jamison in "Icarus" & Dudley Williams in "Black Belt", 1969
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Binder 8, Folder 2  #217: Company's Various Repertory Performance at the American National Theater and Academy Theater, 1971
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Binder 8, Folder 3  #230: "Cry" with Judith Jamison, 1971
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Binder 8, Folder 4  #298-9: Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Linda Kent, Dudley Williams, Kelvin Rotardier in Dance Studio with Ailey Dance Solos, 1973
Image(s)

Binder 8, Folder 5  #1005-6: "Satyriade": Donna Wood, Maxine Sherman, Keith McDaniel, Mari Kajiwara, Gary DeLoatch, & Kevin Brown; "Landscape" with Maxine Sherman & Gary DeLoatch, 1982
Image(s)

Binder 8, Folder 6  #1011: "Spectrum" with Gregory Steward; Company performance of "Stack Up" at City Center, 1982
Image(s)

Binder 8, Folder 7  #1075: "Fever Swamp" with company dancers and Bill T. Jones; Portraits of Alvin Ailey, 1983
Image(s)

Binder 8, Folder 8  #1225: Company Photo Call for "Speeds"; "How to Walk an Elephant", "Lament" at Wolftrap, 1985
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Binder 8, Folder 9  #1239: Company photo Call for "Bird" and Various Repertory, 1986
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#1240: Various Repertory and "Caverna Magica", 1986  
Image(s)

Binder 8, Folder 11  
#1329-A-D: Company Photo Call for Dunham Repertory; Portraits of Katherine Dunham; "The Magic of Katherine Dunham", 1987  
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Binder 8, Folder 12  
#1381-1398: Portrait of Alvin Ailey with Mother, Lula Cooper, 1988  
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#1413-14: Company in 1988/89 City Center Season Repertory of "Blue Suites" & "Revelations"; "Cry", "Opus McShann", "Vespers" at City Center Studio, 1989  
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#1433: Various Repertory photo calls onstage at SUNY Purchase; "Sarong", "Rainbow Round My Shoulder", 1989  
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Binder 9, Folder 3  
#1458-60: Company's various active Repertory at Newark, NJ; "Night Creatures" & "Hidden Rites", 1990  
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Binder 9, Folder 4  
#1474: Andre Tyson, Dana hash, Aubrey Lynch II Improvise, 1991  
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Binder 9, Folder 5  
#1480-82: "Revelations" and active Repertory; Onstage Rehearsal of "Cry" & "Rift"; Portraits of Judith Jamison at SUNY Purchase, 1991  
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#1487: Improvisations by Aubrey Lynch II, Andre Tyson, & Desmond Richardson, 1991  
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Binder 9, Folder 8  
#1504: Company dancers in mixed repertory, 1992  
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Binder 9, Folder 10  #1540-41: Judith Jamison, Sylvia Waters, & Denise Jefferson; Company photo call at SUNY Purchase; "The Mooche", "Hymn", "New York Export Opus Jazz", active repertory, 1993

Binder 9, Folder 11  #1562: Masazumi Chaya in improvised poses for Dance Magazine Cover Picture, Sept. 1994

2.3: Color Transparencies

Subseries 3: Color Transparencies contains color transparencies produced by Jack Mitchell's studio sessions and embedded digitized images of the color transparencies.

Binder 10, Folder 1  #107: Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Kent, Williams, Rotardier in Dance Studio with Ailey Dance Solos, 1973

Binder 10, Folder 2  #108: Judith Jamison and company in "Revelations", 1978

Binder 10, Folder 3  #109: Judith Jamison and company in "Revelations", 1978

Binder 10, Folder 4  #111: Portraits of Alvin Ailey , 1979

Binder 10, Folder 5  #184: "Revelations" group with Judith Jamison for Dance Magazine with solos of Aubrey Lynch II, 1992

Binder 10, Folder 6  #186: "The River" season poster of Leonard Meek and Brochure photos of Robinson, Desmond Richardson, & Aubrey Lynch II, 1992

Binder 10, Folder 7  Misc: Dancers, portraits and poses from Ballets associated With Ailey Spirit: The Journey of an American Dance Company publication, 2004
Series 3: Black and White Negatives

The Black and White Negatives numerical assignments were given by Jack Mitchell. Each number was assigned based on ballets shot during specific photo shoots.

3.1: Black and White Film Strips

Subseries 1: Black and White Film Strips contains the original black and white film strips from Jack Mitchell's photography of performances and studio sessions and embedded digitized images of black and white film strips.

Box 11

Inventory Index cards; Negative # 1048 – 3917 (1-10), Nov. 1961- Jul. 1979
Negative # 3917 was previously divided into 21 subsections of images. Subsection 1 to 10 is housed in this box and continues in box 12 in numerical order.

Box 12

Negative # 3917 (11-21) – 4841, Jul. 1979- Nov. 1988
Negative # 3917 was previously divided into 21 subsections of images. Subsection 11 to 21 is housed in this box and is a continuation of box 11.

Box 13


3.2: Contact Sheets

Subseries 2: Contact Sheets contains the contact sheets for the corresponding materials in subseries 1.

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#1076: "Hermit Song"; Alvin Ailey at Clark Center, Dec. 1961
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#1220: "Portrait of Alvin Ailey at Jack Mitchell's Studio, Jul. 1962
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#1358: "Alvin Ailey Teaching Dance Class at Clark Center, May 1963
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#1507: Company Performance at Clark Center; "Variegations", "Blue Suites", & "Revelations, Jun. 1964

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#2149: "Prodigal Prince" & "Revelations", May 1976
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Box 14, Folder 11  
#2407: "Black Belt" & "Icarus", Jan. 1969
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#2461: Group and Solo Portraits of Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Dudley Williams, & Linda Kent; New York Times Photo Call at Brooklyn Academy; Iconic Ailey/Jamison Photo, Apr. 1969
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#2699: "Archipelago", "Flowers", Portraits and Photo Call at Jack Mitchell's Studio, Jan. 1971
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Box 14, Folder 15  
#2714: Company Performing "Revelations" on Stage for Time Magazine, Jan. 1971
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Box 14, Folder 16  
#2774: "Cry" solo of Judith Jamison, Jun. 1971
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Box 14, Folder 17  
#2790: "Cry" solo of Judith Jamison, Jun. 1971
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#2869: "May Lou's Mass", Nov. 1971
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Box 14, Folder 19  
#2918: "Rainbow Round My Shoulder" & Portrait of Donald McKayle, Apr. 1972
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#2919: "The Lark Ascending", Apr. 1972
Box 14, Folder 21  #3177: Ballet with Freddy Romero, Sarah Yarborough, and John Parks, May 1973

Box 14, Folder 22  #3243: "Camina Burana", Fall 1973

Box 14, Folder 23  #3305: Group & Solo Portraits of Pearl Primus, Janet Collins, Judith Jamison, & Sarah Yarborough, Apr. 1974

Box 14, Folder 24  #3387: "The Mooche" & Solo Portraits of Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, & Sarita Allen, Mar. 1975

Box 14, Folder 25  #3549: "Three Black Kings" & Portraits of Mercer Ellington, Aug. 9, 1976

Box 14, Folder 26  #3573: "Facets", solos of Judith Jamison & "Hobo Sapiens", Solos of Dudley Williams, Nov. 1976

Box 14, Folder 27  #3703: "Cry", "Blues Suites", & Solos of Estelle Spurlock at Jack Mitchell's Studio, Nov. 1977

Box 14, Folder 28  #3705: "Gazelle", "Caravan", "Portrait of Billie", "Crossword", & All Solos of Donna Wood; Photo Call, Nov. 1977

Box 14, Folder 29  #3709: George Faison choreographing "Suite Otis" with dancers Marilyn Banks and Carl Paris in studio with Alvin Ailey watching, Nov. 1977

Box 14, Folder 30  #3781: Entire Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Company dancers onstage at City Center for Ailey Company Poster (20th Anniversary), May 1978

Box 14, Folder 31  #3802: Portraits of Sarita Allen, Elizabeth Roxas, Alvin Ailey with Dancers at Jack Mitchell's Studio, Aug. 1978

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Box 15, Folder 2  #3851: Portraits of Alvin Ailey at Jack Mitchell's Studio, Jan. 1979
Box 15, Folder 3  #4017: New Ballet featuring Donna Wood, Alistair Butler & Gary DeLoatch, Nov. 1979
Box 15, Folder 4  #4019: Dancer Michihiko Oka for New York Times, Nov. 1979
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Box 15, Folder 7  #4195: Choo San Goh setting his ballet "Spectrum" on dancers; Portraits of Choo San Goh, Nov. 17, 1981
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Box 15, Folder 9  #4230: "Pigs and Fishes" with Sarita Allen and Elisa Monte, Apr. 1982
Box 15, Folder 10 #4296: Dancers rehearsing "Satyriade", Nov. 1982
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Box 15, Folder 13 #4350: "Seven Journeys", Apr. 1983
Box 15, Folder 14 #4351: "Fever Swamp"; Pictures with Choreographer Bill T. Jones, Apr. 1983
Box 15, Folder 15 #4393: Portraits of Alvin Ailey, Nov. 1983
Image(s)

Box 15, Folder 16  
#4473: "Divining", Judith Jamison choreographing dancers, Donna Wood, & Masazumi Chaya, Sept. 1984
Image(s)

Box 15, Folder 17  
#4559: Louis Johnson working on his Ballet, "Lament", Jul. 1985
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Box 15, Folder 18  
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Box 15, Folder 19  
#4597: "For Bird- With Love" & "Suite Otis"; Photo Call, Jan. 1986
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Box 15, Folder 20  
#4674: "Caverna Magica" & "The Lark Ascending"; Portraits, Aug. 9, 1986
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Box 16, Folder 1  
#4752: "Afrique", "Los Indios", & "L'Ag' Ya"; Portraits of Kathryn Dunham and Desmond Richardson at The Ailey Studio, Aug. 1987
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Box 16, Folder 2  
#4841: Alvin Ailey with Marilyn Banks, Dudley Williams, & Gary DeLoatch, Nov. 1988
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Box 16, Folder 3  
#4842: Alvin Ailey with his Mother, Lula Cooper, Dec. 1988
There is no digital component to contact sheet #4842. Only the physical contact sheets are available.

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#5011: Portraits of Judith Jamison, Apr. 1990
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#5159: Black & White takes from Dance Magazine Color Cover shoot of Masazumi Chaya, Sept. 1994

Image(s)
Series 4: Reference Material

Series 4: Reference Materials contains the archival draft and published copy of the 1993 publication "Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Jack Mitchell Photographs".

Box 17, Folder 1  Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Jack Mitchell Photographs, 1993

Box 17, Folder 2  Xerox copy of publication with negative ID’s assigned, undated

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Series Oversize 1: Black and White Prints

Oversize Series 1: Black and White Prints contains the black and white exhibition prints, both mounted and un-mounted images that were taken from Series 1.

Box 18, Folder 1  "Revelations": Alvin Ailey, Myrna White, James Truitte, Ella Thompson, Don Martin, and Minnie Marshall, 1961

Box 18, Folder 2  "Hermit Songs": Alvin Ailey, 1961

Box 18, Folder 3  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1962

Box 18, Folder 4  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1962

Box 18, Folder 5  Portrait of Alvin Ailey, 1975

Box 18, Folder 6  Portrait of Judith Jamison in "The Mooche", 1975

Box 18, Folder 7  "Facets": Judith Jamison, 1976

Box 18, Folder 8  "Lament": Danny Clark, 1985

Box 18, Folder 9  "Cry": Renee Robinson, 1988

Box 18, Folder 10  "Opus McShann": April Berry, 1988

Box 18, Folder 11  "Come Get the Beauty of It Hot": Carl Bailey, Renee Robinson, and Gary DeLoatch, 1989

Box 18, Folder 12  "Episodes": Desmond Richardson & Renee Robinson, 1990

Box 18, Folder 13  "Hermit Songs": Andre Tyson, 1991

Box 18, Folder 14  "Shelter": Toni Pierce, 1992

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