



AGMA and Ailey Reach Agreement

6/4/18

Minutes before expiration of their contract at midnight last Thursday, the Artists of Ailey reached a new four-year (plus one month) tentative agreement with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. The 34 Artists (dancers and stage managers) are represented by AGMA. The new agreement provides for substantial increases in wages, benefits and other terms. The tentative deal is subject to ratification by AGMA's Board of Governors.

During the negotiations, the Artists of Ailey sought parity with other similarly-budgeted dance companies and industry standards. The tentative agreement substantially increases pay scales for a majority of dancers in the first year along with other improvements in various areas of the contract.

"This new agreement will result in major improvements for the Artists. I want to thank Ailey management for their commitment to all the Artists and their willingness to value and recognize these incredible dancers and stage managers," stated Leonard Egert, National Executive Director of AGMA.

During the negotiations, which began last December, the Artists of Ailey distributed an online petition and took to social media (#ArtistsofAiley) to make their case for industry standards in wages. They also choose not to participate in a Gala dinner in Washington, D.C. It all culminated in a rally outside the AAADT studios prior to negotiations last week with several speakers (including NYS Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and NYS Senator Brad Hoylman) while the dancers and stage managers danced, chanted, and carried signs.

The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) is a labor organization that represents the people who create and engage in America's operatic, choral and dance performances across the world. AGMA represents approximately 7500 opera singers, ballet and modern dancers, and production personnel at all principal opera houses and ballet companies in the United States. As it relates to dance, AGMA represents most major ballet and modern dance companies across the country. The Union provides forceful advocacy and defense of its members' employment and artistic rights and is affiliated with the AFL-CIO; Branch of Associated Actors and Artists of America. For more information please go to www.musicalartists.org.
