



**ALVIN AILEY**  
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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## **AileyCamp Celebrates 25 Years of Enriching and Inspiring Inner-City Youth Nationwide**

### **Innovative Summer Program Educates Students through Dance and Personal Development to Cultivate Their Individual Identity and Unlimited Potential**

(New York, NY) June 27, 2013 – **AileyCamp**, the innovative full-scholarship day camp **celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year**, will provide life-changing and meaningful experiences to students in eight cities across the United States this summer. This inspiring program uses **the art of dance as a means to stretch the mind, body, and spirit** of approximately 800 inner-city students.

Founded by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, AileyCamp gives **inner-city students ages 11-14** a supportive environment to use dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical-thinking skills. AileyCampers learn important life skills through classes in a variety of dance techniques, as well as in personal development and creative communication. Participants cultivate respect for themselves and others, learn the importance of setting and achieving goals, gain experience in decision making and carve out their own identities within an encouraging framework that gives them an important foundation for the future.

“As one of the last initiatives Mr. Ailey implemented, AileyCamp is a significant part of the organization’s mission of using dance to inspire and educate people of all ages,” said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “AileyCamp provides that eye-opening experience, teaching students that we’re only limited by our imagination and that the sky’s the limit when it comes to their future. I’m proud to continue sharing Mr. Ailey’s powerful legacy through this unique program.”

The camp’s curriculum includes daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance. In recent years, a percussion class was developed to enhance campers musicality by learning the history, technique, and rhythms of different instruments. Personal development and creative communication classes teach campers how to express themselves in a positive way and discuss topics such as nutrition, conflict resolution, and career development. **Camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, field trips, breakfast and lunch are provided.** Daily affirmations, such as “I will not use the word ‘can’t’ to define my possibilities,” serve to guide them on a path to becoming productive and motivated individuals.

All AileyCamps will culminate with a final performance for family, friends and community leaders where campers showcase their hard work in an original production of specially choreographed dances, poetry readings and theatrical improvisations. The performance not only highlights the creative and technical skills of the campers, but also serves as an exciting display of the self-confidence, performance skills, and pride developed



2012 AileyCamp Washington Heights final performance. Photo by Rosalie O'Connor

during camp. **The final performance for AileyCamp Newark** will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on **August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** and **AileyCamp Washington Heights' final performance** will be held at Hostos Community College/CUNY Theater on **August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**.

“Over the last 25 years, AileyCamp has positively impacted the lives of thousands of young students across the country,” said **Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, National Director of AileyCamp and former member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**. “It’s been rewarding to watch AileyCamp continue to evolve, and inspiring to see campers transform over the summer, through this program that’s instrumental to their continued development. Bringing to life Mr. Ailey’s belief that “dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people” the AileyCamp experience touches their hearts, minds and spirits.”

In addition to **Newark** (July 1 – August 9) and **Washington Heights** (July 8 – August 16), **AileyCamps** will provide a safe environment to motivate and educate students in **Kansas City, MO** and **Kansas City, KS** (June 3 to June 28); **Atlanta, GA** (June 4 – July 12); **Berkeley, CA** and **Miami, FL** (June 24 – August 3); and **Bridgeport, CT** (July 2 – August 10).

Although AileyCamp is not meant to be a training ground for professional dancers, some students are awarded scholarships for further study at The Ailey School or pursue training at other accredited dance schools and have later performed with professional dance companies. This past May, select AileyCamp Newark and Washington Heights campers were invited to perform at Ailey’s annual Apollo Gala and thrilled the audience with a dance inspired by Rennie Harris’ *Home*; Robert Battle’s first commissioned ballet after becoming Artistic Director.

**Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs** are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and the lives of people of all ages. Programs include special student performances; lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; AileyCamp, a full scholarship summer camp for underserved inner-city youth; and innovative curriculum based residencies inspired by *Revelations*. For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization’s performances, training programs and Ailey Arts In Education activities, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

## **PRESS**

For photos and video visit:

- AileyCamp [Newark](#)
- AileyCamp [Washington Heights](#)

For additional press materials regarding AileyCamp visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

**Prudential is proud to be the lead funder of AileyCamp Newark**

**Bloomberg is the sponsor of AileyCamp New York**

**Leadership support for Ailey’s Arts In Education and Community Programs is provided through the Simin & Herb Allison Arts In Education Endowment Fund.**

**Major support for Ailey’s Arts In Education and Community Programs in Newark is provided by the Victoria Foundation**

**AileyCamp Newark is administered in collaboration with Newark Public Schools and NJPAC.**

**AileyCamp Washington Heights is administered in collaboration with the Children’s Aid Society.**

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**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” grew from a now-fabled 1958 New York performance that changed American dance. Now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011, the Company has performed for an

estimated 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, celebrating the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. The Ailey organization also includes; **Ailey II** (1974), a second company of young dancers and choreographers; **The Ailey School** (1969), extensive dance training programs; **Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs**, bringing dance into classrooms and communities; and **The Ailey Extension** (2005), dance and fitness classes for the general public at Ailey's home – The Joan Weill Center for Dance in New York City—the largest building for dance in New York City – the dance capital of the world.