

AILEY EXTENSION

AILEY EXTENSION OFFERS SUMMER CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, AND INTENSIVES FOR KIDS & TEENS TO EXPLORE DIVERSE DANCE TECHNIQUES AND PERFORM CHOREOGRAPHY

West African Dance Workshop Teaches Traditional Movement to Kids Ages 8-13 on May 15

Dancers Ages 13+ Explore Movement and Male Bonding During Hearts of Men Weekend Workshop May 21-23

Kids & Teens Summer Session Offers a Variety of Classes for Ages 5-17 from June 5 – 27

Ailey Experience NYC Online Invites Students Ages 8+ to Train Like an Ailey Dancer from August 9 -13



Ailey Experience. Photo by Jonathan Hsu; Teen Broadway Jazz at Ailey Extension. Photo by Kyle Froman; Hip Hop 4 Kids at Ailey Extension. Photo by Kyle Froman.

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(New York) May 13, 2021 – [Ailey Extension](#) is heating things up with new virtual opportunities for kids and teens of all ages and experience levels. From now through August, students ages five to seventeen can get moving with special workshops designed to help them develop skills and boost confidence as they explore different movement styles. Each workshop creates a new opportunity for young dancers to learn and have fun in a welcoming environment surrounded by their peers.

First Ailey is inviting children ages 8-13 to join in the [National Physical Fitness Month](#) festivities by making dance part of their active lifestyle during a [Kids & Teens West African Workshop](#) with **Sherece Donalds** on **Saturday, May 15 at 11am EDT**. This upbeat class will focus on the fundamentals of traditional West African dance with an emphasis on helping young dancers understand the accompanying drum rhythms.

All teens who identify as male are invited to join in **Earl Mosley's [Hearts of Men Workshop](#)** from **Friday, May 21 – Sunday, May 23** as men ages 13-99 to come together to share life experiences through the power of movement in a safe space. Participants will build community during this three-day experience as they explore dance as a medium for conversation

and healing. Throughout the weekend male dancers will experience a panel discussion among prominent artists and activists, share stories during an Improv Lab and performance workshop, take part in masterclasses with acclaimed choreographers, and make time for reflection. Students are strongly encouraged to make this a family affair, inviting male family members to participate together.

The fun continues with a [Kids & Teens Online Summer Session](#) which allows kids ages 5-17 to get moving and stay active on a weekly basis from **Saturday, June 5 – Sunday, June 27**. Young dancers can learn basic skills during age-appropriate [Intro to Hip-Hop](#) and [Intro to Ballet](#) classes for ages 5-6; or [Hip-Hop 4 Kids](#) and [Ballet for Kids](#) classes for ages 8-9. Older children (ages 10-12) can explore different styles during [Junior Ballet](#), [Junior Broadway Jazz](#), [Junior Hip-Hop](#), or [Junior Horton](#) classes. Teens (ages 13-17) can work on their skills during [Teen Contemporary](#) or [Teen Hip-Hop](#) in a judgment-free zone surrounded by their peers. Students are welcome to enroll in the full four-week session or drop-in to one of the weekly classes.

Kids can keep moving from **Monday, August 9 – Friday, August 13** when [Ailey Experience NYC Online](#) returns to give dancers ages 8-12 and 13+ the opportunity to train and perform in a variety of techniques with celebrated instructors and choreographers. For five days participants around the globe can log in from wherever they are to take class with a diverse roster of accomplished dancers, esteemed instructors, and renowned choreographers. Each day students will practice two techniques before rehearsing choreography to be performed at the end of the week in a digital performance for family and friends. Ailey Experience embodies the diversity of the Ailey dancer while introducing dancers to an exciting world of choreography, creativity, and fun in a non-competitive environment.

Give the gift of dance this season by purchasing a gift card for the graduate in your life. Gift cards make a thoughtful and practical gift for graduates of any age and can also be purchased for birthdays and other special occasions. [Ailey Extension gift certificates](#) can be purchased online for any denomination, personalized with a message, and emailed directly to the recipient at a date of your choosing.

With an exciting assortment of classes for Kids & Teens, as well as more than 30 weekly virtual classes for adults (ages 16+), Ailey Extension allows students of all ages and all over the world to explore different dance styles. For more details about Ailey Extension's variety of class options including how to sign up, students can visit alvinailey.org/extension.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS & TEENS

KIDS & TEENS WEST AFRICAN WORKSHOP with SHERECE DONALDS

Join Sherece Donalds for kids and teens-only workshop focused on the fundamentals of traditional West African dance with an emphasis on an understanding of the accompanying drum rhythms. **Saturday, May 15 at 11am EDT**

KIDS & TEENS ONLINE SUMMER SESSION

Kids & Teens Online is open to children of all experience levels. Each class takes into consideration the abilities of the age group to create an environment that fosters learning skills and boosts confidence while being taught by the city's top instructors. **Summer Session runs from June 5 – June 27**

- **INTRO TO BALLET (Ages 5-6)** Sundays, 10:00-10:45am EDT
[Therese Wendler](#) will introduce students to the ballet vocabulary while progressing at the barre, developing coordination through combinations.
- **INTRO TO HIP-HOP (Ages 5-7)** Sundays, 9:00-9:45am EDT
[TweetBoogie](#) will lead your kids through the fundamentals of hip-hop, developing coordination and musicality while building on basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.
- **BALLET FOR KIDS (Ages 7-9)** Sundays, 11:00-11:45am EDT
[Therese Wendler](#) will further students' ballet vocabulary while progressing at the barre, developing coordination through combinations.

- **[HIP HOP 4 KIDS \(Ages 8-9\)](#)** Sundays 10:00-10:45am EDT
[Keith Alexander](#) will lead kids through the fundamentals of hip-hop, developing coordination and musicality while building on basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.
- **[JUNIOR BALLET \(Ages 10-12\)](#)** Saturdays, 12:00-1:00pm EDT
[Therese Wendler](#) will progress students at the barre, develop coordination through combinations, develop flexibility, and grow their ballet vocabulary.
- **[JUNIOR BROADWAY JAZZ \(Ages 10-13\)](#)** Saturdays, 10:45-11:45am EDT
[Lainie Munro](#) will teach dancers the technique and vocabulary used in theater dance, as well as the history of the song and the musical. From the warm-up to the combination, every song is from a Broadway musical. This fun and energetic online class is ideal for aspiring young performers who love Broadway and want to learn about musical theater dance.
- **[JUNIOR HIP-HOP \(Ages 10-12\)](#)** Sundays, 11:00-11:45am EDT
[Keith Alexander](#) will lead your kids through the fundamentals of hip-hop, developing coordination and musicality while building on basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.
- **[JUNIOR HORTON TECHNIQUE \(Ages 10-12\)](#)** Saturdays, 1:15-2:15pm EDT
[Karen Arceneaux](#) will teach the fundamentals of the Horton technique using dance exercises to expand on flexibility, strength and musicality. Dancers are introduced to a class format that focuses on posture, placement, and coordination.
- **[TEEN CONTEMPORARY \(Ages 13-17\)](#)** Sundays, 12:00-1:00pm EDT
[Jessica Amber Pinkett](#) will help students find freedom in the use of movement while developing technique and building a strong foundation. A fusion of modern, ballet, and jazz' this unique style explores a wide range of expressive movements and syncopated rhythms. Each class involves learning original choreography while focusing on theatrical elements and mastering musicality.
- **[TEEN HIP-HOP \(Ages 13-17\)](#)** Sundays, 1:00-2:00pm EDT
[Keith Alexander](#) will build on your kids' understanding of the fundamentals of hip-hop, coordination, and musicality while moving through basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.

[AILEY EXPERIENCE NYC ONLINE](#)

The Ailey Experience Workshops offer dancers ages 8-12 and 13+ from around the world the opportunity to train and perform in a variety of dance techniques. Ailey Experience is designed to embody the diversity of the Ailey dancer with technique classes in Horton, ballet, contemporary, theater dance, hip-hop, jazz, and West African while introducing dancers to the exciting world of choreography, creativity, and fun in a non-competitive environment. This is a great opportunity for dancers of all levels to train with Ailey dancers and top NYC instructors for a full week, all from their own homes. Students will participate in daily technique classes and rehearsals culminating in a final virtual performance.

Monday, August 9 – Friday, August 13

Weekly classes and special workshops from Ailey Extension take place virtually on Zoom

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[About Ailey Extension](#)

Since its inception in 2005, Ailey Extension has fulfilled Mr. Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering "real classes for real people." Ailey Extension offers over 25 different dance and fitness techniques such as Horton, Ballet, Masala Bhangra, West African, Samba, Jazz, Zumba, House and Hip-Hop. Over 135,000 people have taken classes at Ailey's home, New York's largest building dedicated to dance, where dancers of all levels and walks of life can learn and be inspired – body, mind, and spirit! For additional press materials, including photos, videos, and class descriptions, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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