

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

AILEY II | THE AILEY SCHOOL | AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS | AILEY EXTENSION

The Joan Weill Center for Dance 405 West 55th St, New York NY 10019-4402 (212) 405-9000 AlvinAiley.org

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

AILEY ALL ACCESS SERIES OF DIGITAL PERFORMANCE BROADCASTS JANUARY 31 – JUNE 20 HEADLINES SLATE OF FREE AILEY VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

***AILEY* Documentary Now Available on PBS *American Masters* and Hulu**

**Virtual Educational Experience Introduces School Students to the Magic of Ailey
During Black History Month in Conjunction with
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater National Tour**

Ailey Extension Offers FREE Hip-Hop Cardio and Afro-Dance Online Workshops

New York, NY – January 20, 2022 – The Ailey organization committed to furthering the pioneering vision of its founder [Alvin Ailey](#) continues to find ways to build community, inspire, and celebrate the indomitable human spirit through dance with a new slate of digital programming in conjunction with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's [national tour](#) marking Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#)'s 10th anniversary and 50 years of [Cry](#). Upcoming offerings include: [Ailey All Access](#), a returning online initiative featuring a series of performance broadcasts January 31 – June 20; a virtual educational performance experience will introduce young audiences to the magic of Ailey; [Ailey Extension's](#) dance and fitness classes program invites fans around the world to join in the dance with new workshops; and viewers are encouraged to explore the life and work of a brilliant and enigmatic genius through feature-length documentary portrait, ***AILEY***.

Alvin Ailey's legacy lives on through in-person and virtual performances and programs of the entire organization. The trailblazer's life story is portrayed in *AILEY*, Jamila Wignot's powerful documentary told in Ailey's own words and featuring evocative archival footage and interviews with those who intimately knew him. The must-see documentary, which opened the 36th season of PBS *American Masters* is being re-broadcast ([check local listings, pbs.org/ailey](#)), and is also available to [watch online](#) for free through February 11. [Visit pbs.org for more information](#) to watch on the PBS Video app, Amazon Fire TV, Roku and more—or stream it on [Hulu](#) with your subscription. Following, tune into a [free virtual panel discussion](#) hosted by New Jersey Performing Arts Center featuring the filmmaker of *AILEY* and artistic directors from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, moderated by NY Times culture writer and Rutgers-Newark professor, Salamishah Tillet.

Beginning on January 31, Ailey All Access free programs, viewable on Ailey's [YouTube](#), will debut on select **Mondays at 12 p.m. ET through June** and be **available online for two-week period**. The series will kick off with a celebration of **Black History program** showcasing former [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) member **Hope Boykin's *r-Evolution, Dream***, a work inspired by the sermons and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. following a visit to Atlanta's Center for Civil and Human Rights during Ailey's annual U.S. tour. The large ensemble work melds creative storytelling, music by Ali Jackson, and historic and original writings recorded by Tony Award winner Leslie Odom, Jr.

On **February 14** celebrate **Valentine's Day** with Ailey and stream **Lar Lubovitch's [Fandango](#)**, which explores the infinite possibilities of partnering, and **Robert Battle's** swirling romantic duet [Unfold](#), evoking the tenderness and ecstasy in Gustave Charpentier's aria "Depuis Le Jour" sung by the incomparable Leontyne Price. Designed to capture the intensity of one's first love, what Battle describes as "that feeling that life stands still," the drama inherent in *Unfold* is accentuated using nuanced gesture and vivid imagery wrapped in fluid grace.

Starting in February during Black History Month, a **virtual school-time performance will be made available to students in our cities** to help introduce young audiences to the magic of Ailey wherever they are. Filmed at New York City Center, the educational experience moderated by Artistic Director Robert Battle will welcome viewers behind the scenes to see the elements and hear from the people who create an Ailey experience. Special performances of classic works that Alvin Ailey created based upon his "blood memories" of growing up in rural Texas are featured with excerpts of [Blues Suite](#) and the must-see masterpiece [Revelations](#).

In conjunction with **National Criminal Justice Month**, Ailey will unveil the streaming debut of **Kyle Abraham's** powerful [Untitled America](#) on **February 28**, which shines a light on the impact of the prison system on African-American families. Developed over three seasons, the work features interviews by those impacted by incarceration. Fusing many facets of dance vocabulary, Abraham's movement style is decidedly original and contains wealth of physical detail that resonates with the Ailey dancers' trademark versatility.

The schedule for the February Ailey All Access presentations, viewable on Mondays on [YouTube](#), is as follows. For further updates on the Ailey All Access series and schedule through June, visit www.alvinailey.org/ailey-all-access.

- **January 31: Black History Month** – [r-Evolution, Dream](#) by Hope Boykin
Available to stream through February 13
- **February 14: Valentine's Day** – [Unfold](#) by Robert Battle
Available to stream through February 27
- **February 28: National Criminal Justice Month** – [Untitled America](#) (excerpts) by Kyle Abraham
Available to stream through March 13

In addition to monthly broadcasts, [Ailey Extension](#) is inviting fans to join in the dance from wherever they are with an exciting assortment of online workshops and weekly classes for students of all ages and experience levels. Dancers can keep up with their fitness resolutions while sweating it out during a [FREE Online Hip-hop Cardio workshop with Matthew Johnson Harris](#) on **Saturday, January 23 at 2 p.m. ET**. Throughout February students can immerse themselves in the rich culture of popular street styles by learning classic hip-hop moves from **TweetBoogie** in a [Ladies of Hip-Hop: Celebrating Black History Month Workshop](#) on **Saturday, February 5 at 2 p.m. ET**, and picking up the new generation of West African street dances during a [FREE Afro'Dance Workshop](#) with Angel Kaba on **Saturday, February 19 at 2 p.m. ET**. A [NY Style Mambo Valentine's Workshop](#) with Katherine Jimenez on **Monday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. ET** lets dancers celebrate love while learning the flirtatious dance technique while a [Celebrating Brazilian Carnival Workshop](#) with Quenia Ribeiro on **Saturday, February 20 at 3 p.m. ET** brings the spirit of Brazil's famed carnival culture to Ailey studios for all to enjoy.

Children ages 5-17 are also welcomed to get moving with Ailey each Sunday during the [Kids & Teens Winter/Spring session](#) which runs from **January 9-May 1**. Virtual ballet and hip-hop classes are available for kids ages 5-7 and 8-11, while teens and tweens ages 12-14 can get moving with their peers in Junior Contemporary and Junior Hip-hop. An online Junior/Teen Ballet class is open to ages 12-17. Kids & Teens can sign up for the full 16 week-session, the first 8 weeks (**January 9 - February 27**), the second 8 weeks (**March 6 - May1**), or drop in on a single class. For more information about Ailey Extension's workshops and weekly classes, including how to sign up, please visit alvinailey.org/extension.

As we move forward together, the Ailey organization will continue to find ways to uplift the Ailey community through dance. To enjoy a variety of digital content, follow Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey Extension on Facebook and Instagram, The Ailey School on Instagram, and visit www.alvinailey.org regularly for updates.

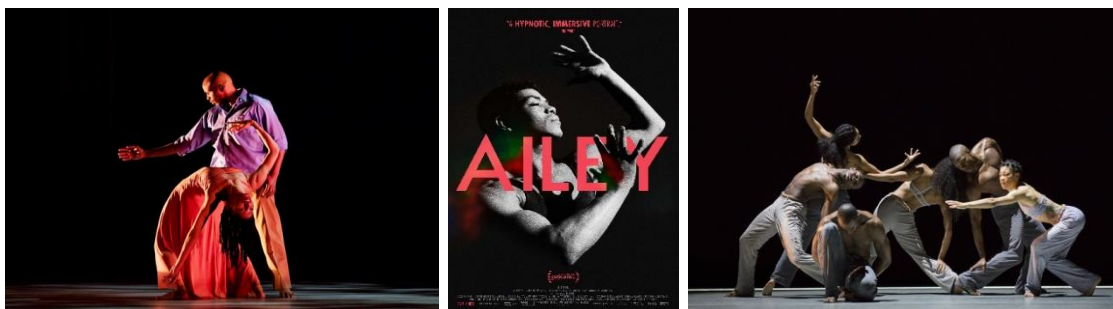
Ailey All Access programming is made possible with the support of National Tour Sponsor Bank of America.

For additional photos and press materials, please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

Ailey's 2021-2022 photo/video guide, with season images, repertory images and b-roll. View and download [here](#).

Our latest sizzle reel, which can be used for broadcast. View and download [here](#).

American Masters: Ailey – Click to download [broadcast clips](#) and [press materials](#).



(L to R) Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacqueline Green and Jeroboam Bozeman in Robert Battle's *Unfold*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. Alvin Ailey. Photo by John Lindquist. © Houghton Library, Harvard University; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Kyle Abraham's *Untitled America* Second Movement. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

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ABOUT ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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 March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Founded by Alvin Ailey, posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation’s highest civilian honor, and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on six continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark (where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, which brings dance into the classrooms, communities and lives of people of all ages; and The Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey’s permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world —named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

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