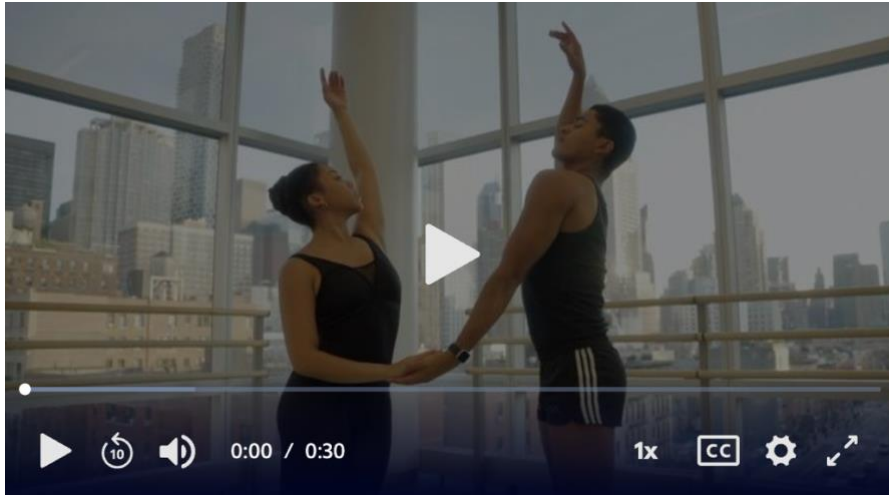


# ALL★ARTS

AT ALVIN AILEY, CHOREOGRAPHERS EXPLORE NEW DIRECTIONS IN DANCE

April 19, 2023



This All Arts trailer aired on 4/19/23: <https://www.allarts.org/2023/04/alvin-ailey-new-directions-series/> (30 seconds)



The eight-part ALL ARTS digital series "Alvin Ailey New Directions" traces the creative journeys of choreographers Quilan "Cue" Arnold and Maria Bauman during their New Directions Choreography Lab residencies.

The studio is a stage in filmmaker Steven Tabakin's "[Alvin Ailey New Directions](#)," an eight-part digital series that follows choreographers [Quilan "Cue" Arnold](#) and [Maria Bauman](#) as they work with dancers from The Ailey School as part of their [New Directions Choreography Lab](#) residencies.



Premiering on the ALL ARTS [site](#) and [app](#) May 2, the series documents the choreographers' individual processes as they explore new territories and develop their craft across the seven-week duration of the choreography lab. The episodes include a peek into the creative process, interviews with Bauman and Arnold, and backstory about the New Directions Choreography Lab program, as told by its founder, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle.

"Viewers will join the next generation of choreographers and dancers on a path of discovery at The Joan Weill Center for Dance, where they have time, space, and freedom for process, exploration and play," Battle said of the series. "As artists, we know that playing around is serious business and can be the seed for the next innovation in dance that inspires and shifts perspectives."

Founded in 2011 by Battle shortly after he joined Alvin Ailey as artistic director, New Directions Choreography Lab [aims to](#) "cultivate an environment in which choreographers are free to take creative risks and explore new ideas." The program, currently hosted by Battle and The Ailey School Co-Director Melanie Person, provides choreographers with a stipend, studio space, access to creative advisors and time with dancers from The Ailey School.

Bauman and Arnold participated in the Fall 2023 residency.

"What audiences don't necessarily witness on the stage are the creative risks behind producing a new work," James King, senior artistic director of ALL ARTS, said. "In 'Alvin Ailey New Directions,' viewers are invited on an artistic journey with Bauman and Arnold to experience how their ideas take shape." "Alvin Ailey New Directions" premieres May 2 on the ALL

ARTS [app](#), [site](#), [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#). Descriptions of the episodes, which will be released all at once, are below.

*Episode 1: Paying It Forward*

Building on Alvin Ailey's legacy, Robert Battle created New Directions Choreography Lab as a safe space for emerging choreographers to explore new ideas with The Ailey School student dancers. The residency culminates in an informal showing of their work.

*Episode 2: Quilan "Cue" Arnold*

Choreographer Quilan "Cue" Arnold recounts his artistic evolution, including the experiences and people who got him to this point in his dance career. Speaking about the residency at The Ailey School, he finds he must resist his ambition to achieve.

*Episode 3: Maria Bauman*

Traveling to The Ailey School from her home in NYC, dance artist Maria Bauman focuses on the idea of mentorship — with special gratitude for the queer and Black mentors who supported her work to create empowering artistic spaces.

*Episode 4: Searching for a True Move*

Opening the studio to a camera crew creates an opportunity and a challenge for Arnold. Rehearsing with cameras present sparks a new exploration of who to be and how to perform while maintaining community and truthfulness.

*Episode 5: Sweating Your Truth*

Setting out to add new techniques to skills the dancers already have, Bauman introduces text-based dancing, speaking and singing. The exercises challenge Ailey School students to improvise in response by drawing from their inner landscapes.

*Episode 6: Ubuntu: I am Because You are*

Arnold's presentation, "Searching for a True Move," is an approach based on Ubuntu philosophy and the idea that "I am because you/we are." He guides Ailey School students to explore what is meaningfully true for them in the moment.

*Episode 7: Mentorship*

During an open rehearsal, Bauman introduces her explorations around Black wealth, including mentorship. This dance piece uses the recorded voice of her mentor Dr. William R. Jones, who was a Black Liberation scholar, a theologian and philosopher.

*Episode 8: Reflections*

Reflecting on the New Directions Choreography Lab, Arnold and Bauman discuss vulnerability, courage and what it means to be an artist. Battle notes Alvin Ailey said: "The most interesting works of art are the most personal."

*"Alvin Ailey New Directions" is created and produced by Steven Tabakin. Jon Fine is editor, with Duncan Pettigrew is director of photography.*