

# AILEY® EXTENSION

## REAL CLASSES FOR REAL PEOPLE

### RELEASE YOUR INNER PERFORMER AND TAKE CENTER STAGE AT AILEY EXTENSION THIS SUMMER

#### Four-Week Summer Performance Workshops Kick Off on Saturday, July 22



*Ailey Extension Summer Performance Showcase 2016.*

(New York) July 20, 2017 – Each summer, Ailey Extension invites students to take their dancing to another level and unleash their inner performer. Beginner and advanced beginner dancers are welcomed to enroll in a four-week [Summer Performance Workshop](#) to learn and showcase choreography from some of Ailey Extension's top instructors. Beginning **Saturday, July 22 through Thursday, August 17**, participants will develop ensemble skills, expand their style of movement, and gain a better understanding of performance training while receiving personalized attention. The workshops culminate with performances at **The Ailey Citigroup Theater** on **Saturday, August 19 at 7pm** and **Sunday, August 20 at 2pm**.

Five different techniques will be offered – ballet, hip-hop, Horton, salsa, and contemporary – led by the following seven Ailey Extension instructors:

- [Karen Arceneaux \(Horton\)](#) – **July 22-August 15; Tuesdays, 8-10pm & Saturdays, 1:30-3:30pm**: Recently featured in [Dance Teacher magazine](#), Karen studied Horton technique at The Ailey School under master instructor Ana Marie Forsythe. Now Karen teaches Horton fundamentals to beginner students, which are seen in Alvin Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*. In addition to teaching Horton at Ailey Extension, Karen is a certified personal trainer, weight loss specialist, and Zumba instructor.
- [Dionna PridGeon \(Contemporary\)](#) – **July 22-August 14; Saturdays, 3-5pm & Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm**: Originally from Chicago, Dionna has trained in multiple dance styles, which has helped her become a versatile dancer and master contemporary teacher. She has performed many works by dance icons, including Robert Battle, Lou Conte, and Margo Sappington. Dionna infuses her versatile background in her choreography, where dancers can explore their own voice through organic and dynamic movements.
- [Christopher Jackson \(Contemporary\)](#) – **July 23-August 1; Sundays, 5-7pm & Wednesdays, 8-10pm**: A former member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, Christopher Jackson has been a part of the Ailey organization for many years. Christopher has been cast in several Broadway productions, including the national tour of Disney's *The Lion King* and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Wiz*, and he performed for former United States president Barack Obama. He teaches contemporary classes bi-weekly at Ailey Extension, infusing modern, ballet, and jazz in his original choreography.
- [Dawn Hillen \(Ballet\)](#) – **July 23-August 17; Sundays, 6-8pm & Thursdays, 8:30-10:30pm**: A master ballet teacher, Dawn has been a permanent faculty member at some of the largest dance studios in NYC for more than 25 years. She has trained adult beginner dancers who are new to ballet in every aspect, including pointe, teaching students technical proficiency, clarity, and fluidity. Dawn has performed in *The Nutcracker* and appeared in Buglisi Dance Theater's *The Table of Silence* at Lincoln Center.
- [Robin Dunn \(Hip-Hop\)](#) – **July 23-August 17; Thursdays, 8-10pm & Sundays, 4-6pm**: Before becoming a hip-hop teacher, Robin studied jazz, tap, ballet, Horton, and Dunham at various studios including The Ailey School. For over 20 years, Robin has taught beginner dancers how to learn and master basic choreography. Last year, Robin Dunn was instrumental in helping two Ailey Extension students lose 60 pounds combined through hip-hop dance, which was featured on [PIX11 Morning News](#).

- **[TweetBoogie \(Hip-Hop\)](#) – July 24-August 16; Mondays, 8:30-10:30pm & Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30pm:** Hip-hop dancer, choreographer, and teacher TweetBoogie has worked with many celebrities throughout her career including Jay-Z, Destiny’s Child, and Fergie. She has appeared on *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* and was featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* as Oprah Winfrey and Gayle King’s personal dance instructor. TweetBoogie gives students a solid foundation to execute hard-hitting exercises and break down highly energetic hip-hop routines that build stamina and increase musicality.
- **[Balía Society \(Salsa\)](#) – July 25-August 17; Tuesdays, 8:30-10:30pm & Thursdays, 8:30-10:30pm:** Founded and led by Ahtoy WonPat-Borja and Daniel Enskat, Baila Society (also known as BASo) educates students on the culture, history, music, and dance theory behind the sophistication of NY Salsa. Ahtoy has held lead roles in musical and dance theater productions and became a top international Latin Ballroom competitor. Daniel has been a judge for the World Latin Dance Cup, and has studied many different dance forms including Dunham, jazz, and ballet.

These workshops take place at The Joan Weill Center for Dance – New York’s largest building dedicated to dance and home of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Seven days a week, Ailey Extension offers over 25 different dance and fitness styles for students at all levels. For the complete class schedule and to register for a Summer Performance Workshop, visit [aileyextension.com](http://aileyextension.com).

### **SUMMER PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Horton with Karen Arceneaux**

July 22 – August 15

Tuesdays, 8-10pm & Saturdays, 1:30-3:30pm

#### **Contemporary with Dionna PridGeon**

July 22 – August 14

Saturdays, 3-5pm & Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm

#### **Contemporary with Christopher Jackson**

July 23 – August 16

Sundays, 5-7pm & Wednesdays, 8-10pm

#### **Ballet with Dawn Hillen**

July 23 – August 17

Sundays, 6-8pm & Thursdays, 8:30-10:30pm

#### **Hip-Hop with Robin Dunn**

July 23 – August 17

Thursdays, 8-10pm & Sundays, 4-6pm

#### **Hip-Hop with TweetBoogie**

July 24 – August 16

Mondays, 8:30-10:30pm & Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30pm

#### **Salsa with Baila Society**

July 25 – August 17

Tuesdays, 8:30-10:30pm & Thursdays, 8:30-10:30pm

*All performance workshops cost \$225/person.*

### **[Electronic Press Kit](#)**

#### **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 125,000 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](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).