

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Charnelle Wilson, Public Relations Associate  
[cwilson@alvinailey.org](mailto:cwilson@alvinailey.org) / 212-405-9083

Christopher Zunner, Director of Public Relations  
[czunner@alvinailey.org](mailto:czunner@alvinailey.org) / 212-405-9028

**THE AILEY ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES FIVE DAYS OF FREE  
DANCE CLASSES TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE NEW  
ELAINE WYNN & FAMILY EDUCATION WING AT  
THE JOAN WEILL CENTER FOR DANCE  
OCTOBER 18 – 22**

**New Dance Studios Make Room for Approximately 100 More Classes a Week through  
The Ailey School and Ailey Extension, Broadening Access to Dance Education at the  
Largest Building Dedicated to Dance in New York City**

**September 27, 2017 (NEW YORK CITY)** – The Ailey organization is pleased to announce the **opening of The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing**, a 10,000-square-foot expansion of The Joan Weill Center for Dance - New York City's largest building dedicated to dance. To mark the occasion, **from Wednesday, October 18 through Sunday, October 22, Ailey Extension will offer five days of free classes**, teaching a range of styles from House Dance with a Live DJ to Hip-Hop, Zumba, West African Dance, New York Style Mambo, and Contemporary Dance.

Ailey's thriving home at West 55<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue welcomes 200,000 visitors annually for classes, rehearsals, performances, and tours. Designed by The Center's original architects, lu+Bibliowicz Architects, The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing adds three floors to the west side of Ailey's building including four dance studios, two flexible classrooms and additional administrative office space, in addition to renovated existing lounges, locker rooms, restrooms, and the company's costume shop. With the new wing, Ailey will add nearly 100 weekly classes, an increase of 20%, to meet the needs of The Ailey School's pre-professional and professional training programs for young people and Ailey Extension's dance and fitness classes for the public. The expanded space will also accommodate rehearsals for Ailey II and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (now preparing for a holiday season at [New York City Center](#) from November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>), in addition to serving the needs of the entire dance community.

[Ailey Extension](#) was launched in 2005 with the original opening of Ailey's permanent home, furthering Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering "real classes for real people." The program offers weekly classes in more than 25 dance and fitness techniques—made possible by the opening of The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing—including Horton (the modern dance technique seen in Alvin Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations*), Ballet, Hip-Hop, Samba, Afro-Cuban, Masala Bhangra, and Ailey Barre. New this fall, Ailey Extension offers dance fitness classes taught exclusively at Ailey: "DanceFit with Karen Arceneaux," a 60-minute, high-intensity cardio workout taught by a certified personal trainer; "Body Ballet® with Anna Lederfeind," a one-hour workout program with cardio strength-building techniques adapted from those practiced by professional ballet dancers; and "Strong by Zumba®," which combines high intensity interval training with the science of synced music motivation. Ailey Extension also adds some of New York City's top dance instructors to its roster like Shirlene Quigley, a former backup dancer for Beyoncé, Rihanna and Missy Elliott, and Lisa-Marie Lewis, a former Radio City Rockette who currently stars in the Broadway production of *The Lion King*.

**Free Dance Class Information**

Be among the first to dance in Ailey's new studios in **The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing** at The Joan Weill Center for Dance at 405 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City. Registration for Ailey Extension's free public dance class series celebrating the opening of the new wing begins Tuesday, October 10 at 12pm. To register, visit [www.aileyextension.com/ailey-spirit-week](http://www.aileyextension.com/ailey-spirit-week).

### *Class Schedule:*

- **Wednesday, October 18, 5pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm:** Zumba with Jose Ozuna
- **Wednesday, October 18, 6-7pm:** Hip-Hop with Antonio Jefferson
- **Thursday, October 19, 7:30pm-9:30pm:** House Dance with Kim Holmes (featuring Live DJ)
- **Friday, October 20, 6:30pm-8:30pm:** West African Dance Family Series\* with Maguette Camara
- **Friday, October 20, 6:30-7:15pm:** Strong by Zumba with Irena Meletiou
- **Friday, October 20, 7:30-8:30pm:** Whine Up with Irena Meletiou
- **Saturday, October 21, 4:30pm-6:30pm:** New York Style Mambo with Katherine Jimenez
- **Sunday, October 22, 2:30pm-4:30pm:** Contemporary Dance with Christopher Jackson

All classes are open to new and returning students, ages 16+.

\*West African Dance Family Series is open to adults and children, ages 10+.

Click [here](#) for Ailey Extension class photos.

### **The New Wing**

For more information about The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing visit:

[www.alvinailey.org/about/aileys-next-revelation](http://www.alvinailey.org/about/aileys-next-revelation)

### **Calendar Listing Information**

The Ailey organization celebrates the opening of The Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing, a 10,000-square-foot expansion to Ailey's home The Joan Weill Center for Dance, by hosting **five days of free dance classes from Wednesday, October 18 through Sunday, October 22**. Ailey Extension, which offers weekly classes in 25 dance and fitness techniques, will get hearts pumping and inspiration flowing with Zumba, House Dance with a live DJ, Hip-Hop, West African Dance Family Series (open to adults and kids, ages 10+), New York Style Mambo, and Contemporary Dance. All experience levels are welcomed – even beginners. Since its inception in 2005, the program has welcomed over 125,000 students and fulfilled founder Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone. Registration for free classes begins on Tuesday, October 10 at 12pm. All classes will be held at The Joan Weill Center for Dance (405 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019). For class times and to register, visit [www.aileyextension.com/ailey-spirit-week](http://www.aileyextension.com/ailey-spirit-week).

### **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, recent 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 6 continents – as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms - 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 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, 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 United States and 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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

###