

AILEY EXTENSION

RENOWNED AILEY DANCERS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS LEAD WORKSHOPS AT THE AILEY EXTENSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S MILESTONE 60TH ANNIVERSARY NEW YORK CITY CENTER SEASON

Workshops with Leading Dancers Linda Celeste Sims and Jamar Roberts on November 3 and November 19, Distinguished Choreographers Rennie Harris and Ronald K. Brown on November 4 and December 5

(New York, NY) October 31, 2018 - In celebration of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's momentous 60th Anniversary, [Ailey Extension](#) extends an invitation to dancers of all levels and backgrounds to join workshops by Company dancers and choreographers featured in the [New York City Center holiday season](#) (November 28-December 30). Acclaimed Ailey stars **Linda Celeste Sims** and **Jamar Roberts** lead Contemporary workshops that will unite Modern dance principles with the exploration of artistic range, and renowned choreographers **Rennie Harris** and **Ronald K. Brown** will offer an immersive taste of upcoming season world premieres and their respective signature styles. Ailey Extension workshops are open to participants of all experience levels.



AAADT's Linda Celeste Sims. Photo by Andrew Eccles.

For the first time, celebrated Ailey dancer [Linda Celeste Sims](#) comes to Ailey Extension for a two-hour Contemporary Modern Workshop on **Saturday, November 3 at 4pm**, designed to give dancers the opportunity to find freedom and joy in movement. A Dance Magazine Award Honoree and Bessie Award recipient with a professional career spanning more than two decades, Mrs. Sims is recognized globally for her memorable performances and her lyrical musicality, endless extensions, absolute precision, and grace. This one-time-only workshop incorporates modern dance techniques such as Graham, Horton, Taylor, and Jazz with Ballet principles, providing students with the necessary technical tools to expand their movement.



Rennie Harris with AAADT rehearsing Lazarus. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

Legendary choreographer and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's inaugural artist-in-residence [Rennie Harris](#) leads a two-hour advanced study of Street dance on **Sunday, November 4 at 5pm**. Reflective of Mr. Harris' personal style and philosophy, his workshop will offer dancers a fundamental Street dance foundation and working knowledge of rhythm, groove rhythm and movement. In addition, Mr. Harris will contextualize Street dance aesthetic and culture through personal stories, experience, and history. The workshop offers connection to the upcoming world premiere of Mr. Harris' [Lazarus](#), the Company's first two-act ballet, which calls on inspiration from the life and legacy of Mr. Ailey and addresses the racial inequalities our nation has faced in 1958 when the Company was founded and today. *This workshop is free to the public.*



AAADT's Jamar Roberts in Alvin Ailey's Revelations. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

Company dancer and choreographer [Jamar Roberts](#) joins Ailey Extension for his inaugural Contemporary workshop on **Monday, November 19 at 7pm**. With an emphasis on opposition and resistance in movement, participants will be challenged to better understand weight, gravity, and articulation in the use of the body. The workshop begins with a warm-up based in Graham and Limon principles, combined with Mr. Robert's own unique movement style, before journeying through movement aimed to promote synergy between technical dance and individual expression. Throughout the workshop, dancers are encouraged to connect movement to their breath and physical sensations, allowing them to engage with a more dynamic sense of musicality and a consistent flow of energy.



Ronald K. Brown with AAADT rehearsing. Photo by Claudia Schreier.

On **Wednesday, December 5 at 7pm**, dancers will have the opportunity to learn from **[Ronald K. Brown](#)**, one of today's most preeminent choreographers, as he transports his renowned storytelling from the stage to the Ailey studios. On December 3, Mr. Brown will receive the prestigious 2018 Dance Magazine Award, ahead of the world premiere of **[The Call](#)** on December 4, his newest work for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. His master class fuses modern dance technique with West African movements, including traditional and social dance from the United States, Senegal, Cuba, and Ivory Coast. Designed for people with a wide range of dance experience, participants will develop their versatility and ability to organically move from one style to the next.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's [60th Anniversary season](#) at New York City Center features premieres from some of today's most celebrated choreographers, including Rennie Harris, Ronald K. Brown, Wayne McGregor, and Jessica Lang, along with timeless treasures by Alvin Ailey. The season also included the long-awaited new production of Artistic Director Robert Battle's **[Juba](#)**, his first work for the Company created in 2003. For more information on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's performances, visit alvinailey.org.

Ailey Extension's Ticket to Dance* promotion returns this season giving first-time students a chance to **try a weekly dance or fitness class for free** with an Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performance ticket (offer expires after 60 days). Return students receive a free class with the purchase of a 10-class card. Dance enthusiasts can build self-confidence in a non-competitive environment while learning techniques seen on stage at New York City Center. Ailey's five-week, 60th Anniversary season will also feature a variety of world premieres, new productions, live music performances, and special programs. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org. Ticket to Dance promotion is not valid on New York City Center workshops.

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NEW YORK CITY CENTER WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

[Contemporary Modern Workshop with Linda Celeste Sims](#)

Saturday, November 3, 4-6pm / \$30

[Rennie Harris Workshop](#)

Sunday, November 4, 5-7pm / Free to the public

[Contemporary Workshop with Jamar Roberts](#)

Monday, November 19, 7-9pm / \$30

[Ronald K. Brown Workshop](#)

Wednesday, December 5, 7-9pm / \$30

OTHER AILEY EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

[Afro Flow Yoga 10th Anniversary with Leslie Salmon Jones and Jeff Jones](#)

Sunday, November 11, 2-4pm / \$25

[Move Your Curves with Pretty BIG Movement](#)

Saturday, November 17 and December 15, 7-9pm / \$25

[Afro Flow Yoga™ with Pilin Anice](#)

November 18 and December 2 & 16, 2-3:30pm / \$25

[Growing up with Alvin Ailey Legacy Panel](#)

Monday, December 10, 7-8:30pm / \$30

To purchase, visit www.aileyextension.com

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.

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