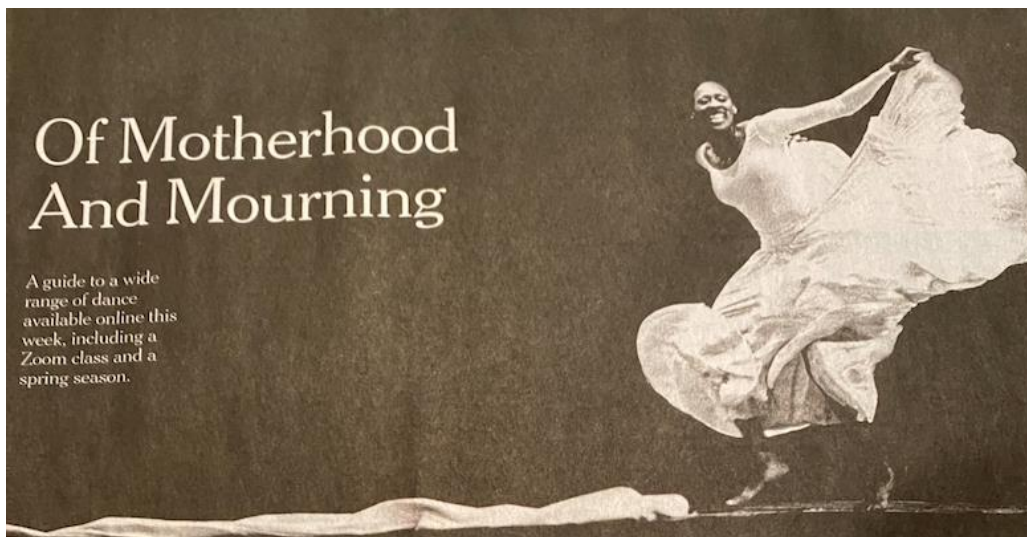


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Of Motherhood And Mourning

By: Siobhan Burke

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Of Motherhood And Mourning

A guide to a wide range of dance available online this week, including a Zoom class and a spring season.

By SIOBHAN BURKE

This is a guide to the best dance online this week, with a class to get your heart pumping (“Dress cute, and stay on mute”).

Alvin Ailey’s ‘Cry’

Since Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater began rolling out its online programming in March, I’ve been waiting for Ailey’s always uplifting “Cry” to make an appearance. It arrived, appropriately, just in time for Mother’s Day. Ailey created this bracing 16-minute solo in 1971 as a birthday present to his mother, dedicating it to “all black women everywhere — especially our mothers.” Through Thursday at 6 p.m. Eastern, the company is presenting a 1972 performance by its original interpreter, the ravishing Judith Jamison, at alvinailey.org. It is still a gift.

Screens have a way of diminishing kinesthetic empathy — our ability to feel, physically, what a dancer might be feeling, to move without moving — but Ms. Jamison’s energy pierces through that barrier, as if she were right there with us. In the images of struggle, liberation and joy that fill the solo’s three sections, every pliant reach of the arm and contraction of the spine remains electrifying.

The performance is just one part of a “Cry” playlist that also includes an in-depth interview with Ms. Jamison and a new video compilation of Ailey women — current and former company members — dancing “Cry” at home. And if you’re hooked, there’s more on YouTube, where you can find the magnetic Deborah Manning, one of many successors in the role, dancing it in full.

Top, Judith Jamison in a 1975 performance of Alvin Ailey’s “Cry.” The company is streaming a 1972 Jamison performance. Above, Ask la Cour, center, in a New York City Ballet performance of “The Four Temperaments” in 2018.