

AILEY EXTENSION

AILEY EXTENSION KICKS OFF FALL KIDS AND TEENS SESSION WITH FREE OPEN HOUSE SAMPLING BALLET, HIP-HOP, AND CONTEMPORARY JAZZ TECHNIQUES

Free Open House Gives Kids, Teens, and Their Parents a Sneak Peek at Classes on September 11

Children Ages 5-7 Let Loose as They Discover the Fundamentals of Ballet and Hip-Hop

Kids 8-11 Explore Creativity in Ballet, Contemporary Jazz, and Hip-Hop Classes

Teens Ages 12+ Develop Confidence While Learning Ballet, Contemporary Jazz, and Hip-Hop



Teen Ballet at Ailey Extension. Photo by Grace Landefeld; Hip-Hop 4 Kids at Ailey Extension. Photo by Grace Landefeld; Teen Jazz at Ailey Extension. Photo by Kyle Froman

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(NEW YORK) August 11, 2022 – [Ailey Extension](#) is opening its doors to young aspiring dancers for the return of the **Fall Kids & Teens** Sunday dance series from **September 18-December 11**. This year ahead of the official start of the 12-week session, children ages 5-17 are invited to get moving and grooving one week early while sampling ballet, hip-hop, and contemporary jazz classes at a **free open house on September 11**. All Kids & Teens programming takes place in person at the [Joan Weill Center for Dance](#) – NYC's largest building dedicated to dance – where students of all ages and experience levels can get down while improving their technique with the help of Ailey Extension's elite instructors.

During the [Fall Kids & Teens Open House](#) on **September 11 from 10am-12:30pm** curious kids and their parents will get a taste of each class available for their age group and learn more about the program from the instructors. Each technique will be offered in 30-minute increments with classes for children ages 5-7 starting at 10am, classes for kids ages 8-11 starting at 10:30am, and classes for teens ages 12-17 starting at 11am.

Once the Fall session begins, young dancers will meet up weekly to learn new skills, including how to breathe life into their performance, from some of the best teachers in New York City. Celebrated former [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) Company member [Linda Celeste Sims](#) will teach students of all ages the fundamentals of ballet while celebrity dancer [Yancy Greene](#) will help them move effortlessly to hip-hop beats. Each instructor takes into consideration the abilities of the age group to foster learning skills in a beginner-friendly creative and supportive environment.

During [Fall Kids at Ailey](#) youngsters ages 5-7 can let loose as they practice the fundamentals of street styles in **Intro to Hip-Hop**; and find grace as they learn essential dance moves and vocabulary during **Intro to Ballet**. Children ages 8-11 can focus on flexibility while progressing at the barre in **Ballet for Kids**, explore a wide range of expressive movements during **Contemporary Jazz for Kids**, and flex their creative muscles as they get down in **Hip-Hop 4 Kids**.

Teens 12 and up can dive into dance and build confidence as they sharpen their skills in a judgment-free zone surrounded by peers during [Fall Teens at Ailey](#). Dancers can focus on classic party moves and energetic routines in **Teen Hip-Hop**, develop a better understanding of body alignment and ballet terminology as they learn combinations in **Teen Ballet**; and master musicality as they develop a strong foundation to dance during **Teen Contemporary Jazz**.

Children of all backgrounds and experience levels are welcome to join in the dance during Kids & Teens at Ailey. Students are encouraged to sign up for the full 12-week session, but drop-ins are also available on a weekly basis with prior registration. For more details about Fall Kids & Teens at Ailey, and to sign up please visit alvinailey.org/extension.

As Ailey opens its doors to the public, the health and well-being of all dancers, students, instructors, and staff remains a top priority. An Ailey Forward re-entry plan to safely welcome dancers, instructors, and staff to The Joan Weill Center for Dance has been developed and continues to be updated with consideration of all government and regulatory guidelines as well as information from health professionals. **All visitors to the building – including students, instructors, and staff – will be required to submit proof of full vaccination and wear masks while indoors.** Students are encouraged to visit alvinailey.org/extension/covidsafety for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 safety protocols.

With more than 40 weekly classes and special workshops available each month, Ailey Extension allows students of all ages around the world to explore different dance styles seven days a week. For more details about Ailey Extension's variety of in-person and virtual class options – which include hip-hop, ballet, Horton, West African, Zumba®, jazz, samba, yoga, contemporary, Pilates, Broadway Jazz and more – please visit alvinailey.org/extension.

FALL CLASSES FOR KIDS & TEENS

KIDS & TEENS 2022 FALL SESSION

Kids & Teens classes at Ailey are open to children of all experience levels. Each class takes into consideration the abilities of the age group to create an environment that fosters learning skills and boosts confidence while being taught by the city's top instructors. **Fall Session runs from September 18 – December 11** (no classes November 27).

Fall Kids at Ailey (Ages 5-11)

- **INTRO TO BALLET (Ages 5-7)** Sundays, 10:00-10:45am
[Linda Celeste Sims](#) will introduce students to the ballet vocabulary while progressing at the barre, developing coordination through combinations.
- **INTRO TO HIP-HOP (Ages 5-7)** Sundays, 11:00-11:45am
[Yancy Greene](#) will lead your kids through the fundamentals of hip-hop, developing coordination and musicality while building on basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.
- **BALLET FOR KIDS (Ages 8-11)** Sundays, 11:00am-12:00pm
[Linda Celeste Sims](#) will further students' ballet vocabulary while progressing at the barre, developing coordination through combinations.
- **CONTEMPORARY JAZZ FOR KIDS (Ages 8-11)** Sundays, 11:00am-12:00pm
Students will find freedom in the use of movement while developing technique and building a strong foundation. A fusion of modern, ballet, and jazz' this unique style explores a wide range of expressive movements and syncopated rhythms. Each class involves learning original choreography while focusing on theatrical elements and mastering musicality.

- **HIP HOP 4 KIDS (Ages 8-11)** Sundays 1:00-2:00pm
[Yancy Greene](#) will lead kids through the fundamentals of hip-hop, developing coordination and musicality while building on basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.

Fall Teens at Ailey (Ages 12-17)

- **TEEN BALLET (Ages 12-17)** Sundays, 12:00-1:00pm
[Linda Celeste Sims](#) will help teens continue their knowledge of ballet terminology with slow and thorough exercises to ensure a better understanding of body alignment and vocabulary. It is recommended that students wear ballet shoes or socks along with clothing like a leotard or tank top that allows the instructor to view placement.
- **TEEN CONTEMPORARY JAZZ (Ages 15-17)** Sundays, 1:00-2:00pm
Students will find freedom in the use of movement while developing technique and building a strong foundation. A fusion of modern, ballet, and jazz' this unique style explores a wide range of expressive movements and syncopated rhythms. Each class involves learning original choreography while focusing on theatrical elements and mastering musicality.
- **TEEN HIP-HOP (Ages 15-17)** Sundays, 2:00-3:00pm
[Yancy Greene](#) will build on your kids' understanding of the fundamentals of hip-hop, coordination, and musicality while moving through basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.

**Ailey Experience NYC takes place in-person at The Joan Weill Center for Dance
(405 W 55th Street, New York, NY 10019)**

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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 135,000 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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