

# AILEY EXTENSION

## AILEY EXTENSION AND AREA ATLANTA JOIN FORCES TO HOST CLASSES LED BY STARS OF ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER DURING FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL AILEY EXPERIENCE DESTINATION DANCE ATLANTA WORKSHOP SERIES

**Friday, February 19: Kickoff the Experience with a Free Panel Discussing Alvin Ailey's Legacy**

**Saturday, February 20: Learn Horton Technique and Ailey Repertory from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Company Members and Join Masterclass with Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing**

**Sunday, February 21: Practice Contemporary Technique and More Ailey Choreography with Company members and Ailey Extension's Maguette Camara West African Masterclass Family Finale**



*Ailey Experience Atlanta. Photo by Shoccara Marcus; Matthew Rushing. Photo by Andrew Eccles; West African with Maguette Camara. Photo by Joe Epstein. [CLICK ON PHOTO FOR HIGH-RES DOWNLOAD](#)*

**(New York) January 27, 2021** – For the first time in the five-year history of its collaboration, [Ailey Extension](#) and [AREA Atlanta](#) are coming together to make the multi-day [Ailey Experience Destination Dance Atlanta](#) event into a virtual affair. This year's participants are in for a unique treat, as the workshops will be taught by current [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) Company members. The three-day weekend experience immerses greater Atlanta residents in the spirit of Ailey with classes in Horton, contemporary, and West African techniques, while introducing dancers to the exciting world of choreography, creativity, and fun in a non-competitive environment. These classes and the preceding panel discussion allow participants to learn the rich history of Ailey's signature style and how he changed the perception of American modern dance.

This year's celebration kicks off on **Friday, February 19 at 7pm ET** with a free [Alvin Ailey Global Influence Panel](#) featuring former Ailey dancers who are now prominent directors of various parts of the Ailey organization. [Tracy Inman](#), co-director of The Ailey School, [Lisa Johnson-Willingham](#), director of Ailey Extension, and [Nasha Thomas](#), national director of AileyCamp; will discuss Alvin Ailey's invaluable contributions to the arts and global community and the impact of his legacy personally and on the lives of so many. Virtual attendees will have the chance to hear about how different branches of the organization each work to continue Alvin Ailey's mission from three dance world success stories who developed at

Ailey and are now giving back to the next generation. The panel will be moderated by **Jai McClendon Jones**, executive artistic director and founder of AREA Atlanta and co-presenter of Ailey Experience Destination Dance Atlanta.

On **Saturday, February 20** students ages 8 and up can join in the dance during two classes with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Company members. Starting at 2pm ET, [Jeroboam Bozeman](#) will guide participants ages 8-13 through a Horton class, teaching the fundamentals of the signature technique which serves as the foundation of choreography performed in Alvin Ailey's famous works like the American masterpiece [Revelations](#), now being celebrated in its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. [Courtney Celeste Spears](#) will then teach the young dancers classic steps from works in Ailey's celebrated repertory. Similar workshops for students ages 13 and older will start at 3pmET with an Advanced Horton class taught by long-time Ailey dancer [Yannick Lebrun](#), followed by an Ailey choreography class with [Belen Pereyra](#).

That evening at 6pm ET [Matthew Rushing, who became](#) Associate Artistic Director in 2020 after three decades of renowned performances on the Ailey stage, will lead a [Modern Dance Masterclass](#) focusing on tools that are useful for dancers of all levels to access a deeper and more articulate way of moving within the modern dance technique. The 75-minute class is open to students of all ages and experience levels and will include a basic modern warmup, a dance combination, and discussions to help provide understanding and clarity of movement.

On **Sunday, February 21** dancers in both age groups can take a contemporary class with Georgia native [Christopher Wilson, who first saw an Ailey performance in Atlanta](#), before learning additional Ailey repertory from [Solomon Dumas, the only former AileyCamper to become an Ailey star](#). Wilson's class will help students find freedom in the use of movement while developing technique and building a strong foundation to dance. Dumas will then lead participants through more excerpts of Ailey's brilliant choreography, which celebrates the African American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition.

The weekend culminates on Sunday evening with a [West African Masterclass](#) taught by renowned Ailey Extension instructor [Maguette Camara](#). This masterclass will teach participants the fundamentals of traditional West African dance with an emphasis on an understanding of the accompanying drum rhythms. Dancers are strongly encouraged to make this 75-minute masterclass a household affair, inviting family members of all ages and experience levels to come together at 6pmET for this special occasion.

Ailey Experience workshop series is designed to expand on Alvin Ailey's life-long commitment to give dance back to the people by making dance accessible to everyone. The workshops give the greater Atlanta community a rare opportunity to study with prominent New York City-based dancers in the field including past and present Ailey dancers. Virtual classes are open to students of various ages and experience levels starting at \$25. For the latest details on Ailey Experience Destination Dance Atlanta, including a complete schedule of events and instructions on how to signup, please visit [alvinailey.org/extension](http://alvinailey.org/extension).

## **VIRTUAL AILEY EXPERIENCE ATLANTA WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

### **Friday, February 19 - [AILEY Experience ATLANTA Virtual Panel](#) 7pm – 8pm Free**

Nasha Thomas – Aileycamp National Director

Tracy Iman – Co-Director of The Ailey School

Lisa Johnson-Willingham – Ailey Extension Director

### **Saturday, February 20 – [AILEY Experience ATLANTA Virtual Workshops](#)**

2:00pm – 3:00pm – Horton with Jeroboam Bozeman (ages 8 – 12)

3:15pm – 4:15pm – Ailey Repertory with Courtney Spears (ages 8 – 12)

3:00pm – 4:00pm – Advanced Horton with Yannick Lebrun (13 & older)

4:15pm – 5:15pm – Ailey Repertory with Belen Pereyra (13 & older)

6:00pm – 7:15pm – [Masterclass with Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing](#)

**Sunday, February 21 – [AILEY Experience ATLANTA Virtual Workshops](#)**

2:00pm – 3:00pm – Contemporary with Christopher Wilson (ages 8 – 12)

3:15pm – 4:15pm – Ailey Repertory with Solomon Dumas (ages 8 – 12)

3:00pm – 4:00pm – Advanced Contemporary with Christopher Wilson (13 & older)

4:15pm – 5:15pm – Ailey Repertory with Solomon Dumas (13 & older)

6:00pm – 7:15pm – [West African Masterclass with Maguette Camara](#)

**WORKSHOP FEE:**

\$30 Single Day Package (two classes)

\$50 Two Day Package (four classes)

\$25 Single Masterclass

\$40 Two Day Masterclass

**Ailey Experience Destination Dance Atlanta and all other special workshops and weekly classes from Ailey Extension take place virtually on Zoom**

**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 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](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

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