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Ailey All Access Premieres Special *Cry* Film Adaptation on Mother's Day in Conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Beloved Work

A Powerful Greenwood Centennial Program Premieres May 26

Currently Airing : Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary* through May 8

**Ailey Extension Offers Additional Online Classes to Keep Dancing
in Celebration of National Physical Fitness Month**



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. Photo by Paul Kolnik ; Zumba at Ailey Extension. Photo by Kyle Froman; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Donald Byrd's *Greenwood*. Photo by Paul Kolnik (**CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD**) - Please Credit Photos

New York, NY – April 30, 2021 – The Ailey organization is furthering the pioneering vision of its founder by “bringing dance back to the people” and lifting spirits through [Ailey All Access](#), a series of online offerings including streaming of free performance broadcasts, Ailey Extension dance and fitness classes, and more.

Performance Broadcasts – Cry 50th Anniversary

In a joyful nod to the **50th anniversary of Alvin Ailey's beloved work, *Cry***, viewers will be treated to a new film adaptation of [Jacqueline Green](#) interpreting the extraordinary solo premiering on a **Mother's Day Matinee, on Sunday, May 9 at 3pm EDT**. Created as a birthday present for Alvin Ailey's mother Mrs. Lula Cooper, *Cry* debuted **May 4, 1971** and is dedicated to “all Black women everywhere – especially our mothers.” The 16-minute tour-de-force solo choreographed on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison, was an instant sensation and went on to become an enduring work of American art. Along with the broadcast, a conversation will be available of Jacqueline Green and [Constance Stamatiou](#) coming together in reflection to share the experience of learning the role from Judith Jamison, performing the demanding dance for audiences, and the meaning of *Cry* from their personal perspectives.

In addition, a livestreamed panel [Celebrating Judith Jamison](#) on her birthday **Monday, May 10 at 7:30pm EDT**, will feature revered Ailey women discussing her groundbreaking influence in the world of dance and unparalleled contribution to the Ailey organization and American culture. Former Company members [Sarita Allen](#), Linda Denise Fisher Harrell, Renee Robinson, [Linda Celeste Sims](#), Dwana Smallwood and [Nasha Thomas](#) will join Director of Ailey Extension [Lisa Johnson-Willingham](#) to discuss Judith Jamison's impact as a living legend, her effect on their career, and will lead everyone in a birthday tribute when Judith Jamison joins the festivities. To register for a ticket to the panel, please visit [here](#).

Until May 8, audiences can continue to enjoy the streaming of Ailey Resident Choreographer Jamar Roberts' [Members Don't Get Weary](#), "a response to the current social landscape in America... an abstract look into the notion of one 'having the blues.'" Set to the powerful music of the legendary American jazz saxophonist and composer John Coltrane, the work uses the dancing body to inspire and momentarily transcend one's own personal blues. **The performance series continues with a Greenwood Centennial program on Wednesday, May 26 at 7pm EDT**, which will include excerpts from Donald Byrd's riveting ensemble work that draws on the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre as a source and the documentary "Remembering Black Wall Street." For further updates on the spring series of free online performances, visit [Ailey All Access](#) and www.alvinailey.org.

Ailey Extension Dance and Fitness Classes – Physical Fitness Month

In celebration of [National Physical Fitness Month](#), [Ailey Extension](#) invites you to join in the dance from wherever you are for an array of virtual classes to enjoy this May. On **Saturday, May 1 at 3:30pm EDT**, set the tone on **National Fitness Day** in a fun and accessible [Zumba®](#) class led by [Karen Arceneaux](#). The high energy music motivates all levels to dance away their worries in routines featuring aerobic/fitness interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body. The following week on **Thursday, May 6 at 6:30pm EDT**, students are invited to join [Jonathan Lee](#) for a beginner level [Hip-Hop Workshop](#) and learn the foundation of the technique. Mothers, grandmothers and mother figures are encouraged to celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a special [BellydanceBURN Workshop with Janelle Issis](#) on **Saturday, May 8 at 3pm EDT**. This experience is a fantastic way for dance and fitness enthusiasts to create new memories as they bond with their maternal figures.

For more details about Ailey's Extension's variety of online class offerings – which include hip-hop, ballet, Horton, West African, Zumba®, samba, contemporary, Pilates, Broadway Jazz and more – please visit alvinailey.org/extension.

Still, We Dance Campaign

As we move forward together, the Ailey organization will continue to find ways to build community, uplift with Ailey's artistry, and celebrate the indomitable human spirit through dance. During these unprecedented times, the Ailey organization is grateful for contributions to the [Still, We Dance](#) campaign that is making it possible to move forward and share Ailey All Access. To enjoy a variety of digital content, follow Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey Extension on Facebook and Instagram, The Ailey School on Instagram, and visit www.alvinailey.org regularly for updates.

Ailey All Access replaces the performances that would have been seen during Ailey's National Tour.

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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, 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 six continents, 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 the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, 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 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.

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