



Press Contacts:

Christopher Zunner
czunner@alvinailey.org
Tracy Severe
tsevere@alvinailey.org

**Ailey All Access Premieres Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary* on April 28
Set to the Legendary John Coltrane's Music During Jazz Appreciation Month**

**Special *Cry* Film Adaptation on Mother's Day Celebrates 50 Years of
Alvin Ailey's Iconic Masterpiece**

Currently Airing : Alvin Ailey's *Night Creature* through April 27

**Ailey Extension Invites People Around the World to Have Fit and Fabulous Fun During National
Physical Fitness Month with Virtual Classes and Special Workshops**



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Jamar Roberts' *Members Don't Get Weary*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Hip-Hop Class at Ailey Extension. Photo by Kyle Froman; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. Photo by Paul Kolnik (**CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD**) - Please Credit Photos

New York, NY – April 23, 2021 – The Ailey organization continues to honor its founder who taught the important lesson of “holding a mirror to society so that people can see how beautiful they are,” by offering [Ailey All Access](#), a free online initiative that illuminates the human spirit and sparks change. Since March 30, the streaming series has reached millions across the globe with free performance broadcasts of full length works from the repertory, Ailey Extension dance and fitness classes, and more.

Performance Broadcasts

In the seventh decade since the Company's founding, the extraordinary dancers are continuing Alvin Ailey's legacy by moving viewers around the world with their brilliant artistry. In celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month, Ailey All Access will premiere broadcast of Jamar Roberts' [Members Don't Get Weary](#) on **Wednesday, April 28 at 7pm EDT**, "a response to the current social landscape in America... an abstract look into the notion of one 'having the blues.'" Roberts' deep appreciation for jazz comes through in his use of saxophonist and composer John Coltrane's music, 50 years after the legend's death. The work uses the dancing body paired with this distinctive music and lighting to inspire the audience, allowing them to momentarily transcend their own personal blues.

A celebration of the 50th anniversary of [Cry](#) kicks off on **Mother's Day Sunday, May 9 at 3pm EDT** with a special film adaptation of the beloved work Alvin Ailey created as a birthday gift for his mother. 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.

For a limited time, audiences can continue enjoying the stream of Alvin Ailey's most popular work, [Night Creature](#), a dance that captivates with Ailey's sensual nighttime rituals, propelling the movement into a fast-paced climatic catharsis using slow jazz walks, boogie woogie, and ballet arabesques to create prowling patterns and communal configurations. Additional online special programs in June will be announced later. For further updates on the spring series and schedule, visit [Ailey All Access](#) and www.alvinailey.org.

Ailey Extension Dance and Fitness Classes – Physical Fitness Month

[Ailey Extension](#) is thrilled to welcome people all around the world to have fit and fabulous fun during **National Physical Fitness Month** by moving and grooving with popular instructors throughout the month of 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.

With more than 40 weekly classes during Physical Fitness Month this May, Ailey Extension's online offerings allow students all over the world to explore different dance styles seven days a week. For more details about Ailey Extension's variety of class options – which include hip-hop, ballet, Horton, West African, Zumba®, samba, contemporary, Pilates, Broadway Jazz and more – students can 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.

Bank of America is the National Tour Sponsor for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The 2021 North American Tour is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

This production of *Night Creature* was made possible, in part, by a grant from Ford Foundation and with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The creation of *Members Don't Get Weary* was supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

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The original production of *Cry* was made possible, in part, by a grant from Ford Foundation.

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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