



# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

AILEY II | THE AILEY SCHOOL | AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS | AILEY EXTENSION

The Joan Weill Center for Dance 405 West 55th St, New York NY 10019-4402 (212) 405-9000 AlvinAiley.org

Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director Bennett Rink, Executive Director  
Alvin Ailey, Founder Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita

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## AILEY ALL ACCESS RETURNS WITH A FALL SERIES OF FREE DIGITAL BROADCASTS AUGUST 25 – NOVEMBER 17

**New York, NY – August 25, 2021** – The Ailey organization resumes [Ailey All Access](#) with a fall series of free programs from **August 25 – November 17** in advance of the much-anticipated [return to the New York City Center](#) stage for live performances this December. The online initiative, which has built community and celebrated the indomitable human spirit through dance since March 2020, features presentations of performance broadcasts, Ailey Extension dance and fitness classes, and more.

The Ailey All Access free programs, viewable on Ailey's [YouTube](#), will debut on select **Wednesdays at 7pm EDT from August through November** and be **available online for two-week period**. The series will kick off with a **Battle 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program on August 25** commemorating his decade-long leadership as Ailey's Artistic Director, in conjunction with his August 28<sup>th</sup> birthday, with two of his audience favorites – [Ella](#), a high-energy comical dance that matches Ella Fitzgerald's virtuosic scatting, and [Mass](#), a ballet showcasing 16 dancers in ritualistic choreography set to a score by John Mackey. Ailey fans are invited to [watch a video](#) of two young students representing Ailey Arts In Education [AileyCamps](#) in New York and Kansas City narrate highlights of the book for young readers "My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey." Published by Simon & Schuster, "This is the story of determination and passion, of study and talent. This is the story of Robert Battle and how he came to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater."

The **Wednesday, September 8 Back-to-School program** will highlight talented young dancers from [The Ailey School](#). The broadcast will include students in a special duet choreographed by Freddie Moore, the Student Performance Group Rehearsal Director, **set to "Hallelu" by Toshi Reagon**, as well as a performance by [Clifton Brown](#) and dancers from The Ailey School in ***Bird Lives!***, based upon Alvin Ailey's dance tribute to jazz legend Charlie "Bird" Parker.

Jazz has provided the soundtrack to many of Ailey Resident Choreographer [Jamar Roberts'](#) works for the Company including [A Jam Session For Troubling Times](#), which will return to Ailey All Access on **Wednesday, September 22**. At a time in our world rife with chaos and uncertainty, *A Jam Session for Troubling Times* uses the energy, nuance, and virtuosity of the 'bebop' sound as a vehicle to lift our spirits and demonstrate that we are stronger than our circumstances. The work celebrates the centennial of revolutionary saxophonist and composer Charlie "Bird" Parker. The series continues on **Wednesday, October 6** with a presentation of Roberts' *Holding Space*, an examination of the ways in which we are taking care. It asks: in what ways can we collectively accommodate one another to better traverse this new and unprecedented terrain?

In a joyful nod to the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alvin Ailey's iconic masterpiece, [Cry](#)**, a film adaptation of Jacqueline Green performing the work will stream on **Wednesday, October 20**. Dedicated to "all Black women everywhere – especially our mothers," the 16-minute tour-de-force solo created on his stunning muse, Judith Jamison, was an instant sensation and went on to become an enduring work of American art. Jacqueline Green is seen performing *Cry* in ["Really Love"](#), a romantic feature film available on Netflix, August 25 about a rising Black painter who tries to break into a competitive art world set against the backdrop of gentrifying Washington, DC.

Alvin Ailey's uplifting "blood memories" are the inspiration for the 2020 world premiere [Testament](#) that will be broadcasted on **Wednesday, November 3**. Weaving together deep personal experiences and an original score by composer Damien Sneed, Associate Artistic Director [Matthew Rushing](#), Company member and Assistant to the Rehearsal Director **Clifton Brown** and former Company member **Yusha-Marie Sorzano** present a tribute to Alvin Ailey's Revelations that follows a community of people turning pain into power and lament into hope. With world-class gardens and stunning views, Wave Hill's vibrant landscape sets the background for the ballet.

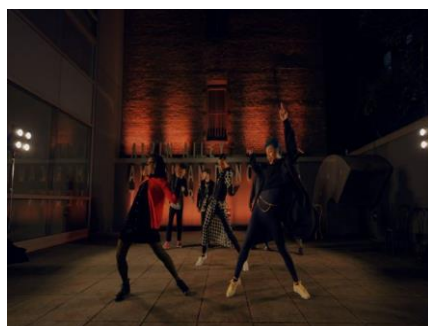
The Ailey All Access fall series **concludes on November 17** with a program highlighting the works premiered during the [2021 Ailey Spring gala virtual broadcast](#) – *Hope*, *Promise*, *Future* and *For Four*. Company members, [Ghrai DeVore-Stokes](#) (*Hope*), [Chalvar Monteiro](#) (*Promise*) and [Kanji Segawa](#) (*Future*) made various iconic New York City locations their stage to create the new dance films, including Hudson Yards, St. Nicholas Park and [The Unisphere](#), one of the largest globes ever made and built as a symbol of world peace. The program will also feature *For Four*, a filmed dance choreographed by Robert Battle set to "Delfeayo's Dilemma" by Wynton Marsalis.

The [Ailey Extension's Kids & Teens Sunday Dance Series](#) returns with both in-studio and virtual classes to keep kids ages 5-17 moving through Fall 2021 from **Sunday, September 19 – Sunday, December 12**. Children ages 5-11 can join virtual [hip-hop](#) and [ballet](#) classes from wherever they are to learn the fundamentals of dance as they develop coordination and musicality. Students ages 12-14 and 15-17 can explore, [ballet](#), [contemporary](#), and/or [hip-hop](#) styles in a judgement-free zone during in-studio classes with a small group of their peers. For more information and to enroll in the full 12-week session or register to drop-in to one of the weekly classes please visit [alvinailey.org/extension](#).

For further updates on the Ailey All Access fall series and schedule, visit [www.alvinailey.org/ailey-all-access](#). As we move forward together, the Ailey organization will continue to find ways to uplift the Ailey community 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 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 tours.**

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



(L to R) Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Robert Battle's *Mass*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacqueline Green in Alvin Ailey's *Cry*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Jamar Roberts' *A Jam Session For Troubling Times*. Photo courtesy of Emily Kikta and Peter Walker.

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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 55<sup>th</sup> Street at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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