



AILEY
Arts In Education &
Community Programs

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AILEYCAMP NEW YORK & NEWARK RETURN TO THE STAGE FOR AN UPLIFTING JOINT FINAL PERFORMANCE AT NJPAC ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 AT 7PM

**“UNIQUE” Program Salutes Individuality with Dance and Theatrical Improvisations and
Pays Tribute to Late Former AileyCamp Newark Student, Kamal Johnson, with a
Special Film by Ailey Associate Artistic Director Matthew Rushing**

**First-Ever Joint Performance Celebrates 30 Years of AileyCamp New York and 10 Years in Newark
in Collaboration with Children’s Aid, Newark Public Schools and NJPAC**

New York, NY – August 6, 2021 – AileyCamp New York and AileyCamp Newark will return to the stage after two years for the **first-ever joint final performance on Friday, August 13th at 7pm at New Jersey Performing Arts Center’s Victoria Theater**. Entitled *Unique*, this special performance **commemorates two special anniversaries, 30 years of AileyCamp New York and 10 years in Newark** in an exceptional program that showcases the positive impact AileyCamp continues to have on the next generation.

An estimated 60 AileyCampers will take the stage to share their uniqueness through dance, storytelling, and creativity, including an opening **excerpt inspired by Alvin Ailey’s *Opus McShann*** – a choreographic portrait of the great Kansas City jazz performer Jay McShann. **Alvin Ailey once said, “the most unique thing in the world is you,” and this year’s guiding curriculum theme “unique”** will be celebrated throughout the final performance with choreographed dances in jazz, modern, and West African, as well as theatrical improvisations and presentations from Personal Development and Creative Communication workshops.

The program will include a memorial tribute to **Kamal Johnson, a former AileyCamper and student of [The Ailey School](#), with a moving film created and performed by Ailey Associate Artistic Director [Matthew Rushing](#)**. After attending AileyCamp Newark, Kamal was awarded a scholarship to further study at The Ailey School, where he trained year-round for six years and had the opportunity to be mentored by Mr. Rushing.

“Through AileyCamp, it is an honor to be a part of Alvin Ailey’s living legacy that each year positively impacts and inspires so many young people, like Kamal Johnson,” stated AileyCamp National Director [Nasha Thomas](#). “Kamal was a jewel who glimmered with personal growth during AileyCamp and then continued to shine brighter and brighter with each step of his dance journey. Our children are our most valuable treasures and it’s inspiring to see the powerful riches they develop within themselves from week one of AileyCamp through the culminating final performance and beyond.”

Launched by Alvin Ailey in 1989, [AileyCamp](#) is an innovative full-scholarship day camp that continues Ailey’s legacy by using dance as a vehicle to inspire inner-city youth ages 11-14 in nine cities nationwide. The nationally acclaimed summer camp provides daily classes in techniques such as **ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and West African dance**. Personal development and creative communication classes teach campers how to express themselves in a positive way and tackle challenging subjects that include decision-making, peer-pressure, conflict resolution, and self-awareness. Each day features specially curated theme-based lessons and begins with reciting [daily affirmations](#) such as **“I will pay attention with my mind, body, and spirit,”** and **“I will not use the word ‘can’t’ to define my possibilities,”** to guide AileyCampers on a path to becoming confident, productive, and motivated individuals.

Since its inception, AileyCamp has reached thousands of underserved youth across the country, providing direction and hope to children who are most in need of knowing that there can be a bright future. This summer in nine cities nationwide, all AileyCamps culminate in a grand final performance for campers to showcase their hard work in front of family, friends, and community leaders. The final performance highlights the creative and technical skills of the campers, while also celebrating the opportunity to come together in a dynamic display of self-confidence, performance skills, and pride developed during the camp.

PRESS: Click here for [photos](#) and [videos](#). For additional information, please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

Leadership support for Ailey's Arts In Education and Community Programs is provided through the Simin & Herb Allison Arts In Education Endowment Fund.

Prudential is proud to be the lead funder of AileyCamp Newark.

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AileyCamp New York is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

AileyCamp Newark is administered in collaboration with Newark Public Schools and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Children's Aid/AileyCamp New York is administered in collaboration with Children's Aid.

About Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs

Since 1992, Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs has been committed to bringing dance into homes, classrooms, and communities across the country to positively impact people of all ages through the power of dance. In addition to AileyCamp, a full scholarship day camp for youth, in-person and [remote programs](#) include, lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; innovative curriculum based residencies inspired by [Revelations](#) and [Night Creature](#); and [AileyDance for Active Aging](#), a program that serves as an outlet for artistic expression and fosters a sense of joy. For further details on Ailey's Arts In Education activities, visit <http://www.alvinailey.org/AIE>.

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