



AILEY
Arts In Education &
Community Programs

Press Contact: Paolina Lu
(212) 405-9032 / plu@alvinailey.org

AILEYCAMP EXPANDS TO 10 CITIES INSPIRING AND EDUCATING INNER-CITY YOUTH THROUGH DANCE AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dream Big with Campers from Coast to Coast: Learn and Embody AileyCamp's Daily Affirmations

Affirmation #10: *I will not use the word "can't" to define my possibilities*

New York, NY – June 27, 2016 – [AileyCamp](#) is expanding to serve more than **1,000 young people** in **ten cities** across the country. From New York all the way to the newest camp in Seattle, WA, AileyCamps will guide students to believe in their unlimited potential. Founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey, the **full-scholarship day camp** gives **inner-city students ages 11-14** a supportive environment to use dance as a vehicle for developing **self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical-thinking skills**.

AileyCamp's curriculum includes **daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance**. **Personal development** and **creative communication classes** teach campers how to express themselves in a positive way and discuss topics that include conflict resolution, nutrition, and career development. **Camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, field trips, breakfast and lunch are provided.**

"Your imagination costs you nothing, but can cost you everything if you don't use it," says Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#). "AileyCamp provides an environment for students to dream, grow, explore, and expand their visions of the future. Our tenth AileyCamp opens this summer with Seattle Theatre Group in loving memory of area-native **Calvin Hunt**, who served as the Company's senior director of performance and production for many years. **Expanding the reach of AileyCamp to serve children in the Seattle/Tacoma area, we're proud to be honoring Calvin, and to be carrying on Mr. Ailey's legacy of using the power of dance to enrich the lives of underserved children.**"

Although AileyCamp is not meant to be a training ground for professional dancers, some students are awarded scholarship for further study at The Ailey School or pursue training at other accredited dance schools and have later performed with professional dance companies. This year, for the first time, **Artistic Director Robert Battle** invited **former AileyCamper [Solomon Dumas](#)** to join the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Solomon Dumas attended AileyCamp Chicago, was on scholarship at The Ailey School, and danced as a member of Ailey II before joining Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in May 2016.

"AileyCamp isn't a dance camp *per se*. It's more about personal development," says Solomon. "When I was 12 years old, AileyCamp exposed me to dance, but it also exposed me to Mr. Ailey and his legacy. Years later, I returned to AileyCamp as a counselor. It was fantastic to see the change that campers experience between the time they enter camp and the final performance. **Most of these kids don't know that their life is going to be changed in within those six weeks.**" (Click [here](#) to read the *New York Times* profile on Solomon Dumas.)

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,"** guide AileyCampers around the country on a path to becoming confident, productive and motivated individuals. Click [here](#) to join campers around the country in learning all ten AileyCamp Daily Affirmations.

At the end of the summer, campers showcase their hard work in final performance of dances, poetry readings and theatrical improvisations for family, friends and community leaders. The performances not only highlight the creative and technical skills of the campers, but also serve as an exciting display of the self-confidence developed during camp. “All 10 AileyCamps will explore ‘**Dreams and Dreaming**’ in their final performances, the theme guiding the AileyCamp curriculum this year,” says [Nasha Thomas](#), **National Director of AileyCamp/Arts In Education Spokesperson & Master Teacher**. Nasha, who is **celebrating her 30th anniversary with the company** since first being welcomed as a dancer by Mr. Ailey himself, explains: “the theme was inspired by Langston Hughes’ ‘Dream Deferred.’ I look forward to guiding campers around the country in articulating their *own* dreams, and developing the confidence and skills to go after them.”

In partnership with local organizations, **AileyCamps** will provide environments for young people to nurture their dreams in:

Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS – Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 6 to July 15)

Atlanta, GA – Atlanta Ballet (June 6 – July 15)

Baltimore, MD – Towson University (June 20 – July 15)

Berkeley, CA – Cal Performances (June 27 – August 5)

Seattle, WA – Seattle Theatre Group (June 27 – August 5)

Miami, FL – Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (June 27 – August 6)

Chicago, IL – Chicago Park District and AUSL (July 5 – August 12).

Newark, NJ – NJPAC and Newark Public Schools (July 5 – August 12).

Washington Heights, NY – Children’s Aid Society (July 5 – August 12)

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and the lives of people of all ages. Programs include special student performances; lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; AileyCamp, a full scholarship summer camp for underserved inner-city youth; and innovative curriculum based residencies inspired by *Revelations*. For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization’s performances, training programs and Ailey Arts In Education activities, visit www.alvinailey.org.

PRESS: For photos, videos, and additional press materials regarding AileyCamp visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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

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

Major support for AileyCamp is provided by the Meringoff Family Foundation.

**Major support for Ailey’s Arts In Education and Community Programs is provided by The Hearst Foundations and
Southern Company.**

Major support for CAS/AileyCamp New York is provided by The Pinkerton Foundation.

Major support for AileyCamp Newark is provided by Victoria Foundation.

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

CAS/AileyCamp New York is administered in collaboration with the Children’s Aid Society.

#

About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization

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, recent posthumous recipient of the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, 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 6 continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. 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; and The Ailey Extension (2005), a program of dance and fitness classes for the general public. Each year, Ailey’s Arts in Education & Community Programs educate and inspire over 100,000 young people in classrooms and communities through student performances, lecture-demonstrations, technique classes, curriculum-based residences inspired by Alvin Ailey’s signature masterpiece *Revelations* and AileyCamp, a unique summer day camp in cities nationwide. The permanent home of the Ailey organization at 55th Street and 9th Avenue – named The Joan Weill Center for Dance – is the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City – the dance capital of the world. For more information on the Ailey organization’s performances, training and educational programs, visit www.alvinailey.org