

AILEY EXTENSION

AILEY EXTENSION WELCOMES KIDS AND TEENS TO GET MOVING DURING PHYSICAL FITNESS MONTH WITH SPECIAL WORKSHOPS AND THE LAUNCH OF THE SUMMER KIDS & TEENS SUNDAY DANCE SERIES

Kids 5-11 Learn Fundamentals of Ballet and Hip-Hop During Summer Kids at Ailey

Teenagers 12 and up Develop Confidence in Ballet, Contemporary and Hip-hop Techniques

West African and Broadway Jazz Workshops Let Children Ages 10-17 Explore Self-Expression



Teen Hip-Hop Class at Ailey Extension; Kids & Teens Broadway Jazz at Ailey Extension. Ballet 4 Kids at Ailey Extension. Photos by Kyle Froman.

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(NEW YORK) April 28, 2022 – [Ailey Extension](#) is encouraging New York City’s young dancers to get moving during National Physical Fitness Month with the return of in-studio Kids & Teens classes and special workshops. Starting in May, fully vaccinated kids (ages 5-11) and teens (ages 12-17) can enjoy class in Ailey’s studios at the [Joan Weill Center for Dance](#) – **NYC’s largest building dedicated to dance** – to have fun while learning hip-hop, ballet, West African, contemporary and Broadway Jazz in a welcoming and nurturing environment with their peers. Classes for kids and teens are designed to help children of all experience levels explore movement and learn the healthy habit of exercising at an early age.

The **Kids & Teens Sunday Dance Series** returns from **May 8 – June 25** allowing students to let loose in a judgment free-zone. Taught by Ailey Extension’s elite instructors; every class takes into consideration the abilities of each age group to curate a supportive environment that fosters learning skills while socializing with peers. Former [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) Company member **Linda Celeste Sims** will help kids learn the fundamentals of ballet and introduce teens to contemporary technique; while [Yuka Kawazu](#) will help teens gain confidence and build self-esteem through ballet; and [Yancy Greene](#) will teach students of all ages how to move to hip-hop. Students are encouraged to sign up for the full six-week session; drop-ins are also available on a weekly basis with prior registration.

[Summer Kids at Ailey](#) invites youngsters ages 5-7 to develop coordination and musicality as they practice the fundamentals of street style dance in **Intro to Hip-Hop** and learn ballet vocabulary during **Intro to Ballet**. Kids ages 8-11 can further their dance vocabulary while progressing at the barre in **Ballet for Kids** and build on precision and performance quality in **Hip-Hop 4 Kids**.

[Summer Teens at Ailey](#) provides a judgment-free zone for teenagers to boost confidence as they dive into dance and sharpen their skills. **Junior Contemporary** teaches students between 12-14 to master musicality as they develop a strong foundation to dance, while **Junior Hip-Hop** helps build on their understanding of fundamental street style movements, and coordination. Dancers between 15-17 can focus on classic party moves and energetic hip hop routines in **Teen Hip-Hop**; or explore a wide range of expressive movements while learning original choreography in **Teen Contemporary** classes. Students ages 12-17 can come together for **Junior/Teen Ballet** where they'll gain confidence as they develop a better understanding of body alignment and learn ballet terminology as well as combinations.

In addition to these weekly classes, dancers ages 10-17 years can join special workshops designed to help students explore new techniques and enhance their freedom of expression. On **Saturday, May 21 at 11am** Sherece Donalds will lead young dancers in a lively [Kids & Teens West African Workshop](#). This class will focus on the fundamentals of traditional West African dance with an emphasis on helping participants understand the accompanying drum rhythms. Broadway star and Ailey Extension instructor [Judine Somerville](#) will introduce dancers to the world of theater dance during a [Kids & Teens Broadway Jazz Workshop](#) on **Saturday June 11 at 11am** filled with show tunes from beginning to end. Ideal for students who love Broadway, this class will teach kids how to perform with confidence as they're also taught the history of the song, artists, and its influence in musical theater history.

As Ailey opens its doors to the public, the health and well-being of all dancers, students, instructors, and staff remains a top priority. An Ailey Forward re-entry plan to safely welcome dancers, instructors, and staff to The Joan Weill Center for Dance has been developed and continues to be updated with consideration of all government and regulatory guidelines as well as information from health professionals. **All visitors to the building – including students, instructors, and staff – will be required to submit proof of full vaccination, have their temperature taken upon arrival, and wear masks while indoors.** Students are encouraged to visit alvinailey.org/extension/covidsafety for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 safety protocols.

With more than 40 weekly classes and special workshops available each month, Ailey Extension allows students of all ages around the world to explore different dance styles seven days a week. For more details about Ailey Extension's variety of in-person and virtual class options – which include hip-hop, ballet, Horton, West African, Zumba®, jazz, samba, yoga, contemporary, Pilates, Broadway Jazz and more – please visit alvinailey.org/extension.

IN-STUDIO WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS & TEENS

KIDS & TEENS WEST AFRICAN WORKSHOP with SHERECE DONALDS

Join Sherece Donalds for kids and teens-only workshop focused on the fundamentals of traditional West African dance with an emphasis on an understanding of the accompanying drum rhythms. This workshop is open to fully vaccinated students (no booster required) ages 10-17 of any dance experience level. **Saturday, May 21 at 11am**

KIDS & TEENS BROADWAY JAZZ WORKSHOP with JUDINE SOMERVILLE

Perfect for students who love Broadway dance and want to learn the many different styles, this class features Broadway show tunes from beginning to end. In addition to technique and performance skills, students will also be taught the history of the song, the composer, the artists, and its influence in musical theater history, from Golden Age musicals to today's current show while developing your personal style and character. This workshop is open to fully vaccinated students (no booster required) ages 10-17 of any dance experience level. **Saturday, June 11 at 11am**

IN-STUDIO CLASSES FOR KIDS & TEENS

KIDS & TEENS 2022 SUMMER SESSION

Kids & Teens classes at Ailey are open to children of all experience levels. Each class takes into consideration the abilities of the age group to create an environment that fosters learning skills and boosts confidence while being taught by the city's top instructors. **Summer Session runs from May 8 – June 25** (no classes May 29 & June 19).

Summer Kids at Ailey (Ages 5-11)

- **INTRO TO BALLET (Ages 5-7)** Sundays, 11:00-11:45am
Linda Celeste Sims will introduce students to the ballet vocabulary while progressing at the barre, developing coordination through combinations.
- **INTRO TO HIP-HOP (Ages 5-7)** Sundays, 10:00-10:45am
[Yancy Greene](#) will lead your kids through the fundamentals of hip-hop, developing coordination and musicality while building on basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.
- **BALLET FOR KIDS (Ages 8-11)** Sundays, 10:00-11:00am
Linda Celeste Sims will further students' ballet vocabulary while progressing at the barre, developing coordination through combinations.
- **HIP HOP 4 KIDS (Ages 8-11)** Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm
[Yancy Greene](#) will lead kids through the fundamentals of hip-hop, developing coordination and musicality while building on basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.

Summer Teens at Ailey (Ages 12-17)

- **JUNIOR/TEEN BALLET (Ages 12-17)** Sundays, 11:00am-12:00pm
[Yuka Kawazu](#) will help teens continue their knowledge of ballet terminology with slow and thorough exercises to ensure a better understanding of body alignment and vocabulary. It is recommended that students wear ballet shoes or socks along with clothing like a leotard or tank top that allows the instructor to view placement.
- **JUNIOR CONTEMPORARY (Ages 12-14)** Sundays, 12:00-1:00pm
Linda Celeste Sims will help students find freedom in the use of movement while developing technique and building a strong foundation. A fusion of modern, ballet, and jazz' this unique style explores a wide range of expressive movements and syncopated rhythms. Each class involves learning original choreography while focusing on theatrical elements and mastering musicality.
- **JUNIOR HIP-HOP (Ages 12-14)** Sundays, 1:00-2:00pm
[Yancy Greene](#) will build on your kids' understanding of the fundamentals of hip-hop, coordination, and musicality while moving through basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.
- **TEEN CONTEMPORARY (Ages 15-17)** Sundays, 1:00-2:00pm
Linda Celeste Sims will help students find freedom in the use of movement while developing technique and building a strong foundation. A fusion of modern, ballet, and jazz' this unique style explores a wide range of expressive movements and syncopated rhythms. Each class involves learning original choreography while focusing on theatrical elements and mastering musicality.
- **TEEN HIP-HOP (Ages 15-17)** Sundays, 2:00-3:00pm
[Yancy Greene](#) will build on your kids' understanding of the fundamentals of hip-hop, coordination, and musicality while moving through basic body isolations, precision, and performance quality.

**All classes and workshops for Kids & Teens at Ailey Extension take place in-person at The Joann Weill Center for Dance
(405 W 55th Street, New York, NY 10019)**

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About Ailey Extension

Since its inception in 2005, Ailey Extension has fulfilled Mr. Ailey's life-long commitment of bringing dance to everyone by offering "real classes for real people." Ailey Extension offers over 25 different dance and fitness techniques such as Horton, Ballet, Masala Bhangra, West African, Samba, Jazz, Zumba, House and Hip-Hop. Over 135,000 people have taken classes at Ailey's home, New York's largest building dedicated to dance, where dancers of all levels and walks of life can learn and be inspired – body, mind, and spirit! For additional press materials, including photos, videos, and class descriptions, visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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