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AILEY EXTENSION

AILEY EXTENSION INVITES ALL TO PARTY WITH PRIDE AND JUMP FOR JOY ON JUNETEENTH DURING SPECIAL WORKSHOPS AS PART OF YEAR-LONG 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Travel Back to Iconic Studio 54 Nightclub During a DISCO PRIDE WORKSHOP with Jeffrey Bynum on June 7

Prep for Jubilee Day Celebrations at a JUNETEENTH LINE DANCE WORKSHOP with Pilin Anice on June 14

**AILEY Masterclass Series with Current and Former Company Members Starting June 28,
Weekly Vogue Classes, and More Ways to Keep Moving With AILEY**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at BAM June 5-8
for Finale of Season Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Judith Jamison**

(NEW YORK) June 2, 2025 – As part of a yearlong celebration of [Ailey Extension's](#) 20th anniversary, this June all are encouraged to get down on the dance floor during party-centered workshops celebrating Pride Month and Juneteenth. People of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels can practice their disco steps and line dances, as well as expand their artistic range during a suite of workshops with prominent instructors and the current and former stars of AILEY in a welcoming and inclusive space.

On **Saturday, June 7 at 5pm**, a [Disco Pride Workshop with Jeffrey Bynum](#) invites people from all walks of life to don their best disco-inspired attire and celebrate Pride month while honoring our founder Alvin Ailey's history with Studio 54 and his love for club culture. The legendary Studio 54 nightclub was both a cultural revolution and inclusive space for all to express themselves and dance the night away. Throughout the workshop, Jeffrey's playlist and dance moves will help participants transport themselves back in time to the 1970s and immerse themselves in the iconic era.

Throughout Pride month and all year round, people can stop by the Ailey studios and learn to pose, dip, duck walk and more like the best of them during [weekly vogue classes](#) with some of the city's most notable voguers. This technique – which originated in Harlem's famed LGBTQ+ ballroom scene – emulates the poses of fashion magazines, hieroglyphic imagery, and martial arts while encouraging self-expression. Students at Ailey Extension can choose from three styles – **Vogue Basics**, designed for beginners to learn the fundamentals at a slow and easy-to-follow pace; **New Way Vogue** which emphasizes expression and confidence while focusing on flexibility, precision, and sharp lines; and **Vogue Fem** where students can tap into their fiercest self while challenging their agility, strength, and spatial awareness. Ailey Extension's vogue classes are offered in-studio five days a week and led by prominent instructors who are active in NYC's legendary ballroom scene.

This month AILEY also recognizes Juneteenth – a celebration of freedom, recognition, and liberty commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865. Ahead of the official holiday, all are invited to get their boots on the ground during a beginner-friendly [Juneteenth Line Dance Workshop](#) led by [Pilin Anice](#) on **Saturday, June 14 at 3pm**. Bring your fan and positive energy and get ready for summer cookouts by learning popular line dances, broken down to help participants build coordination while connecting with community. This hybrid workshop is accessible both in-studio and online.

[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's season celebrating Judith Jamison at the Brooklyn Academy of Music \(June 5-8\)](#) will feature the world premiere [The Holy Blues](#), a collaboration between renowned choreographer and founder of Urban Bush Women Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, AILEY's 2025 [Artist in Residence](#), and Company dancers Samantha Figgins and Chalvar Monteiro. Following these final performances of the 2024-25 season celebrating the life and legacy of Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison, and before the upcoming summer performances in the [BAAND Together Festival \(July 29 – August 2\)](#), Ailey Extension will kick off an **AILEY Masterclass Series** featuring esteemed former and current Company members offering students the rare chance to learn from the stars and expand their performance quality while cultivating their artistic range. The series starts on [Saturday, June 28 with Ailey Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing](#) followed by a workshop [on Friday, July 11 with celebrated Company member Ashley Green](#), and [on Friday, July 18 with AILEY veteran Vernard Gilmore](#) – who marks his final performances at BAM after nearly three decades on the AILEY stage.

In addition to these timely celebrations, Ailey Extension is bringing back recurring workshops to help participants discover the dynamic dancer inside of them and get more comfortably to music. [Intro to Heels with Aaron Thomas](#) on **Friday, June 27 at 7pm** invites beginners to delve into the foundations of heels dance. Participants will learn basic terminology and practice exercises and choreography to improve balance and coordination and develop ankle strength while practicing musicality.

On April 4, 2005, Ailey Extension officially opened its doors at the Joan Weill Center for Dance – New York's largest building dedicated to dance – for people of all backgrounds to take open dance classes with world-renowned AILEY instructors. The program is proud to continue Alvin Ailey's legacy to make dance accessible to all people and keep the global AILEY community connected through dance both at our home in New York City and virtually across the globe. **For more information on Ailey Extension, including how to sign up for a class or workshop, please visit ailey.org/classes.**

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AT AILEY EXTENSION

DISCO PRIDE WORKSHOP with JEFFREY BYNUM

Celebrate Pride at AILEY with a disco-themed jazz workshop honoring Alvin Ailey's history with Studio 54 and his love for club culture. Transport yourself back to the 1970s with [Jeffrey Bynum](#)'s iconic playlists that will immerse you in the era. Studio 54 was not only a cultural revolution but an inclusive space for everyone to express themselves and dance the night away. All levels welcome! Participants are encouraged to show up in their best disco-inspired Pride attire. **Saturday, June 7 at 5pm**

JUNETEENTH LINE DANCE WORKSHOP with PILIN ANICE

Get ready for summer cookouts with [Pilin Anice](#) in celebration of Juneteenth. This workshop breaks down popular line dances, helping you build coordination while connecting with the joy of community. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned line dancer brushing up, this workshop will get you moving and grooving. Bring your fans and your energy! **Saturday, June 14 at 3pm**

INTRO TO HEELS WORKSHOP with AARON THOMAS

Discover the secrets to strutting in heels with confidence with [Aaron Thomas](#)! Ideal for students new to the technique, this workshop is designed for participants to delve into the foundations of heels dance and learn basic terminology. Students will be led through exercises and choreographic combinations that will improve balance and coordination, develop ankle strength, and practice musicality. Absolute beginners are welcome. Heels are not necessary to participate. **Friday, June 27 at 7pm**

AILEY MASTERCLASS with MATTHEW RUSHING

Join Interim Artistic Director [Matthew Rushing](#) for a contemporary-modern masterclass in which students will explore their artistic voice through original movement by Mr. Rushing. Some dance experience is recommended for participants. **Saturday, June 28 at 3pm**

AILEY MASTERCLASS with ASHLEY KAYLYNN GREEN

Join Ailey dancer [Ashley Kaylynn Green](#) for a contemporary fusion masterclass at the Ailey Studios. Ashley Kaylynn Green joined the Company in 2021 and that year was named one of [Dance Magazine's](#) "25 to Watch" for 2022. She is a 2021 recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Foundation Award and has been called "[a powerhouse](#)" by The New York Times for her performance in Kyle Abraham's *Are You in Your Feelings?*. Some dance experience is recommended to participate. **Friday, July 11 at 6:30pm**

AILEY MASTERCLASS with VERNARD J. GILMORE

After 28 incredible years as dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater—not including his time as a student at The Ailey School and a dancer with Ailey II—[Vernard J. Gilmore](#) embodies the very essence of the Ailey legacy. Join us in celebration of Vernard's final bow as a Company member as he leads a special contemporary-modern masterclass with Ailey Extension. Some dance experience is recommended for participants. **Friday, July 18 at 6:30pm**

**In-Studio classes and workshops from Ailey Extension take place at
The Joan Weill Center for Dance (405 W 55th Street)
Virtual classes and workshops from Ailey Extension take place on Zoom**

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

About Ailey Extension

Since its inception in 2005, Ailey Extension has fulfilled Mr. Ailey's life-long commitment of "giving dance back to the people" by making dance accessible to everyone. Ailey Extension offers a wide variety of dance and fitness techniques such as Horton, ballet, contemporary, Masala Bhangra, West African, samba, jazz, Pilates, house and hip hop. Over 135,000 people have taken classes online and in-studio at AILEY's home, the Joan Weill Center for Dance – 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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