



AILEY OFFERS A VARIETY OF OPTIONS TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH INCLUDING LIVE PERFORMANCES, DANCE WORKSHOPS, FREE CLASSES, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Witness Dynamic **Live Performances** by **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and **Ailey II**
During **Coast-to-Coast National Tours** Across America

Join **Ailey Extension** to Explore Alvin Ailey's Signature Style During **Ailey Experience** Tour Workshops or Dive Into Dances from the African Diaspora During **Beginner-Friendly Special Workshops and Weekly Classes** in New York City

Educators Enhance and Expand Teaching Skills with **Finding Grace Curriculum** and **Ailey Teacher Certificate Program**

Stream FREE *Portrait of Ailey* Eight-Part Documentary Series About the Life and Legacy of Alvin Ailey



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Dr. Rachel McCaulsky, Angelica Edwards, Deborah Damast, Cheryl Rowley-Gaskins, Ronald K. Brown, and Arcell Caubag filming video resources for Finding Grace curriculum. Photo courtesy of AILEY;
Hip Hop at Ailey Extension. Photo by Whitney Browne. **CTRL+ CLICK ON PHOTOS FOR HI-RES DOWNLOAD**

NEW YORK, NY (January 15, 2026) – As America prepares to celebrate a Century of Black History Commemorations this February, AILEY welcomes people from all walks of life to immerse themselves in the beauty of African American culture through performances, workshops, and educational programming. With a variety of options including free programming, in-person experiences, and online offerings, each initiative presents opportunities for all regardless of age, location, or dance abilities. Discover the magic of AILEY by witnessing **live performances** from the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and spirited Ailey II; **explore Alvin Ailey's choreography** at Ailey Experience and get moving to a variety of dance styles with roots in the African diaspora during **workshops and weekly classes** presented by Ailey Extension; explore new **educational resources for students and educators**, and experience the life, career and impact of the organization's founder with the ***Portrait of Ailey*** documentary.

This Black History Month, **[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#)** launches its **[2026 US Tour](#)**, visiting 20 cities across the country starting with **[11 performances at the Warner Theatre in Washington DC \(January 30- February 8\)](#)** as part of a milestone season raising the curtain on a new era under the leadership of **Artistic Director [Alicia Graf Mack](#)**. The programming features Ailey's 32 extraordinary artists in five world premieres – ***Embrace*** by Fredrick Earl Mosley, ***Difference***

Between by Matthew Neenan, ***Jazz Island*** from Maija Garcia, ***Song of the Anchorite*** by Jamar Roberts, and ***The Holy Blues*** from Jawole Willa Jo Zollar in collaboration with Samantha Figgins and Chalvar Monteiro. Programs also include the company premiere of Medhi Walerski's ***Blink of an Eye*** and a new production of Judith Jamison's ***A Case of You***, in addition to returning favorites including Alvin Ailey's timeless signature masterpiece ***Revelations***. Following the DC engagement, Ailey's dancers will bring their inspiring artistry to the [Fox Theatre in Atlanta for six-soul stirring performances from \(February 11-15\)](#), followed by appearances at the Gogue Center Woltosz Theater in Auburn, AL (February 17-18), the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville (February 21-22), University of North Carolina Memorial Hall in Chapel Hill, NC (February 24-25), and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia (February 27 – March 1). The tour continues through Spring with performances in Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago and more cities, culminating in Newark, NJ on Mother's Day weekend (May 8-10) before returning to New York City for performances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (June 4-7).

Ailey II, the next generation of dance, continues the second leg of its [2025-26 tour](#) with February performances in Malibu, CA; Chandler, AZ; Starkville, MS; Meridian, MS; Helena, AR; Asheville, NC; Boone, NC; Kirksville, MO; and Rockford, IL. Led by **Artistic Director Francesca Harper**, the company will perform four compelling world premieres from emerging and established choreographers – ***In Session*** by Rena Butler, ***Likes vs Life*** by Renée I. McDonald, ***Berry Dreamin'*** from former Ailey dancer Chalvar Monteiro, and ***Third Person Point of View*** by My'Kal Stromile. In addition to these four world premieres, the troupe's repertory includes Houston Thomas' ***Down the Rabbit Hole*** and enduring classics by Alvin Ailey including ***Streams*** and the must-see ***Revelations***. After the February performances, the Company will return to New York City for [eight performances at the Joyce Theater \(March 17-22\)](#) before concluding the season in St. Louis, MO (April 10-11).

Now celebrating 20 years of “giving dance back to the people” with open classes for all ages and skill levels, ***Ailey Extension*** is making it easy for people to immerse themselves in dance no matter where they're located. The annual ***Ailey Experience Tour*** kicks off in Atlanta with weekend workshops presented in partnership with AREA Atlanta at Kay Pace Elementary and MD Roberts Middle School of the Performing Arts from January 31- February 1. Ailey Experience exposes dance lovers ages 8-adult to the exciting world of choreography in a non-competitive and welcoming environment. Each two-day workshop transports leading NYC instructors – including former Ailey Company members – to teach technique classes in various cities and introduce participants to the rich history of Alvin Ailey's signature style, including how he changed the perception of American modern dance. Throughout February, the Ailey Experience tour will also visit Charlotte, NC (February 7-8), Detroit (February 21-22) and Houston, TX (February 28-March 1) before continuing with workshops in Denver, New Orleans, Washington DC and Las Vegas through Spring 2026.

People can also join in the dance with ***Ailey Extension in New York City***, during workshops honoring various African American approaches to dance. This year's in-studio Black History Month workshops highlight social dances in the African American community featuring a ***Line Dance Workshop with Pilin Anice*** breaking down popular line dances on **February 6 at 5pm**, and a ***Swing Workshop with Samuel Coleman***, introducing participants to the iconic dance style on **February 28 at 4pm**. People can also step into Ailey's studios seven days a week to enjoy a variety of dance and fitness styles with roots in the African diaspora such as hip hop, house, West African, Afro-Cuban, Afro'Dance, dancehall and more. These weekly classes are accessible year-round both online via Zoom and in-studio at the Joan Weill Center for Dance – Ailey's home and New York's largest building dedicated to dance.

Ailey Extension is teaming up with the Whitney Museum to bring beginner-friendly dance classes to weekly Free Friday Nights all month long. Each Friday evening in February join Ailey Extension instructors for a high energy pop-up dance class, starting **February 6** with a **Hip Hop Cardio class led by Matthew Johnson Harris**.

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs in collaboration with [92NY Dance Education Laboratory](#) and renowned choreographer Ronald K. Brown, have launched the [Finding Grace](#) curriculum, a new dance residency program utilizing **Brown's masterwork, *Grace***, as an inspirational framework. Designed for elementary, middle and high school levels, the

Finding Grace curriculum allows students to explore and study Brown's choreographic style and engage with *Grace* as both a work of art and a way of being. This residency, now implemented in three schools across New York City, led by Ailey Teaching Artists, uses Brown's *Grace* as a springboard for students to explore creating movement, develop cultural literacy, and foster Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Starting January 26, a free resource for educators will be available on the [AILEY website](#), featuring embedded instructional videos and interviews with Ronald K. Brown and more.

Dance educators are encouraged to **apply for the next cohort of The Ailey School's Ailey Teacher Certification Program** to become a certified Ailey Horton instructor and expand their teaching opportunities. Mr. Ailey's mentor Lester Horton established the Horton technique, which became the basis of many of Mr. Ailey's works, including the signature masterpiece *Revelations*. Applications for the 2026-27 academic year are being accepted now through February 27.

This Black History Month, AILEY is also making it easy for educators, students, and all to deepen their knowledge of the history and impact of Alvin Ailey with a documentary series streaming for free. [Portrait of Ailey](#), a unique documentary in eight chapters about the life and work of Alvin Ailey, charts the course of his life from early childhood influences to professional collaborations with composers, designers, and generations of dancers. Conceived and directed by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters in collaboration with Dominique Singer and the Ailey Archives, this exceptional series combines rare archival performance footage with interviews and historical images, creating a beautiful work of art as well as an invaluable resource for anyone interested in learning more about Mr. Ailey and his artistic accomplishments. *Portrait of Ailey* can be streamed for free on [AILEY's website](#) and [PBS LearningMedia](#), which includes tools for educators to craft curriculum-based lessons inspired by the film's themes, and downloadable handouts and discussion questions to engage a class in Mr. Ailey's historic creative legacy.

For more information on how to celebrate Black History Month with AILEY or to secure tickets to an upcoming performance, workshop, or class, please visit [ailey.org](#).

For additional press materials, including bios, b-roll, and photos, visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](#).

About AILEY

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by US 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. Forged during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, the Company was established to uplift the African American experience while transcending boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and for 21 years she brought the Company to unprecedented success. 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 Company performs annually in Washington, DC; Chicago; Atlanta; Berkeley, CA; and Newark; and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the world during extensive tours. AILEY also includes Ailey II, a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School, 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 Ailey Extension, a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of AILEY's permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City—at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit [ailey.org](#).

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