



Renowned New York dance instructor visits Mississippi to recruit for summer program

By: Charles Herrington

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Watch here: <https://www.wdam.com/2026/02/27/renowned-new-york-dance-instructor-visits-mississippi-recruit-summer-program/> (2:11)

LAUREL, Miss. (WDAM) - A world-renowned dance instructor from New York visited Laurel Thursday to conduct a special class and do some recruiting for a prestigious summer dance program in the Big Apple.

Melanie Person, who is co-director of the Ailey School in New York, taught a master ballet class Thursday morning at Laurel Middle School.

It's part of a three-day residency in the Magnolia State, organized by the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience in Meridian.

She'll teach two other classes Friday in Meridian before hosting an audition Saturday for a prestigious summer dance program at the Ailey School.

"I typically tour in about six to eight cities in the U.S., and I recruit dancers to come to our summer intensive, so part of this weekend, in one of the classes, I will be accepting students to come to New York for our five-week summer intensive," Person said.

"We accept the dancers we like, and we see if they are able to come. The decision to come to New York for the summer is a big undertaking for families, so we just hope that they can do it."

Registration is required for that audition, which will be held at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience.

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