

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Photo by Alice Castro.

Founded by Alvin Ailey on March 30, 1958, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the most acclaimed dance companies in the world. With a repertory that boasts close to 300 works by more than 100 choreographers, it has performed in more than 71 countries on six continents and has been designated a “vital American Cultural Ambassador to the World” by a US Congressional resolution.

Forged during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was established to uplift the African American experience and furthers the American modern dance tradition while transcending boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. As the company grew, Mr. Ailey invited dancers of all backgrounds to be a part of his vision while reimagining his company as a “library of dance,” a home for a wide range of choreographers’ works that might otherwise be lost—the first modern dance company of its kind. He expanded the global audience for dance with his visionary model and technically dazzling works.

Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, who for 21 years brought the Company to unprecedented success—including two historic engagements in South Africa and a 50-city

global tour celebrating the company’s 50th anniversary. In 2005, her idea of a permanent home for AILEY was realized with the opening of The Joan Weill Center for Dance, the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City.

Alicia Graf Mack, widely celebrated for her dance artistry during her years with the company, was appointed Artistic Director of AILEY in July 2025. In announcing the appointment, she said, “It’s the honor of a lifetime to step into this role and continue the legacy of Alvin Ailey—a legacy rooted in celebrating the beauty and resilience of the human spirit. I am committed to preserving the company’s rich heritage while boldly exploring new voices and perspectives that push the boundaries of dance and reflect the world we live in today, and the world we hope to see.”

Today, through the remarkable artistry of 32 extraordinary dancers, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues to bring joy and elation to audiences around the globe, while expanding its repertory with works by new choreographers and upholding Mr. Ailey’s legacy for future generations.

For further information, visit
[Pressroom.AlvinAiley.org](https://pressroom.alvinaley.org)

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER IS APPLAUDED BY AUDIENCES AND CRITICS ALIKE

“Nothing prepares you for the totality of Alvin Ailey: the aural, visual, physical, spiritual beauty...Heaven...Everywhere you looked: sensory pleasure...”

– **THE NEW YORK TIMES, ZADIE SMITH**

“Five Stars. The pioneering company’s warmth and athletic grace is showcased in a selection of old and new work. There’s something generous about Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. It’s there in the dancing – full of skill, passion and a charismatic warmth”

– **THE GUARDIAN, SARAH CROMPTON**

“In its sixty-year history, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre has enjoyed an inspiring ascent from hardscrabble origins to a long, still unchallenged reign as America’s most popular dance company...”

– **THE NEW YORKER**

“...how fabulously individual the dancers all are. Each is an immediately distinct character...”

– **THE NEW YORK TIMES**



In accordance with choreographer Alvin Ailey's dictum that "dance is for everybody," AILEY offers performances, training, classes, and community programs through our five divisions: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, The Ailey School, Ailey Extension, and Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs. Using the American modern dance tradition and the beauty of the African American cultural heritage, AILEY enlightens, unites, and inspires all people.



AILEY II

Founded in 1974 as the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Ailey II has advanced Alvin Ailey's vision by giving early-career dancers the vital experience of transitioning from training as a student to becoming a professional dancer. Led by Artistic Director Francesca Harper, Ailey II is forging a new path for modern dance—one that's inclusive, experimental, and transformative.



THE AILEY SCHOOL

Founded in 1969, The Ailey School has grown into a world-renowned educational institution, led by Co-Directors Tracy Inman and Melanie Person. The School's innovative programs echo Alvin Ailey's philosophy, providing students with the highest caliber of multidisciplinary training while encouraging them to explore their own creative voice.

[Click for overview video.](#)



THE AILEY/FORDHAM BFA

The Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance is a four-year joint program offering professional dance training at The Ailey School and an exceptional liberal arts education rooted in the Jesuit tradition of intellectual development and personal attention at Fordham University.



AILEY EXTENSION

Ailey Extension offers open dance and fitness classes taught in-person and online by renowned instructors for people of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels – from absolute beginners to professionals. Adult classes are available seven days a week in a wide variety of styles including ballet, hip hop, contemporary, Pilates, West African, and more. Ailey Extension also offers kids and teens classes, performance opportunities, and private group classes. [Click for b-roll of classes.](#)



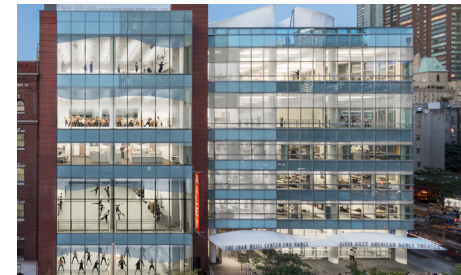
ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs (AAIE) cultivates and energizes youth and older adults to take, make, and see dance. Through our pioneering outreach programs, we reach over 10,000 participants each year, partnering with hundreds of schools, older adult facilities, and community organizations. Expanding on Alvin Ailey's vision of sharing dance with the world, we inspire people to explore their own creativity and experience the joy of movement. [Click for AileyDance for Active Aging video.](#)



AILEYCAMP

AileyCamp is an innovative six-week summer day camp run by AAIE for young people ages 11–14. The program helps youth explore their creativity and develop their self-confidence in an atmosphere of warmth, respect, and trust. More than a dance program, AileyCamp provides children with an invaluable opportunity to master their bodies and strengthen their respect for themselves and others within a supportive framework. AileyCamp is currently operating in 10 cities nationwide, including New York City. [Click for overview video.](#)



AILEY'S HOME

In 2005, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater opened its permanent home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, on 55th Street and 9th Avenue in Manhattan. The striking glass-enclosed building is the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world. In 2017, the Elaine Wynn and Family Education Wing added three floors to the west side of the building, including four dance studios to reach a total of 16, two flexible classrooms, and much more.