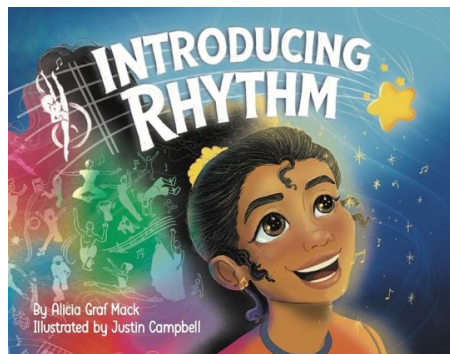




**AILEY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ALICIA GRAF MACK ANNOUNCES DEBUT CHILDREN'S BOOK,
INTRODUCING RHYTHM, WITH VIBRANT ILLUSTRATIONS**

Available on November 9 to Kick Off National Children's Book Week

**Interactive Book Signing Events Scheduled for November at the Ailey Studios and in December
Following Select Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Performances
as Part of New York City Center's Passport to Rhythm**



Please Credit Photos: Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack with members of the Company. Photo by Andrew Eccles;
Introducing Rhythm by Alicia Graf Mack. Illustrated by Justin Campbell; Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack with
AileyCamp New York participants. Photo by Danica Paulos.

NEW YORK – September 24, 2026 – Alicia Graf Mack, the Daria L. and Eric J. Wallach Artistic Director of AILEY, announces her debut children's book, [*Introducing Rhythm*](#), set for release on **November 9 to kick off National Children's Book Week (November 9–15)**. With full-color illustrations by artist Justin Campbell, *Introducing Rhythm* invites readers ages 4–12 into a joyful world of movement, music, and self-discovery.

Introducing Rhythm tells the story of Rhythm Rogers, a 3rd grade class captain, who has the heart of a dancer, but stage fright keeps her from auditioning for the Spring Dance Jamboree. As Rhythm watches her classmates light up the stage in everything from ballet and modern dance to hip hop and other exciting dance styles, she begins to wonder if she has a special spark of her own. With the support of her teacher, the encouragement of her friends, and the power of music guiding her every step, Rhythm takes a brave leap and discovers the confidence to follow her dreams.

This heartwarming story encourages children to embrace their individuality, celebrate diverse forms of dance, and discover the rhythm that lives within them. Perfect for young dancers, music lovers, classrooms, libraries, and families, *Introducing Rhythm* encourages every child to move with confidence, dream boldly, and let their unique light shine.

"I am so excited to share this story with all the young dreamers out there who are looking to see themselves in stories," Ms. Graf Mack said. "I hope this book will inspire the next generation of movers to discover their own special voice!"

***Introducing Rhythm* will be available in an exclusive hardcover edition at the Ailey Boutique** at AILEY's home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, as well as at merchandise stands during [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2026-27 season at New York City Center](#) and the coast-to-coast North American tour, as well as **online at [IntroducingRhythm.com](#)** (pre-orders available now).

Ms. Graf Mack is especially excited to launch the book during **National Children's Book Week, November 9–15**, to promote children's literacy and arts education. She will be personally signing copies at several upcoming events:

- **Saturday, November 14:** Book signing at The Joan Weill Center for Dance for The Ailey School
- **Sunday, November 15: Official launch event** with readings, movement demonstrations, and book signing at The Joan Weill Center for Dance (11:00am & 1:00pm). RSVP required [here](#).
- **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at New York City Center – following December 13, 20 & January 3 Sunday 2pm matinee performances for ticket holders - Passport to Rhythm**, an interactive family experience transforming City Center's Grand Tier into five activity stations inspired by the dance styles featured in the book: ballet, tap, modern, hip-hop, and step. Led by City Center Teaching Artists, with participation from Justin Campbell, the experience invites children and their adults to move, listen, create, and explore together. Graf Mack will also host a book signing in the Shuman Lounge.

PRESS CONTACTS:

Christopher Zunner – czunner@ailey.org / 212-405-9028

Tracy Severe – tsevere@ailey.org / 212-405-9032

PRESS: Members of the media may visit AILEY's pressroom for press materials on [Introducing Rhythm](#), including [images from book and of Alicia Graf Mack](#), an [overview sheet](#), and [video of Alicia Graf Mack](#) introducing the book. For additional materials including bios, b-roll and photos, visit pressroom.ailey.org.

Ms. Graf Mack wrote this book to encourage children to learn and discover together, so teachers and dance educators can request a quote for a bulk order [here](#). *Introducing Rhythm* is independently published by Alicia's own **Made to Move LLC**—a labor of love from first sketch to final page.

About Alicia Graf Mack

Alicia Graf Mack is an internationally celebrated dancer, educator, author, and arts leader whose career has spanned performance and cultural leadership at the highest level. As Artistic Director of AILEY and former Dean and Director of Dance at The Juilliard School, she has dedicated her life to inspiring the next generation through the transformative power of the arts. A former principal ballerina with Dance Theatre of Harlem and a celebrated performer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Alicia brings grace, imagination, and a lifelong love of storytelling to everything she creates. In *Introducing Rhythm*, she invites young readers into a vibrant world where music, movement, and courage come together to inspire every child to discover the joy and freedom of dance. For more information on Alicia Graf Mack, visit ailey.org.

About Justin Campbell

Justin Campbell is an author/illustrator and professional performer based in New York City. With a love of mixing visual and performance art, and inspired by his background in dance, movement, and theater, Justin writes for the child he once was, who struggled to navigate a world that did not see him. "When illustrating *Introducing Rhythm*, I saw so much of my story in her journey and in even creating this book, I discovered my own voice, my rhythm," Campbell said. "So this book is a 'thank you' to all of the friends, family, and mentors who believed in me and continuously whispered wonderful affirmations of always following my 'north star' and to let my light shine."

'Introducing Rhythm' Advance Praise

"What Alicia Graf Mack brings to the stage is what Rhythm brings to the page... inclusion, artistic freedom, and a jolt of inspiration to get up and dance!"

–**Misty Copeland**, *internationally acclaimed ballerina, entrepreneur & best-selling author*

"At last—a children's book that makes us want to twirl, leap, and tap our toes! This joyful story doesn't just talk about dance—it lets you feel the magic of being part of it."

–**Patricia Delgado and Justin Peck**, *internationally acclaimed, Tony Award-winning choreographers*

"Alicia Graf is always intentional about everything she does. With this book, she honors different genres of movement and provides readers with the opportunity to find their own rhythm and creativity through dance."

–**Camille A. Brown**, *award-winning choreographer, director, performer, and educator*

"I wish I had this book when I was little. *Introducing Rhythm* captivates the reader from the first page with its bright illustrations and beautiful melodic prose celebrating the many styles of dance. Each page is a testament to the joys of dance and brings me back to the excitement when I first started dancing. I saw myself when I saw Rhythm. This book is for anyone who has dreamed of becoming a dancer and shares a passion for the stage. This is for the dancers in all of us."

–**Nia Frazier**, *star of Dance Moms on Lifetime TV, dancer, actor, advocate, and author*

"*Introducing Rhythm* is a joyful celebration of movement and identity brought to life through Alicia Graf Mack's singular voice and vision. This radiant debut reminds us that every child deserves to see themselves reflected in the art that shapes their world."

–**Darren Walker**, *Former President, Ford Foundation*

Alicia Graf Mack has created a beautiful book that celebrates the power of dance, poetry, and imagination. *Introducing Rhythm* will inspire children everywhere to discover confidence, joy, and their own unique rhythm."

–**Jody Gottfried Arnhold**, *Dance Educator and Advocate*