

KANSAS CITY FRIENDS OF ALVIN AILEY INVITES ALL TO JOIN IN THE DANCE DURING A SEASON OF AILEY WITH WORKSHOPS, PERFORMANCES, AND MORE

**Free Dance Series for Public Welcomes All to KCFAA Studios for Workshops
and Sharing Presentation December 15-17, 2022**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Glorious Return to Inspire Audiences at
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts March 24-25, 2023**

**AileyCamp Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, MO Continues its
Annual Summer Program for Middle Schoolers June 5 – July 14, 2023**

DECEMBER 12, 2022 – [Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey](#) (KCFAA) announces an exciting season of Ailey that launches this week with free workshops for the public and features a residency by a trio of Ailey's extraordinary dancers, the glorious return of the renowned [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) for the first time since 2017, and the life-changing summer program [AileyCamp](#), and more.

The inspiring programs and performances kick off with **an invitation for all ages and backgrounds to join in the dance for free during a three-day dance workshop series from December 15-17**. Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey opens the door for the community to step into their studios at 1714 E 18th Street, Kansas City, MO from Thursday through Saturday for classes in Creative Movement (Ages 3-6), Afro-Caribbean (Ages 7-12), Jazz (Ages 12-16) and Modern (Ages 13+). Ailey Arts In Education Master Teacher [Nasha Thomas](#) (a former star of the Ailey company) and Ailey Teaching Artists will provide a warm welcome into this special dance experience culminating with an option to participate in a **final sharing presentation on Saturday, December 17 at 3:30pm**. Full schedule below. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to participate in all 3 classes offered for their age range. For more information and to RSVP, email Programs@kcfaa.org or register by clicking this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J2TSLP9>.

Every year, KCFAA's Studio Dance Program offers affordable, high-quality dance training for students in the Kansas City region, with an emphasis on teaching young people critical life skills for academic success, all in a creative, safe, environment. This mission of making dance accessible is also in action during a residency of the **Ailey Trio** (three members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) featuring a free, public presentation at The Gem Theater on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 7pm blending informal performance with lecture and class. The Ailey Trio is also available to perform at schools for all grade levels during the week of January 9-13, 2023. Designed to provide a fun and instructive dance experience demonstrating the discipline and skills needed for success in the world of dance, which applies to any field. Contact programs@kcfaa.org for more information on school programs, or visit <https://kcfaa.org/ailey-trio/> - only a few time slots are still available!

[Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's highly-anticipated return to Kansas City](#), for the first time since 2017, is scheduled for March 24-25, 2023 at Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The exciting engagement includes: a school-time performance for students on Friday, March 25 at 10:30am; dynamic public performances on Friday, March 24 at 7:30pm and Saturday, March 25 at 1pm; and culminates with **KCFAA's 2023 Gala, *A Glorious Return***, dinner and performance on Saturday, March 25 at 5:30pm. The inspiring finale of all performances will be **Alvin Ailey's must-see American masterpiece *Revelations***, acclaimed around the world for sending hearts soaring and lifting audiences to their feet with its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. Full programming to be announced. For information and tickets please visit www.kcfaa.org/aaadt and www.kcfaa.org/gala.

Summer 2023 marks the return of the life-changing [AileyCamp](https://kcfaa.org/aileycamp/), a full scholarship summer program for middle schoolers that was founded by Alvin Ailey and KCFAA in 1989. AileyCamp will take place in 10 U.S. cities, **including Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri (June 5 – July 14, 2023)**, helping students ages 11-14 develop their self-confidence, navigate social challenges, and explore their creativity to build a foundation for future success. The atmosphere of warmth, respect, trust, and joy carries over into concluding performances that highlight the camper's hard work, growth, and achievements. Area AileyCamp final performances will take place Tuesday, July 11, 2023 (Kansas) and Wednesday, July 12, 2023 (Missouri). For more information on AileyCamp in Kansas City (KS & MO), visit <https://kcfaa.org/aileycamp/>.

In 1958, Alvin Ailey and a small group of dancers took the stage in New York and forever changed American dance and culture, promoting the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of American modern dance. The Company continues moving forward under the direction of Robert Battle who accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2014), the nation's highest civilian honor, on behalf of the late Alvin Ailey, a trailblazing artist who is the subject of the acclaimed documentary [Ailey](#), currently streaming on Hulu.

PRESS: Media is invited to cover. For arrangements, contact Melanie Miller in advance.

PHOTOS: Visit [Ailey's pressroom](#) for photos of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, AileyCamp, and more.



Click on the photos to download. Please Use Credits, Left to Right: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Solomon Dumas, Khalia Campbell and Samantha Figgins in Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Photo by Paul Kolnik; Nasha Thomas leading a *Revelations* inspired workshop. Photo by Justin Namon.

CALENDAR LISTING:

[Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey](#) (KCFAA) announces an exciting season of Ailey that launches this week with free workshops for the public Dec. 15-17, 2022 and features [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's highly-anticipated return to Kansas City](#) scheduled for March 24-25, 2023. Join in the dance for free during a three-day dance workshop series as Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey opens the door for all to step into their studios at 1714 E 18th Street, Kansas City, MO from Thursday through Saturday for classes in Creative Movement (Ages 3-6), Afro-Caribbean (Ages 7-12), Jazz (Ages 12-16) and Modern (Ages 13+) and a final sharing presentation on Saturday, December 17 at 3:30pm. Full schedule below. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to participate in all 3 classes offered for their age range. For more information and to RSVP, email Programs@kcfaa.org or register by clicking this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J2TSLP9>.

FREE THREE-DAY DANCE WORKSHOP SERIES at KCFAA (1714 E 18th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108).

Thursday, December 15 & Friday, December 16:

- Ages 13+, 4-5:15pm – Modern with Cedric Greene
- Ages 3-6, 5:30-6:30pm – Creative Movement with Jessica St. Vil-Ulysse
- Ages 7-12, 6:45-7:45pm – Afro-Caribbean with Jessica St. Vil-Ulysse
- Ages 12-16, 8-9pm – Jazz with Cedric Greene

Saturday, December 17:

- Ages 3-6, 10-11am – Creative Movement with Jessica St. Vil-Ulysse
- Ages 7-12, 11:15am-12:15pm – Afro-Caribbean with Jessica St. Vil-Ulysse
- Ages 12-16, 2:30-1:30pm – Jazz with Cedric Greene
- Ages 13+, 1:45-3pm – Modern with Cedric Greene
- ALL AGES: 3:30-4:30pm – Final Sharing Presentation

About Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey

The mission of Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) is making dance accessible to all people by presenting the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, teaching young people critical life skills through dance, and modeling interracial and multi-cultural community partnerships. For more information, visit www.kcfaa.org.

About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. 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. Founded by Alvin Ailey, recent posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation’s highest civilian honor, and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents – as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms - 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 Ailey company performs annually at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), 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 The Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey’s permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world —named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

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