

# THE AILEY SCHOOL

OFFICIAL SCHOOL OF ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

**Tracy Inman & Melanie Person, Directors**

Tiffany Barnes, Director, Junior Division

**Robert Battle, Artistic Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**

## JUNIOR DIVISION STUDENT HANDBOOK

Bennett Rink, Executive Director, Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation



JUNIOR DIVISION STUDENTS: Photo: EDUARDO PATINO, NYC

# THE AILEY SCHOOL History and Mission

## **HISTORY OF THE AILEY SCHOOL**

The Ailey School is the official school of the world renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In 1969, Alvin Ailey founded The Ailey School (then called the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center) in Brooklyn, New York, with an initial enrollment of 125 students. In 1970, Mr. Ailey joined forces with Pearl Lang to establish the American Dance Center in Manhattan. Today, under the direction of Tracy Inman and Melanie Person, a prestigious faculty trains approximately 3,500 students annually, offering more than 160 classes weekly.

A junior performing company, Ailey II, is the resident company of The Ailey School. Ailey School students are often invited to join Ailey II by its Artistic Director. Other students pursue successful careers as performers, choreographers and teachers with professional dance companies in the United States and abroad. Many appear in film, on television and on the Broadway stage. Some also choose to become health practitioners, teachers or to work in the corporate world, and they support dance as patrons and members of the audience.

Located in New York City's Theater District, The Ailey School houses 12 spacious studios, a fully equipped theater with 295 seats, student and faculty lounges, dressing rooms, a library, conference rooms, an Ailey boutique and administrative offices. Students are drawn from every part of the world, representing a diversity of racial and ethnic backgrounds. Unique among dance academies, The Ailey School offers an accredited and comprehensive curriculum including ballet, Dunham, Graham-based modern, Horton, jazz, tap and West African dance. The school rounds out its curriculum with classes in barre a terre, body conditioning, yoga, Gyrokinesis®, partnering, repertory, improvisation, dance composition, dance history, music and theater arts, and performance opportunities.

Guided by the belief that dance instruction should be made available to everyone, The Ailey School has designed a number of programs which offer training at all levels. The Ailey School offers the following Junior Division programs to its students:

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ★ First Steps               | ★ Pre-Professional             |
| ★ Bounding Boys             | ★ The Summer Intensive         |
| ★ Ailey Athletic Boys Dance | ★ Pre-Professional Scholarship |

## **MISSION AND GOALS OF THE AILEY SCHOOL**

To make dance accessible to young people and adults through dance training and innovative community arts-in-education programs.

★ To offer students the opportunity to follow an accredited curriculum of diversified dance training of the highest professional caliber.

★ To maintain a professional faculty of exceptional teachers, musicians and guest artists.

★ To train outstanding students as professional dancers and provide them with merit-based scholarships and need-based federal financial aid.

★ To offer a range of student services including artistic advisement, housing assistance, physical therapy services, and professional counseling for nutrition and psychological well-being

★ To offer a broad range of dance classes for the dance enthusiast

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

All Junior Division students are required to maintain a satisfactory level of performance. Students are subject to probation or dismissal for poor attendance, unsatisfactory progress, or noncompliance with The Ailey School's rules and regulations.

Students will be placed on probation for any of the following reasons:

- Excessive class absences
- Unsatisfactory or limited progress in an assigned class
- Unacceptable behavior inside the school or outside when serving as a representative of The Ailey School.

All Junior Division students must comply with The Ailey School Dress Code in all classes. Students are required to abide by this Code in all of their classes. **Noncompliance may result in suspension from class.**

Students may be dismissed because of lack of progress, frequent absences or tardiness, or behavioral problems. The Ailey School maintains the right to dismiss any student who does not abide by its rules and regulations. We try to avoid taking this extreme measure by providing individual counseling services through its Junior Division Director.

## **STUDENT GUIDELINES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Good attendance (participating in a minimum of 90% in all assigned classes) is required of all Junior Division Students for a satisfactory evaluation to continue in the program. **Students are allowed THREE absences per term** (exceptions will be made in extreme circumstances). It is the responsibility of parents to notify the Junior Division Coordinator by emailing [jdattendance@alvinailey.org](mailto:jdattendance@alvinailey.org) when their child is going to miss their regularly scheduled classes. Injured students are expected to observe all of their classes unless they are physically unable to get to The Ailey School.

### **LATENESS**

Any student who arrives in class more than 5 minutes after the class has started will be asked to observe that class.

### **ADVISEMENT/ COUNSELING**

The Ailey School recognizes the value of clear and frequent communication between its students and faculty. The Junior Division Director is available to advise and mentor students on artistic, procedural and personal concerns.

### **CLASS SCHEDULES**

All Junior Division Students are permitted to take only those classes assigned to them by the Junior Division Director. Students are placed by their level of proficiency in dance. Students are charged for all lessons and classes for which they register, including those missed through student absences. Classes missed by the student will not be rescheduled and there will be no refund of tuition or make-up classes. Junior Division Students are not allowed to take Ailey Extension classes.

## **DRESS CODE**

Copies of the dress code are distributed to all Junior Division students and their parents. Students are required to abide by this code in all their classes. The Ailey School reserves the right to ask any student who is out of accord with either the hair style or dancewear regulations of the Dress Code for his or her level to observe class. **Noncompliance may result in suspension from class.**

## **REPERTORY WORKSHOP CLASSES**

Repertory Workshop classes are offered to give Junior Division students rehearsal and performance experience. Excellent attendance and professional behavior are requirements for continued enrollment in the Repertory Workshop class and for participation in performances. The choreographer and/or the Junior Division Director has the right to make casting changes at anytime.

## **STUDIO ETIQUETTE**

While taking classes at The Ailey School, students must adhere to the following:

- No food or drink inside the studios. Only water in plastic bottles allowed.
  - Students must first ask permission to leave the studio *i.e. to use the restroom*
- The Ailey School is a “Gum- Free Zone” – no gum chewing in the building!

## **PROBATION**

Students will be placed on probation for any of the following reasons:

- Excessive class absences (more than an absence of three days in any assigned class).
- Unsatisfactory or limited progress in assigned classes.
- Non-completion or unsatisfactory completion of assigned work hours in The Ailey School.
- Unauthorized leave of absences.
- Unacceptable behavior inside the school or outside when serving as a representative of The Ailey School.

The Ailey School staff closely monitors student’s attendance and work assignments when a student is placed on probation. Those Fellowship students who are on probation and fail to rectify their status will not be permitted to re-audition for the Fellowship Program.

## **DISMISSAL**

Students may be dismissed because of lack of progress, frequent absences or tardiness, delinquency of payment of tuition or fees and/or behavioral problems. The Ailey School reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not abide by its rules and regulations.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

A medical leave of absence (MLOA) will be granted to a student upon the submission to the Registrar of written certification from the student’s physician and the completion of a change of student status form with the Registrar.

## **WITHDRAWALS**

In order to obtain an official withdrawal, students must submit to The Ailey School’s Bursar a written confirmation of their status.

## **EMERGENCY**

In the event of an emergency, please remain calm and follow the instructions of the staff.

**CAMPUS SECURITY**

The Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation does not condone malevolent behavior of any kind. The facilities are monitored by Foundation staff throughout operating hours. Students are asked to report to the Junior Division office any inappropriate behavior occurring on the premises.

**LIABILITY WAIVER**

Use of the premises of The Ailey School constitutes acceptance of the following. The Ailey School shall not be responsible for and specifically disclaims any liability to students and their guests for any loss, theft, claim, injury or liability incurred at The Ailey School, except resulting from the negligence of The Ailey School or its employees.

**AILEY SCHOOL CREDENTIALS**

The Ailey School (TAS) is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD)

## Agreement

I affirm that as of \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_, my child and I have thoroughly read and  
(*Today's date*)  
understand the Junior Division Handbook and agree to adhere  
to the rules and regulations. We both understand that by not  
following the rules and regulations of the Junior Division,

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Student's Name (*Please print*) & Level

is subject to disciplinary action by the Junior Division Director.

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Parent's Name (*Please Print*)

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Parent's Signature

***\*\*Please fill out and return to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office\*\****