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[Press Room](#)

BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP AT CAL PERFORMANCES

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The first AileyCamp was founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey; there are now 10 camps throughout the country. **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances** opened its doors in June 2002; there are only two AileyCamps on the West Coast and only two located on a major university campus. Campers receive two meals each day, a camp uniform, and dance clothes. They participate in a curriculum that includes daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance. Dance and creative communications classes deepen the students' awareness of their potential; and personal development classes provide counseling in nutrition, conflict resolution, drug abuse prevention, personal hygiene, decision-making, and goal-setting. "I will not use the word *can't* to define my possibilities," is just one of the affirmations repeated daily by campers to reinforce their goals, build self-confidence, and guide them on a path to becoming productive and motivated individuals. AileyCamp is not a training ground for professional dancers but instead uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, and critical thinking skills. An important aspect of the program's success is providing positive adult and peer role models. "When camp is finished, students will leave with valuable life skills and a sense of accomplishment that will help them navigate through the challenging years ahead," said Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp director David W. McCauley.

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp director David W. McCauley began his dance training while a student, first at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and later at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has trained in ballet, modern, jazz, and ethnic dancing. As a dancer based in New York City, McCauley spent 15 years as a student, instructor, and

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performer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He also performed with the Pearl Primus Dance Company and Omega Liturgical Dance Company. Since 1990, he has been a resident of San Francisco, performing with Wing It! Performance Ensemble and Omega West Dance Company. McCauley teaches a class in dance and spirituality for the Center for Art, Religion, and Education, an affiliated center of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He was awarded the first-ever AileyCamp Award of Excellence from the national AileyCamp Foundation in recognition of his exemplary leadership and commitment. McCauley is a full-time staff member at Cal Performances, where he serves as a teaching artist when not directing AileyCamp.

Launched this year, the **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp junior leadership program** will allow a select group of high-school-aged AileyCamp alumni to participate in leadership roles under the direct mentorship of AileyCamp staff. Junior leadership program participants will take classes with an assigned group of students, assisting instructors with demonstrations and coaching younger campers.

This summer, three AileyCamp alumni will join the team as **artistic literacy summer interns** under the guidance of **Rica Anderson, Cal Performances' education programs manager and teaching artist**. The interns participated in Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp previously as part of the “A-Team” pilot program, which enables students to build upon the disciplines and other skills they learned in AileyCamp to further develop life skills—such as leadership abilities—while supporting the day-to-day needs of AileyCamp. In their paid internship positions, the students will collect and create material for the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp diary, newsletter, and anthology; provide production support, including organizing and maintaining costumes; coordinate specific camp events; serve as AileyCamp ambassadors to visitors; and assist faculty as needed.

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp Diary features writings and images by staff and campers updated throughout the six-week camp. Go to calperformances.tumblr.com/aileycamp2016, and follow the conversation on social media with **#CalAileyCamp**.

Camp administrator Lakiesha Golden is a performing artist with 20 years of experience and a specialization in Congolese (Central African) dance. Currently an artist-in-residence teaching in Oakland Unified School District high schools via Dimensions Dance Theater, she is one of the only teachers for the Sunday Congolese class at Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts in downtown Oakland. Golden is the artistic director of the performing dance company Nlolo Kongo. UC Berkeley integrative biology student **Patricia Sager** joins AileyCamp as the **administrative assistant**.

Almost the entire AileyCamp teaching staff returns from the 2015 session:

- **Naomi Johnson Diouf** (African dance), West African dance and culture teacher at Berkeley High School and artistic director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company in Oakland
- **Derrick Minter** (modern dance), longtime AileyCamp teacher and dance professor at the University of Oklahoma
- **Priya Shah** (ballet), a former faculty member of Ballet Pacifica Academy with an MFA in dance and a BA in psychology
- **Shawn Nealy-Oparah** (personal development), a percussionist with a master's degree in education from UCLA and a teacher with multiple years in the classroom in the Los Angeles, Oakland, and Fremont unified school districts
- **Rosario Lionudakis** (also known as Zari Le'on) (jazz dance instructor), a recent graduate of the University of Michigan, where she earned a MFA in dance, and currently on the dance faculty at Grand Canyon University.
- New to camp is **Brandon Williams** (creative communications instructor).
- Returning musicians include percussionists **Madiou Sao Diouf** and his father **Dr. Zakariya Diouf**.

AileyCamp group leaders include **Ariel Hayat, Erik Lee, Maya Kitayama**, and former AileyCampers **Yejide Najee-Ullah** (2002 alumna) and **Spencer Pulu** (2005 alumnus). Providing strong leadership, consistent support, and guidance to each camper within their group, group leaders oversee AileyCampers throughout their camp day.

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