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## **CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY ANNOUNCES**

### **BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP SUMMER 2020 CANCELED**

#### **PROGRAM WILL RETURN IN 2020–21 SEASON**

**Berkeley, April 15, 2020** — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley announced today the cancellation of the summer 2020 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp due to the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and continuing uncertainty communicated by public officials as to when and how they will recommend the safe resumption of community activity.

“This was an extraordinarily difficult decision to make and everyone concerned wishes the situation were otherwise,” said the organization’s executive and artistic director Jeremy Geffen, “However, we felt it important to allow the families of our campers the widest possible window of time to make alternate child care arrangements. We take this action to protect the health and safety of all campers and their families, faculty, staff, and volunteers, knowing the close contact and intense physical activity asked of all participants. At the same time, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to this remarkable program; we look forward to its return to campus during the summer of 2021, when Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp will celebrate its 20th anniversary.”

The decision was made in consultation with the executive committee of the Cal Performances’ board of Trustees, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater leadership, and UC Berkeley campus administration. The young people who have been under consideration for 2020 enrollment will be automatically be considered for participation in summer 2021.

AileyCamp, a nationally acclaimed summer program, uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, creative expression, and critical thinking skills among middle school students ages 11–14.

Conceived by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and run locally by Cal Performances, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp combines professional-level dance training with personal development activities over six weeks of intensive, tuition-free learning. Students attend classes in ballet, modern dance, and African dance, as well as personal development classes in nutritional counseling, conflict resolution, drug-abuse prevention, decision making, and goal setting. Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances has enrolled over 1,000 under-served youth in Alameda and Contra Costa counties since its inception in 2002.

For more information and updates about Cal Performances' response to the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, please visit <https://calperformances.org/covid-19-response/>.