

BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP

CELEBRATING OUR 17TH YEAR!

“If I’m in a tough situation, I think of AileyCamp and the lessons I learned.”

—former AileyCamper Vivian R. Allen

This year’s AileyCamp celebrates the 30th anniversary of AileyCamps around the country and the 60th anniversary for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. For the past 17 years, Cal Performances has been home to the original West Coast site of Alvin Ailey’s visionary summer dance program, and one of the very few AileyCamps based on a major university campus.

AileyCamp is a nationally acclaimed, six-week program designed to develop self-esteem, discipline, and a capacity for critical thinking in youths ages 11–14. The AileyCamp curriculum includes daily dance technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and West African dance. Courses in personal development and creative communication provide vehicles for students to address key issues encountered during the pivotal middle school years, express themselves creatively through other art forms (such as visual arts and theater), and build intentional understanding of self and community.

The impact of AileyCamp goes far beyond the environs of the UC Berkeley campus. AileyCamp has served more than 1,000 Bay Area middle-school youths and their families. Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is administered and fully funded by Cal Performances; all campers receive full-tuition scholarships, meals, uniforms, and dance clothing, and some are provided transportation to and from camp. The Artistic Literacy Committee, a division of Cal Performances’ Board of Trustees, provides oversight, and over the past 17 years, some 250 volunteers have enthusiastically donated their time and talents to the operation of the camp.

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp culminates in tonight’s finale performance for members of the community in which campers demonstrate the skills they have acquired while participating in the program. AileyCampers are excited to demonstrate all that they have learned, and are thrilled to perform before an enthusiastic audience of family and friends, as well as many other supporters of the camp.

Artistic Director David McCauley has chosen *The Joy of Not Knowing?* as the theme and title of tonight’s performance. Joy comes to us in many ways. Sometimes it is sparkling, clear, and immediate; and sometimes it playfully reveals itself tucked behind the folds of uncertainty. To keep ourselves open to the prospect of joy, to persevere and push through those folds of uncertainty, can reveal a joy undreamed of. The outstanding young people on stage this evening have pushed through many layers of “not knowing,” and we hope they will both experience joy themselves tonight, and also deliver joy to you as you witness the amazing progress they have made in six short weeks.

We hope you enjoy the performance!



Ben Schacter

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is funded entirely by gifts to Cal Performances. To make sure that this year's camp is fully funded, and to help ensure that more deserving young people in our local communities are able to participate in this transformative program, please call the Development Office at (510) 642-8653 or visit calperformances.org/give.

Cal Performances and the AileyCampers extend their sincere appreciation to the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations, who made gifts between July 1, 2017 and June 1, 2018 to support Cal Performances' Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp and Cal Performances' Education and Community Programs.

**2018 BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP AND
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SUPPORT**

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Haoxin Li
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Tobey, Julie and Lucy Roland
Teresa and Otis Wong

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individuals and corporations who support
Cal Performances' Education and Community
Programs through the Gala at the Greek.

DONATIONS IN KIND

OCSC Sailing

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Diamano Coura: Zak and Naomi Diouf
Margaret Beale

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*... and those many unsung persons whose
generosity to Cal Performances'
Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is valued
beyond measure.*



Catherine Syversen, hiking in the Grand Canyon; and with her twin sister, Margaret.

The Catherine F. Syversen AileyCamp Endowment

Celebrating and honoring the life of a truly remarkable woman, the **Catherine F. Syversen Endowment for AileyCamp** has been created by her children, Eric and Catherine Allman, and their spouses, Kirk McKusick and Glenn Snyder.

As a public school classroom teacher, administrator, and mentor, Catherine dedicated her entire career to education. She was always willing to go the extra mile for her students, faculty, parents, and community, demonstrating by example that every experience—at any age—can be an educational opportunity. Most of her working life was spent in Richmond and San Pablo because that is where she felt she was most needed.

After her retirement, Catherine jumped at the opportunity to volunteer with AileyCamp. To no one's surprise, she related well with the campers and displayed an intuitive understanding of how to interact with them. Soon thereafter, she recruited her twin sister, Margaret, to join her in volunteer work for the camp.

Catherine was an intrepid traveler (visiting all seven continents), avid birder, skilled gardener, artist, and volunteer, and she was always up for an adventure. She broke a rib oar-boating down the Colorado River; tore a bicep—at 75—ziplining in Panama; swam in Antarctica; rode elephants, camels, and dogsleds; camped alone in Death Valley; walked through the bush with the locals in Africa; spent a month in China during the SARS epidemic; and even broke up street fights through the sheer force of her will. Catherine was fearless.

There are few people who inhabit all of the items in the AileyCamp daily affirmation each and every day of their life. But Catherine did—she especially never let the word “can’t” define possibilities.

Catherine F. Syversen was a one-of-a-kind volunteer for Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. She cared deeply for the campers and staff, giving remarkable amounts of her time and talents to ensure all were supported. Her positivity and inclusiveness were true examples—for the campers and staff alike—of the spirit of AileyCamp.



Thursday, August 2, 2018, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

The Joy of Not Knowing?

The finale performance of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2018
June 25 – August 3, 2018

PROGRAM

60th Anniversary Tribute to Alvin Ailey (excerpts)

Hymn

Choreography inspired by Judith Jamison
Music composed by Robert Ruggieri and produced by Rick Kerr

I Been 'Buked

Choreography inspired by Alvin Ailey
Music: Traditional – Arranged by Hall Johnson
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Mean Ol' Fricso

Choreography inspired by Alvin Ailey
Music: Traditional – Recorded by Brother John Sellers

Night Creature

Choreography inspired by Alvin Ailey
Music by Duke Ellington
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Divining

Choreography inspired by Judith Jamison
Music by Monti Ellison and Kimati Dinizulu

The Hunt

Choreography inspired by Robert Battle
Music recorded by Les Tambours du Bronx
"Jungle Jazz" by L. Blomme; "Les Boulets Se Rebient" by A. Dipace, J.Y. Lefloch, Y. Nisgand, B. Pingon, and J.M. Tramoy;
"Black Bull" by L. Le Mapihan. Music from the recording *Silence* (1999). Used with permission by Right Bank Music, Inc.

Performers

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp



AileyCamp 2017

Ben Schechter

Welcoming Speakers

- S. Shariq Yosufzai *Interim Executive Director,
Cal Performances*
- Ronni Favors *Deputy National AileyCamp Director*
- David McCauley *Artistic Director, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp*

A Beautiful Nightmare

(Ballet)

Choreography: Dr. Ayo (Joy) Walker

Music: "Little Susie" by Michael Jackson, performed by Christian Rössle

Performers

Magic (Group M)

Body Ritual

(Jazz Dance)

Choreography: C. Anthony Cole

Music: "Kojak" by Laurence Guy

Performers

Perfectly Positive Pineapples (Group P)

The Joy of Knowing

(Personal Development)

Staging: Nakia Gibbs

Performers

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

Visual Exuberance

(Creative Communication)

Micheal Mpyangu, *instructor*Ben Schechter, *video**Firefly*

(Modern Dance)

Choreography: Wayne Williams

Music: Ezio Bosso's Symphony No. 2, *Under Trees' Voices – Flowers and Pines**Performers*

Allstars (Group A)

Au Chani (s/he laughs)

(African Dance)

Choreography: Naomi Diouf

Music: Traditional

*Percussionists*Dr. Zakarya Diouf, *djembe*Madiou Diouf, *djembe*Mohammed Kouyate, *balafon**Performers*

Connect (Group C)

*The Joy of Not Knowing?*Ben Schechter, *photography*Ben Scheter, *video**Snatched*

Snatched: –adj. the quality of being perfect, on point, fashionable, extremely well done

Choreography: Masataka Aita, Ariel Krizack, Erik Lee, Mulu-Tsega Senshaw, and Spulu

Music: “Nkeri Nkeri” by Maphorisa, featuring Candy

Performers

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp



— GROUP C —

Connect

Ali-David Abdullah
 Keyahlah Bean
 Dailynn Dacus-Harris
 Leilah Dozier
 Da'von Drew
 Kendall Hawkins
 Maliha James
 Jayla Johnson
 Amani-Jade Kellogg
 Aminah E. Lackey
 Celia Lenear
 Skylar C. Reed-Latimore
 Emily Romero
 Ashton G. Saunders-Beckles
 Sydney I. Wade
 Jaiya Williams

— GROUP A —

All Stars

Amalya Allen
 LaDream Andrews
 Lily Brody-Kaplan
 Niassa Fite
 Markayla Griffin
 Kai Harris
 Lena Howard
 Amaya Patricia Johnson
 Imani Wachera Maina
 Ma'Tia Moll
 Cecilia Nichols
 Brooke Parker
 Nayeli Reyna
 Iyana Richardson
 Taliah Robinson

— GROUP M —

Magic

Niahni Kay Marie Benson
 Heaven Crowder
 Muskana Cyrus
 Kelsey Dougherty
 Chioma Ezeife
 Mason Garth
 Mikaela Johnson
 Tyler Lewis
 Sekai Lyles-Parks
 Gemma L. Oakley-Lynch
 Chaya Randle
 Bryson Saunders-Beckles
 Sabine Steckel
 Nyla Weaver
 Reneé Williams
 Lea E. Williamson

— GROUP P —

Perfectly Positive Pineapples

Alena Vierra Allen
 Zamiel Atenga
 Loyal Blake
 Makayla Bozeman
 Kamora Fisher
 Sol Garcia-Terrazas
 Taylor Johnson
 Samaria Langley
 Amanda Lau
 Nora Marrero-Costello
 Amelinda Origenwa
 Kyla Peterson
 Leora Ann Smith
 Treasure Taylor
 Symone Thomas

AILEYCAMP 2018

Staff

David McCauley, *Artistic Director*
Joyce Ting, *Managing Director*
Marilyn Stanley, *Administrative Coordinator*
Kulwa Aparara, *Guidance Counselor*
Ben Schechter, *Administrative Assistant (AileyCamp Alumni 2012)*
Isabella Marra, *Administrative Assistant (AileyCamp Alumni 2013)*

Instructors

Naomi Diouf, *African Dance*
Ayo Walker, *Ballet*
Wayne Williams, *Modern Dance*
C. Anthony Cole, *Jazz Dance*
Micheal Mpyangu, *Creative Communication*
Nakia Gibbs, *Personal Development*

Accompanists

Richard Riley, *Ballet*
Madiou Sao Diouf, *African Dance*
Zakarya Diouf, *African Dance*
Mouhamed Kouyate, *Guest Artist*

Group Leaders

SPULU, *Senior Group Leader*
Masataka Aita, *Group C*
Erik Lee, *Group A*
Mulu-Tsega Senshaw, *Group M*
Ariel Krizack, *Group P*

VOLUNTEERS

Jacqueline Boggan
Beth Crovitz
Amy Cranch
Melissa Elia
Amy Grigsby
Beth Hurwich
Dawn Kaneshiro
Lilia Kresin
Germaine LaBerge
Susan Marinoff
Maris Meyerson

Anne Parker-Shaw
Frances Reid
Linda Schieber
Tom Schrag
Carrie Simon

AileyCamp Alumni Volunteers

Zora Lam (2013)
Ainsley Walker (2013)

ADMINISTRATION



David W. McCauley
(*artistic director*)

David 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 almost 15 years with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a student, instructor, and performer. He has also performed with the Pearl Primus Dance Company and Omega Liturgical Dance Company. McCauley has been a resident of San Francisco since 1990, and has performed with Wing It! Performance Ensemble and Omega West Dance Company. He has been directing the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp since its inauguration in the fall of 2001.



Joyce Ting
(*managing director*)

Joyce Ting holds degrees in vocal performance from Wheaton College (IL) and Boston University, as well as a master's in education for middle-school humanities from

Lesley University. She debuted with the Boston Lyric Opera as La Charmeuse in Massenet's *Thaïs*, went on to sing in multiple productions with BLO, and performed in Opera Boston's Boston-based premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar*. Ting has taught humanities, theater, music, and movement in Boston, as well as in the Bay Area. Most recently, she served as the director of performing arts at Valley Christian Schools in Dublin, CA. She has directed various musicals and plays, collaborated with other Bay Area educators on arts-integrated projects, and teaches in her own private piano and voice studio. After Ailey-

Camp, Ting will be stepping into the role of program director at zSharp, a local music non-profit organization.



Marilyn Stanley
(*administrative coordinator*)

Marilyn Stanley holds a double major in English and dramatic art/dance from UC Berkeley. This launched her on a journey fueled by the belief

that the arts should be a part of everyday life for all people. She has worked with Bay Area arts organizations for the past 15 years, including at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Glitter and Razz Productions, the Shotgun Players, Oakland Ballet, and the California Arts Council. At various times, Stanley has been a stage manager, costume and props designer, actor, box office employee, administrator, playwright, bookkeeper, videographer, and poet. Currently she holds the coordination of the artistic literacy department at Cal Performances in her tiny but mighty hands!



Kulwa Apra
(*guidance counselor*)

Kulwa Apra is an artist, educator, and community health advocate. She is passionate about the intersections between historical trauma and mental health, and is also

committed to using the ancient wisdom of the cultural arts as a tool to enhance and advance mental health outcomes in marginalized communities. Apra is a twin and a practitioner of the African diasporic arts, as well as an accomplished professional dancer of Congolese, Senegalese, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Puerto Rican, and Afro-Brazilian traditions. She received her training in international health and development from UC Berkeley, and also earned a master's degree in biomedical science from the University of Northern Colorado.

Apara feels honored and privileged to serve the conjoined health and artistic needs of Bay Area youth and families. She is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and possesses a working knowledge of Arabic. Apara is delighted to be a part of the dynamic vision of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.



Ben Schecter
(administrative assistant)
Ben Schecter, an AileyCamp alumni, is thrilled to return to the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp for his fifth year. Schecter is a curator, actor, musician, and playwright-in-

training. He has performed at the acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, produced more than 15 events in the Bay Area, and recently had a series of vignettes produced by the UCLA-based Working Title Rep theater company. A proud Oakland native, he now lives in Los Angeles and studies theater at the University of California, Los Angeles. Go Raiders!



Isabella (Izzy) Marra
(administrative assistant)
Isabella Marra, a Bay Area native, came to AileyCamp as a camper in 2013 and has been involved with the program ever since. She has been a volunteer and

intern, and now works on the staff. Marra has worked with local dance programs including Iron Triangle Urban Ballet and in Berkeley High School's dance productions. She recently completed her freshman year at UC Santa Cruz and she is excited to be transferring to UC Berkeley this fall as an ethnic studies major.

AILEYCAMP INSTRUCTORS



Naomi Johnson-Diouf
(African Dance)

Naomi Johnson-Diouf is the artistic director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company. A superb teacher, dancer, choreographer, singer, actress, costume designer, and coordinator, she has been involved with the performing arts since she was six years old. Johnson-Diouf is an expert in West African dance and culture, and has done extensive research and comparative analysis of dance forms from around the world. She has consulted and choreographed for numerous organizations, including the Dutch Theater Van Oosten in the Netherlands and Belgium, UC Berkeley's Department of Drama, Dimensions Dance Theater in Oakland, Kankouran Dance Company in Washington (DC), and various dance companies in San Francisco, South Africa, Singapore, and the Pacific Northwest. Johnson-Diouf has served as a guest lecturer at many venues and has received honors in Holland, South Africa, Singapore, and the United States. She has a master's degree in organizational management with an emphasis on change management and holds a California teaching credential. A strong advocate of arts education, she has conducted and organized numerous projects that have introduced the arts to young people through presentations combining academics, music, and dance. For more than 20 years, she has worked to promote cultural literacy with arts education programs in San Diego, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area. Johnson-Diouf has worked with the Cal Performances Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp for the past 16 years. She is coordinator of Diamano Coura's creative partnership project entitled Collage, an annual international festival in Oakland for the past 20 years, as well as the company's repertory concert. She is also the liaison between the public and the company. Johnson-Diouf is the recipient of the 2017 Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award.



Ayo Walker (*ballet*)

Dr. Ayo (Joy) Walker is a lecturer in the African American and African Studies department and the Theatre and Dance department at UC Davis, as well as a performance studies practitioner specializing in the black dance aesthetic. Most of her dance training was cultivated in university settings such as San Diego State University, Mills College, and NYU Steinhardt. Studio training includes the Academy of Performing Arts in San Diego, Millennium Dance Complex in Los Angeles, and Broadway Dance Center and the Ailey Extension in New York. The Western Stage offered Walker her first opportunity as a professional dancer and choreographer and this experience generated a new passion for a career in dance education. Having recently completed her doctorate in performance studies, with an emphasis in African American and African Studies, Walker's practice and research engages with the cultural racism that results in our society valuing different dance genres hierarchically. When she is not producing her own work with LJ Boogie and Company, her project-based dance company, she is in collaboration/performance with Raissa Simpson's San Francisco-based PUSH Dance Company.



Wayne Williams
(*modern dance*)

Wayne Williams, originally from London, is currently a teaching artist for the Alvin Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs. He began his dance training at the age of 16 with scholarships at the London School of Contemporary Dance and London Studio. Williams also studied at the Ailey School on scholarship. His credits include performances with Forces of Nature and Thi Fung Chinese Modern Dance Company, *The Josephine Baker Story*, the *Starlight Express*

world tour, and numerous television appearances and commercials in Europe and the US. He is excited to join the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp staff.



C. Anthony Cole
(*jazz dance*)

C. Anthony Cole, has been a dance artist for over 20 years. He started his training at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts and the Boston Conservatory of Music, Dance, and Theater. Most recently, he was a visiting assistant professor at Bloomsburg University, where he taught various technique courses. Additionally, Cole choreographed, directed, and produced *Three for Daniel*, featuring Daniel Marshall, formerly of the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. He has worked as a consultant for start-up dance companies in San Diego, and has enjoyed the privilege of training dancers who have gone on to attend the University of the Arts, the Ailey-Fordham program, and the University of California, Irvine. Cole received his bachelor's degree in human services from the University of Phoenix and a master's in interdisciplinary arts from Goddard College.



Micheal Mpyangu
(*creative communication*)

Micheal Mpyangu has performed, instructed, and conducted dance, percussion, poly-rhythmic comprehension, and martial arts workshops in Africa, Britain, and the United States. His martial arts background is influenced by Ugandan traditional wrestling, Korean Chung Do Kwan, and Afro-Brazilian Capoeira, and his dance background includes Ugandan tribal and contemporary, roots rumba, and various Afro-Latin genres. Mpyangu has also developed district-wide after-school and summer programs, co-designed international theater programs, and coordinated interna-

tional bicycling, martial arts, and dance events. His diverse dance background has influenced his critical study and analysis of polyrhythms, contributing to his keen understanding of musicality, corporal awareness, and partnering dynamics, all fundamental aspects of his teaching method. Mpyangu's unique approach to dance and his personal take on dancers' interaction with music relates complex nuances of timing, footwork, and rhythm to the strengths of each participant. He views individual learning differences as strengths for developing superior musicality and partnering dynamics.



Nakia Gibbs
(*personal development*)
Nakia Gibbs, a performer all of her life, grew up in the Bay Area and has found her true passion in arts and entertainment. As a "triple threat," Gibbs excels in singing, acting,

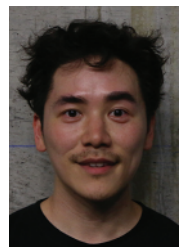
and dancing. She has danced with the Golden State Warriors' Jr. Jam Squad for two years and Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company for one year. Gibbs has choreographed and directed many pieces for cultural performances and stage productions, as well as for fun. In her most recent hip-hop video, "Dear Little Black Girl," she explored the importance of black-girl magic through her choreography, allowing her to gain a strong sense of self while connecting with others. Having worked with many young people, what inspires Gibbs the most is witnessing students explore their passions and interests in the arts, especially through dance and theater. Gibbs received her BA in theater performance and theater studies at Saint Mary's College of California and is now teaching dance and drama at her *alma mater*, Holy Names High School.

AILEYCAMP GROUP LEADERS



SPULU (Spencer Pulu)
(*senior group leader*)
SPULU, an Oakland native, is a creative mover, storyteller, dance maker, body historian, and interdisciplinary performing artist. He earned his BA in dance with a focus in

race and resistance studies from San Francisco State University and was acknowledged for his creativity and artistic vision by the School of Theater and Dance. His educational journey led to work at City College of San Francisco, where he helped develop the first Pacific Islander studies program in the United States. SPULU was made an honorary member of the Zaccho Dance Theatre company for his world-premiere solo *Black vs. Blue* (2014) in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in Oakland. His work has been featured at the San Francisco International Hip Hop Festival, National Queer Rebel Festival, and many Asian/Pacific American Festivals, and has been seen on many media and television platforms around the world. This will be SPULU's seventh season as a group leader mentor with the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. He participated as an AileyCamper in 2005.



Masataka (Masa) Aita
(*Group C*)
This year marks Masataka Aita's fifth year as a group leader. He initially joined the AileyCamp family in 2008. Born in Japan, he was raised primarily in San Francisco

and graduated from UC Berkeley (theater, dance, and performance studies) in 2010. More recently, he has worked with a nonprofit organization in Hong Kong for the past two years, focusing on language literacy programs, especially in areas where there is limited access and resources to English. During weekends,

he spends his time honoring the oral traditions of storytelling for children in local libraries and refugee programs, as well as by supporting secondary students who are transitioning into higher education. “Let us dedicate ‘joy and not knowing’ through the gift of dance.”



Erik Lee (Group A)

Erik Lee was born and raised in Oakland, and began his dance journey by choreographing and dancing hip-hop routines at the age of 16. He received his formal dance training in modern dance and a bachelor’s degree in dance performance studies from UC Berkeley, graduating in 2010. Since 2009 Lee has danced with Covenant Worship Center’s Worship in Arts Ministry (WAM), where he has been artistic director since 2014. In 2011 he joined Dimensions Dance Theater Company, where he continues to work as a company member. He also has served as a mentor for 10 years and as a program director for four years in the Berkeley Scholars to Cal program at Stiles Hall. Lee has recently graduated with a master’s degree in fine arts and dance from Mills College.



Mulu-Tsega Senshaw (Group M)

Mulu-Tsega Senshaw hails from Washington (DC), and began her West African Dance training at the age of 16 at Dance Place under the instruction of Coyaba Dance Theater. In 2013 she joined the hip-hop dance company Illstyle & Peace Productions in Philadelphia while continuing to study West African Dance. After moving to the Bay Area, Senshaw continued her study of dance at Laney College, the Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts, and Alonzo King LINES Ballet. She has performed at events and festivals such as Dance Africa DC (2012–14), Dance Africa Philadelphia (2014), and Collage des Cultures Africaines (2017–18).

Currently Senshaw dances for Diamano Coura West African Dance Company. She will be studying dance at San Francisco State University in the fall of 2018.



Ariel Krizack (Group P)

Ariel Krizack was born and raised in Berkeley, and has been moving and shaking her whole life. She holds a BA in performing arts and social justice from the University of San Francisco and a master’s in community arts from Lesley University. Krizack is a teaching artist with Performing Arts Workshop and teaches hip-hop dance to elementary school students. She has taught dance in a wide variety of settings, from preschools to women’s shelters, and is excited to step into the role of group leader with the AileyCamp.

ACCOMPANISTS

African Dance



Madiou Sao Diouf (percussion)

comes from a family of artists from Senegal and Liberia, West Africa. He made his drumming debut on stage at the age of three. Diouf accompanies African, ballet, jazz, modern, and other ethnic dance classes. He was invited to play for the Vallejo Symphony, the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, and for many other organizations and individuals, and at the opening ceremony of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Diouf has played with African masters Mor Thiam, Zakarya Diouf, Doudou N’Diaye Rose, Sing Sing Faye, Abdoulaye Diakhate, Dam Gueye, and Mamadou Ly, among others. Currently, he is the lead drummer for Diamano Coura’s junior company.



Dr. Zakarya Sao Diouf, director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company, is a leading expert in African dance and music and a recognized ethnomusicologist, dancer, singer, and choreographer. His

pioneering work in the preservation, presentation, and transmission of African culture in the San Francisco Bay Area has contributed to the region's established reputation as a center for African diaspora dance and music. Dr. Diouf was one of the first native-born Africans to begin teaching traditional African dance in the United States. His work began in the 1970s after touring with the internationally acclaimed Les Ballets Africaines, which, with a historic performance at the United Nations in 1960, became the most famous African dance company in the world. Dr. Diouf served as a dancer, director, and choreographer for Les Ballets Africaines for many years and later formed his own company, which went on to launch Les Ballets National du Senegal. He came to the United States at the invitation of Katherine Dunham to teach in East St. Louis, and he is best known for the Emmy Award he earned for his part in creating the musical score for Alex Haley's *Roots* (Part I) in 1976. Dr. Diouf is a recipient of a San Francisco Foundation Community Leadership Award and the Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to the arts and the community.



Mouhamed Kouyate is a *griot/jeli*/oral historian from Guinea, West Africa; his family has played *balafon* dating back hundreds of years. Born in the village of Boke, Kouyate belongs to the lineage of Balla Fasseke

Kouyate, the famous *griot* of Soundiata Keita, king of the Mandingos. Kouyate is best known for his work on the *balafon*, but he is also an expert *djembe* and *dundun* player. He has per-

formed throughout the United States and Europe, touring and teaching Malinke cultural history.

Ballet



Jesse Richard Riley has lived in the Bay Area since 1975, and earned his bachelor's degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He and his wife, Winnie, are the proud parents of their most playful daughter,

Hellen Wangui. Riley's wife and daughter are certainly his first loves, but music, which has been a lifelong passion, is nearly as important. He made his musical debut when he was 11 years old, playing at a wedding in Barstow, CA. Currently a music teacher working on contracts that have taken up the spring of every year since 1991, he is also an accompanist at Laney College and for two local churches. Riley loves mountain climbing, traveling, biking, and being in nature, as well as gourmet cooking.

AILEYCAMP ADMINISTRATION

Cal Performances

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Rob Bailis, *interim artistic director*

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

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