

JULY 2023

// 2023–24 Season

music dance theater
Cal Performances
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



Points of View

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2023

CELEBRATING MORE THAN 20 YEARS AT UC BERKELEY

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HAIR & OTHER STORIES



THE RITE OF SPRING
PINA BAUSCH

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Cover: from *Give Thanks for Life and Nature*,
the Zimbabwean dance and music piece performed
at the AileyCamp 2022 Finale Performance.
Photo by Brittany Hosea-Small

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Encore Media Group is located in Seattle and acknowledges that we are on the lands of the Duwamish People, and their other Coast Salish relations—past and present. We recognize that these lands are unceded and we support the Duwamish Tribe in their struggle to gain Federal Tribal Recognition. We honor with gratitude the land itself. This acknowledgment does not take the place of authentic relationships with Indigenous communities, which we seek to build. We hope that this step of honoring these lands, and the First People of Seattle who remain their stewards, will help us become better neighbors to the Duwamish Tribe and all the people who have called the Pacific Northwest home since time immemorial.



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2023–2024

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Jeremy Geffen

Tonight, we celebrate Cal Performances' ongoing engagement with younger members of the community, reminding one and all of UC Berkeley's central role as a rich resource for everyone living in the Bay Area. Since late June, we have welcomed the extraordinary young people of the 2023 **Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp** to campus and this evening, we eagerly look forward to watching them display their talent. Now at the beginning of their creative lives, they remind us of the continual promise and potential of the performing arts. What a joy it is to have them with us!

At Cal Performances, where arts education is central to our mission, AileyCamp is one of our most important and vital education programs. Indeed, since its founding in 2001, the camp has become fundamental to our contributions to life in the surrounding community. Not so much an arts program as it is a life skills program presented through dance, AileyCamp has already had a profound impact on the lives of more 1,200 Bay Area youths and their families. I wish I had been fortunate enough to experience such an opportunity when I was growing up.

Of course, there is no shortage of summer music, theater, and academic youth programs. But it is rare to discover a dance camp centered on as dominant a cultural force as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Through the leadership of Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, and now Robert Battle, the company stands today as one of the most accomplished, respected, and beloved dance institutions in the world. For our AileyCampers to spend such concentrated time in close contact with the legacy, passion, and purpose of these great artists is nothing less than remarkable.

We extend our deepest thanks to the many generous donors—led by this year's magnificent new endowment gift to AileyCamp from Maris and Ivan Meyerson (see p. 9)—and volunteers who help make AileyCamp possible. Their generous contributions allow us to offer the program to East Bay middle-school students entirely tuition-free. And I also want to single out the fine work of AileyCamp's director, Patricia West, and associate director, SPULU, along with Rica Anderson, Cal Performances' manager of education and community programs, who have been so busy supporting the current campers over the summer.

Most of all, we honor the accomplishments of the campers themselves. Please join me in applauding their efforts—both this evening and over the past six weeks. They have more than fulfilled their commitment to challenge themselves each and every day, and we congratulate them on their achievement.

• • •

As many of you already know, earlier this spring, Cal Performances announced details of its upcoming 2023–24 season. Beginning in October, with the Berkeley debut by the brilliant young Israeli pianist **Tom Borrow**, and continuing into May, when Icelandic pianist **Víkingur Ólafsson** will close the season with a performance of J.S. Bach's timeless *Goldberg Variations*, you can look forward to a calendar packed with the very finest in live music, dance, and theater.

You'll find more than 80 carefully curated events designed to appeal to the eclectic interests and adventurous sensibilities of Bay Area audiences. As you've come to expect at Cal Performances, the upcoming season offers a wide range of opportunities to discover new artists and artworks, featuring nearly 30 companies, ensembles, and solo artists new to our program, and many unfamiliar works, including six world premieres, six Cal Performances co-commissions, nearly one dozen local and regional premieres, and the West Coast premieres of **Taylor Mac & Matt Ray's** *Bark of Millions* and **Nathalie Joachim's** *Ki moun ou ye (Who are you?)*.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Cal Performances also continues to invest in ongoing relationships with established and acclaimed artistic partners, many of whom are longtime audience favorites. We'll see a thrilling collaboration between Germany's **Pina Bausch Foundation**, Senegal's **École des Sables**, and England's **Sadler's Wells** theater in a program that includes the first-ever Bay Area performance of Bausch's pioneering *The Rite of Spring* (1975), as well as the renewal of a multi-season residency by **The Joffrey Ballet**, which this year will present its first full-length narrative ballet (*Anna Karenina*) at Zellerbach Hall. And I'm especially pleased that in March 2024, the renowned pianist **Mitsuko Uchida** will join us as Artist in Residence for two special concerts as well as additional opportunities for the campus and wider Bay Area community to engage with her singular artistry.

A focus of the season will be our multi-dimensional *Illuminations* programming, which once again will connect the work of world-class artists to the intellectual life and scholarship at UC Berkeley via performances and public programs investigating a pressing theme—this season, **"Individual & Community."** Concepts of "individual" and "community" have been at the forefront of public discourse in recent years, with some models increasing polarization and radicalization within our society. Questions have emerged as to how we can best nurture a sense of community and how the groups we associate with impact our own sense of self. Given our fast-evolving social landscape, how can we retain and celebrate the traits that make each of us unique, while still thriving in a world that demands cooperation and collaboration? With the performing arts serving as our guide and compass, our 2023–24 "Individual & Community" programming will explore the tensions that come into play when balancing the interests of the individual with those of the group.

Please make sure to check out our new 45-page season brochure and our website for complete information. We're thrilled to share all the details with you, in print and online!

Jeremy Geffen
Executive and Artistic Director, Cal Performances

FROM THE AILEYCAMP NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Nasha Thomas

It seems like it was just yesterday that I worked with the administrative team at Cal Performances to open the first AileyCamp on the West Coast! It has been wonderful to share the life and legacy of Alvin Ailey with the Berkeley/Oakland community through our annual camps and performances by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at Zellerbach Hall.

Thank you, Cal Performances, for your continued partnership, and congratulations as we celebrate together a partnership that dates back more than half a century, including more than 20 years of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp on the UC Berkeley campus!

With love and gratitude,

Nasha Thomas
AileyCamp National Director/Spokesperson
and Master Teacher for Arts In Education



Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

Celebrating more than 20 years at UC Berkeley!

"If I'm in a tough situation, I think of AileyCamp and the lessons I learned!"

—former AileyCamper Vivian R. Allen

Since 2002, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has been busy transforming lives. Year after year, reverberations of Alvin Ailey's legacy of excellence, creativity, and resilience continue to ripple through the community.

This year, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp, in partnership with Cal Performances at UC Berkeley, proudly celebrates its 21st anniversary as the original West Coast site of Alvin Ailey's visionary summer dance program. 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. Of the 10 AileyCamps around the United States, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is the only AileyCamp based on a major university campus.

The AileyCamp curriculum includes daily dance technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and African dance. Courses in personal development and creative communication provide vehicles through which students are empowered to address key issues encountered during the pivotal middle school years, express themselves creatively through other art forms (such as the visual arts and poetry), and develop intentional understanding of self and community.

The impact of AileyCamp typically goes far beyond the environs of the UC Berkeley campus. Administered and fully funded by Cal Performances, AileyCamp has served more than 1,200 Bay Area middle school youths and their families. During camp, each youth receives full-tuition scholarships, meals, uniforms, and dance clothing, and some are provided transportation to and from camp. The Education Committee of Cal Performances' Board of Trustees provides oversight, and over the past 21 years, nearly 300 volunteers have enthusiastically donated their time and talents to the operation of the camp.

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp culminates in a final performance for members of the community in which campers demonstrate the skills they have acquired in the program. The atmosphere is nothing less than electric! AileyCampers are excited to show off all that they have learned and are thrilled to perform and showcase their work before an enthusiastic audience of family and friends, as well as many other supporters of the camp. At the end of camp, a radiant glow shines from the faces of the campers and the 2,000 attendees who have shared in the celebration.

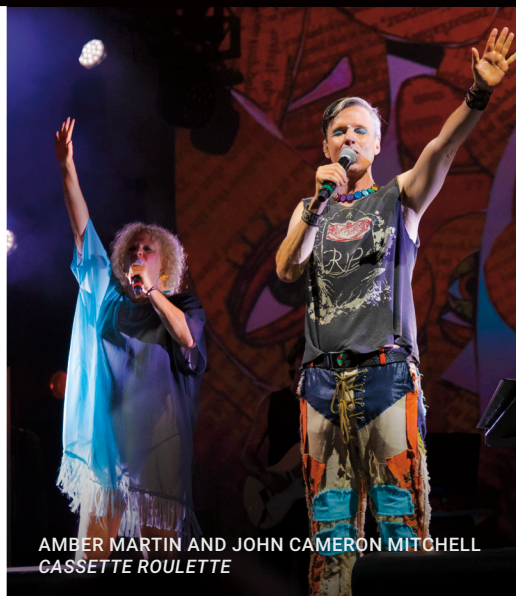
The national theme for this summer's AileyCamp is "Perspective," and I chose *Points of View* as the title of the Finale Performance. Everyone's perspective is unique, and each of us views and experiences the world through a personal and individual lens. And yet, when we become aware of our varying perspectives, an opportunity to develop into a more cohesive collective presents itself.

At AileyCamp, we learn how to meet differing points of view with curiosity, introspection, and dialogue. In doing this, our empathy for each other grows. We become more compassionate and we begin to truly "listen to learn"—just as one of our AileyCamp affirmations promotes. Valuing various points of view can help us build a sense of "caring community" and understanding, two things that we need more of in our world. Tonight, please join us and expand your outlook with *Points of View*!

Patricia West
Director, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp



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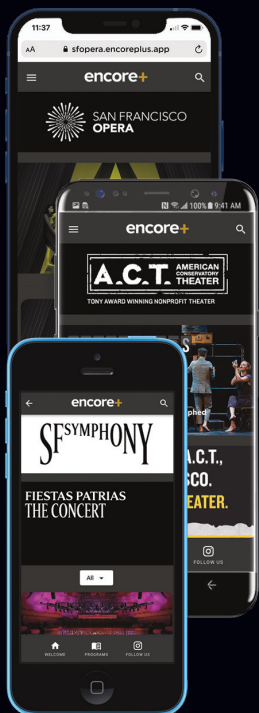


JOHN MALKOVICH; *THE INFERNAL COMEDY:
CONFESSIONS OF A SERIAL KILLER*



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AileyCamp 20th Anniversary Celebration. Pictured from left to right: Robert Battle, Artistic Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Maris Meyerson; Jeremy Geffen

Major New Endowment Gift for AileyCamp from Maris and Ivan Meyerson

The former Cal Performances trustees hope it will encourage a new wave of support for the longstanding summer program

With great admiration and thanks, Cal Performances announces a generous new gift to the endowment for AileyCamp from Maris and Ivan Meyerson. More than 20 years ago, Maris enthusiastically joined Sylvia R. Lindsey, founding and current Cal Performances Trustee, and Susan Marinoff, Cal Performances Sustaining Trustee, after they launched Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. “I am grateful to Sylvia and Susan for being instrumental in bringing AileyCamp to Cal Performances,” said Maris. “Their continuous fundraising, volunteering, and unwavering support of this vital program inspired our donation.” The Meyersons hope their generous \$1 million dollar gift will lead others to join them in supporting AileyCamp, ensuring its future success and impact.

Maris served as a Cal Performances trustee from 2004 to 2020. During that time, she was a very active member of the board as a co-chair of the Education and Special Events committees, a co-chair of the Robert Cole Farewell Gala, and a member of the Producer’s Circle Committee. She also has been—and continues to be—deeply involved in AileyCamp as a volunteer, donor, and passionate advocate for the program. Maris and Ivan, a retired corporate attorney and former Cal Performances trustee, live in Berkeley.



Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2023

© Gabriel Harber Photography

Thank You!

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has transformed the lives of more than 1,200 young people from the East Bay and beyond since our first camp in 2002. Generous support from our donors ensures this remarkable program remains accessible and tuition-free for all participants.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the following institutions and individuals who made gifts between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023 in support of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Major support for Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is provided by The Maris & Ivan Meyerson Endowment for AileyCamp, Bank of America, and the Walter & Elise Haas Fund.

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To help ensure that more of the deserving young people of our local communities can participate in this transformative program, please consider supporting AileyCamp by contacting the Development Office at onate@calperformances.org or visiting calperformances.org/give.

Special thanks to Cal Performances' staff; International House staff; Michael's Transportation staff; Stefan P. Olendrowicz and the Hearst Gymnasium staff; Dr. Soraya Sablo Sutton and the 2023 Principal Leadership Institute cohort; Serian Strauss; Kike Arnal; Geoffrey Diesel; and David McCauley.



Above: 2022 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCampers perform *Vicennial*, choreographed by the camp's group leaders, in the dress rehearsal for the final showcase performance, *Believing We Can*. Photo by Myles Beyond Entertainment.

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Rica Anderson, *Manager, Education & Community Programs*

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

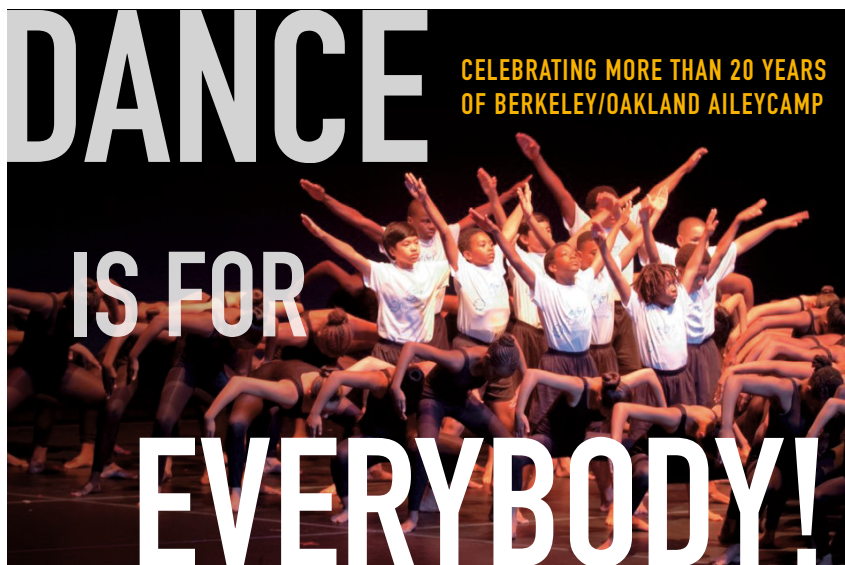
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Bennett Rink, *Executive Director*
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405 W. 55th Street
New York, NY 10019
Telephone: (212) 405-9000





**I BELIEVE THAT DANCE CAME FROM THE PEOPLE
AND THAT IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE DELIVERED
BACK TO THE PEOPLE.**

—ALVIN AILEY

AileyCamp is a nationally acclaimed summer program that uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, creative expression, and critical thinking skills among middle school students. Conceived by Alvin Ailey and run locally by Cal Performances, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has transformed the lives of over 1,100 young people from the East Bay and beyond since our first camp in 2002.

Please join us in celebrating the achievements of AileyCamp at Cal Performances by making a gift today. Support from donors like you ensures that Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp remains accessible and tuition-free for all participants. Contributions at every level make a difference.

HOW TO DONATE:

Online: visit calperformances.org/give-aileycamp

QR code: use your device's camera to scan the code to the right

By Mail: Please make your check payable to **UC Regents** (with a note that your gift is for Cal Performances' AileyCamp) and mail to: Development Department, Cal Performances, UC Berkeley, 101 Zellerbach Hall #4800, Berkeley, CA 94720-4800.



Above: 2022 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCampers perform the "I've Been Boked" section of Alvin Ailey's iconic *Revelations* as part of the camp's final performance that year. Photo by Brittany Hosea-Small.



PROGRAM

Thursday, July 27, 2023, 7pm, Zellerbach Hall

Points of View

Finale Performance of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2023
June 20 – July 28, 2023

Takademe

Choreography inspired by Robert Battle (*Takademe* 1999)

Restaged by Nasha Thomas and Torens Johnson

Music: “Speaking in Tongues II”

Artist: Sheila Chandra. Courtesy of Real World Records Ltd.

Dancers – Berkeley/Oakland AileyCampers

Welcoming Speakers

Jeremy Geffen – Executive and Artistic Director, Cal Performances

Torens Johnson – Deputy National Director of AileyCamp

Patricia West – Director, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

Musical Interludes

Throughout tonight’s performance, pianist Frederick Harris
will be playing various musical selections, including:

“Something’s Got a Hold on Me” – Written by Etta James, Leroy Kirkland,
and Pearl Woods Harris, inspired by the adaptation by Rev. James Cleveland
and the Southern California Community Choir

Klavierstücke No. 3 in C major – by Franz Schubert

“Blue Monk” – Thelonius Monk, arranged by Marcus Roberts

“Mississauga Rattler” – Oscar Peterson

Self Portrait

The Personal Development and Creative Communication classes have created pieces that will be highlighted throughout the program, transitioning us from one dance performance to the next.

Direction and Choreography by Amber Julian and Alisa Hunter

Performers – Berkeley/Oakland AileyCampers

DANCE TECHNIQUE PERFORMANCE PIECES

from above

(Ballet)

Raindrops have the most unique perspective.
They see us for what we are and what we can be. Raindrops give us hope.
Hope that even when times are tough, we can grow, flourish, and shine.

Choreography by Vincent Chavez

Music: Musical arrangements by Frederick Harris

Dancers – Marvelous Movers

Jerry Burns, Jamir Davis Robinson, Sydney Smith, Ava Brooks, Aaliah Lauulu, Katelyn Henderson, Keilani Goodbeer, Harmoni Williams, Nyla Parker, Victoria Hendon, Zoay Robinson, Isabel Thumas, Leah Michael, Darlove Bonnet, Emiko Tobias, Keilana Alfaro

The Reach

(Jazz)

“We don’t see things as they are, we see them as we are.”

Having fixed and limited perspective can create conflict.
As we open ourselves, to hear and share our diverse perspectives,
our collective perspective matures. *The Reach* explores what it means
to move beyond conflicting perspectives to find a higher perspective.

Choreography by Peter Mills

Music: excerpts from “Dance at the Gym” by Leonard Bernstein, from *West Side Story*
(Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)

Dancers – Ailey Angels

Jadon Nero Ephraim, Rickie Phea, Aidan Wright-Crichlow, Clem Tulian, Aubrey Tate, Joya Mayberry, Zuri Williams, Addison Macklin, Anastasia Barker, Harper Groce, Kai’Li Hill, Leslie Eteti-Badinga, Mattie Chukwudebe, Xochi Johnson, Macey Simburg, Felista Nyongo, Egypt Mitchell, Journi Burton

SIFT

(Modern)

SIFT is an acronym for “Sensations, Images, Feelings, and Thoughts” coined by Dan Siegel. It is a technique developed for “youth to scan and get acquainted with their subjective experience(s).”

Choreography by Masataka Aita

Music: “Go Bang” by SBTkRT

Dancers – Picture Perfect

Jamir Knox, Kingston Zion-Blake, Ja’Liyah McDaniel, Alyeska Morales, Bria Matubrew, Epiphany Dawson, Jasmine Jamerson, Mayloni Sudduth, Sa’Niyah Jones Hampton, Savannah Randall-Chukwudebe, Aliyah Avalos, Cherish Drayton, Mignon Williams, Genesis Safford, Jaeda Mitchell

Bawa

(West African)

Bawa is a traditional dance of the Dagaaba people of Ghana.

The dance is believed to have come about as a result of a fight between two war lords, Samori and Babatuori, in which the former defeated the latter.

Samori then called for celebration of the victory over his opponent.

The celebration resulted in the creation of the *Bawa* dance. As we dance today, we strengthen the voices of these campers as well as celebrate our growth towards racial equity, inclusivity, and diversity.

Choreography by Philip Agyapong

Musicians: CK Ladzekpo, Doug Berman, and Allison Hammond

Dancers – Cool Campers

Daniel Mitchell, Jeremih Hamilton, Emon Johnson, Tyler Mil, Kayin Jones, Teliah Williams, Addison Cooley, Aminata M’baye, Grace Russell, Jhion Truehill, Kemi Owodunni, Lyan AlGhuraibawi, Myra Chung, Zeyana Tesch-Said, Nneze Madyun, Kayelah Cain, Amayah Lucero-Akintunde

Points of View – AileyCamp Reflections

Film Design by AileyCamp Staff and Junior Leaders

Featuring Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2023

Dancing Towards Destiny

Choreography by AileyCamp Staff and Campers

Music: Mix by CJ Cieba

Dancers: Berkeley/Oakland AileyCampers

— Group C —

Coollest Campers

Group Leader: Dynesty Kelly

Daniel Mitchell
Jeremih Hamilton
Emon Johnson
Tyler Mil
Kayin Jones
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Kayelah Cain
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— Group M —

Marvelous Movers

Group Leader: Miguel Hernandez

Jerry Burns
Jamir Davis Robinson
Sydney Smith
Ava Brooks
Aaliah Lauu
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Keilani Goodbeer
Harmoni Williams
Nyla Parker
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Zoay Robinson
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— Group A —

Ailey Angels

Group Leader: Vincent Vay

Jadon Nero Ephraim
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— Group P —

Picture Perfect

Group Leader: Jazara Metcalf

Jamir Knox
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AILEYCAMP 2023

Staff

Patricia West, AileyCamp Director
SPULU (Spencer Pulu), AileyCamp Associate Director
Elissa Estrada, Administrative Assistant
Katelyn Teixeira, Guidance Counselor

Instructors

Philip Agyapong, West African Dance
Masataka Aita, Modern Dance
Vincent Chavez, Ballet
Peter Mills, Jazz Dance
Amber Julian, Personal Development
Alisa Hunter, Creative Communications
Frederick Harris, Ballet musician/accompanist
Francis Kofi Akotuah, West African Dance musician/accompanist
Doug Berman, West African Dance musician/accompanist
CK Ladzekpo, West African Dance musician/accompanist
Alison Hammond, West African Dance musician/accompanist

Group Leaders

Caroline Olvera, Group Leader Mentor
Dynesty Kelly, Group C
Vincent Vay, Group A
Miguel Hernandez, Group M
Jazara Metcalf, Group P

Junior Leaders

Ciena Brooks
Maliha James
Mihlen Michael

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ADMINISTRATION

Director



Patricia West (San Jose, CA) aims to create and support spaces that nurture self-expression, collaboration, and connection to oneself. An educator, arts administrator, choreographer, and performing artist, she earned her bachelor's degree in English, education, and dance from UC Berkeley and her master's degree in arts in education from San Jose State University. Since 2001, West has worked as a Pre-K–8 academic teacher and advisor in both public and private schools. She has also founded and directed dance programs at various schools. West holds a certificate for somatic education from the Moving on Center School of Participatory Arts and Somatic Research.

Today, West continues to teach and give workshops on dance and composition to all ages and skill levels. As a performing artist and collaborator, she has had the honor of working nationally and internationally with Alayo Dance Company, Zaccho Dance Theater, Fog Beast, Joe Goode Performance Group, and many other companies. In 2017, West co-founded DAP, a performing artist collective. She has been a collaborating artist with Joe Goode Performance Group since 2006, where she also serves as an assistant director and creative engagement lead. West is grateful to have continued to work with, play with, and serve people across diverse communities. She is honored to return as Director of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp at Cal Performances. This is her fourth year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Associate Director



SPULU (Oakland, CA), a former Ailey-Camper, has been serving as a longtime AileyCamp supporter and ambassador since they first attended camp back in 2005. They later re-

turned to AileyCamp to serve as a volunteer, camp consultant, and group leader/mentor from 2011 to 2018. SPULU is a creative entrepreneur, storyteller, dance maker, fashion designer, and multidisciplinary performing artist. SPULU comes to AileyCamp by way of immigrant Pacific roots; by way the Huchin, Chochenyo, Ohlone land (Oakland, CA); and by way of immigrant parents. Their work has been showcased all over the world in response to the social issues facing Pasifika communities' throughout the diaspora through music, theater, and dance. After earning their BA in dance with an emphasis in race and resistance studies from San Francisco State University (SFSU), SPULU—along with other students and community leaders—helped establish the first Pacific Islander studies program at SFSU and City College of San Francisco. As a fashion designer, SPULU's recent work was featured in the Levi's Pride 2019 International campaign and they also co-created a NIKE shoe, which sold out within days of its launch. SPULU is also an active member of the MANA Pasifika Doula Collective as a doula and community representative. SPULU is honored to be a part of the Ailey legacy and welcomes you to the Ailey experience. This is SPULU's tenth year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Guidance Counselor



Katelyn Teixeira (Stockton, CA) is excited to be the guidance counselor for AileyCamp 2023. Over the past five years, they have spent their time fulfilling various roles in the

field of education, the one constant being their passion for supporting and guiding children and families. In recent years, Teixeira has specialized in social-emotional learning, restorative justice practices, and culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches with children and families in their role as a social-emotional counselor. Teixeira's counseling approach is built on respect, empathy, and equity, with an intentional focus on foundationally understanding and supporting the entire individual, including uncovering their unique strengths and abilities so that they can better navigate the world. Another passion of Teixeira's is learning; they have earned an associates degree in Montana (where they also played both basketball and softball); a bachelor's in psychology at CSU Stanislaus; and a master's degree in school counseling at UMass Global, and they are currently continuing their learning through Berkeley City College. In their personal life, Teixeira enjoys exploring Oakland's special culture, playing and watching sports, and staying active. This is their first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Administrative Assistant



Elissa Estrada (Redwood City, CA) is a Mexican-American who started her path as a vocal performer in seventh grade, when she joined the Jordan Choir. In high school, she partici-

pated in the Palo Alto Concert Choir for four years, during which she toured Italy with the Palo Alto Youth Chamber Singers, singing in cities including Siena, Venice, and Rome; Estrada enjoyed singing in churches throughout the country, including at St. Peter's Basilica. A recipient of the Spectrum Singers Award for advanced vocals in 2019, she has also been an active member of a singing group at her local church since 2016. In 2021, she received her associate of arts degree in music at Foothill College. Since 2022, Estrada has been an active board member for the Northern Pacific Coast District Youth Choir. Now a senior at UC Berkeley, she was accepted into the vocal performance program and has been a member of the University Chorus for several years. Estrada is excited to be a part of AileyCamp 2023, and to share her passion for the arts through the support of staff, campers, and their families. This is her first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

INSTRUCTORS

African Dance



Philip Agyapong (Ghana, Africa) is a dance teacher and researcher from Ghana who currently lives in California. At the University of Ghana, he earned his dance degree by studying

African dance forms from the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Ga-Adangbe, Ewe, Fon, Akan, and Dagomba in West Africa. Agyapong earned his first dance faculty position in 2014 at the University of Ghana, where he taught for several years before relocating to California. He currently teaches African traditional dance forms (both theory and practice), African popular dance, and contemporary African dance in tertiary institutions across the Bay Area. Agyapong's knowledge in dance, choreography, and performance can further be attributed to his work with dance companies such as Diamano Coura West African Dance Company, Yameci Dance Company, African Music and Dance Ensemble, and Afro-Urban Society. He is also the founder of African Live Art, an online educational platform that connects instructors of African knowledge in art forms, history, architecture, technology, culture, and tradition to educational institutions around the world. This is his first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Ballet



Vincent Chavez (Albuquerque, NM) grew up competing on the local rodeo circuit. After he chose ballet over broncos, he received his formal dance education and training from Dance

Theater Southwest (Albuquerque), Ballet Hispanico (New York), Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre (Las Vegas), and Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program (San Francisco). As a result of his training and creative educational experiences, Chavez was chosen to perform with leading dance companies and renowned choreographers including Robert Moses, Graham Lustig, Michael Lowe, James Canfield, Garrett+Moulton, Gregory Dawson, Philein Wang, Val Caniparoli, Amy Seiwert, and Christopher Huggins. In addition to pursuing his notable dance career, Chavez works independently as a San Francisco Bay Area dance artist, teaching, choreographing, collaborating, and performing throughout the United States. This is his fourth year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

All staff photos except Jazara Metcalf
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Jazara Metcalf photo by SPULU.

Modern Dance



Masataka Aita (Tokyo, Japan) officially began his training with Cecilia Marta at the San Francisco Dance Center. Upon completing secondary school, he received a scholarship to train at the

Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, followed by intensive courses at the Ailey School and Graham School. In the Bay Area, he has performed with hip-hop companies such as Mystic Flava, No Label, Khaotik, Funkanometry SF, and Darnell's Projects. During his college years at CCSF and UC Berkeley, Aita performed repertory by Dallas Black Dance Company, Merce Cunningham, Doris Humphrey, Martha Graham, and the faculty members of the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies (Katie Faulkner and Agora Dance Project).

Aita first joined AileyCamp in 2007 as a group leader. During his time away from camp, he has worked in Hong Kong and as a staff member for the United Nations' first ambassador for Japan in New York. Most recently, he received his master's degree in international peace studies on a full scholarship at Soka University, Tokyo.

This will be Aita's first term as AileyCamp's modern dance instructor. He expresses immense gratitude to the campers, staff, and all those who continue to make AileyCamp possible. This is Aita's tenth year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Jazz Dance



Peter Mills (Boston, MA) completed his BFA in musical theater from the Boston Conservatory in 2010 and went on to perform professionally as a member of Actor's Equity Association in musical productions across the

United States. His professional stage credits include *Hello, Dolly!* (Ford's Theater, DC), *Evita* (Northern Stage, VT), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Goodspeed Opera, CT), *Bye Bye Birdie* (North Shore Music Theater, MA), *Curtains, Crazy for You*, and *Annie* (Music Theater of Wichita, KA), *Guys and Dolls* (Ogunquit Playhouse, ME), and *Kiss Me, Kate* (Lyric Stage Company of Boston, MA). Mills is an active educator and has taught jazz, tap, and musical theater with Opera NUOVA, the Citadel Young Company, and Visionary Centre for the Performing Arts. His choreography and directing credits include *Little Women* (Opera NUOVA), *Tuck Everlasting* (Opera NUOVA), *Grease* (Edmonton Musical Theatre), and *Broadway Rocks Again* (Edmonton Musical Theatre). This is his first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. For more, visit www.dancingwithpeter.com.

Creative Communications



Alisa Hunter (Berkeley, CA) is a writer, poet, and dancer with a unique background in modern dance and ballet and a passion for creative expression. She holds a BA in creative writing

with a fiction concentration, through which she developed a deep appreciation for the power of words. She draws inspiration from her diverse background, blending her love for literature and movement.

Having trained in the Ailey and Martha Graham techniques, Hunter brings a unique perspective to her writing, infusing her prose with a rhythmic quality and a sense of body awareness. Her background in modern dance has instilled a deep understanding and a sense of body awareness and its ability to convey emotions beyond words via movement. She has a strong fitness background as a fitness and health lifestyle counselor from the YMCA in Southern California, and she participates in the monthly open mic and spoken word events at MOAD museum.

As a poet, Hunter expounds on the human experience, capturing moments of vulnerability, joy, and introspection. Her poems often embrace themes of self-discovery, identity, and the beauty found in everyday life. She endeavors to use her passion to mentor other creatives, from the novice adult to young people. Through her lyrical and evocative verses, Hunter invites readers on a journey of reflection and connection. This is her first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Personal Development



Amber Julian (Bay Area, CA) is a professional dancer, mentor, teacher, and performance artist with more than 20 years of experience. Her primary background is in teaching dance

and directing art programs for people of all ages. Julian has been a member of Mix'd Ingrdnts Dance Company, a fierce group of womxn-identified dancers, since 2013. She is the founder of Seeds, Teen Hip Hop Dance Crew at ODC, for which she was director and mentor for teen artists. Throughout her time with Mix'd Ingrdnts, ODC, and Destiny Arts Center, she has focused on providing support, guidance, and resources for young artists through somatic and embodied practices and mental health services. She is currently a performing arts professor at USF teaching courses on hip-hop dance culture. Julian believes that dance is medicine and a tool for moving and exchanging deep rooted energy in order to heal, make change, and exude dynamic forms of visual expression. This is her first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Musician/Pianist



Frederick Harris (San Francisco, CA) is a pianist and educator who returns to Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp as a staff accompanist for ballet this season, after a prior tenure from

2009–15. Over the years, Harris' camp assignments have also included being camp choral master and music arranger for ballet and modern/jazz. He also had his first (and hilarious!) cameo walk-on moment as a "dancer," courtesy of our beloved emeritus Ailey company maestro Derrick Minter (RIP). Over Harris' polychromatic musical career as a pianist, percussionist, composer, director, and conductor, his work at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has been among his most enjoyable, edifying, and revered—professionally and personally—and he is honored to be back with the program this season. This is his eighth year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

GROUP LEADERS

Group Leader Mentor



Carolina "Caro" Acuña-Olvera (Southern California) is a bit of a musical quilt and a reflection of the diverse multi-culturalism of the state in which she grew up. She has performed at

a wide variety of venues as a vocalist and percussionist. With more than 27 years experience as a professional musician, she has

toured nationally and internationally; recorded and played in music festivals and street fairs; and played for ceremonies in theater productions, cathedrals, clubs, and charity events. She has worked as a music mentor and life mentor for young people for more than two decades and teaches how to communicate musically with dancers and through a variety of genres. In addition, she is an independent contractor producing music in collaboration with other musicians, dancers, photographers, stage productions, and films to support these projects with musical arrangements, compositions, music production using live and digital music/sounds, and soundscape production. This is her 1st year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Group Leader



Dynesty Kelly (San Francisco, CA) is currently a college junior majoring in psychology with the goal of becoming a pediatric occupational therapist. She was a camper at Ailey-

Camp 2014, when she was 12 years old. AileyCamp started her dance journey and she hopes it will give others the same opportunity. This is her first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Group Leader



Vincent Vay (Bay Area, CA) attended Berkeley High School. They are 19 years old and currently study in Washington, DC at George Washington University. Vay spent five years of

their life dancing, a period that helped them through some of their toughest times. They hope they can help to express some of that love at AileyCamp. This is their first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Group Leader



Miguel Hernandez (Berkeley, CA) tries not to live life under the tyranny of supposed value. Growing up, they always had a vibrant curiosity about the underdogs—the pioneers

whose gifts weren't noticed by seemingly important people. Personally, Hernandez goes against the grain, against materialistic things like price tags and blue checks, and attempts to search for places, things, relationships, and details that they deem valuable. Their approach has taken them deep into many situations—both conflicts and resolutions—and based their thinking in the field of psychology. They've done personal and academic research on topics such as blame, personality disorder, personal growth, victims and perpetrators, and theory. Currently, their far-reaching fascination and involvement with psychology is prophesying a career in a blend of psychology fields. (A semester in Israel during Fall 2023 awaits them.) Regarding performance, they have plenty of experience: dance con-

certs, karate presentations, speeches, plays, skits, talent shows, and the like. But, rather than measuring their own growth by how much *they've done*, they measure their growth by how much *they now do unconsciously* through the hours of performance practice they have put in throughout their lifetime. This is their first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

Group Leader



Jazara Metcalf (San Francisco, CA) currently attends UC Berkeley as a marine science major and theater and performance studies minor. She has been dancing and acting for more

than 18 years and considers performance to be both an integral part of her life and an invaluable avenue for growth and exploration. Curious about the creative intersections between the arts and sciences, she has worked for many years at both the California Academy of Sciences and the African American Shakespeare Company (AASC) in both youth and public programming. After years of firsthand experience, she recently completed the AASC's Teaching Artist in Training program and has begun her journey as a teaching artist in the Bay Area. Born and raised in San Francisco, Metcalf grew up attending several Alvin Ailey performances at Zellerbach Hall, and she is immensely grateful for the opportunity to work at AileyCamp. She strives to pass on the joys of creative expression both inside and outside of the classroom and hopes to help students learn to feel more comfortable in creating and telling their own stories while giving them the tools to improve their learning and performance-making experiences. This is her first year working at Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.

Cal Performances

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 Mary C. Russi
 Terry Senne
 Boris Shekhter
 Steven Shladover
 Betsy Smith
 Susan and Maury Stern
 Susanne Stevens
 Valerie Stewart
 Rune Stromsness
 Terri Stuart
 Karen Carlson Sugarman
 Paul and Linda Swatek
 Carol Takaki
 John Taylor
 Gilda Turitz
 Georgia R. Turner
 Randy and Ting Vogel
 Elizabeth Werter
 and Henry Trevor
 Dick and Beany Wezelman
 Viviana Wolinsky
 Sheryl and Robert Wong
 Brenda Wright
 Angelina Yee
 Ming Zhao
 John Zimmermann
 and Diana Graham

Honorary Gifts

Anonymous (2)
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Ria Brandenburg
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Nicholas and Janice Brathwaite
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Shelley Alice Carroll
 in honor of Joan Roebuck
 Naniette H. Coleman
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Dr. Rupali Das-Melnyk and Dr.
 Ostap Melnyk in honor of
 Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Davis
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Robert Ellis in honor of Sylvia
 R. Lindsey
 Marianne and Joseph Geagea
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Jeremy Geffen
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Kathleen G. Henschel and John
 Dewes in honor of Sylvia R.
 Lindsey
 Wilma Horowitz
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Alice and Dennis Krieger
 in honor of Maris Meyerson
 Kit and Hayne Leland
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Richard and Jennifer Lyons
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Helen and John Meyer
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 National Coalition of Black
 Women, Inc. San Francisco
 Chapter in honor of Sylvia R.
 Lindsey
 Lance and Dalia Nagel
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Theresa Nelson and Barney
 Smits in honor of Sylvia R.
 Lindsey
 Ms. Ruth A. Short
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Jennifer Sime and Eric Robinson
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Terri Stuart in honor of Sylvia R.
 Lindsey

Dr. and Mrs. W. Conrad Sweeting
 in honor of Sylvia R. Lindsey
 Toy Giving Fund
 in honor of Jeremy Geffen
 Kimberly Webb and Richard
 Rossi in honor of Sylvia R.
 Lindsey
 Sara Wilson and Gustavo
 Houghton in honor of Sylvia
 R. Lindsey

Memorial Gifts

Linh Do and Erno Pungor
 in memory of Julie Do
 Jeremy Geffen in memory of
 Diane Geffen
 Paul and Susan Grossberg
 in memory of Arnold Gross-
 berg
 Michael A. Harrison
 and Susan Graham Harrison
 in memory of Rosalind H.
 Graham
 Victoria Nakamura in memory
 of Jonathan Aldrich Poet
 Rossannah Reeves in memory
 of Alan Leslie Reeves
 Barbara Sholtz in memory
 of Robert Sholtz and Glen
 Jackson
 Edie Silber in memory of
 Stephen Bomse



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