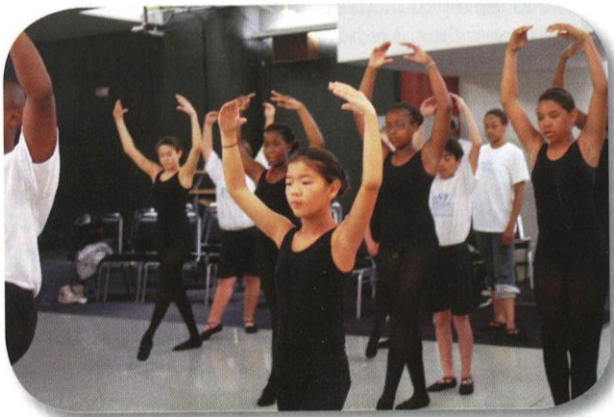


# DANCE *Studio* LIFE

August 2011



## Something Old, Something New



Students learn dance steps and life lessons at the AileyCamp in Berkeley.

While AileyCamp at the University of California–Berkeley celebrates its 10th anniversary this summer, across the country in Newark, New Jersey, the newest location of the innovative program will celebrate its first season.

Founded by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, AileyCamp offers classes in ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and West African dance—along with lessons in self-esteem, goal setting, and conflict resolution—to underserved students free of charge during six weeks each summer. With Newark's camp running at Newark Arts High School from July 5 to August 12, the number of AileyCamps reaches 10.

David W. McCauley, director of the AileyCamp at Berkeley, running June 27 to August 5, says what makes this dance program special is the way it “looks at the

whole child.” Campers talk about “nitty-gritty problems that come up for 11- to 14-year-olds” such as peer pressure, and how they can navigate through such challenges and make a successful transition to high school.

What does any of that have to do with dance? “It’s discipline. All of the arts, everything, requires it,” McCauley says. “To be willing to look at the fundamental steps you have to take and not be overly critical of yourself but find out what you need to improve and be consistent about it. And to learn that we don’t do it on our own—that’s the biggest thing.”