

One Hundred Miami-Dade Students Part of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

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By: Richard Cameron

MIAMI, FL June 20, 2011 – Now celebrating its Fifth Anniversary Season, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation proudly announce the return of AILEYCAMP® MIAMI for the third consecutive year, June 27-August 5, 2011! Following the success of prior summers, AILEYCAMP MIAMI 2011 at the Adrienne Arsht Center features a six-week session with 100 students, 20 of whom are returning Ailey campers. The campers, ages 11-14 from Miami-Dade County middle schools, are offered an opportunity to participate in a full scholarship program where they acquire important life skills through classes in a variety of dance techniques as well as personal development and creative communication.

Former Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater company member and Miami native, Tina Monica Williams, who recently performed at the Adrienne Arsht Center during Ailey's 24-city North American Tour, joins the AILEYCAMP MIAMI faculty this summer as a special guest instructor in Horton-based modern dance technique.

AILEYCAMP MIAMI provides camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, breakfast, lunch, transportation and three exciting field trips at no cost to participating campers. Applications were distributed to all 61 Miami-Dade Public Schools this past spring and 100 campers were selected by a panel of community leaders to participate in AILEYCAMP MIAMI 2011. Families are invited and encouraged to participate in a day in the life of an Ailey camper at an open house on Wednesday, July 13 at the Adrienne Arsht Center. The open house allows families the opportunity to participate in the daily activities of Ailey campers including visiting classrooms and attending dance and personal development courses. (The open house is not open to the general public.)

At the grand finale performance on Saturday, August 6 at 7 p.m., all 100 Ailey campers will bring to life the stage of the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall showcasing dance that reflects the personal and artistic growth they have cultivated during the six-week AILEYCAMP MIAMI program. The Miami finale performance has consistently garnered the largest audience of any of the 10 AileyCamp host cities nationwide. In celebration of Ailey's new artistic director Robert Battle, who is a Miami native, AileyCamp Miami will stage a piece created by Battle in the performance. **THE FINAL PERFORMANCE IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

FINAL PERFORMANCE "FIRST ACCESS PASS" INFORMATION: A "First Access Pass" for this performance can be reserved in advance, beginning July 1, by calling the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at 305-949-6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org (limit four per person). The passes provide patrons with first access to seating in the theater. Seating is "first come, first served" for the performance and passes do not guarantee a seat.

"AILEYCAMP MIAMI is a vital program that has already reached hundreds of local children and it is with great pleasure that we host this incredible camp that provides so many Miami-Dade County youth the opportunity to have a transformative experience through the performing arts," said M. John Richard, president and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center.

AILEYCAMP MIAMI is specifically designed for youth who have no formal dance training, come from underserved communities, and may be experiencing personal challenges. The goal of the program is to provide these students with a performing arts experience and to foster personal development using dance as a vehicle for self-esteem and empowerment. The program gives campers an invaluable opportunity to explore their creativity, learn to master their bodies, and strengthen respect for themselves and others within a supportive framework that gives them an important foundation for the future.

AileyCamp's six-week curriculum offers disciplined dance technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance. In addition, campers participate in personal development and creative communication classes that examine peer pressure, conflict resolution, nutrition, career development, developing confidence and skills in the areas of goal-setting and self-image. The program promotes and applies daily affirmations such as, "I will not use the

word can't to define my possibilities" to boost self-esteem. Classes in performance technique sharpen students' self-awareness and presence, while creative communication courses strengthen their potential for self-expression.

The Adrienne Arsht Center is a leader with this innovative arts in education program; the Center's participation makes Miami one of a select group of only 10 cities around the country to host AileyCamp. Founded by Alvin Ailey in 1989, AileyCamp is an innovative summer program that uses disciplined dance training, creative writing instruction, personal development, and communication workshops, to help campers develop a respect for themselves and others that meaningfully impacts their lives.

AILEYCAMP MIAMI is a program of the Adrienne Arsht Center supported by the Miami-Dade County Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

Leadership support for AILEYCAMP MIAMI is generously provided through the Miami Foundation, along with support from Lynne and Frank Scaduto; the Israel, Rose, Henry and Robert Wiener Foundation and William Fox Jr. Foundation, Susan Fox-Rosselini Trustee. For information on next year's AILEYCAMP MIAMI, please contact:
aileycamp@arshtcenter.org