

***Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning
Launches***

JCAL Education At Home

***New YouTube Series Spotlights
Dance, Music, Art and More***



November 9, 2020 (New York) -- In a continued effort to provide educational opportunities that are accessible and free during the pandemic, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning has launched *JCAL Education At Home*, a pilot project of definitive titles in music, dance, visual art and more.

Each title is designed to keep young people, including students, creative and active during these unprecedented times. Consisting of eight episodes, each title is suitable for any learning mode -- in-class, blended or remote -- and available exclusively on JCAL's growing Youtube platform.



For Immediate Release

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Two teaching artists who were instrumental in JCAL's successful "pivot" to digital last spring are kicking off the series. In *Hip-Hop Dance*, dancer-choreographer Janora Blackman illustrates and contextualizes the many forms of movement that have influenced, and been influenced by, Hip-Hop culture throughout the years. In *Music History*, educator-musician Karina Parker focuses on the tradition and history of worldwide folk music; each episode hones in on the rhythms, cultures and melodic influences of a different region, including Africa, South America, Indigenous America, the Middle East and more.

"Last spring, because of COVID-19, JCAL had to furlough so many of our teaching artists," said Leonard Jacobs, JCAL's Interim Executive Director. "We were despondent -- and that sinking feeling in our stomachs meant that sitting on our butts wasn't going to be good enough. Students have a right to an arts education. Maybe we can't fix the pandemic, but we can use technology to showcase our incredible teaching artists -- and put money in their pockets, too. We're proud of this pilot effort, and welcome community input as we plan more titles for 2021."

"We all miss being together in a room," added Courtney Ffrench, JCAL's Interim Artistic Director. "But why should an arts education only be possible when we can gather in one? We looked at our teaching artists, we looked at what was possible in terms of helping them to produce and edit something, and soon *JCAL Education At Home* was born. There's no limit to the titles we can produce, and no limit to the arts education we can offer to the students in our community -- and far beyond."

Visual arts and longtime JCAL educator Anthony Carter is currently producing the next title in the series, *Anyone Can: Draw the Figure*, slated for release in December.

About JCAL

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL), founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, and to provide accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL is temporarily closed in accordance with state and local guidelines. Normal operating hours: Open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm; closed Sundays and major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit www.JCAL.org.

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