

THE NEW YORKER

Goings on About Town

By: Marina Harss

December 7, 2020 Issue



Every December, the dancers of **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre** fill the City Center stage, night after night, with their joy, verve, and technical prowess. Traditionally, most of those performances end with “Revelations,” Ailey’s signature work from 1960. Inspired by the Baptist services that Ailey attended as a child in Texas, “Revelations” captures the urgency and the yearning expressed in spirituals such as “Fix Me Jesus” and “I Wanna Be Ready.” Like all great art, it never gets old. In fact, in recent years, with civil rights at the forefront of our national conscience, its power has only grown. Ailey’s virtual season kicks off, on Dec. 2, with an online gala, featuring excerpts from “Revelations,” filmed outdoors at Wave Hill, in the Bronx. The company broadcasts eight additional programs through Dec. 31—don’t miss, in particular, a new work, set to the music of Charlie Parker, by the company’s excellent new resident choreographer, Jamar Roberts (Dec. 14). All the content is free, a real gift.—*Marina Harss*