Wednesday’s woman

Francesca Harper is changing the trajectory of The Ailey II Company New York

Francesca Harper, internationally renowned performer, choreographer, artistic director, and executive director, has added a new chapter to the trajectory of The Ailey II Company New York. Harper is the company’s new artistic director and executive director, and she has chosen to focus on the unique challenges and opportunities of the Ailey II company, which focuses on young dancers.

Harper, a native New Yorker, has been a member of the Ailey II company since its inception in 1974. She has performed with the company in numerous productions, including the world premiere of Alvin Ailey’s Revelations and the New York City premiere of Kyle Abraham’s Finding the Woman of the Night. Harper has also worked as a choreographer and dancer for companies such as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Dance Theater of Harlem, and the New York City Ballet.

As artistic director and executive director of Ailey II, Harper will work closely with the company’s artistic director, Robert Battle, and the company’s board of directors to develop and implement a strategic plan for the company’s future. Harper will also work to expand Ailey II’s educational programs and outreach initiatives, as well as to increase the company’s visibility and reach.

Harper’s appointment comes at an exciting time for Ailey II, as the company prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2024. The company’s recent tours and engagements, including a performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and a residency at the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts, have helped to bring Ailey II’s unique and diverse repertoire to new audiences.

Harper is a natural leader, with a strong commitment to the art of dance and a deep understanding of the challenges facing contemporary dancers and companies. She is a true artist, who has chosen to focus on the unique challenges and opportunities of the Ailey II company, and she will no doubt bring new energy and new possibilities to the company’s future.

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