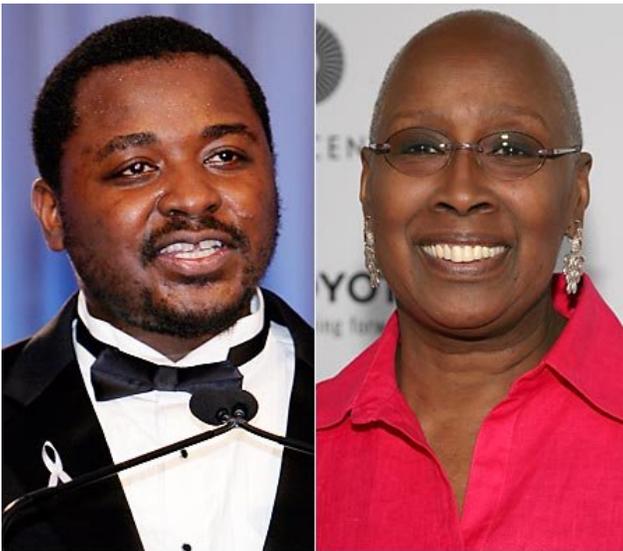


## Robert Battle Named As Judith Jamison's Successor at Alvin Ailey

By [Karu F. Daniels](#) on Apr 29th 2010 3:33PM  
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The **Alvin Ailey** American Dance Theater is getting a new groove.

This week, it was announced that the internationally renowned dance company has announced a successor to its longtime artistic director **Judith Jamison**, who announced her retirement last year.

The baton will be passed to **Robert Battle**, a fast-rising choreographer who previously crafted ballets for the Ailey company and Ailey II since 1999 and has served as an artist-in-residence with The Ailey School.

"I don't know whether to call this the proudest moment of my life or the most humbling," Battle said, accepting the appointment. "With the help of Judith Jamison and the great, great dancers in this company, I hope to be worthy of this

tremendous responsibility that I've been given, and to honor it in the only way Alvin Ailey would have accepted: by keeping it new, alive and moving forward."

The 37-year-old Miami native will be the third person to head the company since its founding by Alvin Ailey in 1958. He will serve side-by-side with Jamison as Artistic Director Designate from now until July 1, 2011, when she takes Emerita status and he assumes his full responsibilities.

"We are enormously fortunate in being able to secure the leadership of Robert Battle," she said, in making the announcement. "Combining an intimate knowledge of the Ailey company with an independent perspective, he is without question the creative force of the future."

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation Chairman **Joan H. Weill** added: "Robert's decade-long relationship with Ailey has given me confidence that he is a great choice to lead the company at this moment. It is exciting to know that his fresh point of view and



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powerful new ideas will now become part of the ever-enduring, ever-evolving legacy of Alvin Ailey, carrying our spirit forward in the years ahead."

Honored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005 as one of the "Masters of African-American Choreography," Battle was born was educated at the New World School of the Arts and The Juilliard School. Upon his graduation from Juilliard in 1994, he joined the David Parsons company as a dancer, and in 1998 he began setting his own work on the company, which now has performed his choreography nationally and internationally. Upon leaving Parsons in 2001, Robert Battle founded his own group, Battleworks Dance Company, which made its premiere in 2002 at the World Dance Alliance's Global Assembly in Düsseldorf, Germany, where it was the U.S. representative to the festival.

In addition to his activities as a company leader and choreographer, Battle regularly conducts residencies at universities throughout the United States and teaches master classes in New York and abroad. Among the honors he has received is the prestigious Statue award of the Princess Grace Foundation-USA, which he accepted in 2007.

He plans to dissolve his company with the new appointment.