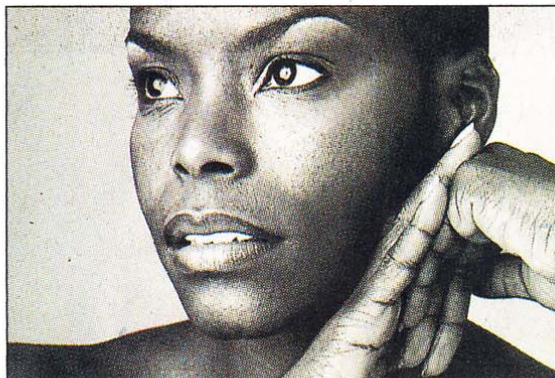


# ARTS & BOOKS

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## FACES TO WATCH 2009 DANCE



ANDREW ECCLES Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

### HOPE BOYKIN

A 'GRACE'-FUL AILEY STALWART

A striking dancer amid the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's array of prodigious talent, Hope Boykin is notable for her feisty intensity, muscular power — and sleek pate. She shares that attribute with her boss, the estimable Judith Jamison, and they now also share the distinction of having choreographed for the troupe.

The company's Music Center programs in March are scheduled to include Boykin's "Go in Grace," which had its premiere this month in New York. It features a cast of seven dancers, but the six vibrant women of Sweet Honey in the Rock not only sing their original score but also are onstage, very much part of the action. Boykin, a North Carolina native, also designed the costumes for "Go in Grace." Onstage, her warmly vivid presence is showcased in a broad range of the company's 50th anniversary repertory.

— SUSAN REITER