

December 10, 2010

Handing over the reins at Alvin Ailey

► In honor of Alvin Ailey's 50th anniversary of "Revelations," fresh recreations of the works do justice to their original incarnations

Our appetite for the familiar is gloriously fed by Alvin Ailey's "Revelations," celebrating its 50th anniversary. Scheduled for more than 20 performances between now and the end of his troupe's five-week season, it will be shown straight, sometimes with live music including the venerable Ella Mitchell singing onstage, along with a terrific new film by Judy Kinberg in which Ailey himself, who died in 1989, can be seen dancing.

Friday's show had a cast of 50, the usual stellar performers augmented by the members of Ailey II and students from the Ailey school, with couples dancing in the aisles. It also included two iconic 1970s works — "Night Creature" and "Cry," lovingly performed — and a premiere: Christopher L. Huggins' "Anointed," a pageant celebrating the succession of the troupe's direction from Ailey to Judith Jamison and the various powerful women who keep



► Constance Stamatiou, Linda Celeste Sims and Briana Reed perform Alvin Ailey's "Cry."

If you go

► **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**
Through Jan. 2
NYC City Center
135 W. 55th St
\$25-\$150, 212-581-1212
www.alvinailey.org

the vast complex going.

The dancing is fast and furious, sometimes evoking figure skaters — and the costumes, blazing red and purple, are very contemporary. The packed theater shrieked with delight.

This is Jamison's final season in the director's

chair. Her successor, Robert Battle, contributes another premiere, "The Hunt," to the season's offerings. And Camille A. Brown brings "The Evolution of A Secured Feminine."



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