



## Ailey II's New York Season

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After a gruelling 30 city tour over a six month span of time, Ailey II eagerly returns home to take the stage at The Joyce Theater in New York. The second company of the celebrated Alvin Ailey Dance Theater will perform at the 1.2.3 Festival April 13–22. Even though members of Ailey II say that it's par for the course to spend months on the road, the uber-talented dancers are always excited to bring the show home and perform for fans and patrons in New York, which is the quintessential mecca for the dance community. The nine-day-long 1.2.3. festival features the most talented young dancers in the world performing in the nation's center city for arts and culture center.

Recently, *rolling out* spoke with Ailey II dancers, Ghrai Devore and Daniel Harder and they graciously agreed to take a little time away from their busy schedules to share insights on what it's like to be a part of the pre-eminent dance company. "There is a rich history associated with this dance company, and to be a small part of it is truly a blessing. To know that I have the chance to go on stage and dance to ballet's choreographed by Mr. Ailey and by other great choreographers is a blessing that no one should take for granted," explained Harder.

During the course of our discussion it became apparent that performance dance is not for the weak of heart. Ms. Devore shared the ardor one needs to pursue a career in dance. "Perseverance is a key, if you really want to be a professional dancer, you have to love it with all your heart.

No matter what obstacles you encounter you have to work through them to achieve your dance goals," said Devore. "Focus and a strong will are also needed to succeed in this industry," she adds with sincerity. —*al weems*

*To experience the Ailey II Dance Company during their New York season at the Joyce Theater April 13–22, visit [alvinailey.org](http://alvinailey.org) to purchase tickets.*