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Tuesday, May 6, 2008

# Fine new wine in old bottles

## Stars of tomorrow shine in Joyce festival

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**REVIEW.** By the time dancers hit the professional stage, they've been training for a decade or more. But you learn to perform by getting up and doing it. Three of the country's leading troupes — Ailey, Paul Taylor and American Ballet Theatre — maintain junior companies whose members take a wealth of choreography to schools and smaller stages where the main ensembles won't fit, allowing the young dancers to receive valuable experience in front of audiences.

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in Alvin Ailey's 1970 "Streams," a demanding work that evokes Martha Graham embracing ballet technique. Meanwhile, associate artistic director Troy Powell premieres his "External Knot" on the company this week.

Wes Chapman directs ABT II, 13 ballet dancers still in their teens. The troupe is gratifyingly diverse, bringing to the 110-year-old "Raymonda" faces that reflect America. The ABT II men keep their

shirts on, but their technical prowess is stimulating to watch.

Taylor 2, directed by Tom Patrick, showed a reduced version of the 1981 masterwork "Arden Court," whose men must be simultaneously cavaliers and jesters, stud muffins and tumblers. More mature than members of the other two troupes, they're still grappling with issues of posture, line and speed; the women give them focus



and function. All the works in their repertoire are Taylor classics.

World premiere ballets by Azsure Barton (ABT II), Stephane Boko (Ailey II) and others appear nightly as the troupes perform in rotation. Visit the Joyce Web site for full schedule details; hit the theater for an intimate look at the future of American dance, three ways.

**1.2.3. Festival**  
Through May 11  
Joyce Theater  
175 Eighth Ave.  
\$25-\$40  
212-242-0800  
www.joyce.org

Yannick Lebrun in "Streams"