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## 5 questions in 5 minutes . . . all about NYC

**BY SHEILA ANNE FEENEY**  
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Robert Battle, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's artistic director, is leading the company on a 21-city U.S. tour that will culminate in an engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater from June 12-16.

Battle, 40, lives on the Upper West Side with his longtime friend, voice teacher Nina Miller.

**What would you most like changed in New York City?**

Just one day a week when everything works — when all the subways are working, when there is no need for substitutions or explanations, when there are no detours because of construction, when everybody's cool. It's a utopian idea.

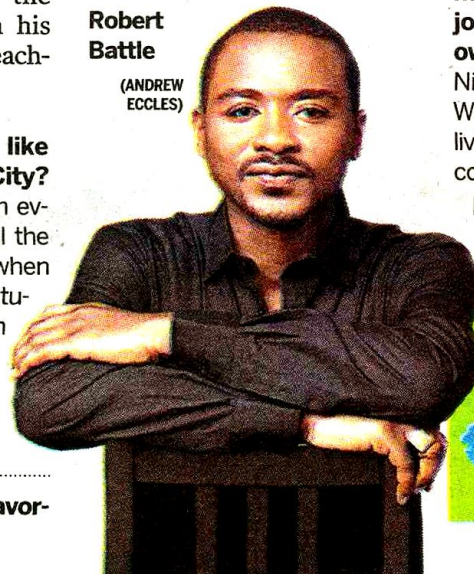
**What are some of your favor-**

**ite hangouts?** Dinosaur Bar-B-Que in Harlem has great wings. And people really need to know about the beef ribs at Daisy May's on 11th Avenue around 45th Street!

**What makes dancers so beautiful?** They're aware of their bodies! Exercise is important but dancers have a sense of articulation in their joints, muscles and cartilage that most people don't think about. You are articulating a message through your physical training; executing flights of fancy with total grace. Dancers can spend an entire

**Robert Battle**

(ANDREW ECCLES)



class on walking; concentrating on their posture, focus and sense of themselves in space.

**Where do you go dancing in NYC?**

I know all the social dances, but it's not fun for me. I'm a choreographer and I can't turn off that part of my brain: I'm observing and getting ideas. The most fun I had not dancing was in the Hamptons. I watched Hillary and Bill Clinton start the whole party by [freestyle] dancing. They were great! Very secure in their physicality.

**You have one of the city's most prestigious cultural jobs and can't afford your own apartment?**

I've lived with Nina for more than 10 years. We're like family. The costs of living in this city are not always conducive to what artists are paid, but artists support one another.

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