

ROBERT BATTLE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Robert Battle became artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in July 2011 after being personally selected by Judith Jamison, making him only the third person to head the Company since it was founded in 1958. Mr. Battle has a long-standing association with the Ailey organization. A frequent choreographer and artist-in-residence at Ailey since 1999, he has set many of his works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, and at The Ailey School. The Company's current repertory includes his ballets *Takademe* and *Unfold*. In addition to expanding the Ailey repertory with works by artists as diverse as Kyle Abraham, Aszure Barton, Ronald K. Brown, Garth Fagan, Bill T. Jones, Jiri Kylián, Wayne McGregor, Robert Moses, Ohad Naharin, and Paul Taylor, Mr. Battle has also instituted the New Directions Choreography Lab to help develop the next generation of choreographers. Mr. Battle's journey to the top of the modern dance world began in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami, Florida. He showed artistic talent early and studied dance at a high school arts magnet program before moving on to Miami's New World School of the Arts, under the direction of Daniel Lewis and Gerri Houlihan, and finally to the dance program at The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy, where he met his mentor, Carolyn Adams. He danced with the

Parsons Dance Company from 1994 to 2001, and also set his choreography on that company starting in 1998. Mr. Battle then founded his own Battleworks Dance Company, which made its debut in 2002 in Düsseldorf, Germany, as the U.S. representative to the World Dance Alliance's Global Assembly. Battleworks subsequently performed extensively at venues including The Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, American Dance Festival, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Mr. Battle was honored as one of the "Masters of African-American Choreography" by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005, and he received the prestigious Statue Award from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA in 2007. Most recently, in 2014, he received an honorary doctorate from the University of the Arts. He is a sought-after keynote speaker and has addressed a number of high-profile organizations, including the United Nations Leaders Programme and the UNICEF Senior Leadership Development Programme.

"... **Alvin Ailey troupe shines** ... going by the pleasant surprises in the repertoire, as well as the healthy appearance and vivid energy of the dancers, Artistic Director **Robert Battle has the troupe's forward momentum well in hand.**"

-*The Washington Post*, Sarah Kaufman

"... **He wasted no time in expanding the rep**, reaching into the company's past riches as well as taking on other modern dance giants."

-*Dance Magazine*, Wendy Perron

"Now Robert Battle is in charge... That name **has injected the company with new life...**"

-*The New York Times*, Gia Kourlas

"Alvin Ailey **boldly steps in new directions. One thing is clear: Choreographer Robert Battle...is taking the troupe in new directions while maintaining its beloved traditions.**"

-*The Chicago Tribune*, Sid Smith

"When Robert Battle became the artistic director ... **he set a clear goal: to broaden the repertory. Now.... he's delivering.**"

-*The Wall Street Journal*, Pia Catton

"**Battle represents a new generation, not just at Ailey, but in modern dance.**"

- *The Miami Herald*, Jordan Levin

"**Some of them [his pieces] prompt wild audience ovations... He knows the dancers and their tradition, and he has already given them several popular successes.** [He has] a strong track record working with a wide range of dancers."

-*The New York Times*, Alastair Macaulay

"**Battle's choreography is dazzling.**"

-*The Boston Globe*, Karen Campbell