

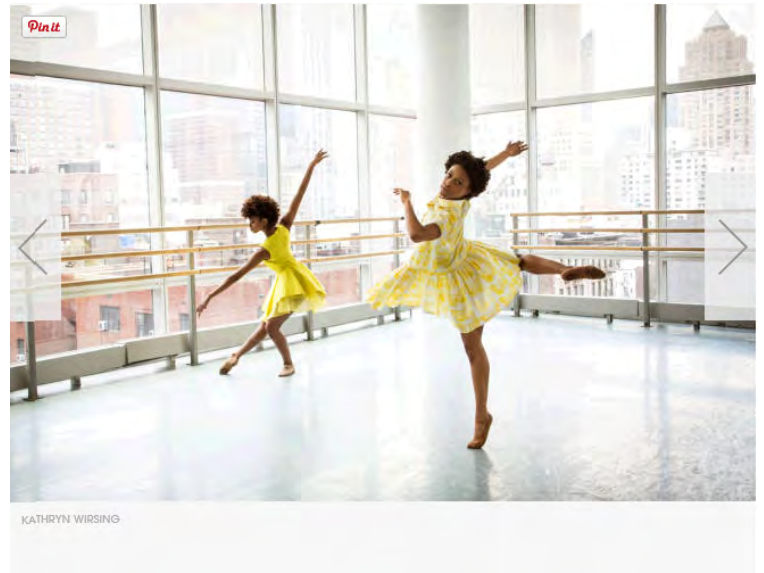
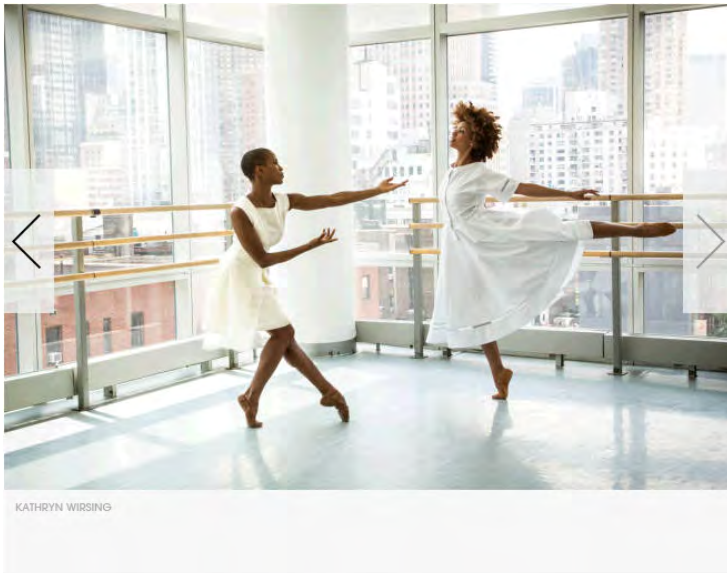
ELLE

Alvin Ailey Dancers Take on Spring's Best Dresses

June 10, 2014

By Danielle Prescod and Victoria Hoff

In the world of modern dance, there are few companies—if any—that are quite as genre defining as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. And as its dancers prepare to commence a new season—kicking off the two-week string of spring performances with The Ailey Spirit Gala on June 11th—so do we: It seems that summer is finally upon us, and with it, an abundance of fittingly fresh, colorful fashion. See the two worlds collide in a celebration of movement and style, as the dancers (and our models for the day) reveal their daily secrets to staying beautiful and inspired.



On beauty products they can't live without on stage:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer Fana Tesfagiorgis: Shea butter.

Akua Noni Parker: I'd probably say lotion. I switched to African Heritage. They have a couple different scents that I like. There's an olive oil and a tea tree, and a black soap lotion that I really like.

On Auka: Adeam V-Layered Eyelet Dress, \$1,495; adeamonline.com

On Fana: Kisua Myra Chiffon Dress, \$180; kisua.com

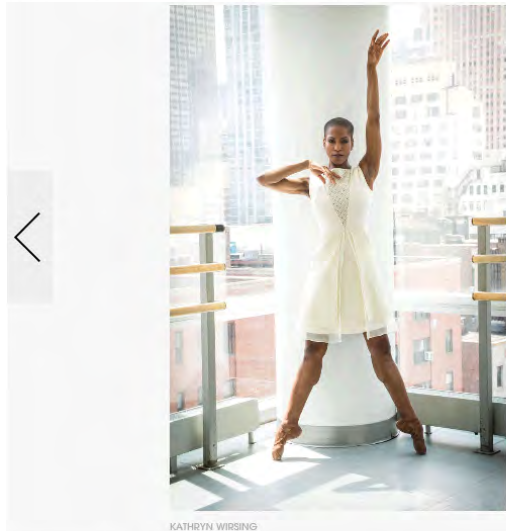
On their footwear choices when they are not on stage:

Ailey II dancer Shay Bland: Definitely flats.

Aubree Brown: I'm loving Keds this summer.

On Aubree: Sally LaPointe Double Pleat Party Dress, \$2,950; shopbop.com

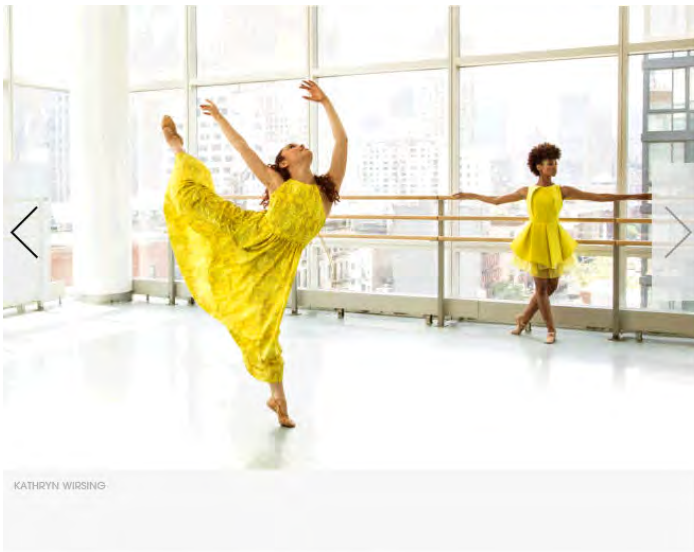
On Shay: RED Valentino Printed Dress, \$650; valentino.com



On her workout regimen aside from dance:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer Akua Noni Parker: I have a new addiction with Pilates, and there's this app on the iPhone called 10-minute cardio, and if I don't feel like I can get my stamina up, I'll do that. It's like jumping jacks and mountain climber poles.

On Auka: Adeam V-Layered Eyelet Dress, \$1,495; adeamonline.com



KATHRYN WIRSING

On her workout routine aside from dance:

Ailey II dancer, Samantha Barriento: I run also, and I love to do yoga. I try to do different kinds of fitness classes. I just like to have fun with whatever I'm doing to stay in shape, so I kind of just go all around with that. Kickboxing. Anything. I'll try *everything*.

On Samantha: Tibi Ibis Strappy Long Dress, \$675; tibi.com
 On Aubree: Sally LaPointe Double Pleat Party Dress, \$2,950; shopbop.com

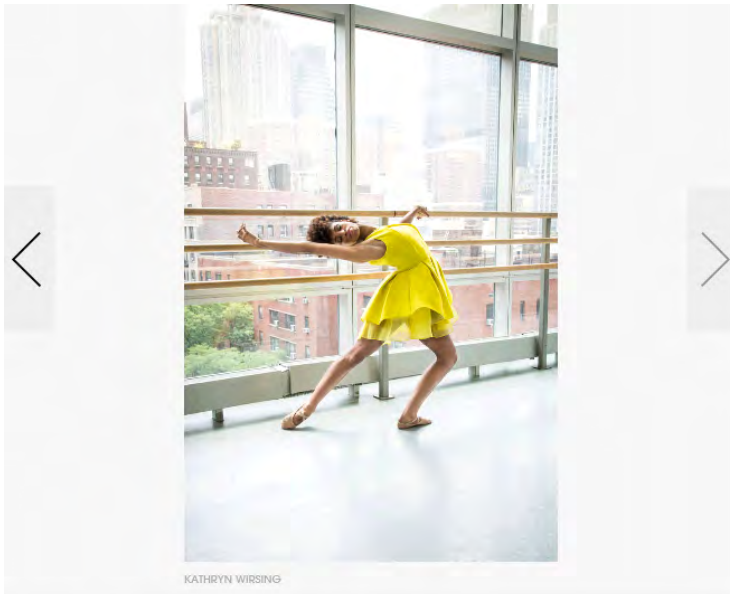


KATHRYN WIRSING

On her workout aside from dance:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer Fana Tesfagiorgis: Swimming and gyrotonics.

On Fana: Katie Ermilio Cinched Bow Bodice Party Dress, \$2,250
katieermilio.com



KATHRYN WIRSING

On her exercise regimen besides dance:

Ailey II dancer Aubree Brown: I don't do much exercise outside. I have taken different yoga classes a couple times outside of dance, but dance is pretty much my exercise.

On Aubree: Sally LaPointe Double Pleat Party Dress, \$2,950; shopbop.com



KATHRYN WIRSING

On their go-to off-duty look:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer, Fana Tesfagiorgis: I'm always in jeans and a sweatshirt.

Akua Noni Parker: I don't really have a go-to outfit. I'm really into fashion lately, so I'm trying to just play around with different looks. I can go from a dress to stretch pants to baggy jeans to pumps.

On Fana: Ellery Existential Shift Dress, \$1,950; elleryland.com
 On Auka: Kisua Myra Chiffon Dress, \$160; kisua.com



On their favorite places they have toured:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer Megan Jakel: One of the places I loved that we're returning to this summer is Oslo, Norway. It's really, really beautiful. We're also going to be in Germany all summer.

Akua Noni Parker: It's [a tie] between Copenhagen and Tel Aviv. We've been to Oslo, and I love Scandinavian countries.

On Megan: Adeam Angeled Eyelet Dress, \$1,285; adeamonline.com On Akua: Banjanan Capri Maxi Dress, \$293; barneys.com



On their favorite places they have toured:

Samantha Barriento: I am just starting this season, but I did go to L.A. with them, and that was fun.

Fana Tesfagiorgis: Athens, Greece.

On her off-duty outfit: Aubree Brown: A simple maxi dress with sandals or sneakers.

On Aubree: Summer Stripe Split Neck Dress, \$495; tibi.com

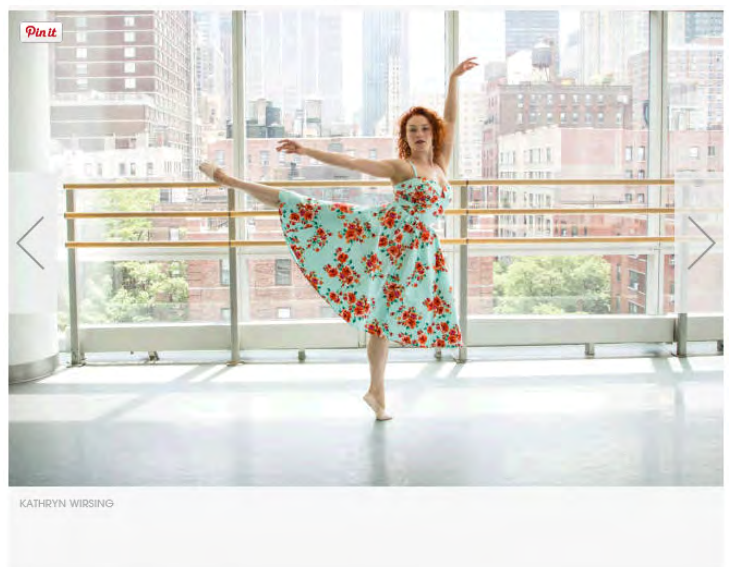
On Samantha Valentino Bambolina Polyamid Skirt Dress, \$6,690; forwardforward.com



KATHRYN WIRSING

On pre-performance beauty regimen:

Ailey II dancer, Shay Bland: I use the Urban Decay De-Slick Setting Spray before I go on stage. If it doesn't go on, everything else comes off. I definitely need that in my bag, no matter what.



KATHRYN WIRSING

On her go-to off-duty look:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dancer, Megan Jakel: In the summer, I love a sundress.

On Megan: Stop Staring Dress Marisol Dress, \$178; stopstaringclothing.com

On Megan: Katie Ermilio Blush Silk Faille Bow Back Dress, \$2,200; avenue32.com

On Akua: A.L.C. Pleated Crepe Dress, \$625; matchesfashion.com

On Fana, Valentino White Long Sleeve Silk Dress with Pink Beading, \$13,000; valentino.com