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Dancing 'out of a cannon'

Montclairite dances with Ailey II

BY GWEN OREL
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Chalvar Monteiro took a drama elective at Renaissance Middle School which met outside the studios of Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts.

Miller spotted his talent for moving, called his mother, and offered the boy a scholarship.

"I was very excited, because I had recently seen the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for the first time at New Jersey Performing Arts Center," Monteiro recalled.

He loved moving but had always assumed it would be too expensive, with the dancewear, classes, and everything needed to train. Miller's scholarship made it possible.

A few years later, he attended the summer intensive at The Ailey School.

Today, Monteiro is completing his first year as a member of Ailey II, and will perform with the company during its first independent New York season at the Joyce Theater, 75 Eighth Ave, from March 17 to March 22. Monteiro will perform in "Virtues," by Amy Hall Garner, "The External Knot," by Ailey II's Artistic Director Troy Powell, "Wings" by Jennifer Archibald, the world premiere of "breakthrough" by Manuel Vignouille, and the company premiere of "Hissy Fits" by Dwight Roden.

For more information on the season, visit AlvinAiley.org.

Miller stated, "There are no words to adequately describe how proud I am of Chalvar Monteiro. I'm sure this is just the beginning of hearing great things from him!"

For Monteiro, that Miller has been a "guiding light in my life."

He joined Ailey II after having worked with Kyle Abraham and Larry Keigwin. At 26, he is the senior member of the 12-dancer second company.

He likes that. "Before coming here and being the



Chalvar Monteiro dances in Dwight Roden's "Hissy Fits."

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oldest, I was the youngest in every other experience I was in. Instead of being with older dancers who might have a calm energy, it's nice to be reminded of that raw energy, pushing through fatigue and soreness, trying to get to another level. Being shot out of a cannon is really exciting."

Living out of a suitcase and jumping from hotel to hotel hasn't gotten old yet. When he spoke to The Montclair Times he was on a bus going from Colorado to Kansas.

Although traveling can make staying at the top of his game, it's a challenge he enjoys. "I take vitamins, and get enough sleep," he said with a laugh.

"Dancing makes me feel unstoppable."

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