

Caribbean Media Network USA

CONNECTING THE CARIBBEAN WORLD!

Meet Trinidadian Dancer with Alvin Ailey Chalvar Monteiro

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MEET CHALVAR MONTEIRO

At what age did you decide you will dedicate your life to the art of dance?

My desire to be a professional dancer was first initiated after the Ailey company performed in New Jersey when I was in high school, around 2003. Shortly after, when I was introduced to the breadth of modern and contemporary practices, I knew dancing and creating would forever be a part of my rhythm.

What is your professional background in the arts?

I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in dance performance from Purchase College at SUNY. I shortly began a career as a freelance artist in NY before joining the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2015.

In 2019 you were selected to participate in Merce Cunningham Trust's Night of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event, tell us about that experience.

It was a brilliant event happening in three different venues around the world, each location having 25 dancers, all performing at the same time. I was honored to begin this relationship with The Cunningham Trust and take part in this monumental event, which introduced me to so many talented and sweet human beings.

What is your ultimate goal for your dance career?

At this moment, there is no ultimate. I am still in love with the process of discovering all that I have to offer as an artist. What I am sure of, however, is the desire to continue creating art, and teaching alongside my performance career.

Why should people join you and your comrades at this season of the Ailey tour?

I don't think it's a season to miss. The storytelling, athleticism, and finesse alone...

What is your favorite signature piece at this year's production?

My favorite work to perform is Kyle Abraham's "Are You In Your Feelings?." It is my favorite because of the world he created, the song choices, and the choreography. I look forward to performing it every single time.

Do you believe that dance can impact change?

Dance has always been a part of the change. Performing artists were a huge part of what helped keep people entertained during the pandemic via social media and continue to be at the forefront of a lot of impact on a global level. I am sometimes blown away that I am a part of something so massive and powerful.

