

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Stack-Up

(1982)

(New Production – 2017)

Choreography: Talley Beatty

Assistant to Choreographer: Ralph Paul Haze

Restaging: Masazumi Chaya

Music: Earth, Wind, & Fire, Grover Washington, Jr., Fearless Four, and Alphonze Mouzon

Costume Designer / Redesigner: Carol Vollet-Kingston / Barbara Forbes

Décor & Costumes: Adapted from a painting by Romare Bearden

Lighting Designer / Redesigner: Tom Skelton / Chenault Spence

Set to the background of a throbbing 1970s beat (including music by Earth, Wind & Fire, Grover Washington, Jr., Fearless Four, and Alphonze Mouzon) and a graffiti landscape, patrons in a crowded disco dance with attitude, sass, and fierce despair in this classic work by Talley Beatty. Inspired by Los Angeles' urban landscape and the lives of its disparate inhabitants, *Stack-Up* depicts the emotional "traffic" in a community that is stacked on top of each other. Tough, brutal yet poignant, the stage sizzles with street life, break dancing, and physical pyrotechnics as an aloof drug pusher and two displaced lovers are destined for collision. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performed the work during its 25th anniversary season in 1983 at New York City Center, and is being restaged in advance of the upcoming centennial of Mr. Beatty's birth.



AAADT in Talley Beatty's *Stack-Up*.
Photo by Nan Melville.

"...a terrific stream of clever nonstop movement, accented, punchy, full of comment about itself as movement as well as upon modern urban life."

The New York Times, 1982

"Mr. Beatty's tale of lost innocence is as fresh as if it were being told for the first time."

The New York Times, 1983

"A dynamic metaphor for the urgency, danger, speed, sexuality and grit – in short, the feverish and risqué turmoil – of city streets... Beatty's work is an exceptionally compelling statement by a sensitive and masterly theatrical craftsman."

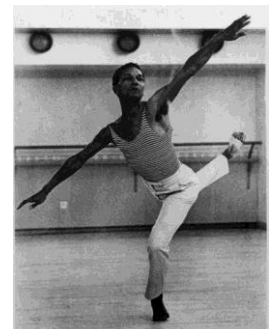
The Washington Post, 1985

"...one of American dance's most brilliant talents."

The New York Times, 1989

Talley Beatty

Born in 1918, Talley Beatty of Chicago, Illinois became a principal dancer with the Katherine Dunham Company at age 16. After touring with the Dunham Company for five years and appearing in a film and Broadway shows such as *Cabin in the Sky*, *Pins and Needles*, and *Blue Holiday*, Mr. Beatty formed his own company and toured throughout Europe, U.S., and Canada. As part of his choreographing for Broadway, he was nominated for a 1977 Tony Award as Best Choreographer for *Your Arm's Too Short to Box with God*. Dance companies around the world have mounted his ballets, including Dance Theatre of Harlem, Bat-Sheva Company, Koln Opera Ballet Company, Boston Ballet, Stockholm Dance Theatre, and Ballet Hispanico. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed many of his major works, including *The Road of the Phoebe Snow* (1959), *Come and Get the Beauty of it Hot* (1960), *Stack-Up* (1982), and *Blueshift* (1984).



Stack-Up

Music Credit Information – *Listed as you hear them in ballet*

“Faces” performed by Earth, Wind & Fire.

“Aubrey” performed by Grover Washington, Jr.

“Rockin’ It” performed by Fearless Four.

“Get Up and Dance” written and performed by Alphonze Mouzon. Controlled by Mouzon Music Publishing.