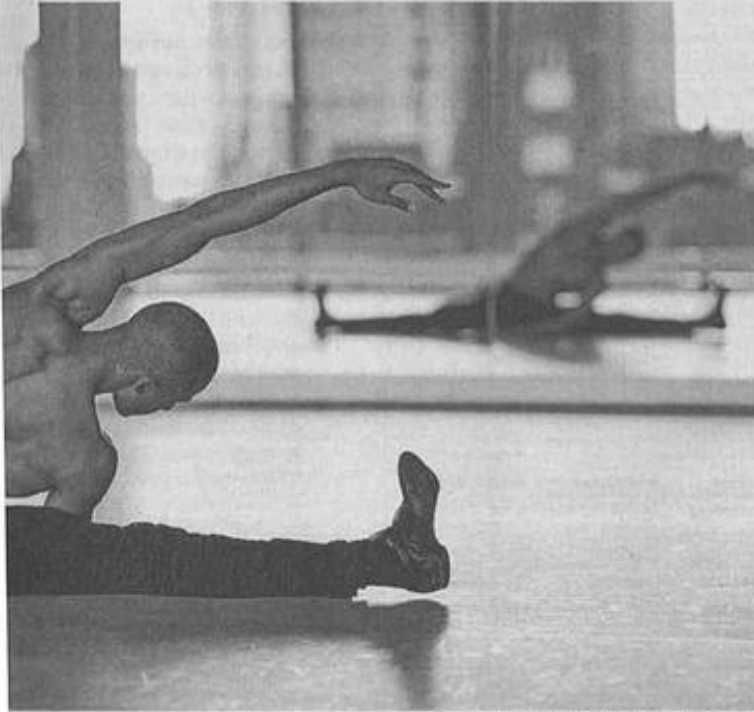


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#SPEAKINGINDANCE



MOHAMED SADEK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

In 'Sinner Man,' Your Soul Is Onstage

"I take it almost like a mission," Yannick Lebrun of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater said of performing "Sinner Man" from "Revelations," Ailey's 1960 masterpiece set to African-American spirituals. "'Sinner Man' is a very powerful, propulsive section of 'Revelations' that shows who we are as Ailey men, but it definitely also has a deeper story: You're running for your life." Mr. Lebrun performs the second variation in "Sinner Man." It's a test of endurance. "My heart is beating so fast," he said. "It's an oh-my-God moment: Hit it, do your best and whatever happens, happens." The exhaustion isn't just physical. "It's because you've let your soul out on the stage," Mr. Lebrun said. "You know you're gonna be tired, but there's no other way. You do Alvin Ailey's steps, and people will feel it." *GIA KOURLAS*

#SpeakingInDance is a visual exploration of dance. For more, follow us on Instagram: @nytimes.com.

#SpeakingInDance: [Click here](#) to view Yannick dancing "Sinner Man" from Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* on The New York Times Instagram.