

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Episodes

(1987 / Ailey Company Premiere - 1989)

Choreography: Ulysses Dove
Restaged by Masazumi Chaya
Original Music: Robert Ruggieri
Costumes: Jorge Gallardo
Lighting: John B. Reade

Ulysses Dove created his explosive masterpiece, *Episodes*, for the classical London Festival Ballet in 1987. The company danced the piece in bare feet. The following year, Dove re-choreographed the dance on pointe for Patrick Dupond's Ballet Francais de Nancy. In 1989, Alvin Ailey took *Episodes* into the repertory of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, allowing audiences a glimpse of what dance would look like in the next century. Like his mentor Ailey, who was always exploring the battle of the sexes in his choreography, Dove sharply exposed the eternal dilemma of men and women—can we live with each other or can we live without each other? —to a provocative soundscore by Robert Ruggieri. Judith Jamison said “Dove’s *Episodes* is riveting and he is one of my favorite choreographers. He was also one of Alvin’s favorites as well as a former Company member. That is the lineage I’m promoting at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.”

In 1992, Dove told Gus Solomons, Jr., “Since the first piece I did, Alvin believed in my work. He would take time to argue with me because he knew I would just not accept anything unless I really believed it. Even though we fought, we were always truthful with each other. The crazier my stuff got, the more I found my own voice and the more he liked it. Alvin taught me about humanity. His heart beat once for him and once for the rest of the world.”

“...all the trademarks of a Dove piece: **speed, explosive jumps and whiplash spins**. Dancers shoot across the stage like waves hitting rocks.”

The New York Times

Ulysses Dove

Ulysses Dove, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, began studying dance at Boggs Academy in Georgia, continued studying modern dance and ballet during his college years and received his B.A. in dance from Bennington College. After school, Mr. Dove moved to New York City where he performed with the companies of Mary Anthony and Pearl Lang. In 1970 he received a scholarship at the Merce Cunningham School, and subsequently joined the Cunningham Company. In 1973 Anna Sokolow asked him to perform her classic *Rooms*. Having seen Mr. Dove's performance, Alvin Ailey invited him to join his Company and in 1979 he made his choreographic debut. From 1980 - 1983 Mr. Dove was the Assistant Director of the Groupe de Recherche Choreographique de l'Opéra de Paris. A freelance choreographer since leaving the Paris Opéra, Dove has created works on ballet and modern dance companies throughout the world. Ulysses Dove died in 1996.



Ulysses Dove. Photo courtesy of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



AAADT's Glenn Allen Sims and Linda Celeste Sims in Ulysses Dove's *Episodes*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.

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Music Credit Information

Original composition by Robert Ruggieri