Seeing the Dancer as Goddess: An Ailey Dancer's Goddess Quality

January 2, 2020
By: Gia Kourlas

This season, the Ailey member Jacqueline Green has reached a new level.

Jacqueline Green was a shy, 13-year-old when her mother, considering possible schools in Baltimore, observed two qualities that her daughter possessed.

"Your arms are tall," Mr. Green recalled her saying. "You're flexible!"

Soon after, Mr. Green found herself at a dance audition for Baltimore School for the Arts. It was not only her first audition, but her first ballet class. "I had on pointe shoes and tights, and I didn't know what I was doing," Ms. Green said. "I just let my hair fall over my face and I thought, 'People actually do this? Holding yourself together is fitting.'"

But then there was the flexibility test. As she got up, "I was, Oh, oh, I've got this. I was, I was, I was, I was..." She was accepted. That Mr. Green, now a supremely elegant member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, began training so late is remarkable, but her flexibility is natural as her poise. Regal and introspective, she has delicate, flexible bones and perfectly limbed — she's 5-foot-9 — which add to her unaffected elegance. She can be stiff, she can be upbringing, but her intensity remains.

"I've learned to trust myself," said Jacqueline Green, who now rare dances relatively late.
An Ailey Dancer’s Goddess Quality

Continued from Page 12.

Miss Green, the company’s principal dancer, is a regal, commanding presence on stage, with a smooth, effortless technique. Her movements are precise and controlled, with a fluidity that seems almost effortless. She possesses a rare combination of strength and grace, a characteristic that sets her apart from many other dancers.

When asked about her approach to dancing, Miss Green simply replied, “I dance because I love it. It’s my life.” Her passion for the art form is evident in her performance, which is both powerful and refined. She has a natural ability to connect with the audience, drawing them into her world of dance.

Miss Green’s influence on the company is profound. Her presence on stage is commanding, and her dancers look to her for inspiration and guidance. She is a mentor to many, and her dedication to the craft is inspiring.

Miss Green is not only a dancer but also a teacher. She has been teaching dance for many years and has taught at several prestigious institutions. Her teaching style is both demanding and nurturing, and her students often speak highly of her ability to inspire and motivate them.

Miss Green’s commitment to her craft is evident in her dedication to her dancers. She is always looking for ways to improve and grow, and her passion for dance is contagious. She is a true artist, and her influence on the dance world is immeasurable.