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122
Kick up and turn your springtime made on its head.

ON THE COVER
Photography by Kwaku Ailston. Stylist: Norija McKenzie/Gous Beauty. Hair stylist: Caprice Green/Beauty & Photo. Makeup artist: Ashunta Sheriff/The Wall Group using CoverGirl. Manicurist: Tracey Sutton/Cloutier Remix. Janelle Monáe wears Yves Saint Laurent clothing, Chanel earrings, and a Zanna Jewelry ring. **ON THIS PAGE** Edward Spots wears a Gap tee, adidas pants, and adidas Originals sneakers. Robin Fraser wears a Zoro + Maria Cornejo dress. Calvin Klein Performance wrap, American Apparel leggings, and DSquared2 sneakers. For details, see Where to Buy.

THE 360°

Listen in on the talk around the editors' table this month

BY AKKIDA McDOWELL

LORD OF THE DANCE

On the eve of his inaugural season, Ailey II's new artistic director, Troy Powell, shares his vision for the future



When a nervous Troy Powell, 44, took over the reins of Ailey II, the finishing academy for rising dancers and choreographers at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, he was aware of the large shoes he was stepping into. Founding Ailey II artistic director Sylvia Waters had held the position for 38 years before retiring in June 2012. "I had worked with Sylvia as a dancer," Powell recalls. "She encouraged us to be honest with Mr. Ailey's legacy, to hold it with integrity and be passionate about it." As the new creative head, Powell will continue to groom young talent for professional work, but vows to "keep Ailey II fresh," carrying on the founder's legacy of "giving dance back to the people." Audiences will witness the company's exciting new offerings and reimagined pieces at the Ailey at the Apollo gala fund-raiser on May 7 and during Ailey II's European tour this spring. "Ailey II is going to skyrocket to a whole new level," promises Powell.

—Derrick Bryson Taylor



Ailey II dancers perform Powell's choreography in *The External Knot*. See more of Ailey II in action on page 122 and visit ailey.org for tour details.

STYLE IN

NOV

THE DYNAMIC AILEY II DANCERS OF THE ALVIN AILEY DANCE THEATER
GRACEFULLY SOAR TO NEW ATHLETIC HEIGHTS IN THIS SEASON'S SPORTSWEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN BOOKALLIL | STYLING BY FREDDIE LEIBA



RISING STARS

On Gentry George:
Shirt, Adidas, \$40, Macy's
Track pants, Adidas
Originals, \$58, adidas.com
Sneakers, Adidas Neo,
\$70, adidas.com/neo.

On Tyler Brown:
Dress, Lauren Ralph
Lauren Active, \$90, select
Bloomingdale's stores.
Leggings, American Apparel,
\$34, americanapparel
.net. Running shoes, Under
Armour, \$120, ua.com.
Bracelets, her own. >



ON POINTE

On Edward Spots:
Track jacket, Adidas
Originals, \$68,
ladyfootlocker
.com. Sneakers,
Adidas Neo, \$60,
adidas.com/neo.
Sweatpants,
his own.

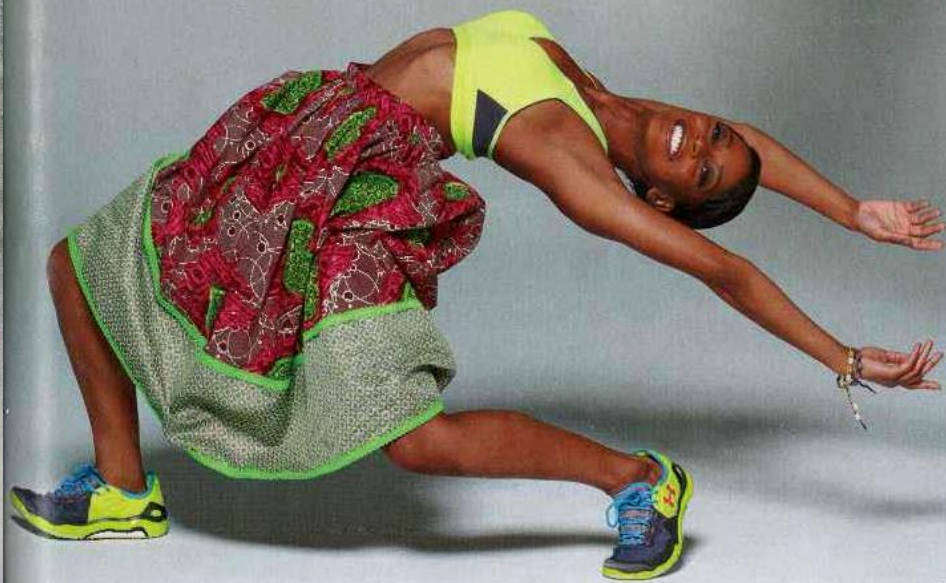
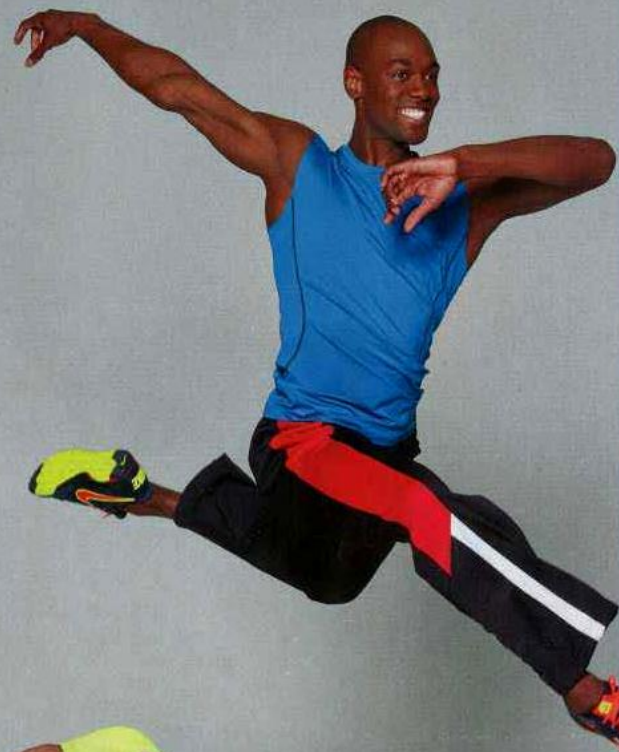
On Paloo Fraser:
Tank, Calvin Klein
Performance,
\$44, Calvin Klein
Performance, San
Francisco, 415-398-
4041. Skirt, Nanette
Lopore, \$478,
nanetteleopore.com.
Sneakers, Puma,
\$70, select Lady
Foot Locker stores.

VISIT ESSENCE.COM

LEAPS & BOUNDS

On Tyler Brown:
Sports bra,
Victoria's Secret,
\$80, victoria
secret.com. Skirt,
Moschino Cheap
and Chic, \$680,
moschinoboutique
.com. Running
shoes, Under
Armour, \$120,
ua.com. Bracelets,
her own.

On Gentry George:
Shirt, Nike Pro, \$30,
nike.com. Pants,
Nike XD, \$55, nike
.com. Soccer shoes,
Nike's Gato, \$55,
nike.com.>



CENTER STAGE

On Paige Fraser:
Dress, Just Cavalli,
\$1,340, justcavalli.
.com for availability.
Leggings, American
Apparel, \$34,
americanapparel.
.net. Running shoes,
Under Armour, \$120,
ua.com.

On Edward Spots:
Shirt, Gap, \$15, gap.
.com. Pants, Puma,
\$55, shop.puma.
.com. Sneakers,
Adidas Neo, \$70,
adidas.com/neo.



LAST DANCE

On Gentry George:
Hair: zip top, Nike
Element, \$60,
nike.com. Running
tights, Nike Tech,
\$68, nike.com.
Sneakers, Jimmy
Choo, \$795,
jimmychoo.com.

On Tyler Brown:
Dress, Fuzzi, \$595,
Betsy Bunky
Nini, NYC, 212-
744-6716. Sneaker
wedges, Lacoste,
\$214, zappos.com.
Bracelets, her own.

