



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Robert Battle and Alicia Graf Mack

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Artistic director Battle and dancer Mack discuss their goal to build on the prestigious Company's triumphs while making sure it stays relevant.

Personally selected by the illustrious Judith Jamison, Robert Battle is only the third person to head the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since its founding in 1958. He's had a long association with the Company, as a choreographer and an artist-in-residence, and given master classes around the globe. Battle hails from the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami, FL and attended Juilliard's dance program. After graduation, he joined the Parsons Dance Company, before launching his own Battleworks Dance Company. He was honored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005.

Alicia Graf Mack trained at Maryland's Ballet Royale Institute and attended summer intensives at the School of American Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. Prior to dancing with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, she was a principal dancer with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she began her professional career, and a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet. She was a visiting assistant professor of dance at Webster University (St. Louis) and has written dance reviews for national publications. Mack received the Medal of Excellence from her alma mater, Columbia University.

Watch the segment: [here](#)