



Wendy's Best of 2013

By Wendy Perron – December 29, 2013

BEST PERFORMANCES

- Exhilarating shape shifting: Ailey's Jamar Roberts in Ron Brown's *Four Corners* at the Koch Theater and in Aszure Barton's *LIFT* at City Center.
- Best opening solo: Ailey's Samuel Lee Roberts, sly and risky as the lone improviser who introduces Ohad Naharin's *Minus 16*, City Center. In surprising himself and us, he fearlessly courted physical danger.
- Most naturally alluring new Ailey star: Rachael McLaren in Kyle Abrahams' *Another Night*, Aszure Barton's *LIFT*, and Wayne McGregor's *Chroma*.

PERENNIALS

- Matthew Rushing, Alicia Graf Mack, and Linda Celeste Sims of Ailey

MISCELLANEOUS

- The most daring artistic director: Robert Battle, in his third year at the helm of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, took on Wayne McGregor's wildly articulate contemporary classic, *Chroma* (made for The Royal Ballet in 2006)—the first NYC company to do so. He has worked up to this moment by expanding the rep with pieces by Taylor, Kylián, Fagan, and Naharin, and this season the supremely quirky Aszure Barton. His message to the world is that Ailey dancers can do anything!