

R Trendsetter



WARDROBE STAPLE

"Turtlenecks have been a part of my uniform since grade school. They make me feel very official." **Zara Mixed Knit Turtleneck Sweater (\$79.99; zara.com)**

MUSICAL MOTIVATION

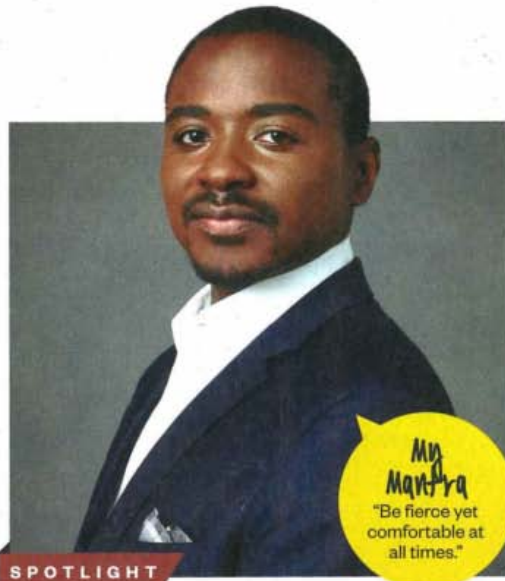
"Patti LaBelle's energy and spirituality can be heard in her music. That voice just makes you want to move!" **Miss Patti's Christmas (from \$7.98; amazon.com)**



SWEET SOLES

"I love Gucci boots. They seem to go with everything." **Gucci Leather Boots (\$970; MRPORTER.COM)**

★ *Go-to shoe!*



My Mantra
"Be fierce yet comfortable at all times."

SPOTLIGHT

Robert Battle

ARTIST IN MOTION

With understated elegance and down-home sensibilities, Robert Battle has helped shape Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's revamped direction since joining as artistic director in 2011. The Juilliard School alum welcomed the challenge to modernize the company while maintaining its esteemed legacy. And to the delight of its patrons, he's done just that. The choreographer and former dancer takes the same streamlined approach to life. Battle is partial to small pleasures, which include wearing classic, no-fuss knits; enjoying a quaint meal; and sipping a preferred libation. **EBONY** reveals the items and elements that bring tranquility to his hectic schedule.

—Ericka N. Goodman

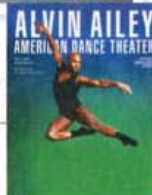


Must-see show!

LEFT: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Akua Noni Parker, Sarah Daley and Jacqueline Green. BELOW: Glenn Allen Sims.

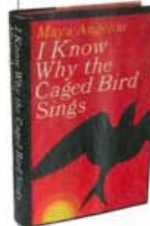
HOLIDAY TRADITION

"The company's December shows at New York City Center just signify the season for me." **Go to alvinailey.org for the performance schedule.**



HAPPY HOUR HIGHLIGHT

"I like to keep my drinks classic. A martini made with Double Cross vodka is my favorite cocktail." **Go to doublecrossvodka.com for more recipes.**



TIMELESS READ

"The great Maya Angelou was once quoted as saying, 'Easy reading is damn hard writing.' And *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is just a beautiful book." ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (from \$4.80; amazon.com)**



GOOD GRUB

"There's hardly a barbecued rib that I wouldn't indulge in, but Blue Smoke truly makes some of the best." **Go to bluesmoke.com for locations.**

STYLE IDOLS

"Lena Horne and Sidney Poitier both represent sophistication. And they were trailblazers who never lost their grace despite the racial tension they experienced."



Lena Horne

Sidney Poitier