

FRENCH MORNING

EDITION NATIONALE

Yannick Lebrun, a French pardon at Alvin Ailey

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December 2, 2014

Yannick Lebrun, the only french company dancer Alvin Ailey, a lot of talent, and a good dose of luck.

In 2001, the Guyanese was spotted by the Alvin Ailey School Director, at a dance in Martinique contest. He was 14 years old.



"It's like this I got a scholarship to complete a training course of summer in the Alvin Ailey School. Each year, during my high school years, I was going to do this internship in New York", tells the young man met an afternoon between two rehearsals, put big red padded boots that allow him to keep his feet warm.

Once his tray in your pocket, in 2004, he received a fellowship of two years to register for school Alvin Ailey at full time. "It was amazing, I was 17, I

was leaving to live in New York," he recalls.

Two years later, new blow: it is part of the elect to integrate Ailey II, the professional company junior Alvin Ailey, composed of twelve dancers. "I started touring in the United States, a little to the international. I was hoping that this would be the small door to the large door. »

The transition happen more quickly than expected. "In 2007, one of the boys of the first company was injured. The artistic director was in need of a replacement and chose me, says this son of nurse, who started ballet at age nine, at the school of dance Adaclam of Cayenne. This experience allows him to integrate the "first company" - the main troupe of Alvin Ailey - without having to audition. Since my teens, I had read all the books on Alvin Ailey, I had posters in my room, I went to shows constantly. It was the company of my dreams, and I was there", said with still stars in the eyes.

Since 2008, Yannick Lebrun is therefore one of the 30 dancers - the only French - of this mythical company, established in New York in 1958. A company that changed the face of American Dance (bringing more diversity, with a focus to African-American dancers) and whose choreography was seen by 23 million people in 71 countries. "It is an honour for me to represent the France and Guyana, in most modern company in the world," says the dancer's 27 years.

For the next season, which will be presented from 3 December to 4 January 2015 in New York, can see in Odetta, Bad Blood, Uprising, or even Suspended Women.

Then, he will tour with the company during the spring, before rest this summer his bags in his apartment in Washington Heights, New York. A city where he feels at home. "For me, the American dream is still topical. It is a country where if you work, you can go very far, even though it has just. I love the State of mind of the people here,"he says.

However, it keeps a link to French Guiana, where his family lives. "I try to go back regularly. "Above all, I am in contact with several Guyanese in New York who have embarked on the dance in the United States, and who saw me said: it is possible", said Yannick Lebrun. For them, the very high bar!