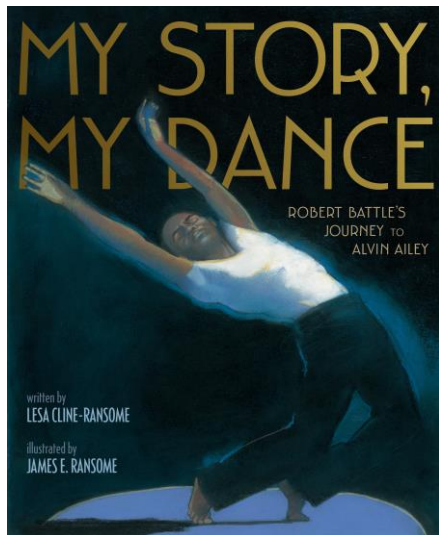


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## MY STORY, MY DANCE

**Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey**

**Written by Lesa Cline-Ransome**

**Illustrated by James E. Ransome**

**Foreword by Robert Battle**

Hardcover / e-book – 40 pages

Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

ISBN 9781481422215 |

October 2015 | For Ages: 5-10 / Grades K – 5

List Price \$17.99

New York – June 11, 2015 – Today it was announced that Simon & Schuster will be publishing a book for children this fall based upon the life of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Artistic Director Robert Battle. ***My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey*** is the inspiring picture book biography of Robert Battle, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Featuring illustrations brimming with vibrant color and swirling motion, this biographical picture book is written and illustrated by husband-and-wife team [James E. Ransome](#) and [Lesa Cline-Ransome](#). Featuring a foreword by [Robert Battle](#) himself, as well as a bibliography, suggested further reading, and an author's note, the book will be published on October 27<sup>th</sup> by Paula Wiseman Books, a division of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

For ages 5-10, it tells the unique story of a young boy whose life is filled with music, church, and movement – first practicing martial arts, and then discovering his passion for dance, after seeing Alvin Ailey's American masterpiece *Revelations*. When Robert Battle was a young boy wearing leg braces, he never dreamed he'd study at Juilliard, become an acclaimed choreographer or lead Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater around the world. But support from his family and teachers paired with his desire and determination made it possible for Robert to excel. After years of hard work, the young man who was first inspired by a performance of Ailey's must-see *Revelations* became the artistic director of the very company that motivated him. Today, led by Robert's expansive vision, the Ailey company furthers its inspirational celebration of the human spirit and the African-American culture through dance.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents since 1958. The Ailey organization's mission is to further Alvin Ailey's pioneering work through dance performances, training, educational and community programs for all. Ailey's home in New York City – The Joan Weill Center for Dance – is the nation's largest building dedicated to dance.

Led by Artistic Director Robert Battle, who began the 2014-15 season by receiving for Alvin Ailey the nation's highest civilian honor – the Presidential Medal of Freedom – Ailey's extraordinary dancers are currently performing a two-week, [15-performance engagement at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater through June 21<sup>st</sup>](#). Highlights include the *Exodus*, a world premiere from bold hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris and the company premiere of *Battle's No Longer Silent*, which brings to life a score by composer Erwin Schulhoff, who was silenced by the Nazis, in conjunction with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps and the end of the Holocaust. For further information regarding Ailey's performances and programs, visit: [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org)