

ARTS

Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance' presents Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Linda Celeste Sims in Wayne McGregor's 'Chroma.'

PAUL KOLNIK

Alvin Ailey troupe dances into movie theaters

Film of famed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to be shown Thursday

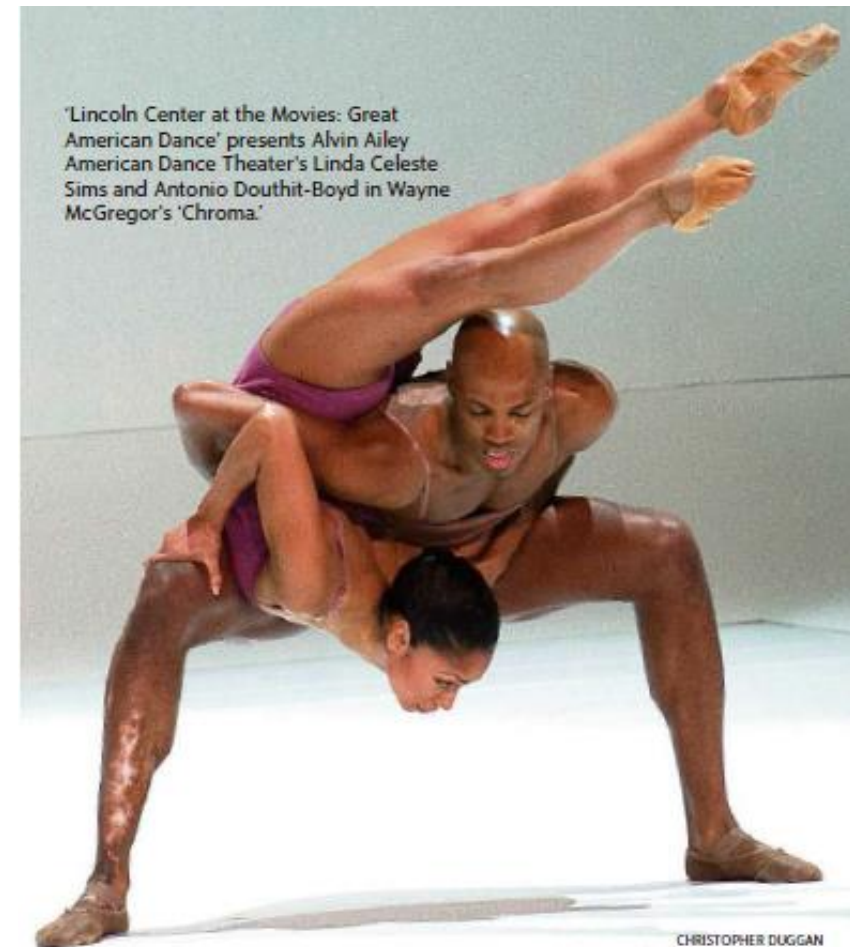
Part of 'Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance' series

Series brings top dance troupes to 600 U.S. movie theaters

BY JORDAN LEVIN
jlevin@miamiherald.com

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the most popular dance companies in the world, touring regularly to major theaters across the United States and internationally. But on Thursday the company will have the largest audience in its half-century-plus history, appearing in over 600 U.S. movie theaters as part of the *Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance* series.

The screening is part of a growing trend that is bringing films of live opera, theater and Broadway to movie theaters and mainstream audiences. *Great American Dance* is distributed by Fathom Events, which pioneered the trend with its Live at the Met films of the Metropolitan Opera over a decade ago.



'Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance' presents Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Linda Celeste Sims and Antonio Douthit-Boyd in Wayne McGregor's 'Chroma.'

CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN

Ballet films have been an increasingly successful part of Fathom's offerings, leading to the Lincoln Center series. The Ailey film will be followed by one of Ballet Hispanico on Nov. 12, and New York City Ballet in George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker," the definitive version of the holiday classic, on Dec. 5.

Thursday's movie, which was filmed at a live performance at Lincoln Center last summer, shows the Ailey troupe in its most famous work, founder Alvin Ailey's beloved *Revelations*. It also features the company in edgy British ballet choreographer Wayne McGregor's sleek, urgent *Chroma*; Ronald K. Brown's moving Afro-spiritual *Grace*, an Ailey favorite; and *Takademe*, an agonized solo by company artistic director Robert

Battle, who was raised in Miami and graduated from the New World School of the Arts.

Ailey dancer Jamar Roberts, also a Miami native, performed *Takademe* and in the *Sinner Man* section of *Revelations* that night.

"There's always pressure onstage to be perfect, but this was extra added pressure, because there about nine cameras shooting you from every angle," Roberts said from the Ailey company studios in New York this week.

The film allows those who might not be able to afford tickets to the troupe's regular and frequently sold-out performances in South Florida, which this year takes place Feb. 18-21 at Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center, to see the company up close.

"It's reaching an even broader audience," Ro-

If you go

What: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 'Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance.'

Where: South Florida movie theaters.

When: 7 p.m. Thursday.

Cost: \$21.26.

Information: www.fathomevents.com.

berts said. "This company thrives on its history and legacy, and the only way for it to continue is for it to reach out to younger audiences ... there's something about seeing it that close and that big that really feels like watching a performance at a theater."