

# ESSENCE

## Ava, Oprah & Storm

MAKE #BLACKGIRLMAGIC  
IN A WRINKLE IN TIME

EXCLUSIVE

JEMELE HILL  
SPEAKS OUT:  
HER YEAR  
UNDER FIRE



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WHEN THEY CALL  
YOU A TERRORIST:  
A BLACK LIVES  
MATTER MEMOIR  
BY PATRISSE KHAN-CULLORS

# 121

RADICAL  
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FEBRUARY 2018

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

CELEBRATING OUR CULTURE, FROM  
ALVIN AILEY TO STEM'S BRIGHTEST STARS





# H I R

## Fana

YEARS IN COMPANY: 5

"If I'm trying to retain moisture, my go-to is always twists," says Fana Tesfagiorgis. Having spent nearly all her life dancing, which includes grueling rehearsals and a demanding tour schedule, Tesfagiorgis opts for a heat-free routine with nourishing products, such as Carol's Daughter Rhassoul Clay Enriching Conditioner (\$14, [carolsdaughter.com](http://carolsdaughter.com)), to help safeguard her strands. "I'm not sure what it is that makes it for active living, but I definitely feel my hair get softer each time I use it," says Tesfagiorgis.

## PROTECT YOUR TRESSES

Preserving a crown of kinks, coils and curls can take its toll on the overall health of your hair.

Three Alvin Ailey dancers share their preferred low-maintenance hairstyles

BY SIRAAD DIRSHE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RODRIGO CID

HAIR: STACEY CICERON. MAKEUP: LUCKY SMYLER/EPHANY ARTIST GROUP. MANICURE: SUNSHINE OUTING. STYLING: AVON DORSEY. FOR CLOTHING DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY.



## Ashley

YEARS IN COMPANY: 2

While styles that cause less stress, such as cornrows, box braids and updos, traditionally take more time to complete than, say, a wash-and-go or ponytail, they often lead you to have a greater understanding of your hair's texture, growth pattern and moisture level. "Finally, we have started to communicate," Ashley Mayeux says of her tresses. "Since I began using castor oil and the manuka oil, I have a better relationship with my hair. And I don't have to do it as often." »





## Constance

YEARS IN COMPANY: 6

The ends—the oldest and most fragile part of the strand—truly benefit from dos that give your locks a break. “I have thick, curly hair,” Constance Stamation says. “I feel like these styles help keep my conditioner’s moisture, and I don’t ever have to worry about my hair coming loose while I’m dancing.” The mom of two has even started teaching her young daughter the art of conservational styling. “I make sure to twist my daughter’s hair every night before she goes to bed. She’s like, ‘This is protecting my hair,’” Stamation says.



A photograph of three African American women in dynamic dance poses against a plain grey background. The woman on the left is in a purple leotard, standing with one leg raised and arms extended. The woman in the center is in a white leotard, in a similar pose with one leg raised and arms extended. The woman on the right is in a red leotard, lying on the floor with her legs raised and arms extended. The title 'The Ailey Legacy Continues' is in the top right corner.

## The Ailey Legacy Continues

Twists and braids are also an ode to our roots, much like Alvin Ailey's eponymous dance company. Each production illustrates the beauty and humanity of our African-American heritage. From now until May, you can see the illustrious troupe bring our rich culture to life at one of its 64 performances in 21 cities nationwide. 2