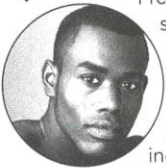


25 to watch

**Yannick Lebrun** →

Dancer, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Chosen by AAADT dancer **Jamar Roberts**, a 2007 "25 to Watch."

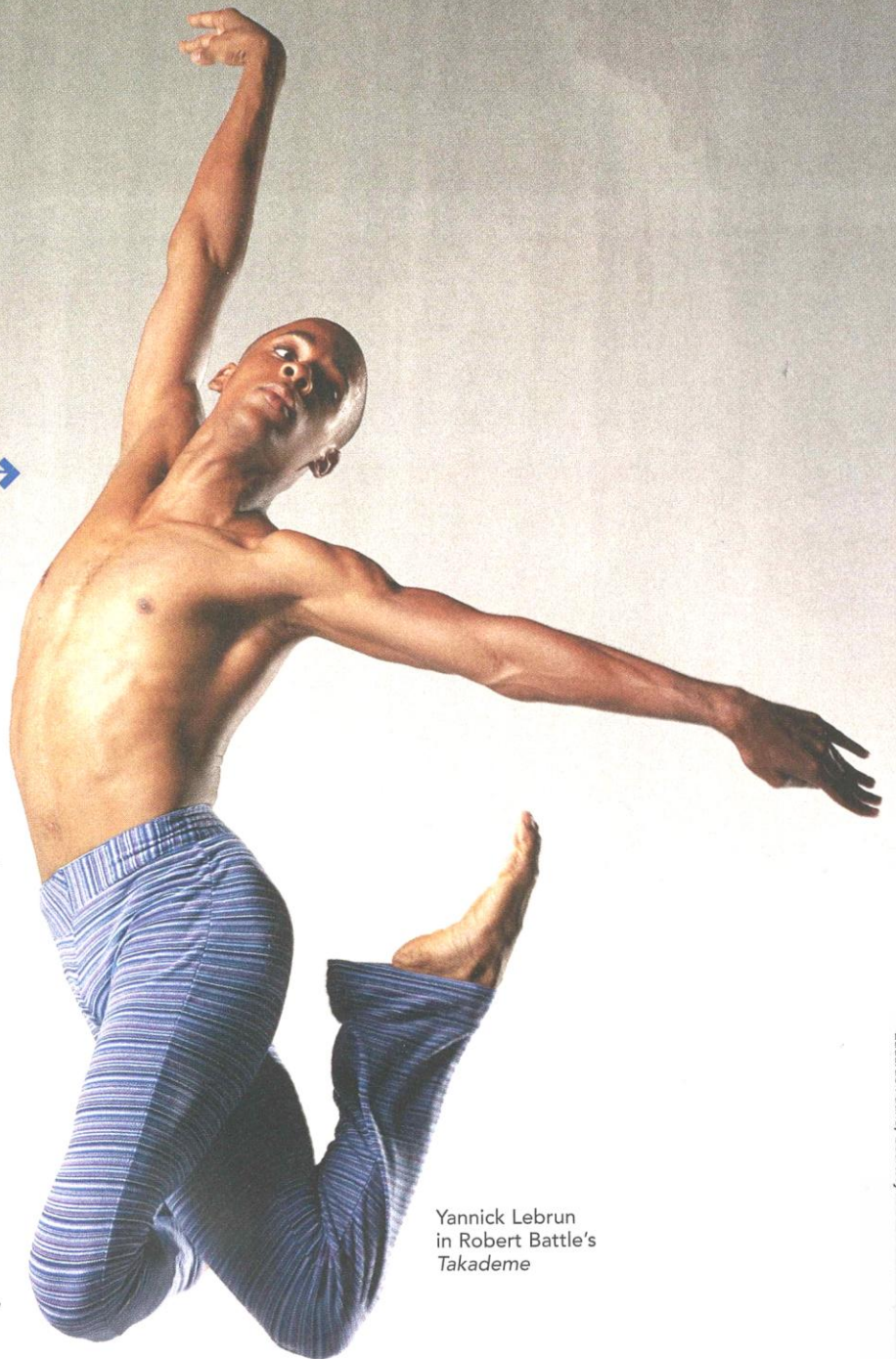


I remember him being this little, scrawny kid in The Ailey School—I mean, just like a pencil. He also did Ailey II, and I saw him perform *Takademe* by Robert Battle. It was so astonishing because he has this really big facility and really wide range of movement in his limbs and extensions. To do a solo that was so quick and contained and be able to control his length—I thought it was brilliant.

In *Festa Barocca* by Mauro Bigonzetti, he does a duet with one of the women. A lot of times the men are overshadowed by the women, but there's a moment when the guy does a small solo, and at that moment, I was like, "Wow—this kid could really be something."

We perform an all men's piece called *The Hunt*, also by Robert Battle. You really need the energy of all the other guys onstage in order to get through that piece, and I remember seeing him across from me during a moment when we improv. And he was just really going for it. I was like, "Wow, that's what I need. Let's go, let's finish this." It's a really good energy to feed off of.

*Yannick is currently performing in Ailey's winter season through Jan. 2 and will perform with Ailey on tour starting in February.*



Yannick Lebrun in Robert Battle's *Takademe*