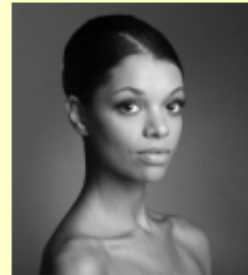


The Touring Life**Ailey II dancer Fana Tesfagiorgis loves taking the company's message abroad.**

Since joining Ailey's second company last summer, Fana Tesfagiorgis has thrived on being a cultural ambassador. The Ailey/Fordham graduate, 23, recently returned from a Europe tour, then set out on a swing through the Midwest. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, Tesfagiorgis loved ballet as a child, but gradually changed her focus at Interlochen Arts Academy when she began to explore modern. "I didn't know you were allowed to move that way," she remembers. Tesfagiorgis looks forward to Ailey II's upcoming two-week run at New York's Ailey Citigroup Theatre, which begins April 6. She spoke with DM's ENews about touring, the New York season, and her dance goals.



What stood out on the tour of the British Isles and Ireland? It was an awakening to see how much is different and yet how much we are all human; we all still shop, eat, enjoy music. On the street in Glasgow near our hotel, there were men in kilts playing drums full out for hours. The music was so aggressive, but beautiful at the same time. They really celebrate their culture in Scotland.

What have been your favorite roles so far in Ailey II? The woman in *Revelations* who holds the umbrella in the section called "Take Me to the Water." That role really speaks to me—I've been through the experience of baptism.

How does it feel to be performing in New York? I'm eager to show my teachers from the Ailey School how I dance now, because they helped make it happen. When you dance professionally, there is a transformation, whether or not you see it in yourself. You take more risks, you play with music, you change things up. Showing that to those who taught me will be nice.

What's your dance dream? Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre is my dream company. I would love to dance there. I also want to teach. During my senior year at Ailey, I got to teach the six-year olds at the school. I like seeing a student's progress from the beginning to the end of class and how they change mentally over the semester. Developing their love for dance feels very fulfilling.

Giveaways Galore!

Great Ailey II Ticket Giveaway! Win a pair of tickets to see Ailey II perform at New York's Ailey-Citigroup Theater on Sunday, April 17 at 7pm. The program includes Donald Byrd's *Shards*, and works by Kyle Abraham and Robert Moses. Click [here](#) to enter.

