

What My Teacher Taught Me Troy Powell

Serving as the director of the 12 young but fiercely talented dancers of Ailey II, Troy Powell has proven to be a vital part of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. After training with the Ailey School since age 9, he danced with the main company for 10 years and has been the associate artistic director of Ailey II since 2003.

Powell says he gained his leadership skills and confidence from his ballet teacher, Walter Raine.

"Walter taught us discipline and how to work and strive for the best. He was very much about the aesthetic of professionalism-- looking neat, finishing combinations, and not leaning on the barre. And he didn't just teach us a million and one steps, but where they came from and where they're going."

"I think he was most influential to me because he was a man. Young male dancers need role models. I am definitely trying to be someone the next generation can look up to."

"Now, when I work with the dancers of Ailey II, I see a bit of him in me. I catch myself repeating things he used to say and sometimes even using his combinations. I definitely take his demand of discipline into my class. As a teacher, you set the tone of the room. Then once they understand the guidelines, it's all about having fun."

Do you live in the New York City area and want to see Ailey II? Keep reading for a chance to win a pair of tickets!

Photo of Troy Powell by Eduardo Patino, courtesy Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



Win Ailey II tickets!

Live in the New York City area? Enter our contest to win two tickets to Ailey II's NYC season at the Ailey Citigroup Theater on Sunday, April 17th at 7pm. The performance will include work by Carlos do Santos, Robert Moses, Kyle Abraham and Donald Byrd.



[Click here](#) and submit all information by April 13 to be eligible to win.

Photo of Ailey II in Donald Byrd's "Shards" by Eduardo Patino, courtesy Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater