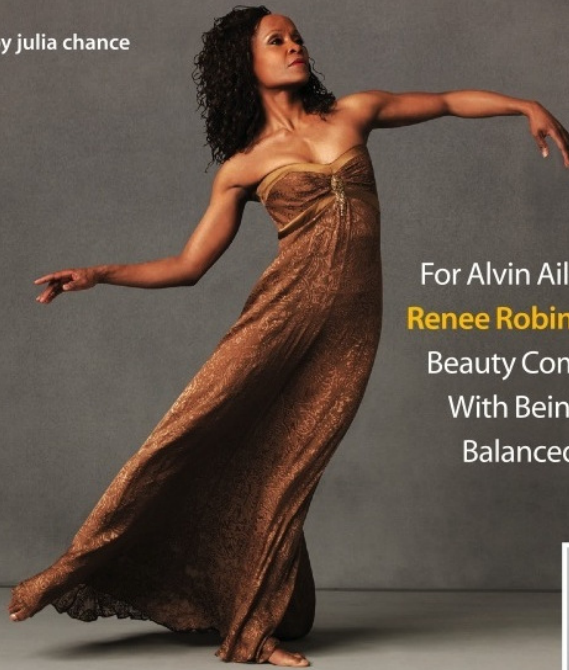


STAR STYLE

by julia chance



For Alvin Ailey's
Renee Robinson,
Beauty Comes
With Being
Balanced

5 Facts About Renee:

- 1 At age 10 she began her training in classical ballet at the Jones-Haywood School of Ballet in her native Washington, D.C.
- 2 She won scholarships to attend the prestigious School of American Ballet and the legendary Dance Theater of Harlem.
- 3 Katherine Dunham, Jerome Robbins, Garth Fagan, Carmen de Lavallade, Judith Jamison and Bill T. Jones are among the stellar choreographers with whom she has worked.
- 4 Before studying at the Ailey School, she attended New York University with plans of becoming an attorney.
- 5 Now in her 28th year with AAADT, her tenure is the longest of any woman in the company.



Dancing Diva

As the principal dancer of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Renee Robinson has led a charmed career. She's danced at an inaugural celebration and a White House dinner, taken the stage at the Kennedy Center Awards, appeared in the PBS televised "A Hymn for Alvin Ailey" and tours regularly throughout the United States and abroad to perform before thousands. As the senior-most member of the renowned dance company, Robinson also had the good fortune of honing her craft under the tutelage of the master himself, the late Alvin Ailey, whom she credits with giving her pearls of wisdom that continue to serve her well today.

She gets the credit, however, for her distinct brand of beauty and style. "Being in a company with its demands and intense travel schedule have taught me to take care of myself," she says. Consequently, she's pragmatic about cosmetics and clothes and is optimistic in her outlook. Here's how she stays stunning and balanced.

✦ I Am What I Eat

Beauty is about looking fresh, alive, sparkling, awake, clear and present. I attribute it to good nutrition. Years ago a nutritionist taught me the importance of eating leafy green veggies, high-fiber foods and fresh-squeezed juices, all of which helps my digestion and works wonders for my skin.

✦ Skin Basics

I don't have a great need to buy a lot of skin care products. I use **Nutribiotic Original Non-Soap Skin Cleanser** for sensitive skin (\$6.79; Whole Foods). I also use **Nutribiotic Tissue Revitalizing Body Creme** (\$14.96; Whole Foods) when I need a moisturizer thicker than the coconut oil I customarily use.

✦ Color Me Beautifully

I'm a fan of **Iman** cosmetics (imancosmetics.com). The pigments are true so you don't need a lot. The foundation goes on well. It even holds up on stage, which says a lot considering the bright lights and perspiration.

✦ Favorite Things

There's something about a clean, crisp white T-shirt that I love. My favorites are those in lightweight cotton or with skinny long sleeves. I'll wear them with a beautiful scarf or a chunky necklace. I also like white button-up blouses by Anne Fontaine (annefontaine.com). They can be kind of pricey, but the investment takes me a long way. I shop H&M and Forever 21 for inexpensive pieces—that's how I offset my Anne Fontaine indulgences!

✦ Footnote

Because I am a firm believer in taking care of my feet, I wear sneakers a lot. I buy mine from The Running Company (therunningcompany.net). They fit your sneakers as if you've come in to have a couture dress made. It's phenomenal!

✦ Catching Zzzzs

Sleep is not over-rated. Do I get enough? No, but I do feel the difference when I get to bed before 11 p.m. I'm clearer and better able to handle challenges that arise. ♥

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is celebrating 50 years of bringing African-American cultural expression and American modern dance tradition to the world's stages. To learn more about where the company will be performing or to shop the Ailey E-Boutique, visit alvinailey.org.

