

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

IN/SIDE (2008)

Choreography by Robert Battle
Music performed by Nina Simone
Lighting by Burke Wilmore



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Samuel Lee Roberts in Robert Battle's *In/Side*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik

The vivid emotions of **Nina Simone**'s "Wild is the Wind" play out in **Robert Battle**'s gripping solo. The bold, unrestrained style that has become his signature is evinced in this visceral cry of pure physicality. The piece, originally commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, was created as part of its annual series "In the Company of Men," a celebration of the spirit of male dancers in New York [in light of the AIDS epidemic]. The ballet was incorporated into the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater repertory in 2009.

Robert Battle, Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, is a graduate of the New World School of the Arts and holds a B.F. A. in dance from The Juilliard School. Mr. Battle was a member of the Parsons Dance Company from 1994 to 2001, where he began setting his work in 1998 and had his choreography featured in five New York City seasons. Founded by Mr. Battle in 2001, Battleworks Dance Company has performed in New York City at the Joyce Theater, St. Mark's Church, Evening Stars, The Juilliard Theater and Dance Theater Workshop. He has been commissioned

for both new and restaged works by numerous companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, River North Chicago, Introdans, Ballet Memphis, Koresh Dance Company and PARADIGM. In 2005, Mr. Battle was honored in the Masters of African-American Choreography program at the Kennedy Center, and in 2007 he received the prestigious Statue Award from The Princess Grace Foundation.

"Mr. Battle is a skilled choreographer, and *In/Side* is a worthy addition to the Ailey repertoire ... people leaped to their feet."

- *The New York Times*

In/Side

Music Credit Information

Song: **Wild Is The Wind**
Lyrics by: **Ned Washington**
Music by: **Dimitri Tiomkin**
Performed by: **Nina Simone**