

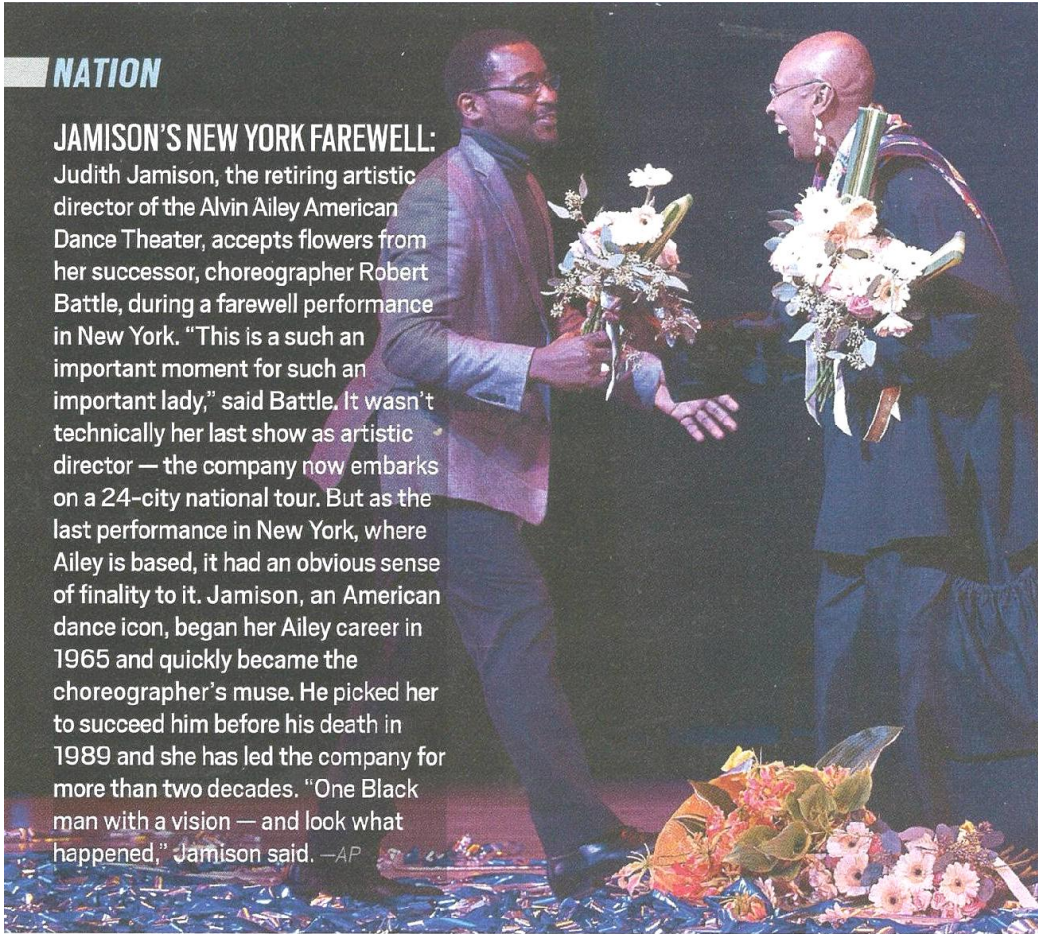
JET

January 24-31, 2011

NATION

JAMISON'S NEW YORK FAREWELL:

Judith Jamison, the retiring artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, accepts flowers from her successor, choreographer Robert Battle, during a farewell performance in New York. "This is a such an important moment for such an important lady," said Battle. It wasn't technically her last show as artistic director — the company now embarks on a 24-city national tour. But as the last performance in New York, where Ailey is based, it had an obvious sense of finality to it. Jamison, an American dance icon, began her Ailey career in 1965 and quickly became the choreographer's muse. He picked her to succeed him before his death in 1989 and she has led the company for more than two decades. "One Black man with a vision — and look what happened," Jamison said. —AP



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER, CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN/AP