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Dance Review Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater ★★☆☆☆

It's a time of transition for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Next year, artistic director Judith Jamison hands over the reins of this dazzling troupe to successor Robert Battle. It's a smart move: *The Hunt* and *In/Side*, two works by Battle, point to a bright future.

Witness Ailey's signature piece, the 50-year-old *Revelations* (starring Glenn Allen Sims, pictured), as the show finale. It's a feel-good gospel classic superbly danced and guaranteed to bring the house down. But it's also a safe option and mighty familiar to anyone who has seen the company before.

The same is true of *Suite Otis*, George W Faison's rather

sugary take on Otis Redding's songs of heartbreak from 1971. The contrast with the percussive *The Hunt* couldn't be sharper. Battle lives up to his name by sending six bare-chested warriors in maxi-skirts into battle, their shoulder-

flexing sparring rippling against the muscle of Les Tambours du Bronx's pounding score. *In/Side*, a solo set to Nina Simone's *Wild Is The Wind*, is even better. These are fresh challenges and the dancers eagerly embrace them.

Keith Watson

Until Sep 25, Sadler's Wells, Tue to Sat 7.30pm, Sat mats 2.30pm, Sun 4pm, £10 to £40. Tel: 0844 412 4300.

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