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## SOUTH FLORIDA EXTRA

### THE ARTS

# Miami native to lead Ailey dance troupe

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BATTLE

Choreographer Robert Battle, a Liberty City native and graduate of Miami's New World School of the Arts, has been named artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the most famous and popular dance troupes in the world.

The New York-based modern dance company of 30 dancers, founded by African-American choreographer Alvin Ailey in 1958, has a \$26 million budget, tours nationally and internationally each year, and operates a school, a junior company and outreach programs around the United States.

Battle, 37, will succeed current artistic director Judith Jamison, a former star soloist with the Ailey troupe who has led the company for 20 years.

The company will perform May 20 to 23 at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami, and the programs will include *In/Side*, one of the nine dances that Battle has choreographed for the Ailey company.