

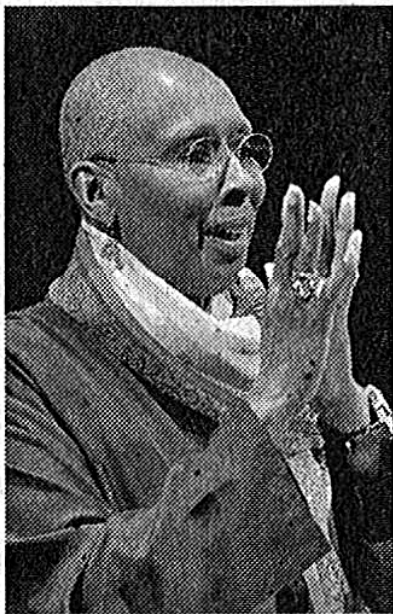
The New York Times

THE Arts

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2009

Ailey's 2009 New York Season to Honor Jamison

How do you pay tribute to **Judith Jamison**? With a lot of dancing, of course. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is celebrating Ms. Jamison's 20th year as artistic director with a



five-week season in her honor, running from Dec. 2 through Jan. 3 at City Center. A few of the highlights of the engagement include a world premiere by **Ronald K. Brown** about Ms. Jamison, left; an appearance by the actress **Anna Deavere Smith**; a new work inspired by the Harlem Renaissance by a company veteran, **Matthew Rushing**; and a new ballet by Ms. Jamison set to original jazz compositions by **Eric Lewis**. The company will also present the premiere of **Robert Battle's** "In/Side," with music by Nina Simone, and a "Best of 20 Years" program featuring many of the nearly 100 ballets that Ms. Jamison commissioned or revived

during her tenure. The opening night gala will be hosted by **Pauletta Washington** and **Denzel Washington**. Ms. Jamison announced last year that she would retire in 2011.

JULIE BLOOM