

The Miami Herald

December 26, 2010

Dance

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The dance scene was marked by the growth of grass-roots talent, with the emergence of young artists such as Ana Mendez, Letty Bassart, and Rudi Goblen - often mixing in other genres like theater and performance - and creative underground venues such as Heather Maloney's Inkub8 Studio in Wynwood. After hard financial knocks in 2009, Miami City Ballet came back to kick off its 25th anniversary with a bigger budget, juicy premieres and a stellar school producing the next generation of dancers.

TOP FIVE

1. Leader: Liberty City native Robert Battle was announced as the next leader of the fabled Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of America's leading dance institutions, assuming the mantle of Ailey and current artistic director Judith Jamison. Coupled with the troupe's yearly, popular appearances here, Battle's appointment could mean a fertile connection to Miami.

2. Choreographer: Rosie Herrera's provocative *Pity Party*, commissioned by the Adrienne Arsht Center and the American Dance Festival, premiered at the festival in Durham, N.C.; with this haunting sophomore work, Herrera proves she's a talent to watch for the long run.

3. Innovation: The Merce Cunningham Dance Company's *The Event* at the Arsht Center, with its wonderfully disorienting environment, put audience and dancers together onstage and brought the culture-changing choreographer, who died in 2009, back to magical life.

4. Sensory: The theatrically and visually stunning (and richly sensual) performance by Mexico's Tania Perez-Salas *Compania de Danza* projected a very different vision of Mexican culture.

5. Talent: The performances by Chicago's Hubbard Street Dance in a powerful, challenging repertory gave us a too-rare glimpse of top-flight contemporary dance.