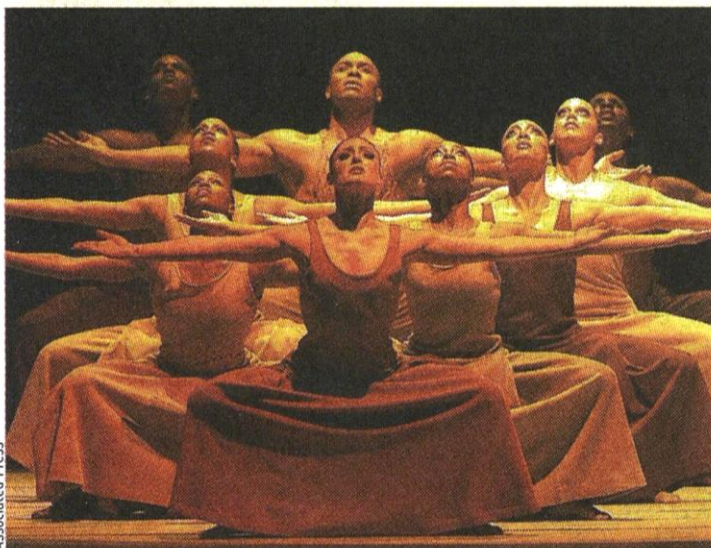


August 1, 2011

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Culture Count



Associated Press

Alvin Ailey troupe members perform 'Revelations' in Detroit in 2009.

### 'Revelations' Reverberates

"Revelations" had its debut Jan. 31, 1960, at the 92nd St Y, after which it became the signature choreographic piece for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the most performed work of contemporary modern dance in the world. Ailey II, AAADT's junior company, will perform it at Celebrate Brooklyn! on Aug. 6.

Company member Solomon Dumas, 22 years old, had seen "Revelations," mostly on video, "in the hundreds of times" before performing it with Ailey II. "I used to watch it religiously," he said.

Mr. Dumas first saw the piece live at 12 through a free Ailey outreach program. "To be quite honest, I had never been exposed to dance, and I wasn't interested," he said. "My mother insisted I go."

His first impression? "I was

amazed. I was just blown away."

He estimates he has performed "Revelations" more than 50 times. "I never get tired of doing it," he said. "It's beyond the steps; it speaks to humanity."

In 2008, a Barbie doll was fashioned from the likeness of artistic director Judith Jamison's performance in "Revelations." When asked whether the world was ready for a corresponding Ken doll, Mr. Dumas wasn't so sure. "Men and dance, certain people still can't wrap their heads around it," he said. "But I don't think it would be a bad idea."

Saturday's show in Prospect Park is free, and in addition to "Revelations," Mr. Dumas will perform a solo, "Doscongio," by the choreographer Robert Moses. "Hopefully someone will be blown away," he said.

—Lizzie Simon


Since making its debut at the 92nd Street Y on Jan. 31, 1960, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 'Revelations' has become the most performed work of contemporary modern dance in the world.


On Aug. 6, the theater's junior company, Ailey II, will perform the piece at Celebrate Brooklyn!


Here's a look at a 'Revelations' résumé:

AUDIENCE TO DATE   
**23** MILLION


LARGEST LIVE AUDIENCE   
**6,000**


SMALLEST LIVE AUDIENCE   
**275**

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES   
**71**

MOST DANCERS PERFORMING IT   
**50**

PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE SEEN IT LIVE   
**8**

— TV NETWORK APPEARANCES  
— FEWEST DANCERS PERFORMING IT   
**6**

— BARBIE DOLLS MADE OF 'REVELATIONS' DANCERS  
— OLYMPIC CEREMONIES   
**1**