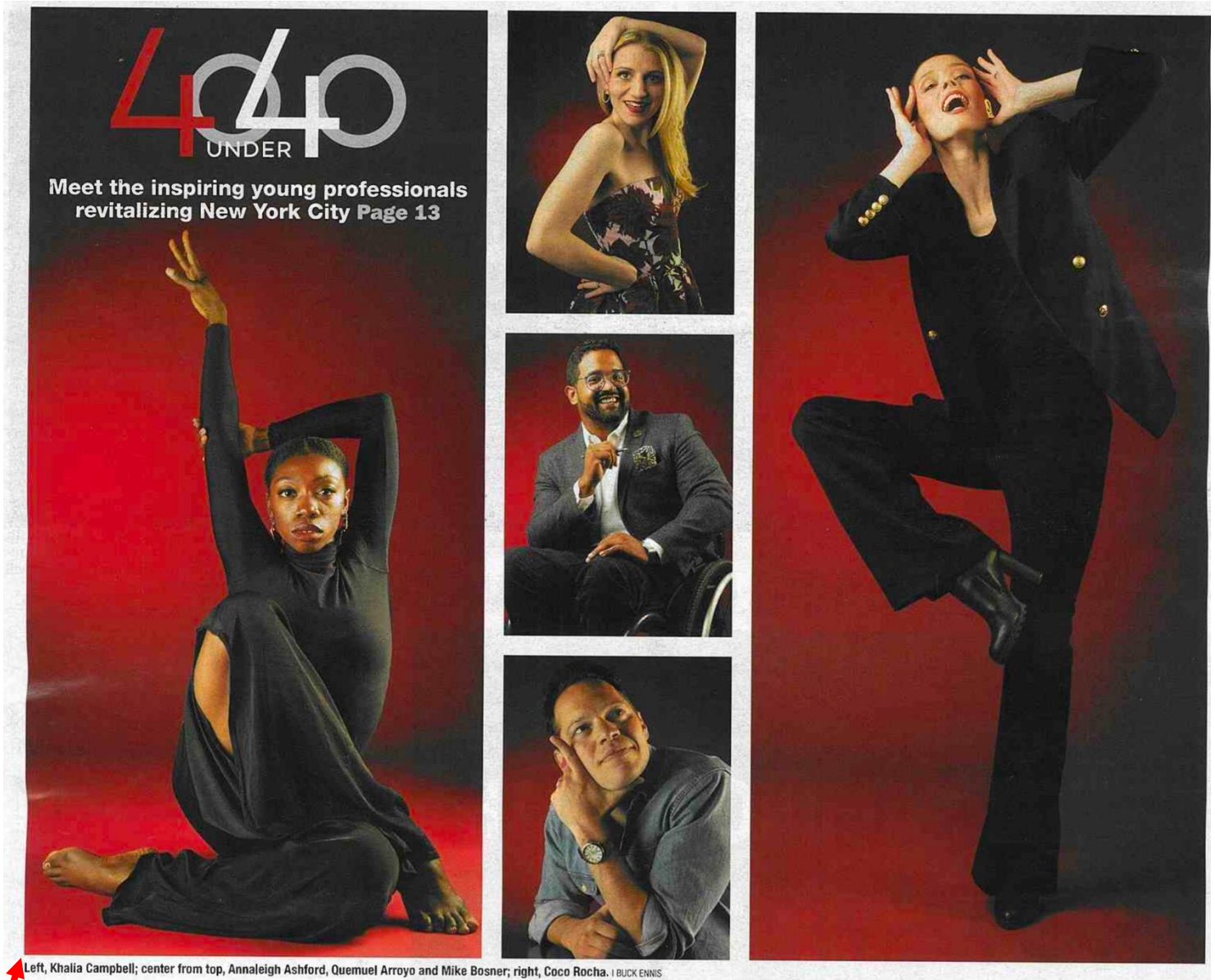


CRAIN'S NEW YORK BUSINESS

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By: Aaron Elstein
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40 UNDER 40

Meet the class of 2023

New Yorkers really know how to get stuff done, and the young professionals on the following pages are no exception. They each have climbed the corporate ladder, at times charting a new path where one never existed. They are solving essential city issues such as getting rid of rats, prioritizing constituent needs in local government, and helping their clients strategize and make deals in the legal and real estate spaces. They are also leaving their stamp on the arts and Broadway, assisting their fellow New Yorkers in attaining affordable housing and advising other entrepreneurs in finding success.

Crain's 2023 class of 40 Under 40 honorees includes some of the most talented young people in New York. Read on to be inspired by the professionals doing the hard work well.

—TELISHA BRYAN, MANAGING EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BUCK ENNIS
CrainsNewYork.com/awards/40under40

40 UNDER 40

Khalia Campbell, 30

Company member, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

People search for inspiration in all sorts of places. Khalia Campbell found it on a city bus.

The South Bronx native remembers seeing members of the renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater ride to work and vowed one day she'd travel with them. She joined the company in 2018.

"It felt familiar," she said.

Dance has been a part of her since before she was born. She started kicking whenever her father, a Prince fan and DJ, played music next to her pregnant mother. He died in an accident when she was 1. Her mother, a Fairway supermarket manager, cultivated her daughter's talent, and by age 3, Campbell was on the church dance team. At 4, she led classes when the teacher didn't show up on time.

Doors started opening when she landed at LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and Performing Arts. There was Dance Theatre of Harlem, a tour of Taiwan with the musical version of *Aida*, *The Wiz* at Central Park SummerStage and a stint with Ailey's junior company, among other roles. She just completed a European tour with Ailey, and a monthlong run at City Center is next. *The Washington Post* called her work "statuesque and lyrical."

About the only thing she regrets is bypassing college at age 18 to dance professionally. She got wait-listed and didn't want to wait. But now she's only one semester short of her degree and keen to learn the business side of the performing arts so she can bring the stories in her mind to the stage and provide opportunities for newcomers.

In her spare time, her workout music is gospel, and she volunteers at her Midtown church to help others learn how dance can get them in touch with God.

"My purpose in life is to uplift people," she said.

—AARON ELSTEIN

“My purpose in life is to uplift people.”