

DANCE[®]

magazine

Introducing Our 2025 “25 to Watch”

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Where is the dance field headed next? The dancers, choreographers, directors, and companies on our annual “25 to Watch” list offer heartening, imaginative, exciting possible answers to that question. Whether or not you’re already familiar with these up-and-comers, our editors and contributors from across the dance world predict that we’ll be hearing a lot more from these artists on the verge of a breakout in 2025 and beyond.

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Isaiah Day

Dancer, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Graduating with a contract offer from a major dance company is a dream for many college students. Isaiah Day already had a full season with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under his belt when he graduated from The Juilliard School in May.

It’s clear why Ailey wanted him. The 22-year-old matches high-flying power with an inherent elegance, an enchanting combination that came to the fore during his first New York City Center home season with Ailey in December 2023. Cast in the “Sinner Man” section of Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations*, Day hit a perfect balance between silvery articulation and red-hot combustion, delivering a precisely modulated performance alongside veteran dancers Christopher R.

Wilson and Kanji Segawa.

Originally from Chicago, Day studied at Hubbard Street’s Youth Dance Program and The Chicago Academy for the Arts, and was named a YoungArts winner in modern/contemporary dance in 2019. Midway through his second season with Ailey, he’s just beginning. “Dance,” he says, “is my best friend.”

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