



Ailey II sharing African American culture through modern dance

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<https://www.wdbj7.com/2025/09/25/ailey-ii-sharing-african-american-culture-through-modern-dance/> (3:25)

RADFORD, Va. (WDBJ) - The [Ailey II Dance Company](#) will perform at Radford University Friday, September 26, as part of the University's Performance Series.

Dance has a way of evoking emotion and telling stories through movement. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and the Ailey II Dance Company in New York continue this tradition by inviting generations of dancers to share the African American experience with audiences worldwide through modern dance.

"The importance of showing our culture, Black culture in dance, is all about visibility and legacy," said Ailey II dancer Xhosa Scott.

Since its first concert in 1958, the [Ailey Company](#), founded by legendary choreographer Alvin Ailey, has made a global impact through performances, training, classes, and community programs.

"Mr. Ailey founded this company to tell stories that weren't being told on major stages at the time, through movement that wasn't being seen at the time. To show the beauty, resilience, and humanity of Black people and culture throughout modern dance and movement is something I think helps us all push the history forward," said Scott.

Xhosa Scott, a Richmond native and University of Virginia alum, found his love for dance at a young age. He received a dance scholarship and attended a performing arts high school. After college, he auditioned for the Ailey II Dance Company in New York.

"It's a place I never thought I'd end up being, especially growing up and hearing my mom talk about all the stories of Ailey and how she was involved with them when she was a kid growing up in New York. I was called as an apprentice to perform on tour with them that year. So that was a really enlightening experience to jump into the environment that I was looking forward to, but still felt daunting to me. This is my second year in the company as a full-time member," said Scott.

Currently on tour, Ailey II's first stop is Radford University.

"Not only is this bringing the arts to our community, but also bringing a cultural experience that, depending on where people are living here, they might or might not have had a chance to experience themselves. So you can see within one concert kind of the history, the tradition, and then where we are now," said Radford University Dance Department Chair James Robey.

"Even though the foundation is in Black culture, the themes of joy, struggle, defeat, faith, and hope all speak to humanity, which belongs to everyone," said Scott.

Scott said performing in his home state is a full-circle moment that he doesn't take for granted.

"Being able to contribute to one of Mr. Ailey's most recurring quotes, which is, 'dance came from the people and should always be brought back to the people,' is something that I really cherish at this moment, and I hope to inspire," said Scott. The performance will be held in Bondurant Auditorium at Radford University beginning at 7:30 pm. Purchase tickets [here](#).