

Alvin Ailey Dancers Take BCC to the next level

By Antoinette Kerr



above: SHSBCC program coordinator/publicist Ange-Marie Hancock and Nelson Cabassa, Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble.

below: Bradley Shelver of the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble and Opeyo! Modern members at the Ailey master class.
photos: Delvin Davis

With precision, technique and soulful expression, the student dancers of the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble glorified the vision of the Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center. This sold-out performance on Friday, February 5th at 8p.m. in UNC's Memorial Hall, raised \$25, 000 for a free-standing Black Cultural Center.

In 1974, choreographer, Alvin Ailey created the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble to complement the professional Dance Theater. Each of the twelve repertory members were selected from the Alvin Ailey Dance Center in New York, N.Y.

The Ensemble allows tal-

ented students, selected by Artistic Director Sylvia Walters, to travel the world teaching masters classes and performing pieces that represent Black culture. Each performance varies from one program to the next. This performance included Ailey's signature piece, Revelations, which explores elements of the southern Black Christian tradition.

SHSBCC Program Coordinator/Publicist Ange-Marie Hancock said the Ailey dancers were chosen as a fundraiser because they exhibit the themes of the Black Cultural Center, especially through their performance of Revelations.

The dancers spent that Saturday teaching children involved in the SHSBCC program and OPEYO! dance techniques. "We choose the Repertory Ensemble because they are students," said Hancock. "They were able to relate to the students better because they are so young."

BSM Liaison Eboni Staton said she enjoyed interpreting the dancers performance. "It was beautiful and I tried to figure out the story in every dance," said Staton. "It was the best use of \$30 that I have spent at Carolina."

