

# "THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATRE: STEPS AHEAD" TO AIR ON PBS



"Episodes," is an electrifying work choreographed by former Ailey dancer Ulysses Dove.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre celebrates its past and its future with two con-

trasting works that show off this celebrated company of dancers to dazzling effect. The

company's namesake and inspiration, the late Alvin Ailey, is represented by "For Bird—With

Love," a work dedicated to an artist who inspired him — Charlie "Bird" Parker. The future of

the company is represented by "Episodes," a new work from Ailey protégé and rising choreographic talent, Ulysses Dove.

"For Bird — With Love" is a full-company work choreographed in 1984 by Ailey, one of the giants of modern dance. It is a tribute to jazz great Charlie "Bird" Parker, illustrating periods of his life in dance, set to bebop recordings of the 1940s and 1950s, including "The Song Is You," "A Night In Tunisia" and "Cherry Red."

"Episodes" explores the complexity of human relationships through a dance of siz-

zing sexuality and explosive energy choreographed by former Ailey dancer Ulysses Dove, to an electric score by Robert Ruggieri. Writer Anna Kisselgoff, of *The New York Times*, hailed this as "the kind of choreography that propels young audiences to their feet and sets them screaming."

The program is introduced by one of Ailey's favorite dancers and the company's new artistic director, Judith Jamison, and will air on Friday, February 8, at 9:00 p.m. E.T. (check local listings)

## AKA Black History PSAs Feature Miss America 1991

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) has produced five 30-second public service announcements (PSA) featuring Miss America 1991, Marjorie Judith Vincent. The spots will be aired this month on radio stations throughout the nation as part of Black History Month events.

Designed to encourage listeners to learn more about black historical movements and contributions, the spots focus on the black church, black colleges, the civil rights movement, Greek-letter organizations, and black inventors.

The PSAs — a first for AKA — are part of the organization *Black Family* program target, which has as one of its goals helping youths build self esteem. "We must help our children understand that we have a proud heritage and we are a proud people," said Mary Shy Scott, international AKA president.

Thus, when the project was conceived, AKA wanted a spokesman who not only had high visibility, but who was also a positive role model for youths, Mrs. Scott said.

"Marjorie's visibility as Miss America made her a logical choice, but more importantly, her feats as an artist and as Miss America give youths hope that their dreams, too, can come true; and that made her ideal," Mrs. Scott said.

Ms. Vincent said she wanted to do the spots because they will help provide a greater under-

standing of black historical movements and contributions,

but that she was even more excited when she learned that

AKA was sponsoring the project. "That's my sorority," she said.

The PSAs will be available through Feb. 28, and stations which do not receive them may request the PSAs by calling (803) 536-3261.

### "THE ROAD TO LAS VEGAS: A BLACK PERSPECTIVE"

"The Road to Las Vegas: A Black Perspective" narrated by Greg Morris airs Sunday, February 17 at 2:30 and repeats Monday, February 18 at 12:30 p.m.

The program documents the migration of black families from Tallulah, Louisiana, and Fordyce, Arkansas, to Las Vegas and depicts the continuity, adaptation, and change of families from these two communities as they migrate to the new and different environment of Las Vegas.

Viewers will come to understand, through close observation of experiences of the Fordyce/Tallulah to Las Vegas groups, special features of the African-American cultural heritage.

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