



Dance #7



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT)

Venue: Opera House, Kennedy Center, WDC

Date: February 8, 2017

Brief Synopsis: One of the world's favorite dance companies, AAADT grew from a now-fabled performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street YMHA (Hebrew) in New York City. What makes this phenomenal dance company so special is the talent and skill of its dancers – and the incomparable sense of joy, freedom, and spirit they share with audiences around the world. On this night, AAADT performed: Deep (DC premier), After The Rain Pas De Deux, Untitled America (DC premier), and its signature Revelations.

Impressions:

AAADT is always a joy to see perform, and this was no exception. Frequently, the three or four choreographed pieces will include ballet, modern, African, Jazz, R&B, and hip-hop dance styles, which illustrate the flexibility and strength (and bodies!) of its dancers, as well as very tender, sensual, and romantic moods. I first saw AAADT perform in 2006 in the Bay area on a whim and, not being especially a huge fan of dance, was blown away!!! I've seen them every year since. Initially, I tired of seeing "Revelations," which always concludes the performances. Then years later during a performance, I finally got it! "Revelations" is such a powerful piece about African/Black folks' spiritual journey and strong faith from the Middle Passage through slavery to post-slavery. I often hum the many spirituals from Alvin Ailey's most famous piece...