Alvin Ailey Jr.

October 1, 2009 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

born: January 5, 1931
died: December 1, 1989

“I am trying to show the world that we are all human beings and that color is not important. What is important is the quality of our work.”
-Alvin Ailey Jr.

Alvin Ailey Jr. is an official honoree today for GLBT History Month 2009.

He was renowned as both a dancer and choreographer. He founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, combining ballet and jazz with modern and African dance.

Ailey made his Broadway debut in 1954 and established his dance theater in 1957. He created 79 original works for his company.

He died from AIDS-related complications at age 58.

Click here for more about Alvin Ailey Jr.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.