

Mentor Text 4

Alvin Ailey: The Remarkable Dancer

Alvin Ailey was the most influential dancer of his time. On January 5, 1931, Alvin Ailey was born in Texas. When he was a boy, Alvin went to church and watched people sing and clap. The music and movement inspired him.

Life was hard for the dancer's family. Some people were prejudiced against them because of the color of their skin. Still, Alvin found joy in dance. He took classes and practiced every day.

Alvin wanted everyone to see how remarkable African American culture was. In 1958, he started his own dance company called The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. His legacy lives on today in the many dancers he influenced.