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Ailey II performance at BergenPAC offers glimpse of the future

By: ROBERT JOHNSON

In addition to those already mentioned, Deidre Rogan and Jacoby Pruitt stand out in a performance of “Fix Me, Jesus” contrasting her solidity with his otherworldliness, while Nathaniel Hunt brings clarity and poignancy to the delicately balanced solo “I Wanna Be Ready.” Seeing a young person in that role, it becomes less about a mature man facing death than about a boy struggling to remain pure. This distinction is important and affecting, because we know that even if the soloist in “I Wanna Be Ready” succeeds in resisting the world’s temptations, the fact he has experienced them means he already has lost his innocence; and because that very transition from child to man plants the seed of his eventual mortality.