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New York dance troupe Ailey II comes to JMU

By Rebecca Josephson | The Breeze Apr 1, 2015

After dancing all over the globe, coming to JMU to perform felt nostalgic to first-year Ailey II dancer Nathaniel Hunt.

"I went to a college university for my undergraduate [degree]," Hunt said. "It kind of felt like an old reminiscing of my college days, especially teaching a master class."

Today, Hunt considers Alvin Ailey guest artist and rehearsal director Matthew Rushing to be the mentor that inspires him.

"Matthew is so soulful, which is why his movement quality is so euphoric and enriching," Hunt said. "It really makes me think about my own quality as a dancer. I feel like Matthew has a spiritual connection when he is dancing, which makes me want to dive into my dancing and into my spiritual connection."

After teaching one of the master classes for dance majors on Monday, Hunt said his goal is to inspire the students.

"I would like them to know they have something special and that something never needs to be proven, never needs to be judged," Hunt said. "It just needs to be shared because everyone has something special."