

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robert Battle

PERSON

Battle, Robert, 1972-

**Alternative Names:** Battle, Robert

**Life Dates:** August 28, 1972-

**Place of Birth:** Jacksonville, Florida

**Residence:** New York, New York

**Occupations:** Dancer; Choreographer;

## Biographical Note

Dancer and choreographer Robert Louis Battle was born on August 28, 1972 in Jacksonville, Florida to Marie Battle. Three weeks after his birth, Battle was adopted by his great-uncle Willie Horne. He was raised by Horne and his daughter Dessie Horne. Battle started dancing in high school and graduated from the New World School of Arts in Miami, Florida. He went on to attend The Julliard School, where he graduated in 1994. Battle joined Parsons Dance Company where he performed and choreographed for the next seven years. During this time, Battle also choreographed his first piece for an Alvin Ailey Foundation dance company; the piece was entitled "Mood Indigo" and was performed by the Ailey II Company in 1999.

In 2001, Battle left Parsons to found Battleworks Dance Company, a company he directed for the next nine years. During this time, Battle developed a close relationship with the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, choreographing his first piece for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, "Juba", in 2003, and working alongside Judith Jamison and hip-hop choreographer Rennie Harris to create "Love Stories" in 2004. He continued to provide material for the group and conduct workshops at the Alvin Ailey School from 2006 until 2008. In 2010, Battle's work with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater culminated in the announcement by Judith Jamison, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, that Battle would succeed her as the company's artistic director in July of 2011.

Battle was named as one of the Masters of African American Choreography by the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in 2005, and has received numerous other awards for professional excellence. He has performed or choreographed for venues such as the Joyce Theater, the American Dance Festival, the Dance Theater Workshop, and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Robert Battle was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 27, 2010.

## Related Entries

**Battle, Marie** [CHILD\_OF]  
Mother

**Horne, Willie** []  
Great Uncle

**Horne, Anna** []  
Great Aunt

**Williams, Dessie Horne** [COUSIN\_OF]  
Cousin

**Coleman, Louis** [CHILD\_OF]  
Father

**Miami Northwestern Senior High School** [STUDENT\_OF]  
[from ? to ?]

**New World School Of The Arts** [STUDENT\_OF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**The Juilliard School** [STUDENT\_OF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.F.A.**

**Parsons Dance Company** [EMPLOYEE\_OF]  
[from 1994 to 2001]

**Dancer and Choreographer**

**Battleworks Dance Company** [EMPLOYEE\_OF]  
[from 2002 to 2010]

**Founder, Choreographer**

**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** [EMPLOYEE\_OF]  
[from 2011 to ?]

**Artistic Director**