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Arts, Briefly

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Ailey II Artistic Director to Retire

Another changing of the guard is taking place at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. **Sylvia Waters**, below, the longtime artistic director of Ailey II, will retire on June 30, the company plans to announce Thursday. Ms. Waters began her career with the company as a dancer in 1968, and Mr. Ailey chose her to lead the junior troupe in 1974. She went on to guide young dancers for nearly four decades, including **Robert Battle**, the company's new artistic director. Ms. Waters has named **Troy Powell**, a teacher, choreographer and former dancer, as her successor. Mr. Powell has served as the associate artistic director of Ailey II since 2003. As part of its coming City Center season, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will pay tribute to Ms. Waters with a special performance on Dec. 11. She plans to remain involved after her retirement, leading the Ailey Legacy Residency, a new lecture, technique and repertory program for college-level students. "I've been here for a long time, decades actually, and it's really been a glorious journey," Ms. Waters said. "The track record of those who have moved into the professional dance world is extremely good. They're living through dance, and that's what I always dreamed of doing." *JULIE BLOOM*