



Arts & Culture

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Star material

Some inner-city youths take to the midtown stage

If you're not familiar with the All Stars Project, you should be. Now in its 26th year, this nonprofit organization nurtures the creative side of the city's less privileged children through a variety of programs and performances — all with the help of members of the professional artistic community. Featuring nine dancers from around the city, their latest show, *Homeland Security: Bringing Dr. King Up to Date*, explores questions and frustrations plaguing young people in New York since 9/11/01. Dancers go through a range of motions from nurturing and gentle to explosively powerful to almost violent as they journey through their emotions about



September 11, civil rights and what homeland security means to them. Ambitious? Very. But the strong lighting, commanding choreography and the video backdrop of quotes and pictures of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. make for a fascinating and riveting performance that any New Yorker of any age will be moved by. Plus, it's choreographed and directed by Complexions founder and former Alvin Ailey dancer Desmond Richardson, so you can expect to see top-quality dance by talented teens. Ages 8 and up.

— Katharine Rust

Fri. 16, Sat 17 at 7:30pm; Sun 18 at 2pm. Through April 1. Castillo Theatre, 543 W 42nd St. between Tenth and Eleventh Aves (212-941-1234, allstars.org). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St–Port Authority. \$30-\$35.