

Brenda Dixon Gottschild

WRITER ON DANCE AND CULTURE

bdixongottschild.com

Meet Brenda...



Brenda is a cultural historian, performer, and choreographer who uses dance as a way to measure the pulse of society and the barometer of culture. She considers her work social artistry, having dance at the center of her life and practice. Brenda has used her academic background as a professor of dance and culture to create artistic mediums for the community in which racism, gender, and society are questioned and brought to the forefront of discussions. To demonstrate, she uses her own dancing body and audience volunteers as crucial components in her presentations. Brenda's work has moved increasingly toward airing the dilemmas and celebrating the aspirations of black performers, while also engaging all people in a conversation, a 'teaching moment,' on race.

Her past publications include *The Black Dancing Body: A Geography from Coon to Cool* (Palgrave Macmillan), *Waltzing in the Dark: African American Vaudeville and Race Politics in the Swing Era* (Palgrave Macmillan), and *Digging the Africanist Presence in American Performance: Dance and Other Contexts* (Praeger).

Brenda's choreographic work is often in collaboration with her husband, dancer/choreographer Hellmut Gottschild, with whom she has created and performed "Stick it Out" (1993), "Frogs" (1996), and "Tongue Smell Color" (2000). They continue to perform "Tongue Smell Color" internationally. A former *Dance Magazine* consultant and writer for 26 years, Brenda wrote features and reviews on a range of topics from the Pennsylvania Ballet to hip-hop. She is Professor Emerita of dance studies, Temple University.

In 2009, Brenda received a Leeway Foundation Transformation Award For Art and Social Change. In 2008, she was the recipient of the Congress on Research in Dance Award for Outstanding Leadership in Dance Research. In 2008, she was also granted an award from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance to begin work on a book about Joan Myers Brown (JMB) and her legacy. And in February 2011, Brenda again received funding from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance to complete researching and writing this book, now entitled *Joan Myers Brown & The Audacious Hope of The Black Ballerina - A Biohistory of American Performance*.

Joan Myers Brown & The Audacious Hope of the Black Ballerina

A BIOHISTORY OF AMERICAN PERFORMANCE

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