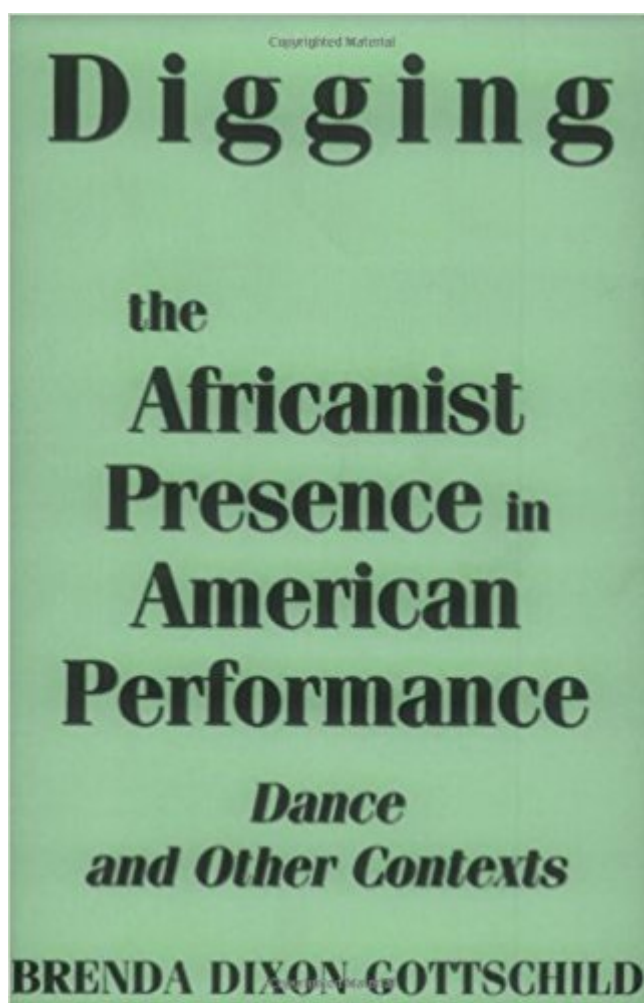


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# Digging The Africanist Presence In American Performance: Dance And Other Contexts



## Synopsis

This ground-breaking work brings dance into current discussions of the African presence in American culture. Dixon Gottschild argues that the Africanist aesthetic has been invisibilized by the pervasive force of racism. This book provides evidence to correct and balance the record, investigating the Africanist presence as a conditioning factor in shaping American performance, onstage and in everyday life. She examines the Africanist presence in American dance forms particularly in George Balanchine's Americanized style of ballet, (post)modern dance, and blackface minstrelsy. Hip hop culture and rap are related to contemporary performance, showing how a disenfranchised culture affects the culture in power.

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"[This book] takes on the interesting subject of how the African American culture has made a difference to art in America--what this difference is and how it is manifest. Gottschild's subject is the saturation of America with the African....Gotschild focuses on dance but includes the minstrel stage, jazz, vaudeville, Gangsta Rap, the 19th-century 'Hottentot Venus' (the pejoratively named African woman who was brought to England and displayed as a freak), performance criticism, and Native American powwow. A freewheeling writer, Gottschild often segues into a general discussion of racism and its impact on the performing arts in pointing out the locations of African influence in American performance....[a] welcome addition to a burgeoning literature on African American performance. Recommended for all academic collections."-Choice

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Written with dynamism, passion, and perception on a subject of central importance to all of us, this powerful book makes us ponder issues we took for granted. It deserves a broad readership."- Lawrence W. Levine, Margaret Byrne Professor of History, Emeritus University of California, Berkeley

Brenda Dixon Gottschild makes a powerful case for an African presence in modern American ballet and in dance generally, and...brings the black aesthetic, in theoretical terms, ever nearer one's reach. [This text is] a dance of the intellect."-Sterling Stuckey, Presidential Chair Professor of History and Religious Studies University of California, Riverside

Dr. Dixon Gottschild's voice is convincing because of her eclectic documentation and it is touching as well because of the human experiences the reader is drawn into within the related responses of her students, her colleagues, herself, and her antagonists. She is always clear about specific objectives, leaving tempting tangents, yet incorporating the thinking of scholars and learned others in multiple disciplines--definitely in a creole mode that is rich, colorful, and not easily discounted."- Yvonne Daniel, Associate Professor of Dance Anthropology Smith College and the Five College Dance Consortium

This ground-breaking work brings dance into current discussions of the African presence in

American culture. Dixon Gottschild argues that the Africanist aesthetic has been "invisibilized" by the pervasive force of racism. The book provides evidence to correct and balance the record, investigating the Africanist presence as a conditioning factor in shaping American performance, onstage and in everyday life. She examines the Africanist presence in American dance forms particularly in George Balanchine's Americanized style of ballet, (post)modern dance, and blackface minstrelsy. Hip hop culture and rap are related to contemporary performance, showing how a disenfranchised culture affects the culture in power. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Good information and perspective.

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