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"WE NOT ONLY DANCE THE BLUES, BUT WE PERFORM MODERN DANCE TOO"

Trudy Cobb Dennard MFA

MFA, Associate Professor of Dance, Western Michigan University

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"WE NOT ONLY DANCE THE BLUES, BUT WE PERFORM MODERN DANCE TOO"

TRUDY COBB DENNARD, MFA

MFA, Associate Professor of Dance, Western Michigan University

What is Black Dance? Do ballet, jazz and modern dance performed by African American companies differ from the same concert dance idioms performed by predominantly white companies? If so, how does it differ? Why have dance writers historically referred to concert dance by African Americans in a different manner?

Presenter:

Trudy Cobb Dennard is an Associate Professor of Dance at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She earned her Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance from the University of Michigan. She has studied many styles and techniques of dance including Dunham Technique with Clifford Fears, jazz with Pepsi Bethel and Bucket Technique with Garth Fagan. She also toured and performed with The Bucket Dance Theatre. Prior to joining the dance faculty at WMU, Trudy Cobb was associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Arts and Sciences and head of dance at SUNY Binghamton. She has been a guest artist and faculty member at Memphis State University, an adjunct professor at SUNY Brockport, and through the National Faculty Exchange Program, she was a visiting Professor at Arizona State University. Ms. Cobb has collaborated with several other artists, directed "Ain't Misbehavin'" for the Cider Mill Playhouse (NY), choreographed "Purlie" for the Phoenix Black Theater Troupe and "Once On This Island" for the Kalamazoo Civic Black Theatre. She choreographs, performs and teaches throughout Michigan. She has served as vice President of the National Dance Education Association, has served on numerous boards and is frequently invited to present on the arts, dance and education at conferences and dance festivals across the country.