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**[THE CDSM SENTINEL](#)**  
**[COALITION OF DIASPORAN SCHOLARS MOVING – FALL 2013](#)**



Photo credit- Matt Karas

Camille A. Brown & Dancers

**[MISSION AND MANIFESTO](#)**

As movement researchers and performing scholars of the African Diaspora, we

**Editorial Note from BDG**

Dear Members,

Greetings and best wishes from Saroya, Jaamil, Lela and me. We're pleased to bring you the autumn 2013 edition of The Sentinel, and we continue to do our work as a watchdog, guardian organization. Here's what's going on:

Under the radar I and a couple of other established dancer-scholars have taken individual scholars in crisis under our wing, doing what we can to advise them practically and support their morale (and they must remain anonymous, for obvious reasons).

have all experienced some form of either outright discrimination or subversive, exclusionary tactics by the academic community. CDSM is our response to millennial-style racism in our supposed post-racist era. Like those involved in the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century, we are resolved to be proactive. Our fledgling organization is creating a database, disseminating our Mission Statement, and gathering resources (including legal counsel). We welcome new members from across the Diaspora as we extend our base. A voluntary, not-for-profit coalition of concerned dancer/scholars, we do not collect dues or elect officers. We are a service organization

#### Our Mission:

- To offer strategic advice for Diasporan scholars and movement artists in academic settings
- To maintain a database for networking and announcements
- To configure an organized process of pairing mentors and mentees in times of growth and crisis
- To serve as an accessible hub for national/international collaboration and partnering for efficient processes of sharing resources and social capital
- To serve as a medium through which members can share

Again we will have a CDSM panel at the upcoming IABD Conference (Dallas, TX, Jan.16-19). Titled PUSH THE ENVELOPE OR GO WITH THE FLOW: DIASPORAN DANCE SCHOLARS' STRATEGIES FOR MOVING ON, this will be a roundtable with Germaine Ingram, A'keitha Carey, Millicent Marie Johnnie, and Shani Sterling and the audience in a frank discussion of specific issues and exemplary solutions--or stalemates--in professional aspirations. For anyone who doesn't know these artists, be sure to look them up online.

We've been tracking anti-racist organizations whose work helps us understand what we're up against: Crossroads ([www.crossroadsantiracism.org](http://www.crossroadsantiracism.org)); The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond ([www.pisab.org](http://www.pisab.org)); and the Applied Research Center of Colorlines ([www.arc.org](http://www.arc.org)). And there are others, too.

Each offers training and workshops in racial social justice and can be engaged by academic departments or other institutions to work with staff and faculty on diagnosing and acknowledging systemic racism. Any funds for such a workshop in your workplace?

We welcome Leila Anglin, who is new to the "A-Team." See her bio, below. Leila will take over for Lela Jones in checking CDSM email weekly. We encourage you to make time in your schedules to read this document thoroughly. Without your attention, we don't exist

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### CDSM in the News!

In other news, we had the pleasure of working with Movement Research to conduct two important interviews which were published on their Critical Correspondence website. Please visit the follow links

experiences and advice, discuss best practices, and offer support.

below to learn more:

[Click Here](#) for Part 1 (May 2013)

[Click Here](#) for Part 2 (Sept 2013)

**Take Part in Moving CDSM Forward!**

As we continue to grow, it's important that we continue to cultivate new steering committee members who can push the mission forward with strong leadership and innovative strategy. CDSM aims to be a support network of scholars, practitioners, and activists at various strategies in their growth. If you would like to be a part of the CDSM Steering Committee, please contact CDSM at [cdsm@iabdassociation.org](mailto:cdsm@iabdassociation.org).

**Several Ways in Which Diasporan Scholars are Moving:**

***Dancing While Black: A Dialogue on Performance, Activism, and the Black Dancing Body***

As part of her current research, choreographer-journalist Paloma McGregor is curating "Dancing While Black: A Dialogue on Performance, Activism, and the Black Dancing Body" at NYU's Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, where she is a 2013 Artist in Residence. In her own words, she created the ongoing Dancing While Black project "to support the diverse voices of black dance artists through producing, process, and documentation." The roundtable includes Diasporan scholars, dancers, choreographers, and curators, giving them the opportunity and space to share ideas. The event is free, open to the public, and takes place:

Thursday, December 5, 7pm  
 Performance Studies Studio  
 Tisch School of the Arts  
 726 Broadway, 6th Floor  
 NYC, NY 10003

***Camille A. Brown's "A Gathering"***

During the course of Association of Performing Arts Presenters, choreographer/dancer Camille Brown is curating "A Gathering," which she envisions as the beginning of an ongoing conversation about the issues

**Meet the CDSM Steering Committee**

**Brenda Dixon Gottschild** is the author of *Digging the Africanist Presence in American Performance: Dance and Other Contexts*; *Waltzing in the Dark: African American Vaudeville and Race Politics in the Swing Era* (**winner of the 2001 Congress on Research in Dance Award for Outstanding Scholarly Dance Publication**); and *The Black Dancing Body – A Geography from Coon to Cool*. Her most recent book, *Joan Myers Brown and The Audacious Hope of the Black Ballerina-A*

*Biohistory of American Performance*, was published in 2012. She is a freelance writer, consultant, and presenter, a former consultant and writer for *Dance Magazine*, and Professor Emerita of dance studies at Temple University. [www.bdixongottschild.com](http://www.bdixongottschild.com) and Facebook.

**Leila Anglin**, a native of Philadelphia, received her BFA in dance from Temple University. Leila is a freelance arts administrator and is experimenting with work that uses narrative to transparently explore how women experience their womanhood. Leila's passion for the preservation of art in the African Diaspora and her desire to see quality reproductive healthcare available to all women, has led her to concurrently pursue her certification as a homebirth midwife while working towards her MFA at Hollins University.

**Saroya Corbett** is a certified Dunham Technique instructor and has a Masters in Fine Arts degree in Dance from Temple University where she additionally holds a certificate in Women's Studies. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Institute for Dunham Technique Certification and is a contributing author to upcoming published book, *Jazz Dance: A History of the Roots and Branches*. Currently, Saroya is a

facing Diasporan dance practitioners and possible solutions. This initial invitation-only session of choreographers, agents, managers, producers, publicists, critics, and scholars is intended, in Brown's words, "to move forward an ongoing conversation about black female (identifying) choreographers in the landscape of modern contemporary dance." The session will be facilitated by an independent consultant and is a rare opportunity for working artists to come together, brainstorm, and network.

**Black Male Revisited**

"Black Male Revisited" is a major project conceived, directed and performed by Jaamil Olawale Kosoko. Here is his description of the work:

"Black Male Revisited is my attempt to begin a dialogue about issues of visibility for Black Male Performance and Visual Artists. I want to celebrate BLACK MALE, a deeply important exhibition that happened 20 years ago using my body, my history, my work as the focal point to discuss themes of Black Masculinity from a first person perspective."

"The project will kick-off in Miami during Art Basel Miami '13 in December with a performance installation commissioned by Miami Theater Center entitled BLACK MALE REVISITED: Revenge of the New Negro. The project will premiere on Dec. 7 and will run two consecutive weekends (Dec. 13-15 and Dec. 20-22.) Creative Consultants, Scholars, and Producers for this portion of the project are Sidra Bell, Octavio Campos, Dr. Brenda Dixon-Gottschild, Dr. Chetachi Egwu, Dr. Jason Campbell, Brandin Steffensen, Aaron Maier, and Kate Watson-Wallace. Click [Here](#) for tickets for the Miami performance.

"The project will then travel to Danspace Project in New York City in the form of multi-evening performance art

dance and teaching artist and works on the staff of the Cultural Data Project.

**Lela Aisha Jones** is a native of Tallahassee, FL and resides in Philadelphia, PA. She is the founder of FlyGround

[www.flygroundera.com](http://www.flygroundera.com) —

her creative home with work focused in memoir, social commentary and diasporic movement practice. She is also a co-founder of The Requisite Movers—a service and presenting organization that supports the artistic work of women choreographers of African descent. Lela Aisha earned her MFA from Florida State University, is a Ph.D. candidate at Texas Woman's University, and a visiting lecturer at Muhlenberg College.

**Jaamil Olawale Kosoko** is an independent performance curator, producer, poet, and performance artist. He is a 2012 Live Arts Brewery Fellow as a part of the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, a 2011 Fellow at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and an inaugural graduate member of the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance (ICPP) at Wesleyan University. With his creative partner Kate Watson-Wallace, he co-directs anonymous bodies || art collective, a visual performance company that presents work internationally focusing on

platform curated by Jaamil Olawale Kosoko entitled **BLACK MALE REVISITED: Experimental Representation** through the Ephemeral Form. Other creative partners are still being confirmed! This portion of the project will be presented (Feb. 6-8, 2014) at Danspace at St. Mark's Church. Curatorial advisory members include Judy Hussie-Taylor, Whitney V. Hunter, Jayson Keeling, and DJ King Britt. (Kosoko will not perform in this part of the project.)"

### Support the Legacy of Katherine Dunham!

One of our greatest examples of the dancer/scholar model is Katherine Dunham and her contributions are deeply engrained into the fields of Diasporan dance and Diasporan dance scholarship. Yet to ensure the continuation of her great work and legacy, there is a need for us to support the two institutions that carry her mark. The Katherine Dunham Center for the Arts and Humanities (KDCAH) controls Dunham's museum, her youth program, her East Saint Louis, IL properties, and her Annual Dunham Technique Seminar. Because of the cost associated with the maintenance of her buildings and structures, there is a current campaign by the KDCAH to raise money to help assist with operational costs. Please select [here](#) for more information on this campaign.

Lastly, Dunham entrusted the task of training and certifying instructors in her technique to the Institute of Dunham Technique Certification (IDTC). The IDTC offers pedagogy, theory, and teacher training in Dunham Technique. Annually, IDTC holds a certification workshop for certified instructors and individuals

site base performance and community building art practices. Visit [www.jaamil.com](http://www.jaamil.com) for more information.

interested in learning more about teaching in Dunham Technique. For more information, check out their website [here](#). What Dunham has given to our field is invaluable and now it is time we step up to not just give but become more involved in her vast legacy that continues.

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You were added to this list because of your interest in movement research and performing scholars in the African Diaspora and discrimination and subversive tactics of millennial-style racism in academia.

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[cdsm@iabdassociation.org](mailto:cdsm@iabdassociation.org)

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