

# Moving Dance Studies

*Challenging the past  
Decolonizing the discourse  
Engaging the present*



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John Martin was policing the boundaries of dance history.

*-Kate Mattingly, 2018 NDEO*



*Photo by Barbara Suppovitz, 1950*



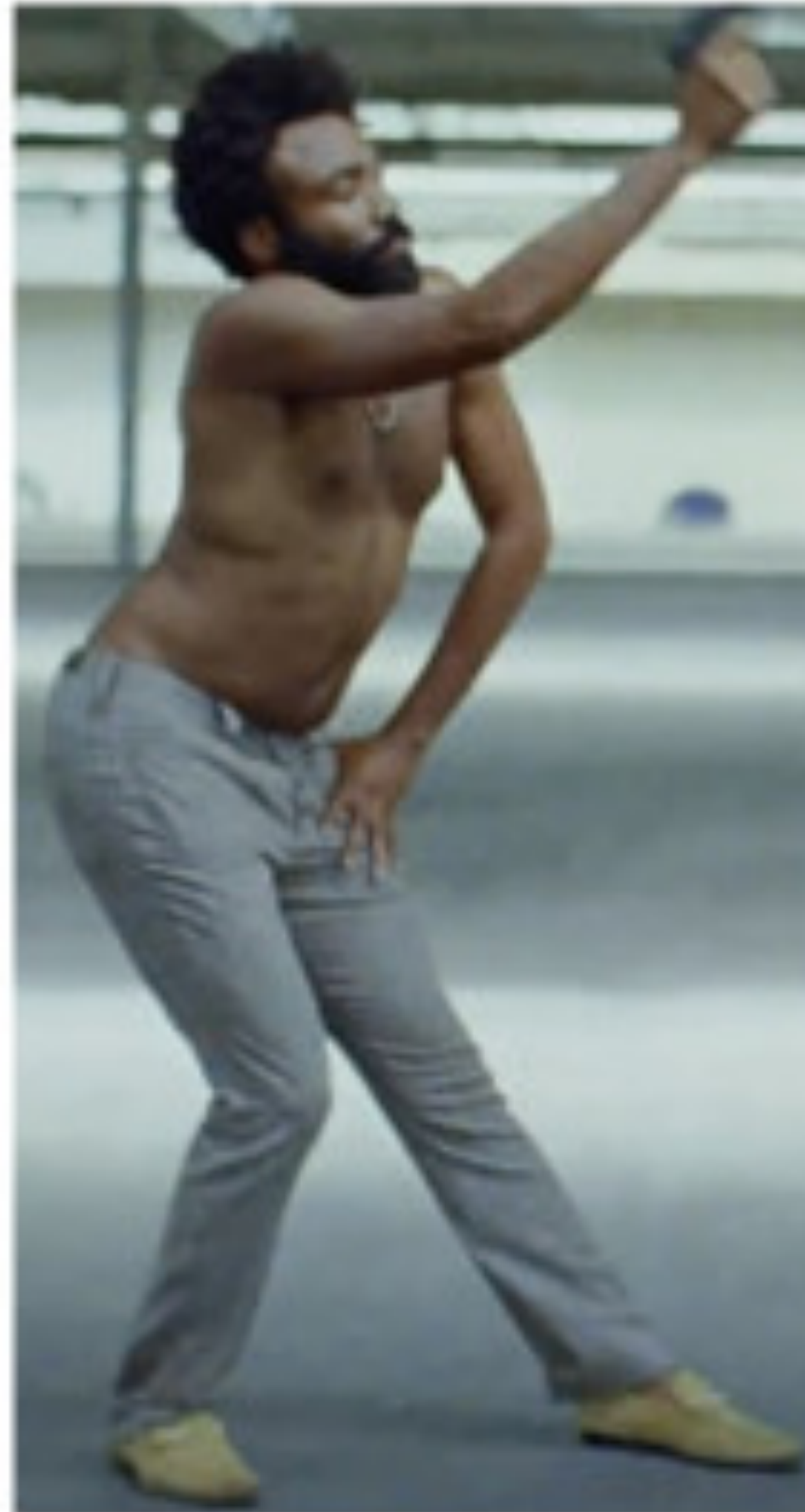
*The Nicholas Brothers - Fayard and Harold  
In 'Stormy Weather'*

# CHILDISH GAMBINO & JIM CROW DRAWING

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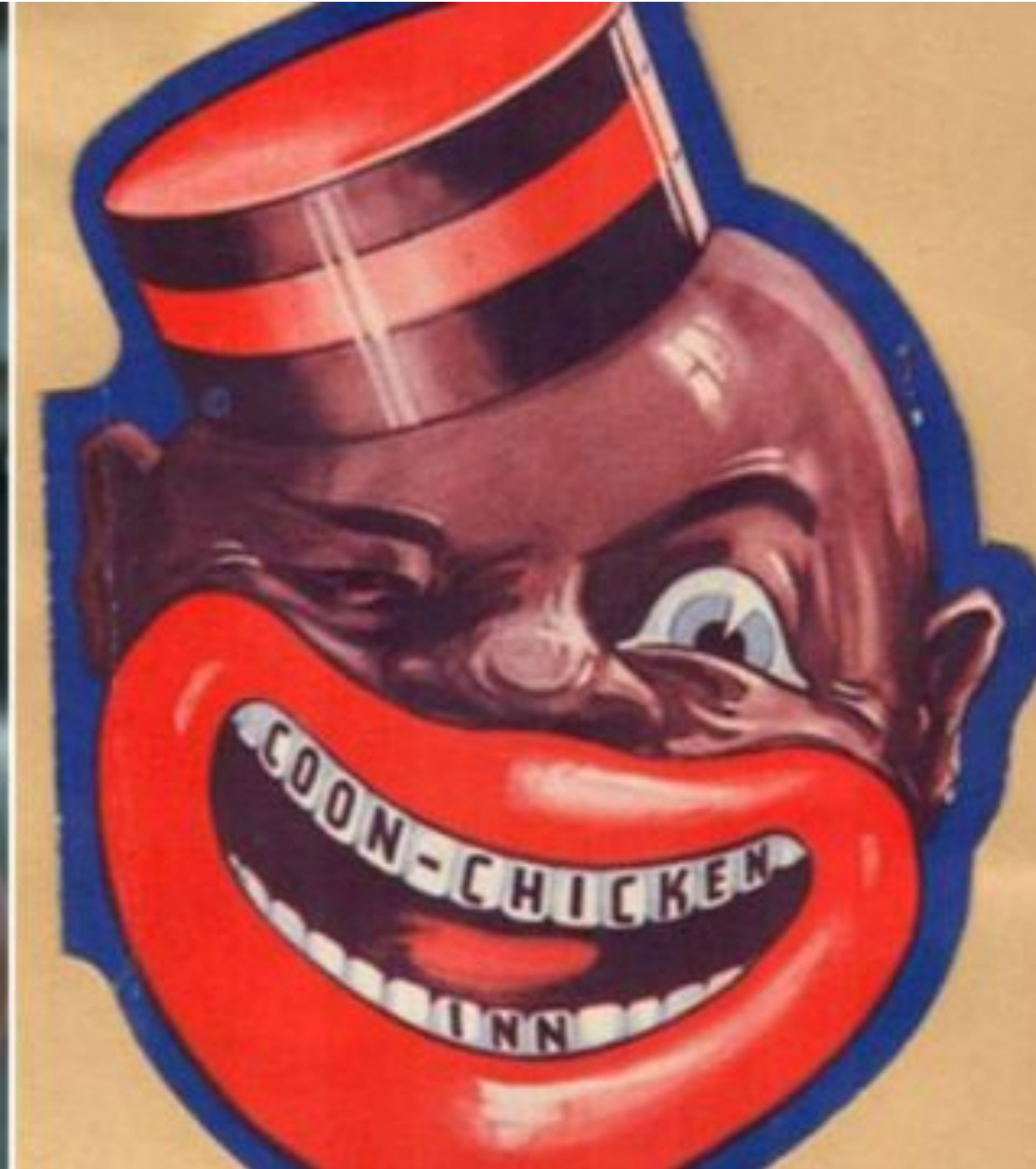
<https://www.buzzworthy.com/references-from-childish-gambino-this-is-america/>

Article by Joel Stice



# THIS IS AMERICA & MINSTREL SHOW FACE

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# CLASSROOM/COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

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## Default to Trust

Speak from your own truth

Listen for understanding

It is better to understand, then to be understood (Student's Dad)

Liberated space

Honor time frames

Honor your legacies

Name where it came from, who it came from

W.A.I.T (Why Am I talking?)

E.L.M.O. (Enough, Let's Move On)

Respect the Space

With our language (both verbal & physical) and our actions

S.U.M. (Speak Up More)

There are not wrong responses, remember you are speaking from your own truth.

Ouch. Oops.

Honor Commitments/Word

Follow up/Continue the Conversation



Emily Johnson's SHORE. Photo: Ian Douglas.

# STUDENT RESPONSES DURING A EMBODIED LEARNING SESSION:

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“It’s the first time it’s {Afro based movement & HipHop} been in a classroom setting for me in terms of Academia.”

“One interesting thing for me ...is that often we think of ballet as the foundation for stuff, but now there is this entirely different culture that is setting the tone for being the foundation for a lot of dance to come. Identifying the Afro roots of different dance forms is interesting because now it’s a completely different vocabulary that we’re able to name.”

“...how often in studios when we’re taught as kids that always ballet is the foundation. Then there’s a little bit of modern, but everything else doesn’t receive a lot of praise. And me, being a woman of color, I definitely appreciate being taught where the roots is, because I knew it was there but no one really says it. I appreciate in the curriculum it says there’s the branches but the roots extend to the African dance...”

“We’re talking about African roots of so many popular dance styles...we’re always teaching...Ballet is your foundation, but there’s so much else that is foundational movement but doesn’t get taught and isn’t embedded in people’s bodies....I love seeing all the common threads in this unit, you know roots of jazz, roots of tap, roots of hip hop.”

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/section/music-entertainers>

[/15-black-dancers-who-changed-american-dance/](#)



