

“Janis Brenner is a one-woman argument for the seasoned gifts of mature performers.” The New York Times

JANIS BRENNER is an award-winning dancer/choreographer/singer/teacher and Artistic Director of Janis Brenner & Dancers. She has toured in 33 countries and is recognized as a “singular performer” (Eye On Dance) with a multifaceted artistic range. Awards include: NY Dance & Performance Award (“Bessie”) for Outstanding Creative Achievement in Meredith Monk’s work (as a member of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble since 1990), Lester Horton Award for Choreography in LA, Leach Fellowship for Outstanding Achievement in the Performing Arts, NY Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, among many others. She is a sought-after Master Teacher conducting workshops in technique, improvisation, composition, repertory and vocal work. Her work has been commissioned/restaged on more than 45 companies and colleges worldwide. Ms. Brenner trained with Alwin Nikolais, Murray Louis, and Phyllis Lamhut and danced with the Murray Louis Dance Company and in productions of Nikolais from 1977-1984. She also had long-time artistic relationships with Michael Moschen and Annabelle Gamson. Brenner is on faculty at the prestigious Juilliard School teaching “Creative Process” and serving as Artistic Mentor for the Composer/Choreographer Collaboration course.

“What a visual and intellectual treat to watch JB&D perform works of ironic social commentary, honest emotion, and contradiction...evocative works that span Brenner’s choreographic evolution. Together, the pieces walk the very line they comment on – the concrete versus the abstract.”

The Dance Journal, Phil, PA

SELECTION of TOURS/PERFORMANCE VENUES:

Open Look International Dance Festival Saint Petersburg, Russia
Indonesian Dance Festival, Jakarta
Gedung Kesenian Festival and JakArts Festival, Jakarta
Purnati Arts Center, Bali and SIPA Festival, Surakarta
Indonesian Arts Institute, Yogyakarta
ZOA Theatre Academy Senegal, West Africa
International Modern Dance Festival Seoul, Korea
Mousonturm Frankfurt, Germany
Kuan Du Arts Festival and National Theater Taipei, Taiwan
“Isadora” Dance Festival Krasnoyarsk, Siberia
Extra Energy Tanz Festival Cologne, Germany
Habst Theater Basel, Switzerland
Le Festival de Musique en Lorraine Nancy, France
Madison Square Garden Theater/United Nations Millennium Summit Conference “Celebration for Peace” Concert NY, NY

The Joyce Theater, NY
United Nations Dag Hammerskold Theater
Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival Lee, MA
American Dance Festival, Durham, NC
Huntington Arts Festival, LI, NY
Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris
New Moves Festival, Buffalo, NY
American College Dance Festivals MA and UT
DanceNOW Joe’s Pub and Reverb Festivals NY
Festival of the Moving Body Stony Brook, NY
CHI Movement Arts Center Phil, PA
Dance in the Desert Festival, Las Vegas, NV
The American Center Berlin, Germany

ACCLAIMED REVIVALS

Pieces of Trust

“The intriguing duet from *Pieces of Trust* stands out for the fully invested performances... their bodies offer vivid portraits of distortion, questioning, anxiety and, ultimately, disconnection.” Infinite Body 2011

Guilt

“Kyla Barkin is electrifying in Brenner’s *Guilt* where she appears inside a three-sided wooden box, to Marianne Faithfull’s raspy, remorseful crooning. She alternates between looking alluring and resembling a wild animal caught in headlights as she navigates the small space with remarkable athleticism.” Dance Magazine 2009

Contents May have Shifted...

A lifetime of airplanes and touring, and a metaphor for a look at the aging, changing body. “tremendously innovative and exciting choreography. top notch performance.” Youtube.com 2007

Dances of Mary Wigman

Historic solos from Wigman’s famous 1929 cycle, “Shifting Landscapes”, “exquisitely performed” (Infinite Body 2011) by Ms. Brenner.

Photo by Julie Lemberger

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JANIS BRENNER & DANCERS



"Rarely has a choreographer invited an audience to identify so strongly with her dancers as Ms. Brenner did with creative flair."
The New York Times

"Meticulous artistry"
The Village Voice

"Dancer, Choreographer, Singer-- Brenner is that rare contemporary performer who can do it all."
Buzz Magazine

"More remarkable these days is the fact that each dance has its own identity, its own vocabulary...absorbing...unique...gripping...fastidiously crafted...and Mitchell Bogard’s gorgeous lighting."
The Village Voice

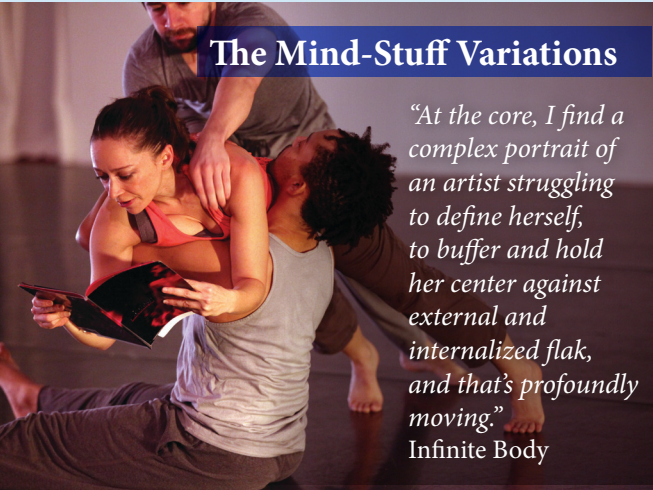
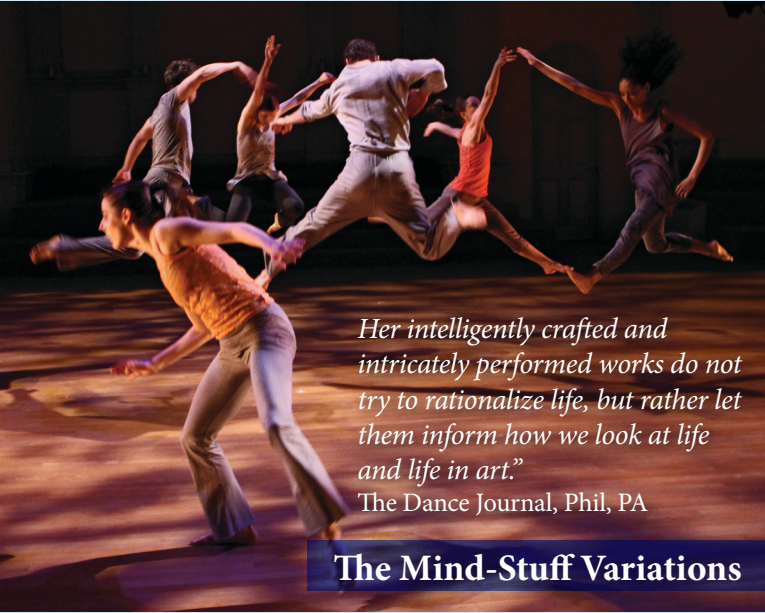


Photos: Tom Caravaglia

JANIS BRENNER & DANCERS is an internationally-recognized New York company known for the caliber and depth of its “emotionally authentic” performances, musically diverse work and its wide range of acclaimed residency activities. JB&D has toured throughout the U.S., Asia/Southeast Asia, Europe and Russia and has restaged more than fifteen of its works on more than forty-five companies and universities worldwide. Receiving support and invitations from organizations around the world, Brenner’s work explores the passion, humor, depth and emotional power of our relationships to each other and the world around us. The work has the uncanny ability to encompass “clownesque humor and grotesque tragedy” simultaneously. “The audiences’ laughter sticks in the throat or hangs in the air” [Basel, Switzerland]. The work is an on-going exploration into the power of movement to inform our spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical states of being and to search for a state of balance. The Company’s last three NY productions have been critically-acclaimed highlights of the 2007-2011 NY concert seasons garnering more than twenty reviews and press articles.

SELECTION of AWARDS/GRANTS:

New York Dance & Performance (“Bessie”) Award
Lester Horton Dance Award for Choreography LA, CA.
O’Donnell-Green Music & Dance Foundation
Copperfoot Award for Choreography Wayne State U., MI
U.S. Department of State-- “American Artists Abroad”
The Fund for US Artists at International Festivals
The Trust for Mutual Understanding
Asian Cultural Council and UNESCO
US Embassies in Dakar, Jakarta and Moscow
NY Foundation for the Arts Fellowship
Dance On Camera Festival
Farmingdale Wall of Fame Award
Dance Magazine Foundation
Meet The Composer
Manhattan Community Arts Fund



SELECTION of RESIDENCIES / WORKS COMMISSIONED or RESTAGED at:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| The Juilliard School | Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company Utah |
| N.C. School of the Arts | Dance Ensemble Singapore |
| Purchase College | Saraswati Dance Company Indonesia |
| UCLA, CSU@Long Beach | Dance M Siberia, Russia |
| Univ. of Ill. @Champaign-Urbana | ZOA Academy Senegal |
| Balettakademien Sweden | CloudGate 2, Taipei Dance Forum Taiwan |
| Florida Int’l University Miami | Tanz Forum Cologne, Germany |
| Bates College Maine | Pacific Dance Ensemble LA |
| LaGuardia HS of Perf. Arts, NY | Performing Dance Co. SLC, Utah |
| UMASS, Adelphi U., Hofstra U. | Atrek Dance Company St. Louis, MO. |
| Wellesley College, USF @ Tampa | |

JB&D and TEACHING:

- JB&D is available for Residencies/Workshops/Master Classes/Lecture Performances in
- Modern/Contemporary Technique, Improvisation, Composition, Repertory
 - Company members also teach Children’s and Adult Classes, Yoga, Contact Improvisation and Personal Training
 - Brenner’s acclaimed Movement/Voice/Theatre Improv Workshops
 - Brenner’s Solo Lecture Performance in Interdisciplinary Art & Performance



CURRENT TOURING REPERTORY

The Mind-Stuff Variations

A 1/2-hour to 44-minute work incorporating choreographed and improvisational processes that combine both “stream of thought” dialogue and movement, accessing areas of the mind-body connection in the moment of dancing. The common threads found in William James’ Mind-Stuff Theory link his ideas of “characters of thought”, memory, the “intuition of time”. “... *truly enlightening in its use of vignettes and voice to explore aspects of metaphysical movement and metacognitive viewership.*” The Dance Journal, Phil, PA

heartSTRINGS (JB&D “signature” work)

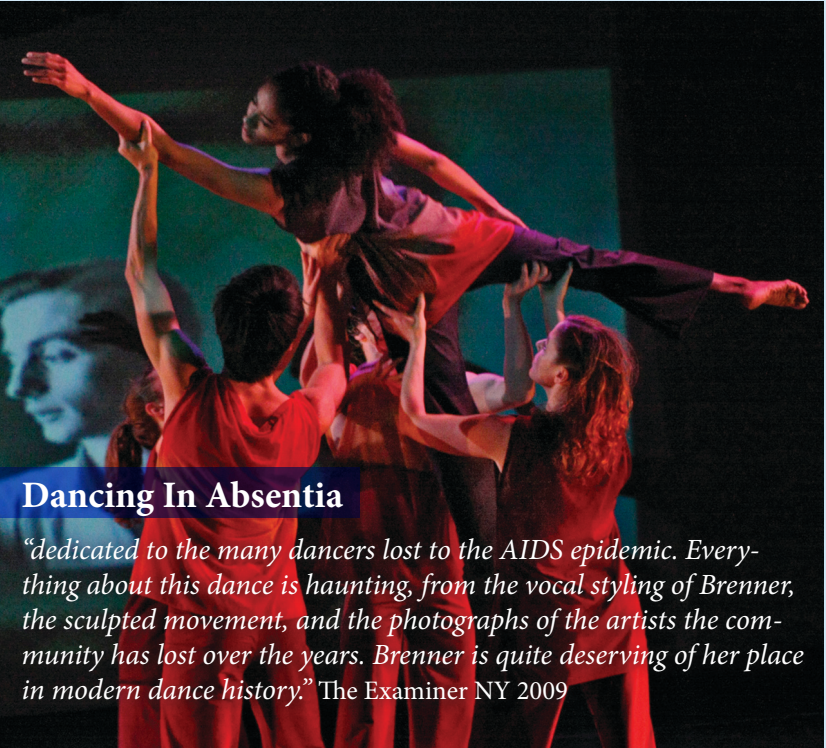
Hampton String Quartet plays John Reed’s arrangements of songs by Simon & Garfunkel, The Beatles and Led Zeppelin. “A *visually striking piece, evoking a geometric abstraction in its painterly use of space. The dancers were always part of a stunning spatial composition. But there were always images of human relationship.*” The New York Times

Lost, Found, Lost

“...attaining and evoking a moment of the sublime...enriched with gentle humor, acceptance of the tragic, and an acute awareness of the boundaries in which emotions and gestures move from being dense with meaning...” Adelphi University

New Work (Fall 2012 Premiere)

Composers: David Lang, Tosca, Joni Mitchell
A series of riveting solos for the company, both virtuosic and introspective, exploring questions of place, relevance and reasons for continuing on an artistic path. Brenner’s solo premiered at DanceNow Joe’s Pub Festival in New York.



Vocal Suite from Songs From The Hill

by Meredith Monk
“Uniquely powerful works of art and music, requiring a degree of vocal athleticism and sensitivity not found this side of Bobby McFerrin. To hear them sung [by Brenner] with such precision and grace was quite moving.” The Washington Post

Photos © Tom Caravaglia 2009, 2011
Julie Lemberger 2009, 2011
Bill Hebert 2011
Stefanie Motta and Jacob’s Pillow Dance 2006