

# thINKingDANCE

Upping the ante on dance coverage and conversation

## Meet the Writers: Ellen Gerdes

**What are you most excited to cover through TD?**

Anyone who has sat next to me at a show knows that I get jazzed talking about cultural politics/representation in choreography.

**How has TD affected your other dance-related work?**

It makes me re-think the difficult task I set for my students. It isn't easy to succinctly and articulately describe a dance event. I think a lot about how to make writing about dance more fun for them.

**Which part is challenging, scary, difficult?**

I'm worried people will see me only as a writer and will forget about me as a performer.

**How/when did you learn to type?**

I am self-taught, so I don't use the home keys (and rarely my right middle finger). It works just fine!

**If I never see another .... again, it will be too soon.**

...another dance with purposeful bad singing...unless it is Eleanor Bauer!

**What would your parents say about your work in the arts?**

"Ellen is busy navigating her free-lance artist's lifestyle with a color-coded schedule she sends to us via email. She is brave and talented. A lot of her shows look like Wesleyan dance concerts."

**If you were to write a dance love-letter, it would be to:**

Bebe Miller.

**Finish this sentence "Good writing..."**

...makes me jealous.

**Finish this sentence "Good dance..."**

...stays with me.

By Ellen Gerdes

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