Body as spectacle: The queer black male body in American modern and contemporary dance
Bodies and Subjects in Contemporary American Dance. (1986). The modes of imitation, replication, resemblance and reflection were placed within the era of their typical use and linked to the larger cultural histories. The separation of the choreographic and the virtuoso movement, the deconstruction of permanent identities, the critique of the society of the spectacle and the notion of social choreography have opened a wider space for artistic expression. There has emerged an understanding that the dancing subject, in his/her individual bodily articulation, is expressive in artistic sense and the acceptability or credibility of the dancing is seen as an issue of defining the context of each performance, the relevance of the methods used and the relevance of performance dramaturgy. The history of black male style in the United States has also included many examples of amboyant and body-focused dress styles, even within a resolutely heterosexual context. For instance, Monica L. Miller has shown that the showy and form-fitting style of black dandyism loomed large in nineteenth-century America, although this figure declined in the post-war era (interestingly, Miller argues that the black dandy has been at least partially resurrected in recent hip-hop fashion, and she connects this trend to the queer performance art of figures such. However, if black male hip-hoppers were to ip the script, as it were, and reveal their bodies with tight clothes, they might be perceived as signaling an interest in their own sexual objectification. Fragmenting the Black Male Body: Will Smith, Masculinity, Sarah Gilligan Clothing, and Desire Sarah Gilligan is a Lecturer in Media at Abstract Hartlepool College, UK. Her research interests and publications centre on costume, fashion, and gender This article examines the ways in which the representation of Will representations in contemporary Smith in I am Legend and I, Robot constructs postcolonial performa- popular culture. She is currently writing tive visual narratives that both follow and disrupt existing discourses of a monograph Fashion & Film: Gender, Stardom and Style in Contempo...