

Brooklyn Academy of Music

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# DanceAfrica 2019

Artistic Director Abdel R. Salaam

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

May 24 at 7:30pm; May 25 at 2pm & 7pm;

May 26 & 27 at 3pm

Running time: approx. two hours, with intermission

**Inganzo Ngari**

**BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble (Brooklyn)**

**DanceAfrica Spirit Walkers**

**Malaika Uwamahoro**

Lighting & scenic design by **Al Crawford**

Sound design by **David Margolin Lawson**

Original music composition by **Michael Wimberly**

Production stage manager **Kristin Colvin Young**

Stage manager **N'Goma Woolbright**

Assistant stage manager **Normadien Woolbright**

Assistant stage manager **Gina Solebello**

*2019 Winter/Spring is programmed by Joseph V. Melillo.*

*Season Sponsor:*

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

*Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by The SHS Foundation and The Harkness Foundation for Dance*

*The Samuel H. Scripps BAM Scholarship Fund is made possible by The SHS Foundation*

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*Support for the Signature Artists Series provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation*



Peace and blessings, Family,

This year, we will journey through the darkness into the light in an evening entitled *Rwanda Reborn: The Remix*. Our featured company, Inganzo Ngari, is often referred to as the jewel of traditional dance and music from Rwanda. Along with the gifted Malaika Uwamahoro, the DanceAfrica Spirit Walkers, the beloved BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble (Brooklyn), composer Michael Wimberly, master percussionists Kofi Osei Williams and Frank Malloy IV, we will experience the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi, the communal court of reconciliation known as Gacaca, and the grace and beauty of Inganzo Ngari. This will be performed through traditional and contemporary dance and music as well as theater and spoken word.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi. We honor its survivors and pay special tribute to the lives of our Elders and the memory of our ancestors in Africa and its diaspora. And we celebrate the achievement of all people whose resilience and vision will continue to help transform their cultures, societies, and nations into the best they can be.

Join us as we once again experience the healing lights of remembrance, reconciliation, and renewal through Africa's traditions... and beyond.

Health, prosperity, enlightenment, and grace to all...

Baba Abdel R. Salaam  
Artistic Director, DanceAfrica 2019

## RWANDA REBORN: THE REMIX

### ACT 1

Concept, Direction, and Choreography **Abdel R. Salaam**

Traditional Rwandan choreography **Serge Nahimana**

Lighting design **Al Crawford**

Sound design **David Margolin Lawson**

Original music composition **Michael Wimberly**

Costume design **Hopi Lyn Burrows**

Djembe Orchestra **Kofi Osei Williams, Frank Malloy IV, Michael Wimberly**

### **PROCESSION** (2018)

Featuring **Council of Elders, BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble (Brooklyn), Memorial Candlebearers, Djembe Orchestra**

### **ELEMENTAL EXUBERANCE... A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE** (world premiere)

Featuring **DanceAfrica Spirit Walkers**

**Djembe Orchestra**

*Elemental Exuberance... A Memorial Tribute* was designed to honor the lives and legacies of the many people from various societies and communities of Africa, its Diaspora and the world at large who have transitioned into the realm of the Ancestors. This is done through the languages of contemporary, traditional, and fusion dance/music, in the spirit of elements of fire, water, air, and earth.

Welcome **Baba Abdel R. Salaam**

### **RWANDA REBORN: THE REMIX.** (world premiere)

Featuring **DanceAfrica Spirit Walkers, BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble (Brooklyn), Inganzo Ngari, Malaika Uwamahoro**

*RWANDA REBORN: THE REMIX* is a journey out of the darkness into the light of the Rwandan people as they honor the survivors of the genocide against the Tutsi 25 years ago and the rebirth and renewal of their culture and nation. Through a dance theater collaboration of Inganzo Ngari, the DanceAfrica Spirit Walkers, Malaika Uwamahoro, and the BAM/Restoration Youth Dance Ensemble, the work explores the remembrance, reconciliation, and renewal of Rwanda through traditional and contemporary dance, music, and theater.

—INTERMISSION—

## ACT 2

### **LAND OF A THOUSAND HILLS**

**Inganzo Ngari**

**BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble (Brooklyn)**

URAHO RWANDA—Introduction

URWINZIZA—female slow dance with “udukoni” (small sticks)

KURAMBIRA—a demonstration of male talent and creativity

AMABANO Y'INKA–MPANGAZA—cow dance (female)

AKASEBERA–UMUHORORO—spear dance (male)

INZOVU–RUSANGA N'IZAYO–BAGORE BEZA—demonstrations of female beauty and elegance

INTORE—a demonstration of male Rwandan warriors' strength and courage

MWIRA–MARIYA—female dance with “udusekes” (baskets)

GUHINGA—male farming dance

IKINIMBA–NKOMBO—dances from Northern and Western Rwanda

INGOMA—drums

FINALE

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## MUSIC

“At the Sound of the Bell,” by Daniel Pemberton. Published by BMG Rights Management. “Muddy Waters,” by Francis Gonzalez, Laura Pergolizzi, and Peter Record. Published by Universal Music Publishing Group, Sony/ATV Music Publishing, and BMG Rights Management. “OSR-I I,” “OSR-I II,” and “OSR-I III,” by Daniel Pemberton. Published by National Geographic. “Short and Sweet,” by Sauti Sol and Nyashinski. Published by Sheer Publishing Africa. Music Clearances by BZ/Rights & Permissions, Inc.

### 1994 RWANDAN GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI

April 7, 1994 marked the beginning of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda perpetrated by the Hutu extremist-led government. Within the following 100 days, more than one million members of the Tutsi minority were systematically murdered. Thousands of Twa people, moderate Hutu, and others who opposed the killings were also killed during that period. Thousands more were injured. The genocide was marked by a rapid, well-organized campaign of violence, as well as the systematic rape of hundreds of thousands of women and men. Many victims of the genocide have never been found. As we celebrate DanceAfrica this year, we honor the lives and legacies of the victims of this tragedy. We celebrate the lives they led and mourn those cut short by a chapter of history almost too appalling to comprehend. We remember their legacy and in doing so ensure that those hundreds of thousands of people did not die in vain. In remembrance, reconciliation, and renewal, we ensure that what happened to them will not happen to others. Never again.

**CHUCK DAVIS** (1937—2017) (artistic director emeritus and founding Elder) was one of the foremost, beloved teachers and choreographers of traditional African dance in America. He traveled extensively in Africa and the diaspora to study with leading African artists. Davis founded the Chuck Davis Dance Company in New York City in 1968 and the African American Dance Ensemble in Durham, NC in 1983. He founded DanceAfrica at BAM in 1977, where it has become the longest-running series; it expanded to other cities. He served on many distinguished panels and received numerous awards and accolades, including honorary doctorates. In 2010, the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation founded the GlaxoSmithKline Charles "Chuck" Davis Endowment, and BAM established the Chuck Davis Emerging Choreographer Fellowship in 2015. His archives are held at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC.

**ABDEL R. SALAAM** (artistic director/choreographer) is the artistic director of DanceAfrica and executive artistic director/co-founder of Forces of Nature Dance Theatre founded in 1981. Born in Harlem, NY, Salaam is a critically-acclaimed choreographer and has served as a dancer, teacher, and performer on five continents throughout his 49-year career. He has received numerous awards and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation on the Arts, BAM, New York Foundation for the Arts, New York State Council for Arts, National Council for Arts and Culture, Herbert H. Lehman College and a Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for DanceAfrica in 2017. He and his company received the 2013 Audelco Award for Dance Company of the Year. He has served as a choreographer and/or director for the New York Shakespeare Festival, Billie Holiday Theatre, Apollo Theater, The Winter Solstice at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York Musical Theater Festival, BAM, Black Dance USA, and Tennessee Performing Arts Festival. Some of his specific commercial credits in theater, film, and tv include *Measure for Measure*, New York Shakespeare Festival (choreographer); *Free to Dance*, PBS Channel 13 (choreographer); and *Black Nativity*, Fox Searchlight Films (performer). Salaam has created ballets for Philadanco, Joan Miller Chamber Arts/ Dance Players, Chuck Davis Dance Company, Union Dance Theater (London), Ballet Islenos (Puerto Rico), Sakoba Dance Theater (London), Muntu Dance Theater, Nash-

ville Ballet, African American Dance Ensemble, and Gywa Maten. He has served on the faculties of the American Dance Festivals in the US and Seoul, Korea, Herbert H. Lehman College, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Restoration Youth Arts Academy, and Harlem Children's Zone.

**INGANZO NGARI** was formed in 2006 with the purpose of promoting the Rwandan folkloric dance tradition among the country's youth. Since its formation, the troupe has gained widespread recognition among the Rwandan community. Inganzo Ngari, which translates as "wide talent," began performing internationally in 2009, winning Best Dance Group at the Festival of Folkloric Dance in Spain and showcasing its talents in South Africa, Turkey, Singapore, Russia, Nigeria, Gabon, and beyond.

**MALAIKA UWAMAHORO** is an actress, poet, and activist, born in Rwanda, and a recent graduate from Fordham University in NYC, with a BA in theater studies (acting track). She attended Fordham as a proud recipient of a Rwandan Presidential Scholarship. Uwamahoro has performed her own poetry around the world, most recently at the UN for the 23rd commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. In 2014, she made her off-Broadway debut at Signature Theatre in the world premiere of Katori Hall's *Our Lady of Kibeho*. Other theater in the US includes *Miracle in Rwanda* (Theatre Row, NYC), *Cartography* (Kennedy Center, DC), *Measure Back* (Dixon Place, NYC), *Bishop* (Fordham/Primary Stages, NYC), and *Africa's Hope* (USC Bovard Theatre, CA). International theater: *Les Os qui Craquent* (Théâtre de Poche, Belgium). Film: *Loveless Generation* (dir. Thomas Petkovski), *Un Plain Parfait* (dir. Pascal Chaumeil), *Shake Hands with the Devil* (dir. Roger Spottiswoode).

**BAM/RESTORATION DANCE YOUTH ENSEMBLE** (Brooklyn) represents a 21-year partnership—a youth development effort with DanceAfrica as its focus. The group is an annual favorite and a symbol of youth involvement in the preservation of African heritage. In that time, more than 4,500 students have taken part in professional caliber workshops. The BAM/Restoration DanceAfrica initiative encourages participants to express themselves through the common themes of dance, music, visual arts, creative writing, and study of the cultural histories of Africa and the African diaspora. The

talented young dancers of the BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble are students from RestorationArt's Youth Arts Academy, where they receive intensive training in ballet, modern, African, and contemporary dance. Observing its 51st anniversary this year, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation's mission is to be the catalyst for the progressive improvement of the quality of life for the people of Central Brooklyn and beyond by utilizing every avenue available to foster growth and development through economic, cultural, educational, and social and artistic ventures. With deepened and renewed commitment to revolutionary art makers and art spaces, Restoration presents the dynamic 21st-century creative complex: RestorationArt. RestorationArt (formerly branded The Center for Arts & Culture)—the cultural centerpiece of the nation's first community development corporation—is committed to folding its community into world-class artistic discovery and storytelling in dance, music, theater, visual arts, and conversation in the epicenter of black culture, Central Brooklyn, which is home to the largest black community in the US.

The **DANCEAFRICA SPIRIT WALKERS** were founded by Baba Abdel Salaam in 2016 to theatrically honor the ancestors of Africa and its diaspora in the annual DanceAfrica Memorial Tribute, originally developed by the late Baba Chuck Davis. They are a collaboration of professional dance artists and musicians from the Restoration Arts Alumni, Asase Yaa, Harambee, and Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, bringing together contemporary, hip-hop, modern, and African vernacular forms. Augmented by the sound design of David Lawson, lighting design of Al Crawford, with costumes designed by Hopi Lyn Burrows, the Spirit Walkers are featured each year in a special dance theater work designed to expand the boundaries of how homage may be paid to our Ancestors.

**AL CRAWFORD** (lighting design) is the lighting director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In his 22nd season with the company, he has produced the lighting for Ailey in virtually every major theater, performing arts center, and opera house, touring to more than 48 states and 60 countries including performances in Russia, China, and South Africa. He has had the opportunity to design for many important choreographers in the dance world including Judith Jamison, Robert Battle, Garth Fagan,

Matthew Rushing, Ron Brown, George Faison, Mark Dendy, Trey McIntyre, Christopher Huggins, Hope Boykin, Osnel Delgado, Jeanguy Saintus, Baba Chuck Davis and others. In addition to maintaining the Ailey repertoire, he has designed 21 new works for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and 12 for Ailey II. Crawford founded Arc3design, a lighting design group dedicated to merging his theatrical aesthetic into all areas of art, architecture, dance, live music, theater, broadcast, and live event production. Arc3design creates the lighting for over 100 projects annually. Recent and current projects include *Pip's Island* off-Broadway, architectural installations at New York Central Synagogue, new ballets for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Haiti's Ayikodans, and Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company, multiple state dinners for the White House (Obama Administration), Cedar Point's multimillion dollar light show *Luminosity*, Sea World's *Electric Ocean*, a variety of shows for Holland America and Azamara Cruise Lines, Madison Square Garden Sports Entertainment, and brand events for Spotify, Google, You Tube, Samsung, Intel, Dom Perignon, and Lamborghini. Crawford is a board member of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and the Gilbert Hemsley Lighting Programs at Lincoln Center. He has had the opportunity to speak to students at universities around the country, at the United States Institute for Theater Technology Conference, Live Design International, Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas, and Electronic Theater Controls CUE conference. He recently received the Knight of Illumination Award, considered globally to be one of the top achievements in lighting design. He is a member of United Scenic Artists (USA-829) and the International Alliance for Theatrical Stage Employees (Local 635). He is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

**DAVID MARGOLIN LAWSON** (sound design) is a New York-based sound designer and recording engineer. He has worked with, recorded, and designed for many New York area performing arts organizations including Abdel R. Salaam's Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Signature Theatre, Repertorio Español, The Juilliard School, La MaMa ETC, HERE Arts Center, New World Stages, and others. Recent works include: *A Letter to Harvey Milk* (Acorn Theater), *The Crusade of Connor Stephens* (Jerry Orbach Theater), *Blind Spot* (Repertorio Español), *Angry Young Man* (Urban Stages), *A Star Has Burnt My Eye* (BAM

2016 Next Wave). Lawson teaches courses in sound design at Pace University, NYC. [dmlsoundny.com](http://dmlsoundny.com)

**KOFI OSEI WILLIAMS** (percussionist) oversees the creative and business direction of the Asase Yaa African-American Dance Theatre and its affiliates. He got his start as a drummer and dancer and has worked with Pharoah Sanders, Dianne Reeves, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, M'Bemba Bangoura, Erykah Badu, and Talib Kweli. He co-founded the African concert series Djembe in the New Millennium, in addition to his ongoing studies in Ghana, drumming workshops by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and adjunct duties at Medgar Evers College.

**N'GOMA WOOLBRIGHT** (stage manager) is a native of Jacksonville, FL. He began his career as a stage manager in 1968 with the Chuck Davis Company, where he later became technical director. He has worked with several dance companies in and around New York City. Until recently, he was the technical director for the Forces of Nature. Woolbright's credits include *Lyon and the Jewel*, *Frankenstein's Rib*, *The Greatest of All Time*, and *Muhammed Wait for Me*. He has been stage manager for DanceAfrica since its inception in 1977.

**MALAIKA UWAMAHORO** (spoken word performer) is an actress, poet, and activist born in Rwanda, and a recent graduate of Fordham University in NYC, with a BA in theater studies (acting track). She attended Fordham as a proud recipient of a Rwandan Presidential Scholarship. Uwahoro has performed her own poetry around the world, most recently at the UN for the 23rd commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. In 2014, she made her off-Broadway debut at Signature Theatre in the world premiere of Katori Hall's *Our Lady of Kibeho*. Other theater in the US includes *Cartography* (Kennedy Center, DC), *Measure Back* (Dixon Place, NYC), *Bishop* (Fordham/Primary Stages, NYC), and *Africa's Hope* (USC Bovard Theatre, CA). International theater: *Les Os qui Craquent* (Theatre de Poche, Belgium). Film: *Loveless Generation* (dir. Thomas Petkovski), *Un Plain Parfait* (dir. Pascal Chaumeil), *Shake Hands with the Devil* (Dir. Roger Spottiswoode).

**MICHAEL WIMBERLY** (composer) is a composer, producer, educator, and multi-instrumentalist who has performed, recorded, and/or toured

with a range of innovative artists including David Murray, Charles Gayle, William Parker, Vernon Reid, Henry Rollins, Steve Coleman's 5 Elements, Parliament Funkadelic, Paul Winter Consort, D'Angelo, and Blondie, to name a few. As a composer, Wimberly has created commissioned scores for dance companies Urban Bush Women, Joffrey II Ballet, Complexions, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Philadanco, Ailey II, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. His sound designs have appeared in the Public Theater, Cherry Lane Theatre, Lincoln Center Institute, and the Kennedy Center. He has composed scores for the HBO full-length feature *Atlantic City Lights* by Brent Owens, *As An Act of Protest* by Dennis Leroy Moore, and *Digital Griot* for visual artist Betye Saar. As a featured percussionist, he has appeared with Berlin's Rundfunk Symphony, Vienna's Tonkuntsler Symphony, Leipzig Symphony, and International Regions Symphony Orchestra of Europe. Wimberly's percussion instruction books *Getting Started on Cajon* and *Getting Started on Djembe* are published and distributed by Hudson Music Publishing. Wimberly is a professor at Bennington College in Bennington, VT.

**FRANK MALLOY IV** (percussionist), born in South Carolina and raised in New York City, is a musician, composer, and DJ. Currently he is the musical director of Harambee Dance Company. He also works to carry African culture forward by creating his own modern dun dun drum set, playing West African percussion instruments during his DJ sets, and answering the call to create new traditions for the many generations to come. Building community has always been a part of his philosophy and he uses music to connect, empower, and inspire other young artists.

**KRISTIN COLVIN YOUNG** (production stage manager) is honored to be a part of DanceAfrica 2019. Young is the Production Stage Manager for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and celebrates her 20th season with the company. She has also stage managed for Parsons Dance Company (1997—2000) and was a founding member of Battleworks Dance Company in 2002. Starting her career at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in 1997, Young had the pleasure of working with companies such as Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Mark Morris Dance Group, STREB, and Stockholm/59°. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College with a BA in dance and sociology, Young frequently lectures at

colleges and universities encouraging the next generation of stage managers.

**NORMADIEN WOOLBRIGHT** (assistant stage manager) is a graduate of the Performing Arts High School, holds a BA in dance education from Lehman College, and studied with Chuck Davis beginning as a teenager. She became artistic director of the Chuck Davis Dance Company when Davis relocated to Durham, NC in 1989. She now serves as road manager and director of educational projects for the African American Dance Ensemble. She remains active in the field

of dancing through teaching, performing, and participating in school residencies.

**GINA SOLEBELLO** (assistant stage manager) is an AEA Stage Manager. NY Theater: *Faust 2.0* (Mabou Mines); *Emma and Max, ms. estrada*, *Inanimate* (all at The Flea); *Miss Nelson is Missing!* (Two Beans Productions), and *Twinkle Tames a Dragon* (Vital Theater Company). NY dance: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (Lincoln Center and City Center Seasons, 2014—16). Solebello is also the co-director of a Brooklyn-based multi-disciplinary arts collective, The Creators Collective.

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### DANCEAFRICA COUNCIL OF ELDERS

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Mama Kumali Abramson

Mama Peggy Alston

Baba Timeke AmenRa

Baba Yomi Awolowo

Mama Carol Awolowo

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Mama Elsie Washington

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*A full list of DanceAfrica remembrances is located in the Memorial Room.*



# Who's Who

## INGANZO NGARI

Emmanuel Gasigwa  
Asman Habakurama  
Ismael Hategekimana  
Gaelle Izere  
Nina Kayumba  
Clarisse Mukashyaka  
Serge Nahimana

Yves Rene Niyirora  
Athanase Nkurunziza  
Aloys Nsabimana  
Salvan Ntwarabashi  
Claude Nyandwi  
Alain Nzeyimana  
Mukangira Henriette Rugamba

Djuma Rurangirwa  
Juma Sembuga  
Amissa Umuhoza  
Aline Uwineza  
Dieudonne Uwitonze  
Albert Uwizerwa

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## DANCEAFRICA SPIRIT WALKERS

Ferrin Coleman  
Omari Contaste  
Kourtney Charles  
Jude Evans  
Thea Grier

Dyane Harvey  
Imani Nzingha Johnson  
Paris Jones  
Faith Mondesire  
Maya Petty

Jae Ponder  
Jazmine Poole  
Keith Tolbert  
Shoniah Torres  
Jamain Victor  
Swing: Qwadasia Lovett

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Ronald K. Brown and Arcell Cabuag, Artistic Directors,  
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Karen Thornton, Artistic Director, DanceAfrica BAM/  
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Karen Thornton, Artistic Director  
Kwesi Nkroma, Music Director

## FESTIVAL DANCE INSTRUCTORS

Karen Thornton  
Mama Andara Koumba Rahman

## MASTER DRUMMER

Baba O Wali Rahman

## DRUMMERS

Kwesi Nkroma  
Ramon Rahman

## WARDROBE

Jorge Rosario

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Jonell Ashbury  
Schuyler Burke  
Adia Clarke  
Mikua Ferrer  
Jazmine Johnson  
Mia Nelson  
Roshelle Nelson  
Atiya Pope  
Shetaya Pringle  
Kayla Reid  
Aaomi Sailing  
T'kiyah Townsend  
Nikita Whittle  
Christina Woods

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Kayla Davis  
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Christyn Oliphant  
Alexandrya Robinson