



**BAM launches DanceAfrica digitally with a series of public programs celebrating the nation’s largest African dance festival and its community, programs launch May 18**

**Offerings include conversations with Abdel R. Salaam, Rennie Harris, Ronald K. Brown, Mikki Shepard, DanceAfrica Elders, and more; online dance classes; streams of past performances; FilmAfrica; and other programs that bring the joy of DanceAfrica into audiences’ home**

**Popular Brooklyn bazaar goes digital for the first time in 43 years highlighting 20+ small businesses through an online marketplace, May 14—June 15**

**Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor**



Images from *DanceAfrica: 2019 Rwanda Reborn: The Remix*\_Photos by Julieta Cervantes; More images [HERE](#)

**May 14, 2020/Brooklyn, NY**—BAM celebrates DanceAfrica—the nation’s largest African dance festival—through digital public programming, launching May 18. The series of digital offerings pays special tribute to the people who have shaped the popular festival over the past 42 years.

Offerings will include conversations with DanceAfrica creatives and members of the Council of Elders, online dance classes, streams of past performances, the annual FilmAfrica series, and other programs that bring the joy of DanceAfrica into audiences’ homes. And for the first time in its history, the popular DanceAfrica bazaar will go digital with an online marketplace highlighting small businesses offering the finest fashion, food, jewelry, and crafts.

DanceAfrica digital public programming has been specially created in response to the current world environment, with audiences seeking compelling ways to connect with their community and explore the arts from home. BAM's longest-running and most beloved program is a community celebration, welcoming all to observe. The celebratory events will continue the series of unique digital experiences offered by *Love from BAM*. Visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org) to join and view a weekly schedule. Detailed information below.

For press information on DanceAfrica digital conversations, dance classes, or the digital bazaar contact: Cynthia Tate at [ctate@BAM.org](mailto:ctate@BAM.org)

**Images are available for download [here](#).**

**DanceAfrica Public Digital Programming Includes:**

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|----------------|--|
| May 15—June 15 | <b>DanceAfrica Digital Bazaar</b>  |
| May 18         | <b><i>Music and DanceAfrica</i> with Baba Bradley Simmons and Foluso Alamide Mimy</b>  |
| May 20         | <b><i>Contemporary Dance and DanceAfrica</i> with Rennie Harris, Jamel Gaines, and Ronald K. Brown</b>                         |
| May 21         | <b>FilmAfrica: co-presented by BAM &amp; African Film Festival, Inc.</b>   |
| May 22         | <b><i>Bantaba Hip-Hop Dance Class</i> with James “Cricket” Colter</b>  |
| May 25         | <b><i>DanceAfrica, The Early Years</i> with Mikki Shepard</b>  |
| May 26         | <b><i>DanceAfrica and The Council of Elders</i> with Mamma Normadien Woolbright and Baba N’goma Woolbright</b>                 |
| May 27         | <b><i>DanceAfrica and The Council of Elders</i> with Mamma Lynette White-Mathews and Baba Bill (William) Mathews</b>           |
| May 28         | <b>FilmAfrica: co-presented by BAM &amp; African Film Festival, Inc.</b>   |
| May 28         | <b><i>Education and DanceAfrica</i> with Karen Thornton Daniels, Sabine LaFortune, Coco Killingsworth, and Abdel R. Salaam</b> |
| May 29         | <b><i>Bantaba West African Dance Class</i> with Karen Thornton Daniels and Farai Malianga</b>                                  |
| May 29         | <b><i>DanceAfrica Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow</i> with Coco Killingsworth, Charmaine Warren, and Abdel R. Salaam</b>        |

**ABOUT THE PROGRAMS**

**DanceAfrica Digital Bazaar**

**Fri, May 15—Sun, May 31**

DanceAfrica's popular free outdoor bazaar goes digital this year, creating an online marketplace highlighting small businesses offering the finest fashion, food, jewelry, and

crafts. These vendors have been part of DanceAfrica throughout the years, and contribute to the vital presence of African, Caribbean, and African-American culture in Brooklyn. All proceeds go directly to these businesses—providing critical support to independent artists, artisans, and entrepreneurs. Free and open to the public. For more information visit [bam.org/bazaar](http://bam.org/bazaar)

***Music and DanceAfrica***

**With Baba Bradley Simmons and Foluso Alamide Mimy**

**Mon, May 18 at 6pm ET**

Music director Baba Bradley Simmons and drummer Foluso Alamide Mimy gather with DanceAfrica Associate Producer Charmaine Warren to reflect on the 1993 performance and the integral role of music at DanceAfrica. The conversation will be complemented by select video clips from *DanceAfrica 1993: Sweet 16* featuring the late Baba Abu Shabazz and Nana Kimati Dinizulu, Women of the Calabash, and DanceAfrica Djembe Orchestra. Free and open to the public.

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***Contemporary Dance and DanceAfrica***

**With Rennie Harris, Jamel Gaines, and Ronald K. Brown**

**Wed, May 20 at 6pm ET**

Celebrated choreographers Rennie Harris of Rennie Harris PureMovement, Jamel Gaines of Creative Outlet, and Ronald K. Brown of Evidence Dance Company join DanceAfrica Associate Producer Charmaine Warren to reflect on their participation in DanceAfrica over the years in a wide-ranging conversation, complemented by video clips from their performances. Free and open to the public.

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***Bantaba Hip-Hop Dance Class***

**With James “Cricket” Colter**

**Fri, May 22 at 2pm ET**

James “Cricket” Colter leads a bantaba hip-hop class online, inviting the community to come together through dance. A founding company member of Rennie Harris PureMovement, Colter is an internationally renowned professional street dancer creating work rooted in hip-hop and contemporary dance. Free and open to the public.

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***DanceAfrica, The Early Years***

**With Mikki Shepard**

**Mon, May 25 at 11:15am ET**

Mikki Shepard, the original producer of DanceAfrica, discusses the festival’s inaugural year and how the program grew, from 1977 to 1984. She joins DanceAfrica Associate Producer Charmaine Warren in this informal discussion. The conversation will be

complemented by video clips from past DanceAfrica performances. A virtual libation will take place at 11am. This traditional ceremony, which includes dancing and music, is an integral part of DanceAfrica that honors elders who have transitioned. Free and open to the public.

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### ***DanceAfrica and The Council of Elders***

**With Mamma Normadien Woolbright and Baba N'goma Woolbright**

**Tue, May 26 at 6pm ET**

The DanceAfrica Council of Elders is a community of local artists, leaders, and activists who help keep the traditions and integrity of the program moving forward, through their artistry and wisdom. Elder members Mamma Normadien and Baba N'goma Woolbright were married on the DanceAfrica stage in 1983. They join DanceAfrica Artistic Director Abdel R. Salaam and DanceAfrica Associate Producer Charmaine Warren to reflect on their unique ceremony, as well as their participation in DanceAfrica over the years, both as Elders and as longtime stage managers. The discussion is complemented by video clips from their wedding, their 1993 vow renewal, and footage from that year's performance by the Chuck Davis Dance Company. Free and open to the public.

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### ***DanceAfrica and The Council of Elders***

**With Mamma Lynette White-Mathews and Baba Bill (William) Mathews**

**Wed, May 27 at 6pm ET**

DanceAfrica Council of Elders is a community of local artists, leaders, and activists who help keep the traditions and integrity of the program moving forward, through their artistry and wisdom. Elder leaders and longtime members Mamma Lynette White-Mathews and Baba Bill (William) Mathews join DanceAfrica Associate Producer Charmaine Warren for a discussion on performances over the years, complemented by video clips from DanceAfrica performances in 2011 and 2019. Free and open to the public.

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### ***Education and DanceAfrica***

**With Karen Thornton Daniels, Sabine LaFortune, Coco Killingsworth, and Abdel R. Salaam**

**Thu, May 28 at 6pm ET**

This wide-ranging discussion shines a light on the essential and evolving role education has played in DanceAfrica programming over the years. Karen Thornton Daniels, former Artistic Director of the BAM/Restoration DanceAfrica Ensemble and Sabine LaFortune, RestorationART Senior Director of Operations and Production join BAM Vice President of Community and Education Coco Killingsworth and DanceAfrica Artistic Director Abdel R. Salaam as they share their experiences and insights. The conversation will be

complemented by video clips from DanceAfrica education programs. Free and open to the public.

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### ***Bantaba West African Dance Class***

**With Karen Thornton Daniels and Farai Malianga**

**Fri, May 29 at 2pm ET**

Dancer and choreographer Karen Thornton Daniels and BAM Teaching Artist Farai Malianga lead this bantaba dance class with a focus on a variety of dances and traditions from West Africa. Free and open to the public.

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### ***DanceAfrica Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow***

**With Coco Killingsworth, Charmaine Warren, and Abdel R. Salaam,**

**Fri, May 29 at 6pm ET**

BAM Vice President of Education and Community Engagement Coco Killingsworth, DanceAfrica Associate Producer Charmaine Warren, and DanceAfrica Artistic Director Abdel R. Salaam gather to talk about the beloved program and the passing of the torch after Founding Artistic Director Baba Chuck Davis' transition. The conversation will be complemented by video clips from *DanceAfrica: 2019 Rwanda Reborn: The Remix*. Free and open to the public.

**JOIN [HERE](#).** For more information, visit [BAM.org](#)

For press information on DanceAfrica digital conversations, dance classes, or the digital bazaar contact: Cynthia Tate at [ctate@BAM.org](mailto:ctate@BAM.org)

### **FilmAfrica**

**Co-presented by BAM & AFF, Inc**

For this edition of the annual cinematic companion to DanceAfrica, BAM partners with African Film Festival, Inc. to present online screenings of a selection of modern African cinema classics. Proceeds go toward supporting African Film Festival, Inc., and BAM during the temporary closure. Screenings open May 21 and May 28. For more information visit [BAM.org](#). *Special thanks to Film Movement, GKIDS, Icarus Films and Oscilloscope Films.*

### ***Aya of Yop City* (2012)**

Directed by Marguerite Abouet, Clément Oubrerie

**Opens May 21**

Nineteen-year-old aspiring doctor Aya spends most of her time at home in the Abidjan suburb of Yopougon (nicknamed Yop City) studying and dealing with her family so she doesn't have time to take part in the exploits of her gal pals Bintou and Adjoua, both of whom want it all—to marry up as well as start their own business. Things go awry, though, when one of them gets pregnant. Oubrerie's vivid drawings capture the spirit of

a community growing past colonialism along with the rest of the country, and a spectacular soundtrack of period funk, rock, disco, and Afro jazz sets it all in motion. An animated delight for the eyes and the ears. (85mins; \$4.99 rental)

***Mother of George* (2012)**

Directed by Andrew Dosunmu

**Opens May 21**

In a flurry of dazzling colors, textiles, music, and dance, Brooklyn restaurant owner Ayodele and his bride Adenike (Danai Gurira) are married and ceremoniously blessed with traditional Nigerian prayers of fertility. Adenike struggles to conceive a child, and with mounting pressure from her oppressive mother-in-law, she must take drastic measures to save her marriage. With sumptuous, spellbinding cinematography from DP Bradford Young (*Pariah, Middle of Nowhere*), Andrew Dosunmu's exquisite sophomore feature is an enlightening look at immigrant life, capturing the vibrant culture of Crown Heights' Yoruba community. (106 mins; Pay What You Wish, starting at \$0.99)

***Rafiki* (2018)**

Directed by Wanuri Kahiu

**Opens May 21**

Bursting with the colorful street style and music of Nairobi's vibrant youth culture, *Rafiki* is a tender love story between two young women in a country that still criminalizes homosexuality. Kena and Ziki have long been told that "good Kenyan girls become good Kenyan wives," but they yearn for something more. Despite the political rivalry between their families, the girls encourage each other to pursue their dreams in a conservative society. When love blossoms between them, Kena and Ziki must choose between happiness and safety. (83min; \$4.99 rental)

***Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love* (2008)**

Directed by Chai Vasarhelyi

**Opens May 21**

Venture into the controversy that arose when Senegalese pop superstar Youssou N'Dour released *Egypt*, a deeply spiritual album calling for a more tolerant view of Islam. While *Egypt* generates acclaim around the world, even winning a Grammy award, it ignites a backlash in Senegal where some reject it as blasphemous. Don't miss this documentary tracing the musician's journey to reclaim his role as the "voice of Africa." (102min; Pay What You Wish, starting at \$0.99)

***A Screaming Man* (2010)**

Directed by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun

**Opens May 28**

Writer-director Haroun tells the story of his native Chad's troubled history not from the battlefield frontlines, but at the poolside. Adam is a former Chadian swimming great now working with his son at a resort hotel, but when corporate intervention puts Adam in a job below his station, his own flesh-and-blood becomes his competition. (92min; \$4.99 rental)

***Chez Jolie Coiffure* (2018)**

Directed by Rosine Mbakam

**Opens May 28**

Sabine attaches a hair weave and gets to work. Her hands move quickly and precisely, as she tightly braids the hair in front of the sign in her salon promising African, European, and American-style coiffure. Sabine is a larger than-life personality crammed into a tiny, glassed-in shop in the largely immigrant Brussels district of Matonge. Here, she and her employees fit extensions and glue on lashes while watching soaps, dishing romantic advice, sharing rumors about government programs to legalize migrants, and talking about people back home in West Africa. (71min; \$4.99 rental)

***I Am Not a Witch* (2017)**

Directed by Rungano Nyoni

**Opens May 28**

When 9-year old orphan Shula is accused of witchcraft, she is exiled to a witch camp run by Mr. Banda, a corrupt and inept government official. Tied to the ground by a white ribbon, Shula is told that she will turn into a goat if she tries to escape. As the only child witch, Shula quickly becomes a local star and the adults around her exploit her supposed powers for financial gain. Soon she is forced to make a difficult decision – whether to resign herself to life on the camp, or take a risk for freedom. (93min; \$4.99 rental)

***National Diploma* (2014)**

Directed by Dieudo Hamadi

**Opens May 28**

This gripping documentary follows a group of Congolese high-school students about to take the state exam in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Director Hamadi closely follows them as they prepare for the test, from the benches of the school they are regularly ejected from because they haven't paid the fees the teachers unfairly inflict upon their students, to the communal house where they gather to study, and the chaotic city streets of Kisangani they walk trying to find a living. (93min; \$4.99 rental)

For press information on FilmAfrica contact: Lindsay Brayton at [lbrayton@bam.org](mailto:lbrayton@bam.org)

**Images are available for download [here](#).**

**About the Artists**

**Ronald K. Brown** founded Evidence, A Dance Company in 1985. He has worked with Mary Anthony Dance Theater, Jennifer Muller/The Works, and many other choreographers and artists. Brown has set works for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Jeune Ballet d'Afrique Noire, Philadanco, Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago, Ko-Thi Dance Company, and Ballet Hispanico. He choreographed Regina Taylor's award-winning play *Crowns*, winning an AUDELCO Award for his work on that production. Brown won the Fred & Adele Astaire Award for Outstanding Choreography in the Tony award-winning production of *The Gershwin's Porgy & Bess* and was named Def Dance Jam Workshop Mentor of the Year in 2000.

Other awards and recognitions include the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, United States Artists Fellowship, and The Ailey Apex Award for teaching. Brown is also a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society. Previous BAM appearances include *Ronald K. Brown/Evidence: 25 Years* (NWF 2010), *DanceAfrica* (Spring 2009), and *High Life* (Spring 2001).

**James "Cricket" Colter** is an international street dancer. Colter (Cricket) is a founding member of Rennie Harris Pure Movement (RHPM) and has worked with the company for over 16 years. Cricket is an original cast member of Rennie Harris' Bessie award winning multidisciplinary hip-hop theater presentation, *Rome and Jewels*. During his time with RHPM, Cricket was involved in teaching and performing around the world and was the leader of Puremovement's educational outreach program. Colter is also a part of the Step-Fenz dance crew, a NY based dance group that is known for its mix of B-boy and House dance.

He has taught globally at numerous hip-hop dance festivals including Bates Dance Festival and the Illadelph Legends Festival. Cricket was a featured dancer in the Disney movie *Step Up 2: The Streets* and has danced for various recording artists including, Boys II Men, KRS-1, Will Smith, Eve, Avril Lavigne, Fall Out-Boy, and was a host MTV Japan's *Dreamers* television show. He has worked with the legendary street dance pioneer Bill "Crutch Master" Shannon, Urban tap dancer, Tamango Van Cayseeleas, and London's best known urban theatrical word smith and curator, Jonzi D. Cricket has produced and directed various dance pieces in Philadelphia, New York City and London, including "Heroes," a London based hip-hop theater show where he was acted as director and principal costume designer. Mr. Colter has recently founded his own company Concept Kinetics to accomplish the goal. Colter previously performed at BAM for the 2002 DanceAfrica Festival.

Creative Outlet Founder and Artistic Director, **Jamel Gaines** has dedicated his life to delivering artistic excellence and stirring, soaring performance to audiences everywhere. With more than 25 years of teaching and choreography experience, Gaines seeks to inspire, motivate, and nurture dancers and artists. Under his leadership, Creative Outlet has set itself apart as a highly acclaimed performing and cultural arts organization with a proven record in training the next generation of professional dancers and artists. Gaines has created and staged over 25 repertory and concert productions. His work has been staged by Spike Lee's Annual Tribute Concert to Michael Jackson and Prince, *So You Think You Can Dance*, Actors Theater Workshop, NYC Department of Parks, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, the Paramount Theatre, and the Martha Graham School.

He has had the distinction of working with distinguished artists such as Jennifer Holiday, Whitney Houston, Savion Glover, Ornette Coleman, and Ossie Davis. Gaines has been part of the original artistic team engineered by Dr. Rev. Johnny Ray Youngblood and directed by Jesse Wooden Jr. called MAAFA, which refers to the African Holocaust. Gaines has mounted variations of the MAAFA production across the United States in museums, churches, theatres and other indoor/ outdoor venues. He received an Obie Award for the acclaimed *Black Nativity*. Gaines looks forward to continuing to cultivate a creative, cultural, and spiritual experience through the Creative Outlet in order to bring social consciousness through the arts to the world. Previous BAM appearances include DanceAfrica performances in 2002, 2006, and in 2012.

**Lorenzo "Rennie" Harris** was born and raised in North Philadelphia. In 1992, he founded Rennie Harris Puremovement, a hip-hop dance theater company dedicated to preserving and



disseminating hip-hop culture. Voted one of the most influential people in the last 100 years of Philadelphia history in 2000, Harris has since received several accolades, including the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the Governor's Arts Award, a United States Artist Fellowship, and an honorary doctorate from Bates College. A pop culture icon, Harris was a member of several dance groups that have opened and performed with Salt-n-Pepa, Madonna, Sister Sledge, and more. He's created work for television shows including, *Dancin' on Air*, *Dance Party USA*, and *One House Street*. Previous BAM appearances include DanceAfrica performances in 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, and 2002.

**Coco Killingsworth** is the Vice President of Education and Community Engagement at Brooklyn Academy of Music. In this post, Killingsworth guides BAM's community and education programming in alignment with the institution's overall mission. She oversees BAM's broad initiatives for children, families, and students, develops collaborations with other organizations, and serves as an advocate for the community. Killingsworth's position unites two long standing and essential program areas at BAM and allows for their future growth.

From 2010—16, Killingsworth served as the Deputy Director/Director of Programs for Global Kids, Inc., where she managed school-based and after-school global education programs and special projects in 35 New York City public schools. Previously, she was associate director of programs for the High School for Global Citizenship & Global Kids, where she developed a Brooklyn public high school in concert with the Department of Education, community organizations, teachers, and parents. In that capacity, she created interactive curricula in global issues and leadership development, and coordinated after-school programs in arts and leadership.

Killingsworth previously designed seminars and served on the board of directors for the Sadie Nash Leadership Project for young women, and was a Charles H. Revson Fellow at Columbia University in 2010-11. She was also a principal dancer in ASE Dance Theater Collective, a Brooklyn-based dance company. Killingsworth holds a BA in History and African Studies from UCLA, and a Master's in Education from Harvard University. She resides in Brooklyn with her husband, Eris Johnson-Smith, and their two children.

**Foluso Alamide Mimy** is a percussion artist dedicated to the performance and teaching of music of Africa and the African Diaspora, spending most of his time in Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire. Since his performance debut at the age of four, Foluso has collaborated with several dance companies and artists, including Chiwoniso Maraire, the Maimouna Keita School of West African Dance, Umoja Dance Co., Djoule Africaine, M.F.O.A., African Global Theatre, BAM, and more. Foluso is currently the Musical Director of Egun Omode Performing Arts Collective. Previous BAM appearances include DanceAfrica performances in 1994, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2011-2015, and 2017.

**Abdel R. Salaam** became DanceAfrica's artistic director in 2016. He is also the executive artistic director/co-founder of Forces of Nature Dance Theatre (FONDT) founded in 1981. Born in Harlem, Salaam is a critically acclaimed choreographer and has served as a dancer, teacher, and performing artist on five continents throughout his 47-year career in the dance world. He has received numerous awards and fellowships for excellence in dance, including the National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation on the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, New York State Council for Arts, National Council for Arts and Culture, and Herbert H. Lehman College. Salaam and Forces of Nature Dance Theatre were honored with a 2017 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for DanceAfrica's centerpiece performance, *Healing Sevens*. In 2019, he received the American Dance Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in dance.

The company also received the 2013 Audelco Award for Dance Company of the Year. Salaam has served on the faculties of the American Dance Festival in the US and Seoul, Korea; Herbert H. Lehman College; Alvin Ailey American Dance Center; Restoration Youth Arts Academy; and Harlem Children's Zone. Inspired by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Salaam created *Kwanzaa Regeneration Night Celebration* at the Apollo Theater, now in its 38th year.

**Mikki Shepard** is an independent consultant advising foundations on new program initiatives and writing on her work in the arts field. Shepard joined the Apollo Theater in 2006 as a consultant and was the Executive Producer from 2009—2016. Prior to her appointment at the Apollo, Shepard was a consultant to major foundations and performing arts institutions, such as the Ford Foundation, Heinz Endowments, Doris Duke Charitable Trust, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Meet the Composer, Jacob's Pillow, Future of Music Coalition, Inc. Her work focused on program development/assessments, strategic planning, and organizational restructuring. Shepard also served as the Director of Arts and Humanities at the Rockefeller Foundation.

She produced over 25 performing arts programs for Brooklyn Academy of Music that included *Steps in Time*, *Tappin' Uptown*, *Dance Black America: 300 years of Black Dance in America*, and *DanceAfrica* where she served as the original producer in 1977. As founder and executive producer of Brooklyn's 651Arts, she produced *100 Years of Jazz and Blues Festival*, *Sung and Unsung/Jazz Women*, *Dance Women/Living Legends*, and *Lost Jazz Shrines* and was the architect of the Africa Exchange Program a major international initiative.

Shepard serves as chair of Mertz Gilmore Foundation board and is on the board of the Fan Fox Leslie Samuels Foundation. She was a board member of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Brooklyn Community Foundation, and Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, where she served as chair of the Cultural Industry Fund Committee.

**Baba Bradley Simmons**, a native of New York City, began playing Afro-Cuban and African percussion when he was 9 years old. From that point on and through his teenage years, he traveled throughout the city seeking out percussion teachers from Haiti, Cuba, and Africa in an effort to enhance his understanding of these rhythmic forms, styles and techniques. Simmons soon became a consistent and sought after conguero and shekere player for community and religious events. Bradley performed on Broadway with Eartha Kitt and Melba Moore in the hit play *Timbuktu*. He is the former Music Director of the Chuck Davis African-American Dance Ensemble of Durham, NC. He's taught at the Larocque Bey School of Dance, the Gloria Jackson School of Dance in NYC; Berkeley School of Music, Boston MA; Texas Southern, Houston, TX; Wichita State University, Wichita, KS; and North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. During the summers he plays for an MFA program at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA. Simmons is currently the Musical Director at Duke University in Durham, NC, where he teaches an Afro-Cuban course and West African Music and History. Previous BAM appearances include *DanceAfrica* in 1985, 1991-94, and 1997.

**Images are available for download [here](#).**

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#### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

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