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DanceAfrica

2017

The Healing Light of Rhythm: Tradition and Beyond

Artistic Director Abdel R. Salaam
and Artistic Director Emeritus
Chuck Davis

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
May 26 at 7:30pm; May 27 at 2pm & 7pm;
May 28 & 29 at 3pm
Approximate running time: two hours and 15 minutes,
including one intermission

Produced by BAM

Asase Yaa
Forces of Nature Dance Theatre
Illstyle & Peace Productions
Wula Drum and Dance Ensemble
BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble

Lighting design by **Al Crawford**
Sound design by **David Margolin Lawson**
Costume design by **Hopie Lyn Burrows**
Stage manager **N'Goma Woolbright**
Assistant stage manager **Normadien Woolbright**

*These performances are dedicated to the memory
of Baba Chuck Davis, founder and artistic director
emeritus of DanceAfrica.*

Season Sponsor:

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Peace and blessings!

Welcome to the 40th Anniversary of BAM's DanceAfrica Festival. This year is a milestone in American history celebrating the dance, music, and culture of the African diaspora here at home and abroad. We are pleased to present The Healing Light of Rhythm: Tradition and Beyond, featuring Philadelphia's Illstyle & Peace Productions, Brooklyn's Asase Yaa, Harlem's Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, and a special tribute to the culture of Guinea with Wula Drum and Dance Ensemble.

But first, some sad news. It is with great regret to report that we recently lost Baba Chuck Davis, who transitioned to the ancestral ground. While we are profoundly saddened, we give thanks for all of the gifts he shared with each and every one of us over four decades of DanceAfrica. The best way we can honor his life is to give our all to DanceAfrica, as he did for 40 years.

There is no greater honor than to serve a community through one's passion. Dance, through its infinite forms and rhythms, has provided us with the gifts of the arts, vision, and regeneration. To have received such gifts and have the opportunity to continue to share them with the DanceAfrica family is truly a divine experience!

Since the first DanceAfrica in 1977, our community has received inspiration, passion, joy, and wisdom. Africa and its worldwide diaspora have shared the contributions of an ancient and contemporary civilization that continues to be fluid and dynamic. Africa continues to be the wellspring from which we have drawn and will draw, as our thirst for its healing waters of life is neverending. Africa is our great ancestor, whose first language was movement—dance—with its infinite forms and rhythms. Africa and the dance and music of its diaspora are ancient and traditional, present and contemporary—visionary and the future.

We at BAM continue the search for tradition and innovation in DanceAfrica's "Keepers of the Culture," the African-Americans and continental Africans who inspire us to create programs that entertain, provoke thought, and hopefully encourage positive, healing change. To the children of the BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble and the Spirit Walkers, it is a joy to welcome you back!

We give thanks and praise to the Elders and our Ancestors. To the memory of Baba Chuck Davis, my African dance father, whose original vision helped lay the foundation on which I now build, I give endless thanks and praise.

Join us as we embark on this journey to the land of what was, what is, and what can be.

Health, prosperity, love, and peace to you all,
Baba Abdel R. Salaam, artistic director, DanceAfrica 2017

THE HEALING LIGHT OF RHYTHM: TRADITION AND BEYOND

SPIRIT WALKERS: ROOTS OF REMEMBRANCE (Premiere)

Choreography **Abdel R. Salaam**

African percussion **Asase Yaa** and **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre**

Dancers **BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble** (refer to list of performers in Who's Who), **Dyane Harvey, Spirit Walkers (Kortney Charles, Omari Contaste, Jude Evans, Thea Grier, Faith Mondesire, Jazmine Poole, Keith Tolbert, Jamaine Victor)**, and **Memorial Candlebearers (Timothy Bishop, Hanan Hameen, Arisa Ingram, Francie Johnson, Mayetha Johnson, Joy Kariamou, Nakaia V.D.A.)**

Musicians **Yao Ababio, Ayanda Clarke, Frank Malloy IV, Kwesi Nkroma, Kweku Sumbry, Michael Wimberly, Kofi Osei Williams**

Spirit Walkers: Roots of Remembrance is the 40th anniversary memorial tribute to our ancestors and the contributions they made to our civilization during the course of their lives.

WELCOME

Baba Abdel R. Salaam

THE HEALING SEVENS (Premiere)

Conceived and directed by **Abdel R. Salaam**

Choreography **Yao Ababio** (Sounds in Motion), **Brandon "Peace" Albright** (hip-hop/b-boy), **Jae Ponder** (femme hip-hop), **Abdel R. Salaam** (neo-African/fusion)

Music **Peter Gabriel, Grandmaster Flash, Run the Jewels, T.I.**

Assistant to the director **Dyane Harvey**

Rehearsal director **Naimah Saleem**

African dance captain **Fritzlyn Hector**

Sound design **David Margolin Lawson**

African percussion direction & composition **Yao Ababio, Frank Malloy IV, Abdel R. Salaam, Kofi Osei Williams**

Dancers

Asase Yaa

Yao Ababio (artistic director), **Fabiola Ababio, Ndack Fleming, Cimone Graves, Zakiyah Harris, Stephen Hill, Dina Lynn Wright Joseph, Maimouna Kane, Assane Opore, Nabowire Stokes, Rubie Nez Williams**

Illstyle & Peace Productions

Brandon "Peace" Albright (artistic director), **Tyler Brown, Robert Durkston, Antwine Freeman, Darryl Pettway Jr., Deshawn Sanders**

Forces of Nature Dance Theatre

Abdel R. Salaam (artistic director), **Ferrin Coleman, Daaimah Talib Din, FritzLyn Hector, Jason Herbert, Quadasia Lovett, Aatifa Nzingha, Imani Nzingha, Jae Ponder, Denica Abdur Razzaq, Artrese Reid, Vaughn Subran, Tricia Tait, Charmian Wells, Jerijah West, L. Mimi Woods**

Spirit Walkers (see **Spirit Walkers** dancers, above)

Musicians **Yao Ababio, Ayanda Clark, Frank Malloy III, Frank Malloy IV, Kwesi Nkroma, Abdel R. Salaam, Senfuab Stoney, Kweku Sumbry, Kofi Osei Williams, Michael Wimberly**
Swings **Asaata Barton, Stephanie Chronopoulos, Titalayo Derracote, Stephen Hill, Shawndele Stafford**

Prologue: Becoming Armande

Vision 1: Between the Shadows **Illstyle & Peace Productions, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre**

Vision 2: The Most High Seven **Spirit Walkers**

Vision 3 The Trickster... **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre** featuring **FritzLyn Hector**

Vision 4: Red and Black Two **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Asase Yaa**

Vision 5: Sound in Motion **Asase Yaa**

Vision 6: Degrees of Light **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre**

Vision 7: The Rite **Asase Yaa, Forces of Nature, Spirit Walkers**

Epilogue: Resurrection **Illstyle & Peace Productions, Asase Yaa, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Spirit Walkers**

The Healing Sevens was originally presented as *Sevens* by Forces of Nature Dance Theatre at the Apollo Theater in 2014. This new work combines the dance and musical talents of Illstyle & Peace Productions, Asase Yaa, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, and the Spirit Walkers for the first time into a megacompany of 50 artists in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of DanceAfrica. The work specifically addresses the potential power of rhythm, dance, and music of the African Diaspora to help heal the illness of gun violence within some of the inner cities of our nation. The collaboration features the choreography of Brandon “Peace” Albright, Abdel R. Salaam, and Yao Ababio. Of special note is the deconstruction and reinvention in various sections of some traditional rhythms and dance forms from Guinea into non-traditional meters and explorations of the number seven and its mythical significance. This work is dedicated to all those lives which were lost through gun violence and to the never-ending work of those who attempt to heal through arts and culture.

“We must stop killing each other.” —*Malik Ahmed CEO, Better Family Life*

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—*Intermission*—

JOURNEY TO KONAKRY: A SALUTE TO THE DANCE, MUSIC, AND CULTURE OF GUINEA

Wula Drum and Dance Ensemble

Featuring **BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble**

Choreography **M'bemba Bangoura, Sekou Sano, Karen Thornton**

Music direction **M'bemba Bangoura**

Costumes for Restoration **Hopie Lyn Burrows**

Stage direction **Abdel R. Salaam**

Wula Drum and Dance Ensemble

Artistic director, choreographer & performer **M'bemba Bangoura**, Executive director **Michael Markus**

Musicians **M'bemba Bangoura** (djembe/kyrin), **Abdoulye Toure** (djembe/dundun), **Mino Camara** (djembe/kenkeni), **Ibrahim "Kolipe" Camara** (djembe), **Foluso Mimy** (djembe), **Seny Daffe** (dundun/sangban), **Ismael Bangoura** (djembe/dundun), **Lavia** (djembe/bolon)

Dancers **Ismael "Bonfils" Kouyate, Soriba "Simbo" Camara, Sidiki Sylla, Seny Daffe, N'amarie Camara, Salimatou Yansani, Ntifafa Akoko Tete-Rosenthal, Falosha Martin**

Griot **Abou Sylla** (balaphone), **Mamma Dioubate** (kora/singing)

Prologue **Illstyle & Peace Productions** and **Dyane Harvey**

Welcome Home: Djele Muso **Wula Drum and Dance Ensemble**—The kora, also an instrument of the Djeli, is a 21-string harp made from a large calabash. The beautiful harmonies are played and accompanied by singing. Much like the Bala, the songs tell the stories of the culture. Song of the Balaphone—the balaphone, or traditionally called the bala, is the origin of the xylophone. It dates as far back as the 12th century and within its songs is the history of the culture.

Yankadi—a social dance originating from the region of Forecariah (Lower Guinea, near the border of Sierra Leone). A Susu dance, Yankadi is traditionally a partner dance for men and women. Tonight's contemporary rendition shows the graceful movements of the women.

Markuru—always follows Yankadi, and is a festive "follow the leader" dance for the youth. Because it is a celebration, it is played at a faster tempo.

Djeli (Griot)—the Djeli are from a caste system, born into a family lineage handed down from generation to generation. They learn from an oral tradition by rote, never written. The Djeli are the keepers of the folklore and know the history of all the family names of their society.

The Cleansing—reading and the purification of two young men as they prepare for their rite of passage.

KonKonba—an agricultural dance/rhythm of the Malinke people from the Faranah Region. At a slow tempo, it is played to help keep farmers motivated and in tempo with their work. After the work is finished, KonKoba is played at a fast tempo to celebrate the coming harvest.

Percussion Drum Call—demonstrates the power and complexities of the djembe and dundun of Guinea, played by both men and women.

Dundunba—originally from the Hamana Region (Upper Guinea) played and danced by the Malinke People. It is the "dance of the strong man" and shows not just muscular strength but inner strength of character as well.

Finale



Chuck Davis Emerging Choreographer Fellowship

DanceAfrica 2017

BAM announces the recipient of the 2017 Chuck Davis Emerging Choreographer Fellowship. Established in honor of DanceAfrica founding elder Baba Chuck Davis' final year as artistic director, this unique opportunity offers emerging choreographers a chance to travel to a select region or country in Africa and study with experts in African dance, with funding available for travel, accommodations, and research. Upon return from their travels, awardees will share the fruits of their research and deepening of their artistic practice with the BAM community.

**Recipient of the 2017 Chuck Davis
Emerging Choreographer Fellowship:**

Tamara Thomas

For more information on the Chuck Davis Emerging Choreographer Fellowship, visit BAM.org/davis.

Leadership support for the Chuck Davis Emerging Choreographer Fellowship provided by The SHS Foundation.



Samuel H. Scripps Scholarship

DanceAfrica 2017

BAM is thrilled to announce the winners of the 2017 Samuel H. Scripps Scholarship, celebrating its tenth anniversary of supporting young leaders in the arts. In honor of former BAM trustee and devout arts patron Sam Scripps, this program helps students achieve the goal of higher education in a range of artistic disciplines. All recipients of these two- to four-year scholarships have participated in a BAM Education program at some point between kindergarten and 12th grade and exemplify the mission of BAM's arts education programming.

Recipients of the 2017 Samuel H. Scripps Scholarship:

Nesrien Alnabulsi
Assy Barry
Nyasiah Colon
Toni Greenidge-Aigle
Naomi Johnson
Akiva Johnson
Sarujen Sivakumar
Taylor Thomas
Ky To
Tyriese White

For more information on the Samuel H. Scripps
BAM Scholarship Fund, visit BAM.org/scripps.

CHUCK DAVIS (1937—2017) (artistic director emeritus and founding Elder) was one of the foremost teachers and choreographers of traditional African dance in America and traveled extensively in Africa 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 was a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and a recipient of the AARP Certificate of Excellence, North Carolina Dance Alliance Award, the 1990 North Carolina Artist Award, and North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Since 1991, at the governor's request, he served on the board of the North Carolina Arts Council, and in 1992 he received the North Carolina Award in Fine Arts, the state's highest honor. In 1996, Chuck Davis and his African American Dance Ensemble were awarded a \$100,000 grant from National Dance Residency Program, a three-year initiative launched in 1994 by New York Foundation for the Arts and funded by Pew Charitable Trusts. Professional awards include a Monarch, a Bessie, and a BAMmie. In 1998, Davis was awarded a doctorate from Medgar Evers College and special honors from Duke University for his work in promoting dance across the US. Davis and DanceAfrica were named to Dance Heritage Coalition's list of "America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures: The First 100." In 2004, he received a prestigious *Dance Magazine* Award in honor of his achievements, and that year he was honored at Kennedy Center's week-long celebration "Masters of African-American Choreography." In 2006, Baba Chuck received an honorary doctorate from Williams College in Williamstown, MA, and was commencement speaker. He also received the 2006 Balasaraswati/Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke Chair for Distinguished Teaching at the American Dance Festival at Duke University. In 2009 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Recently, the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation announced the establishment of its Glaxo-SmithKline-Charles "Chuck" Davis Endowment.

ABDEL R. SALAAM (artistic director, choreographer) is artistic director of DanceAfrica, founded by Baba Chuck Davis in 1977. Salaam has been the executive artistic director/co-founder of Forces of Nature Dance Theatre (FONDT) since founding it in 1981. Born in Harlem, NY, he has been a dancer, teacher, and performing artist on five continents in his 47-year career. He has received numerous awards and fellowships including from 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 Lehman College. His company received the 2013 Audelco Award for Dance Company of the Year. Credits in theater, film, and television include as choreographer for *Measure for Measure*, New York Shakespeare Festival; *Pecong*, Newark Symphony Hall; New York Musical Theatre Festival, *TUT*; *Free to Dance*, PBS; *Expressions in Black: The Story of a People*, ABC; and director/choreographer for

New York Musical Theatre Festival; *Ebony Magic: The Life and Legend of Marie Laveau*, Aaronow Theater; *JuJu Man*, Billie Holiday Theater; *The Liberation of Mother Goose*, Billie Holiday Theater; *Eclipse: Visions of the Crescent and the Cross*, TPAC; and as performer in *The Richard Pryor Show*, NBC and *Black Nativity*, Fox Searchlight Films. 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, Nashville Ballet, African American Dance Ensemble, and Gywa Maten. Salaam has served on the faculties of the American Dance Festival in the US and Seoul; and in New York at Herbert H. Lehman College; Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Restoration Youth Arts Academy, and Harlem Children's Zone. He is creator of the Kwanzaa Regeneration Night Celebration in Harlem, now 35 years old, inspired by the teachings of its visionary creator and founder of Kwanzaa, Dr. Maulana Karenga.

ASASE YAA, founded by Artistic Director Yao Ababio in 2001, features seasoned musicians, dancers, and vocalists. The array of artistic skills allows this company to create unique productions that portray the authentic richness of the African diaspora experience. The company has appeared on VH1's Hip-Hop Honors Awards; the premiere of *Sing Your Song*, a documentary on Harry Belafonte at the Apollo Theater; DanceAfrica in New York and Chicago; Kente Arts Alliance in Pittsburgh; and at the first (2014) annual dance festival at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In January 2013 Asase Yaa opened its own multi-cultural performing arts facility in Brooklyn.

FORCES OF NATURE DANCE THEATRE

was co-founded by Executive Artistic Director/Choreographer Abdel R. Salaam and Executive Managing Director/CEO Olabamidele Husbands in 1981. Along with founding company member Dyane Harvey, Forces of Nature has produced professional ballets, conducted dance classes, and presented concerts and educational programs in New York City, the US, and throughout the world for over 36 years. The company has received funding from agencies including the NEA, Arts International, NYSCA, and NEFA, from which it has received two National Dance Project grants. Forces of Nature's cultural matrix is centered in an African and an American intelligence that is global and environmental. Its aesthetic has been acclaimed as visceral, thought-provoking, and creatively brilliant. Its work is a unique blend of performing arts including contemporary modern dance, traditional West African and Neo-African dance, contemporary ballet, house, and hip-hop plus live and recorded music and martial arts. Among numerous TV appearances, Forces of Nature was featured in the Emmy-winning PBS Great Performances on the history of 20th-century black dance, "Free to Dance." Forces of Nature was also featured in a film project with the National Association of Black Museums on the influence of African American dance in Western culture entitled *When the Spirit Moves*, culminating in an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The company received the 41st Annual Vivian

Robinson AUDELCO Award for Best Dance Company of 2013. Forces of Nature has also gained recognition for work with youth of all ages through workshops, master classes, and training seminars. Through ongoing programs at schools, community service organizations, and cultural institutions, the company has found that arts, plus informative presentations and participation, serve to educate our young and redirect them toward a positive path. forcesofnature.org

ILLSTYLE & PEACE PRODUCTIONS is

a multicultural Philadelphia-based dance company founded in 2000 by Brandon "Peace" Albright. The company creates work rooted in contemporary, West African, old-school, and new-school hip-hop blended with an eclectic mix of dance and performance disciplines, including, breaking, popping, locking, tap, hip-hop, and house dancing. It has toured to critical acclaim nationally and internationally, and is committed to delivering positive messages to all audiences. Illstyle & Peace Productions was a 2013 US Culture Ambassador for DanceMotion USASM, a program of the US Department of State produced by BAM, and toured Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine. Brandon "Peace" Albright is the artistic director of Illstyle & Peace Productions. He is well versed in the various styles of hip-hop dance. *Same Spirit Different Movement I & II—Impossible IZZpossible*, which was presented at BAM (Spring 2015) and is the most recent work he has choreographed for Illstyle, entails locking, popping, breaking, beat boxing, hip-hop, tap, modern jazz, African dance, belly dance, singing, and deejaying, has been touring nationally and internationally to critical acclaim, and has been performed in Russia, Poland, Canada, London, Italy, France, China, Japan, Denmark, Scotland, Sweden, and elsewhere. Albright also offers high energy workshops, master classes, and educational programs in shows such as *Become Your Dreams*, a history of hip-hop; *Hip-Hop Math*, a math lecture demonstration program; and *NO-Bullying STOP-Bullying, And Let's Be Friends :)*, an anti-bullying show. Albright is intrigued by the universality of hip-hop and continues to seek inspiration from other dance forms and arts. His latest project for Illstyle is called *We Dance II Inspire*.

WULA DRUM AND DANCE ENSEMBLE is made up of 17 master drummers, dancers, and instrumentalists, all from their native country of Guinea. They bring with them the vast knowledge of the traditional music and dance from each region and represent over 15 different Guinean ethnicities. Its Artistic Director M'bemba Bangoura has traveled the world as a performer and teacher of the Djembe drum and is revered for his high level of mastery. As a native of Guinea, Bangoura began playing the djembe at the young age of seven. By the age of 21, he was acclaimed as a master drummer and was invited to play for Ballet Djoliba, the national company of Guinea. Since moving to the US in 1992, Bangoura has become an integral part of the drum and dance scene nationwide. He has taught hundreds of students, many of who are now teachers themselves. In addition, he has personally created choreography and developed repertoire for dozens of dance companies worldwide.

BAM/RESTORATION DANCE YOUTH ENSEMBLE represents a 20-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 50th 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.

HOPIE LYN BURROWS (costume design) was born in Jamaica, WI and raised in Brooklyn. She is an award-winning costume designer, entrepreneur, wardrobe master, cultivator, seamstress, and all-around professional artistic theater designer. Her designs range from African, modern, contemporary, ballet, and wedding gowns, to extravagant one-of-a-kind pieces of art. In New York her designs have been seen on artistic companies such as Jamel Gaines/Creative Outlet, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, DanceAfrica at BAM, Purelements, Nathan Trice Rituals, Restoration Youth Arts Academy, Mind Builders Cultural Arts Center, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and many other artistic companies, churches, and theaters across the US. Internationally her work has been seen in Italy, Germany, Spain, Canada, and Jamaica. Burrows designs in all genres of performing arts including dance theater, musical stage performances, and theater. Burrows' work tells a story based on the themes, and her artistic vision and work are one of a kind.

AL CRAWFORD (lighting design) is the lighting director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In his 20th season with the company, he has created light in virtually every major theater, performing arts center, and opera house, touring to more than 48 states and 70 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, Trey McIntyre, Hope Boykin, Osnel Delgado, and others. He has designed 19 new works for Alvin Ailey American Dance

Theater and 12 for Ailey II. Additionally, he has been responsible for maintaining the lighting for the Ailey repertory, designed by many top lighting designers. Crawford is the principal lighting designer and founder of Arc3design, a lighting design firm developing projects in theater, dance, art, architecture, concerts, broadcasts, experiential marketing events, and more. Arc3design employs a team that supports the creation and implementation of more than 100 projects annually. Recent projects include 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, shows for Holland America Cruise Lines, Madison Square Garden, and numerous brand events including for top companies. Arc3design has designed musical events for performances by countless artists such as Idina Menzel, Alicia Keys, John Legend, Mary J Blige, and Paul Simon. Recent classical music events include Leonard Bernstein's Mass for Philadelphia Orchestra and Scriabin's *Ring of Fire* for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Crawford is a guest faculty member at the North Carolina School of the Arts (Design and Production), and was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Connecticut School of Fine Arts. He has had the opportunity to speak to students at universities around the country, as well as at industry conferences. He is a member of United Scenic Artists (USA-829) and the International Alliance for Theatrical Stage Employees (Local 635), and a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. arc3design.com

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: BAM (DanceAfrica 2016; *A Star Has Burnt My Eye*, 2016 Next Wave), Abdel R. Salaam's Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Signature Theater, Atlantic Theater, American Place Theater, The Juilliard School, New York University, Repertorio

Español, Manhattan Theater Club, La MaMa ETC, Joffrey Ballet, New World Stages, Theater Row Theaters, The Culture Project, Muna Tseng Dance, NYMF, The Public Theater, Abingdon Theater, Cherry Lane, Intar, Theater for a New City, PS 122, HERE Arts Center, Urban Stages, Ohio Theater, Ars Nova, Studio Dante, 59E59, Playwrights Horizons, and more. Regional: Two Rivers Theater Co, Alliance Theater, Hartford Stage, Capital Rep, The Long Wharf, Luna Stage, and Studio Arena. As a recording engineer, Lawson has recorded and produced several spots for Movado featuring the voices of Mikhail Baryshnikov, Judith Jamison, and Wynton Marsalis. He has also recorded for Macy's, Radio Shack, HBO Films, United Nations, Toyota, and the BBC, among others. Lawson teaches sound design at Pace University, NYC. Member TSDCA. dmlsoundny.com

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 dance company 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.

NORMADIEN WOOLBRIGHT (assistant stage manager) is a graduate of the Performing Arts High School, holds a BA in dance education from Lehman College, and has studied with Chuck Davis since her teens. 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.

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation

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DanceAfrica BAM/ Restoration Dance

Youth Ensemble

Karen Thornton, Dance
Director

Dellwyn Gilkes, Music
Director

Festival Dance

Instructors

Shaneeka Nicholson
Mama Andara Rahman
Lydia Yearwood

Master Drummer

Baba O. Wali Rahman

Drummers

Ramon King
Stephen Litzzey
David Williams

Wardrobe

Jorge Rosario

Centerstage Alumni

BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble

Te'Anna Chin
Colby Christina
Adia Clarke
Antoine Gunther

Hadiya Hyppolite

Naomi Johnson
Kiara Kelly
Kianna Mckoy
Mia Nelson
Aziza Pope
Shetaya Pringle
Tianna Smith
T'khiya Townsend
Christina Woods

BAM/Restoration Candlebearers

Wynter Diaz
Jada Faulkner
Kaleah Gaskin

Sotera Gomez
Teja Humphrey
Tsei-Ann Humphrey
Bahiyah Leito
Nuani Lewinson
Sabriaah Mapp
Atiya Pope
Alissa Smith
Jada Spencer
Star Torbert
Jaunice Vega

ADDITIONAL DANCEAFRICA EVENTS!

FILMAFRICA—A focus on Guinea; BAM Rose Cinemas.

May 26—*Rain the Color Blue with a Little Red in It* (2015), dir. Christopher Kirkley in collaboration with Mdou Moctar & Jerome Fino

May 26—*Clouds over Conakry* (2007), dir. Cheick Fantamady Camara

May 27—*Martha & Niki* (2015), dir. Tora Mkandawire Mårtens

May 27—*Paris According to Moussa* (2003), dir. Cheik Doukouré

May 28—*Le ballon d'or* (1994), dir. Cheik Doukouré

May 28—Guinean independence documentaries (1959–61)

May 29—*Price of Love* (2015), dir. Hermon Hailay

May 29—Shorts program (2013–15)

DANCEAFRICA OUTDOOR BAZAAR—Vendors from around the world transform the streets surrounding BAM into a global marketplace offering one-of-a-kind African, Caribbean, and African-American crafts, jewelry, and food.

Sat, May 27, 12–10pm | Sun, May 28, 12–8pm | Mon, May 29, 12–8pm | Rain or Shine!

Ashland Pl between Hanson Pl & Fulton St

DANCEAFRICA WORKSHOPS

Family African Dance Workshop, 10am | African Dance Master Class, 12pm
Mon, May 29 | Mark Morris Dance Center

VISUAL ARTIST

Maeva Kounta is a painter and illustrator based in Conakry, Guinea.

DanceAfrica 2017—Council of Elders

Senior Elders

Mama Kumali Abramson
Baba Lee Abramson
Baba William Mathews
Mama Lynette White Mathews

Elders

Mama Hajja Rahkiah
Abdurahman (Emeritus)
Mama Peggy Alston
Baba Yomi Awolowo

Mama Carol Awolowo
Mama Sandra Burton
Baba Neil C. Clarke
Baba Chuck Davis
Mama Rahkiah Eason
Mama Linda Evans
Baba Leslie Gray
Mama Deborah Gray
Mama Doris Green
Baba Nathaniel Boyd Hakika
Sister Hanan Hameen, Associate

Mama Akua Ishangi
Mama Jackie Coban Martin
Mama Amma McKen
Mama C. Katunge Miry
Mama Madeline Yayoode Nelson
Mama Amma Oloriwaa
Baba Obara Wali Rahman Ndiaye
Mama Andara Koumba Rahman
Baba Jonathan Robinson (Emeritus)
Mama Esmeralda Simmons, Esq.

Memorial List

To those who have passed on to the ancestral grounds, we will not forget you or your contributions to the world.

Ase! Ase! Ase!

Ethel Watkins-Davis

Assadata Dafora

Ismay Andrews

Alfonse Cimbe

Joe Commodore

Moses Mims

Ruby Pryor

Phillips Stamps

Aquasiba Derby

Jerome Jeffries

Lavinia Williams

Madrina Assencion

Serrano Osa Unko

Syvilla Forte

Thelma Hill

Early Scott

Bettina Bancroft

Ayodele Elaine

Beener

Jamila Bey

Percival Borde

Falumi Prince

Halika Harriet Clegge

Al Perryman

Aaron Baxter

Ronnie Pratt

Priscilla Taylor

Ron Taylor

Michelle Fennell

Mama Mary Gray

Abdoulah Hakim

Ted Holiday

Clinton Jackson

Yusef Imam

Mrs. King

Eddie Spencer

Kofi Nkrumah

Afinya Odak

Larry Phillips

Pearl Reynolds

Tommy Johnson

Aaron Frazier

Ray Hurrey

Cheryl Zincke Morris

William MacPhearson

Micheal Peters

Bubacar Niang

Doug Allan

Nana Adowa Aforiwaa

Jamila Bey

Nana Opere Biea

John Flynn

John Blandford

Charles Abramson

Denise Delapenza

Bill Moore

Raymond Taylor

Earl Mack

Alyo Tolbert

Noni Olaniyan

Michael Schwartz

Peter Tumbleston

Lozemil Machado

Kevin McDonald

Denton Melville

Robert Bob LaPrince

Dave Roberson

Nancy Quinn

LeRoy Radcliff

Keith Simmons

Djbril Traoure

Jimi Williams

Marion Cooper, Jr.

Oscar Beau Brown III

LaRocque Bey

Robert Hudson

Leonard Anthony

Joseph Solomon Deas

Tony Williams

Stanley Mamadi

Tarzer

Scobey Stroman

Dr. Betty Shabazz

Abdul Rahman

Mama Ince

Ralph Dorsey

Tessie Williams

Alex Haley

Gloria Jackson

Charles Moore

Scobey Mitchell

Jacqueline Armstrong

Gregory Myles DeJean

Baba Dele

Bernard Johnson

Kolawole Balogun

Ron Love

Mama KeKe

James McCoy

Evelyn "Jessie"

Williams

Lester Wilson

Mama Willie Wilson

Sarah Frederick

Alvin Ailey

James Butler

Nana Osunyomi

Afolabi-Sarpong

Nana Opere Yao

Dinizulu

Yao Odum

Rita D'Adamo

Mama Adlyn M. Irwin

Charles E. Inniss

Jonathan Schenker

Mama Pearl

Omwale Primus

Olukose Wiles

Lucille Ellis

Tommy Gomez

Talley Beatty

Queen Mother

Adley Moore

Betty Carter

Tony Davis

Iyalu Opeodu

Baba Wilbert Linton

Mama Sandy Royster

Nana Yoa Bonsue

Amanqua

Vernon Brandon Bey

Robert Boyd

Bro. Abu Shabazz

Bro. Arthur Maddox

Mama Annie Davis

Baba Djimo Kouyate

Papa Ladji Camara

Richard B. Fisher

Brother Mishak Sillam

Bob Riordan

Malaika Holman

Bermis

Francina Yalewa

Osunlebo Kendrick

Hodari Burkett

Eleo Pomare

Frankie Manning

Brother James Cherry

Lena Horne

Niles Ford

Mama Guillermina

Prades Correoso

("Miguelina")

Mamadou Johnson

Phyllis Lichtenstein

Mama Margaret

Quiñones

Brother Lou Meyers

Brother William Fleet

Baba Amiri Baraka

Tata Nelson Mandela

Reinaldo Pepe Santos

Dr. Yosef A.A. Ben-

Jochannan

Duncan Karim

Braithwaite

Geoffrey Holder

Chief Yacub

Ronald E. Feiner

Natalie Cole

Sean Price

Wendell Holmes

Ortheia Barnes-

Kennerly

B.B. King

Errol Brown

Ben E. King

Percy Sledge

Andraé Crouch

Baba Raymond

Graham

Prince

Papa Wemba

DouDou N'Diaye Rose

Dudley Williams

Blondell Cummings

Billy Paul

Tammy Gibson

Harvey Lichtenstein

Memorial List—

Council of Elders

Baba Walter P. Brown

Baba Hajji Bilal

Abdurahman

Nana Opere Yao

Dinizulu

Baba Bill Grant

Papa Scuddie McGee

Mama Sarah McGee

Baba Mzee Moyo

Baba M.B. Olatunji

Baba Kwame Ishangi

Baba Chief Bey

Mama Barbara Bey

Baba Joe Nash

Mama Mary Umlou

Baba Luther

Sulaiman Wilson

Mama Elsie

Washington

Baba Montego Joe

Mama Pearl White

Baba Chuck Davis