

Francis Kofi

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www.hayorbibimmadance.org

Professional Highlights

Master Drummer and Dancer traditional West African dance and drumming. Performance experience, since the age of six, Ghana, West Africa.

Artist in Residence for Minnesota State Arts Board and Compas Community Arts grant recipient 2002/2003 providing educational workshops and interactive classroom instruction of traditional African dance and rhythm to children K-12.

Twenty-one years experience teaching traditional dance, drumming, and music to adults and children in the U.S. and abroad. Organizes workshops, teaches, and lectures in both academic and studio settings. Currently hosts drums, dance and cultural classes and workshops in the Twin Cities area.

Artistic Director, Choreographer and Master Drummer of Hayor Bibimma Dance theatre in St. Paul, MN. The focus of the group is to bring cultural awareness to the community and enrich the lives of people from diverse backgrounds through traditional and contemporary songs, dance and stories of Western Africa.

Artistic Director and Owner

Of Hayor Dance Company, Accra, Ghana since 1994.

Produced and co-wrote Traditional Dance Rhythms of Ghana drum/percussion manual and accompanying tapes, copyright 1997.

Professional Experience

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| 2009 | Choreographer, Artistic Director
<i>Anyedo Hwendo (Rainbow Spirit) Dance Production</i> |
| 2008 | Choreographer
<i>Lorie Line Pop Chamber Orchestral</i> |
| 2002-03 | Artist in Residence - Minnesota Region
<i>Minnesota State Arts Board and Compas/Global Arts Program</i> |
| 2002-Present | Artistic Director
<i>Hayor Bibimma Dance Theatre - St. Paul, MN</i>
Choreographer, creator and innovator of traditional West African dance, movement, song, drumming and storytelling productions for presentation to the general public. |
| 1994- 2002 | Owner/Artistic Director
<i>Hayor Bibimma Company - Accra, Ghana</i>
Hayor was the resident dance company of the E.W. Dubois Center in Accra, Ghana. |
| 1999-2001 | Teacher
<i>San Kofa Shule - Lansing, MI</i> |

Provided instruction in music and dance in Afro-centric elementary school.

- 1998 **Guest Instructor**
Michigan State University School of Music - East Lansing, MI
Taught African music and dance.
Directed and choreographed student performances.
- 1997 **Program Director**
Cultural Exchange Tour - Ghana and Togo, West Africa
Organized and coordinated exchange tour for American students to various locations including Kumasi, Cape Coast, Koforuduwa, Volta Region, Togo Ville, and Vogan.
Led drumming and dance workshops supplemented by arranged performances by local traditional artists.
- 1996 **Fulbright Scholar/Teacher**
State University of New York - Fredonia, NY
Lectured and taught traditional drumming/dance classes and workshops.
- 1995 **Guest Instructor**
Michigan State University School of Music and African Studies Program - East Lansing, MI
One semester post as lecturer on Traditional Music and Dance.
Conducted performances and private lessons.
- 1994-95 **Instructor**
American Club - Accra, Ghana
Taught evening dance classes to adults and children.
- 1990-91 **Choreographer and Dance Instructor**
Groupe Nationale du Togo - Togo, West Africa
- 1988-95 **Independent Instructor**
Ghana, West Africa
Instructor to visiting Fulbright scholars, international exchange students, Ghanaian and expatriate children.

Additional Performance Experience

- 1993-94 *Master Drummer - Ghana Dance Ensemble - National Theater, Accra, Ghana*
1992-93 *Freelance Performer - Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso*
1984-91 *Member - Ghana Dance Ensemble - Institute for African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon*
1978-83 *Member - People's Cultural Troupe (Accra Newtown) and others.*

Awards

- Bloomsbury Society's Randolph Dunbar Award (UK Tour), 1992*
Ghanaian Union "Best Performer" (Canadian Tour), 1989

Further Information: www.cat.nyu.edu/chains, www.hayorbibimmadance.org