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Awal Alhassan

West African Dance and Drum Performer and Educator
*Lead Dancer and Director, **Sohoyini Dance***

Career Highlights

- **Discover Ghana! Educational Drum and Dance Tours** – Facilitates groups of Americans and Europeans on journeys of cultural exchange around Ghana through the vehicles of dance and music. *July 2007, Dec 2008-Jan 2009*
- **Featured Guest Instructor/Performer** – In collaboration with renowned Haitian artists, taught intensive camp tracing the migration of movement and rhythms from Africa to the Caribbean. *New Orleans Dance Festival at Tulane University. June 2008*
- **Educational tours with Maya Soleil Traditions** – With a multi-ethnic group of talented performers, presented traditional dance, song, and music of Africa in public and private school settings. *Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, and California. 2006-08*
- **Guest Artist in Residence** – Through an extended residency with Dzolali Dance Ensemble, taught Ghanaian traditions of movement and rhythm. After which, choreographed for two large, culminating stage performances. *New Foundland, Canada. Oct 2007*
- **Released Debut Album, “Sohoyini”** -- Features music recorded in collaboration with Yem Gari NaaY’li on location in Tamale, Ghana, as well as self-produced tracks recorded in the United States. *Apr 2007*
- **Created and Directed Zosimili After School Program for Youth** -- Single-handedly gathered at-risk children from local schools, and organized daily rehearsals to keep participating youth motivated as well as conscious of their culture. *Tamale, Ghana. 2001-06*

Selected Performances

2009	Many Voices, One Land	King County Libraries
2006-9	Regional Public and Private School Assemblies	Washington and Oregon
	Northwest Folklife	Seattle Center
2008	Restoring Rwanda <i>Nov 7</i>	Bellevue, WA
	Corvallis Fall Festival , <i>Sep 27</i>	Corvallis, OR
	World Music & Dance Festival , <i>Aug 9</i>	Vashon Island
	Ethnic Fest , <i>Jul 26</i>	Tacoma, WA
	Spirit of West Africa , <i>May 10</i>	Seattle Center
	World Languages Day , <i>Feb 29</i>	University of Washington
2006-08	World Rhythm Festivals	Seattle Center
	Festàl Events	Seattle Center
2007	Expressions of African Dance , <i>Dec 14</i>	University of Washington
	Maasai Journey Summer Experience , <i>May 5</i>	Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle
	Displace Me , <i>Invisible Children Apr 29</i>	Magnuson Park, Seattle
2006	UW World Series with Sarakasi <i>Oct 8</i>	University of Washington
	Juneteenth Festival , <i>Jun 17</i>	Black History Museum, Boise, ID
	Theatre for Development , <i>Feb 3</i>	Tamale, Ghana
2002-06	UNICEF Six Killer Diseases Program	Ghana and Burkina Faso
2001-6	Environmental Cleanliness Day <i>March</i>	Tamale Hospitals
	National Festival of Arts and Culture (NFAC)	Kumasi and Cape Coast, Ghana
1988-06	Independence Day Celebration <i>Mar 6</i>	Independence Square, Accra
2002	Tribes United	Fada N'gourma, Burkina Faso
1995-99	Ministry of Health	Ghana
1997	N'Koson Festival	Bamako, Mali
1994-95	Conflict Zone	Soboba, Ghana
1992	Hogbeza	Togo

Teaching Experience

2009	West Africa to Haiti <i>Mar 12</i>	Djoniba Center, New York, NY
2007, 2009	REACH <i>Dec 8, Jan 17-Mar 21</i>	Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle
2006-2009	Adult Dance Classes at Spectrum and Velocity <i>ongoing</i>	Seattle
	Residencies in Area Schools	Washington State
2008	Youth Theater and Dance Camps <i>Aug 11-15, Oct 18-Nov 29</i>	Spectrum Dance Theater
	Capoeira Connection <i>Aug 4-8, Nov 15</i>	Olympia and Seattle
	Move Around the World <i>Aug 22</i>	Tacoma
	Dance Expressions <i>Mar 27, Aug 21</i>	Maple Valley, WA
	Experience African Dance , <i>Jul 27, Aug 16</i>	Bellingham, WA and Sandpoint, ID
	New Orleans Dance Festival & Ghana Haiti Weekend <i>Jun-Jul</i>	Tulane University, LA
	Featured Guest Instructor <i>April</i>	Saint Michael's College, VT
2007-08	Fusion Dance African Dance/Drum Workshop Series	Olympia, WA
	Early Childhood Rhythm Series	Seattle
	World Rhythm Festival	Seattle Center
2007	Afro Brazilian Festival <i>Dec 1</i>	Evergreen State College, Olympia
	Dance Studio II <i>Jul 5</i>	San Juan Island, WA
	Dance This! Workshop <i>June 25-28</i>	Seattle
	Afro Caribbean Night <i>Apr 21</i>	University of Washington
2006	Adult classes at Studio 900/Fremont Drum School	Seattle
2001-06	Zosimili After School Program for Youth	Tamale
1998-06	School for International Training	Ghana
1998-00	Ghana Dance Ensemble	University of Ghana, Accra
1998	Alhassan-Banzaba School for the Deaf	Savelugu, Ghana
1997	International School	Tamale, Ghana