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Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago

Center for Performing Arts

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Present

MUNTU DANCE THEATRE
OF CHICAGO

FEBRUARY 19, 1999

Governors State University
University Park, Illinois
The Center for Performing Arts
Luster Products
and
Olympia Fields Ford

present

MUNTU DANCE THEATRE
OF CHICAGO

DJALLI DONG
Choreography by: Amaniyea Payne
Musical Arrangement: Company Musicians

DJALLI DONG interpreted means “the Dance of the Djallies” (the griots or oral historians). In the King’s court, music is played, songs are sung, prayers are made, and this classical dance is performed to bring well being to the human, natural and spiritual community. Djalli Dong is part of the dance Lambah, originating in the West African countries of Mali, Guinea and Senegal.

DJIMBE STROLL
Musical Arrangement by: Company Musicians

Throughout West Africa, the musicians travel to the villages to play and inspire the people, utilizing music as a force for social cohesion. Inspiration through music is a wonderful blessing!

DOUNDOUMBA
Choreography and Musical Arrangement by: Youssouf Koumbassa

From the Koussa Village where the men and women dance the dance of power. Dance of the Mandingo People of Guinea, West Africa.

SOLI
Choreography and Musical Arrangement by: Youssouf Koumbassa

A dance of celebration that is swift, difficult and demands strength. Originated from the Franna and Kissi Dougo villages of the Mandingo people in Guinea, West Africa.

INTERMISSION

BALANTE'
Choreography by: Abdoulaye Camara
Musical Arrangement by: Enoch Williamson
Enhanced by: Amaniyea Payne

Traditional dance of the Balante People from Senegal, West Africa. It is a dance of strength and competition.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
Choreographed by: Babu Atiba

DJIMBE DRUM TALK
Collectively arranged by: Company Musicians

FANGAMA
Choreography by: Idy Ciss
Music Coordinator: Aly M’Baye

Fangama is a war dance from Guinea, West Africa. This piece depicts a young man who has come of age and now must become a soldier. Reluctant but committed, he leaves with the soldiers to do his training. The soldiers demonstrate their sense of confidence and unity. Winning a battle should be no problem, for with a unified people there is strength.

Administrative & Artistic Staff
President—Joan Gray
Artistic Director-- Amaniyea Payne
Assistant Artistic Director-- Babu Atiba
Assistant to the Artistic Director--Idy Ciss
Musical Director--Clifton Robinson
Technical Director/Light Designer--Reginah Walton-Ciss
Marketing & Resource Development Director--Ayoka Noelle Samuels

THE COMPANY

Oshuntaye Akinlana
Babu Atiba
Aissatou Bey
Vanue Blalock
Idy Ciss
Paul Cotton
Harry Detry
Mekini Duewa

Aly M’Baye
Awri McKee
Uche Omoniyi
Amaniya Payne
Regina Perry
Margaret Rainey
Clifton Robinson
Mark Vaughn
MUNTU DANCE THEATRE is a Chicago-based company that performs authentic and progressive interpretations of contemporary and ancient African and African-American dance, music and folklore. The Company has existed on the spirit and unbounded energies of its directors, dancers, musicians and staff since 1972 and has achieved an acclaimed reputation for making a consistent artistic statement of cultural and historical significance.

A colorful and invigorating professional company, Muntu has brought its audiences into the aisles with its unique synthesis of dance, rhythm and song. The Company has received enthusiastic and critical acclaim not only in Chicago, but throughout the United States and abroad.

The Artistic Director, Amaniyea Payne, is an accomplished performer who has established herself as one of the country’s leading and most rewarding choreographers in cultural dance. She has performed throughout the United States, the West Indies and Europe and has provided artistic consultancies and professional services to numerous arts organizations world-wide.

It is a requirement of the Company that we research the cultural and historic significance of the dances and the societies from which they originate. In this manner, we are not simply a performing company, but a company of teachers as well - an essential element to the perpetuation of our art form and its accurate transmittal to our audiences. Muntu strives continuously to increase the level of awareness of and appreciation for African culture in the context of a professional performing art form.

We understand that there is merit in all cultures. We seek to appreciate the differences in order to amplify the similarities.
CORKY SIEGEL'S CHAMBER BLUES

SATURDAY
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