

## RESUMÉ

### **MAPUTO MENSAH**

*African Culture, Dance and Drumming Instructor, Performer and Tour Leader*

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#### **INTERNATIONAL PERFORMER**

Maputo has over 20 years of performing traditional Ghanaian dance and drumming. Maputo began performing at the age of 10, and has traveled and performed internationally. Maputo has studied with renowned Mustapha Tettey Addy for 14 years, and has performed solo, in his own Logo Ligi troupe and as a guest drummer and dancer internationally.



#### **AFRICAN CULTURE, DRUMMING AND DANCING INSTRUCTOR**

Maputo is dedicated to spreading the joy and beauty of Ghanaian culture through dance, drumming and culture classes at all levels: university, K-12 schools and community classes. Maputo is a master drummer and dancer, and uses these and storytelling to teach about how to live and enjoy life.



#### **TOUR ORGANIZER AND LEADER**

Maputo leads trips to Ghana every year, bringing groups for a one-month drumming and dancing excursion to experience the joy and depth of Ghana culture firsthand.



## **INTERNATIONAL PERFORMER**

### **Logo Ligi Dance Troupe, Boulder, CO**

[www.logoligi.com](http://www.logoligi.com)

Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer

(2000 – present)

Logo Ligi is a troupe of skilled Ghanaian and American dancers and drummers that perform, teach and celebrate Ghanaian performance art. Performance examples include:

- University of Colorado's Taste of Africa (2007)
- City of Longmont Summer Series (2007)
- Naropa University, Student World Concert, Boulder (2002-2006)
- University of Denver (2003)
- Boulder Creek Festival (2002)
- Taos African Dance and Drum Festival, New Mexico (2002)
- Bantu Drumming & Dance Camp, Santa Fe, New Mexico (2001)

### **Guest Performance Highlights**

- Newark Museum of Art, New Jersey: solo performance (1999)
- Art International African Music Institute, New York, NY (1999)
- Homowo Festival with Obo Addy, Oregon (1999)

### **Akrowa Dance Ensemble, Accra, Ghana**

Lead Dancer and Choreographer

(1990 – 1999)

- Toured with Royal Obonu Drummers (1999), international tour with Peter Gabriel's WOMAD Festival and collaborated with Pharaoh Sanders.
- Toured with Mustapha Tettey Addy, Burkina Faso (1997)
- Panafest African Music Festival, Accra, Ghana (1994 and 1996)
- Toured with Royal Obonu Drummers: Boston and Seattle (1993)

### **Akatanwia Ghanaian Music and Dance Ensemble**

Guest Performer

- Performed internationally with Laryae Addy's ensemble, Kennedy Center, Washington DC (1999)

### **African American Dance Ensemble**

Guest Performer

- Choreographed dance and performed with the ensemble and Chuck Davis in North Carolina and Gambia, West Africa (1997)

### **West African Folkloric Troupe, Accra, Ghana**

Lead Dancer

(1980 – 1990)

Choreographer and assistant leader for troupe of drummers and dancers.

Performed around Ghana at festivals and other events.

### **Music CD: AKPE** (Released 2006)

Mawuenega Mensah, Maputo Mensah, Fara Tolono, *available from Maputo Mensah*

## **AFRICAN CULTURE, DANCE AND DRUMMING INSTRUCTOR**

### **University:**

- University of Colorado, Boulder: African Dance, History & Culture semester course, Teacher in Residence (2006 – present)
- Naropa University, Boulder: African Dance, History & Culture semester course, Teacher in Residence (2000 – present)
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks AK: workshop and performance (2006 and 2007)
- University of Kansas workshop (2007)
- University of Oregon: guest teacher (2006)
- Dartmouth College, New Hampshire: two week workshops (1997)

### **K-12 Schools:**

- Waldorf School, Denver: 7<sup>th</sup> grade course (2007)
- Denver Public Schools, Mapleton Mesa: workshop (2007)
- New Vista High School, Boulder: workshop (2005)
- Creekside Elementary, Boulder: workshop (2005)
- Boulder High School, Boulder: workshop (2005)
- Grand Rapids Schools, Michigan: workshop (1999)

### **Community dance classes:**

- Community Dance Collective, Boulder: African Drumming, African Dance (2006 – present)
- Kakes Studios, Boulder: African Dance (2006 – present)
- Bantaba World Dance and Music Studio, Boulder: African Dance (2001 – 2006)
- Academy of African Music and Arts, Kokrobite, Ghana (1987 – 2000)
- Various workshops: Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver, Taos, Albuquerque, Philadelphia, Womenty North Carolina

## **TOUR ORGANIZER AND LEADER**

### **Annual Dance & Drumming Workshop: West African Arts & Cultural Adventure**

[www.maputomensah.com](http://www.maputomensah.com)

(2006 - present)

Maputo leads month-long trips to Ghana every summer. The trips combine a packed agenda of daily drumming and dance lessons, plus field trips and cultural outings. Trips include: slave castles, monkey sanctuary, canopy walk in rainforest, educational talks on mining issues, and performances by elder Adawe women's group. Students include beginner and advanced dancers and drummers, of all ages and backgrounds. Courses are taught by Ghanaian master drummers and dancers, plus a weekly lesson by Maputo. Classes in the local language of Ga are also offered.

No prior dance or drumming experience is required to participate and thoroughly enjoy the trip! If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing!

## **About Maputo**

Maputo Mensah grew up in a family of drummers and dancers. He began performing in a family group at the age of five. His first professional performance was at the age of 10 with the West African Folkloric Troupe. Maputo learned the traditional songs, dances and drumming by watching the Ghana Dance Ensemble as well as participating and watching drumming and dancing in Ghana at events and festivals. Maputo combines a love of Ghanaian culture with a passion for sharing the joy with people around the world.