



Charles Ahovissi

Professional Dancer, Choreographer and Educator
Traditional African Dance & Drumming
Artistic/Executive Director, African Culture Connection

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Objective: To teach people and perform about African culture and history through traditional dance, drumming and crafts.

Recent Career Highlights

- 2009: Colombia Tour (Culture Exchange) with Gansango Dance Company from Seattle, Washington
- 2009: “Participated in the Kennedy Center’s Artists as Educators Seminar, Laying a Foundation: Defining Arts Integration.”
- 2008: Selected for a John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Program, “Planning Effective Arts- Integrated Residencies for Students”
- 2008-2009: Selected for ArtsREACH Teaching Artist Programs through University of Nebraska Lincoln. Supported by Nebraskans for the Arts, the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, the Nebraska Arts Council and the Lied Center for Performance Arts.
- 2008: Certificate Of Completion: Child Abuse and Neglect 101 Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect.
- Middle Schools Learning Center Initiative: 2008 summer and fall, 2009 spring residencies through The City of Omaha and Omaha Public Schools.
- Professional Teaching and Performing Artist through The Nebraska and Iowa Arts Councils.

Teaching & Performing Experience:

- 2009: African dance & drumming workshops/performances in Medellin, Quibdo, Manizales, Pereira and Armenia, Colombia.
Workshops and Classes in Traditional African Dance and Drumming

- 2001-2009: On-going public classes in Dance and drumming, University of Nebraska at Omaha.
- 2008-2009: After school Artist in Residence. African Dance, Drumming, and Crafts at 6 different Omaha Public Middle Schools.
- January 2008: After School Artist in Residence. African dance and drumming classes with Kids Club Sponsored by the Omaha Schools Foundation
- March 2008: Artist in residence. 2 weeks traditional African dance and drumming at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Omaha. Sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council
- June 2008: 22 days Artist in residence. Traditional African dance and drumming at Boys & Girls Club in Omaha. Sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.
- Summer and fall 2008: 44 days Artist in residence. Traditional African dance, drumming and crafts at Girls Inc. in Omaha, sponsored by "The Sherwood Foundation."
- October 5-6, 2007: La Calabasse in Seattle Arts Museum. A dynamic and refined, sold-out performance of traditional and contemporary African dance and music presented by Gansango's multicultural group of local and international dancers and musicians. Traditional costumes and live instrumentation.
- September 2007: A weeklong residency and performance at Geneva Public School in Geneva Nebraska sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.
- July 2007: Love Jazz and Arts Center Artist in residence, traditional African dance and drumming with Wesley House's Kids, sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.
- May 2007: 20-day residency at Sacred Heart School followed with a presentation at the end of the residency. Sponsored by the Omaha Community foundation.
- March 2007: A weeklong artist in residence, traditional African dance and drumming in David City Public School, Nebraska. Sponsored by the Butler County Arts Council.

- January and February 2007: Bellevue Public Schools and Omaha Public Schools residencies at different schools: Ezra Miller, Birch Crest, Benson West, Boyd, South High, Catlin Arts Magnet and Beals Elementary.
- July 2006: three-week residency at Skinner Magnet School and Performance for world day at the Capitol Building in Lincoln Nebraska.
- June 2006: Performance for Omaha Summer and Arts Festival in Omaha downtown and at Quest Center for the University of Nebraska Medical Center's annual conference.
- April 2006: Performance at Metropolitan Community College for the International Fair in Omaha Nebraska.
- April 2006: Performance in Mobile Alabama for the annual African Culture festival.
- April 2005: Performance at Mobile County Training School in Alabama.
- February 2006: Traditional African dance and drumming classes in Alliance Public School, sponsored by the Alliance Arts Council.
- February 2006: Performance at Creighton University Omaha for celebrates Black History Month.
- November 2005: Residency and Performance at Bassett High School sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.
- October 2005: Performance at Sunrise Civic Center in Florida with Gansango Dance Company. (Kaleta: A Children's Festival from West Africa)
- October 2005: Performance at Holland Performing Art Center in Omaha with KITKA, Traditional and Contemporary Harmonies from Eastern Europe and Beyond.
- April 2005: A weeklong Artist in residence, traditional African dance and drumming at Bee, Nebraska Public School. Sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council
- March 2005: A weeklong residency and performance at McCook Public School in Nebraska and South Dakota Art Museum.
- February 2005: Teaching and Performing at different places such as: Wayne State College, (Nebraska) Rocky Mountain College (Montana), and Norfolk Arts Center (Nebraska).

- October 2004: Columbus Area Arts Council teaching and performance. Sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.
- July 2004: Great Plains Girl Scouts Council residency at the Hanscom Park, Minne Lusa, and St. Cecilia's sites. Sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.
- June 2004: Performance at the 9th Annual African- American Festivals of Dance in Austin, Texas.
- May 2004: Forty-day residency at Holy Name School sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council and the Omaha Community Foundation.
- April 2004: Residency and Performance at Skinner Magnet School sponsored by the Omaha Public School District.
- March 2004: Elkhorn Middle School residency and performance sponsored by the Elkhorn Public School District.
- February 2004: Black history Month Celebration Performances at different Schools such as: Skinner Magnet School in Omaha, Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Wake Robins School in Bellevue, Central Park Academy in Omaha, and Beveridge Middle School in Omaha. Beatrice Area Arts Council Teaching and Performance sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council. High Plans Arts Council residency and performance in Sidney, NE, sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.
- 1999: USA: Omaha, Los Angeles, New York, Baltimore, Washington, Sioux City, Indianapolis: Performing and giving instruction on African Dance.
- 1998 USA: La Belle Afrique Foundation to help promote African Culture and History.
- 1997 France: International Festival of African Culture.
- 1995 Belgium: African Gastronomy.
- 1993 Nigeria and Ghana: Festival of African Traditional Costumes
- 1991 Spain: Fifth Century of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.
- 1989 China: Festival of African Dance

- 1988-1999: Super Anges Dance Troop. As a member of the Super Anges Charles traveled extensively throughout the world.
- 1984-1987: National Ballet of Benin, West Africa. As a member of the National Ballet Charles traveled to: Brussels, Belgium: International festival for tourism. 1986 London, England: Festival of African music. 1987 Switzerland: First Festival of African Art.

Travel Experience

- Paris, Bordeaux, Madrid, China, Brussels, London, Switzerland, Belgium, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mali, Togo, Ghana, Alabama, Montana, Baltimore, New York, Missouri, Iowa, California, Florida, Colorado, Washington. Colombia, South America: (Medellin-Quibdo- Manizales- Pereira- Armenia)

Languages

- English, French, Fon, Mina Yoruba

References

- Anne Alston & Deborah Bunting: Nebraska Arts Council, Tel: 402-595-2122
- Dawn Oropeza: Iowa Arts Council, Arts Education/Community Programs Coordinator, Tel: 515-281 5773
- Angela R. Fisher: Omaha Public Schools Arts Supervisor, Tel: 402-557-2535
- Josie Metal Corbin: Dance professor at University of Nebraska Omaha, Tel: 402-554-3239
- Nancy Eugene-Wedin: ArtsREACH Project Director, Tel: 402-472-4707