

Sankofa

By Asanti Dance Theatre



Image: DWV Photography

This tour is proudly supported by;



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COMPANY PROFILE

Undulating torsos, flips through rings of fire, raw energy, exhilarating dance moves and phenomenal acrobatics are just some of the elements you can expect from a performance by Asanti Dance Theatre.

Having wowed audiences at a variety of events including Woodford Folk Festival, the Australian Dance Awards, Sydney Opera House, and headlining New Years Eve at Federation Square, Asanti Dance Theatre are Australia's leading African dance company.

Joined by international guest artists from their company in Ghana, the group specialise in traditional and contemporary African dance, music and acrobatics. The company display an extensive skill set that will leave you speechless.

Directed by Appiah Annan (Sidney Myer Creative fellow and internationally recognised dancer, choreographer and musician), the company have been working extensively in Melbourne over the past 7 years. With a sister company in Ghana the company have toured regionally, nationally and internationally and perform in a variety of contexts including festivals, schools, corporate, community events and in theatres.

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOW SYNOPSIS

An Adinkra symbol from the ancient Ghanaian traditional beliefs depicted by a bird reaching its neck back towards its tail, Sankofa teaches us that before one can truly move forward, one must look back to the past.

Directed by Sidney Myer Creative Fellow, Appiah Annan, Asanti Dance Theatre explores the concept of Sankofa through a raw, intense and exiting approach to dance that draws on traditional West African movement fused with the contemporary influences of Australia.

Featuring incredible international guest artists from Asanti's sister company in Ghana, combined with some of Australia's most exciting afro-contemporary dancers and musicians, you will be blown away by the energy, connection to culture and extraordinary talent that these artists present.

Sankofa debuted at the Malthouse Theatre in 2012 to standing ovations, followed by seasons at the Drum Theatre (Dandenong) and Footscray Community Arts Centre (Footscray).

The work has since been redeveloped for touring and will be touring Regional Victoria in 2016.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Concept and Choreography: Appiah Annan
Sound Design: Josh Mitchell
Photography: DWV Photography
Production Manager: Belinda Annan

MEET THE DIRECTOR

[APPIAH ANNAN](#)

Sidney Myer Creative Fellow and a rare talent from Ghana, West Africa, Appiah Annan is one of the countries most exciting culturally and linguistically diverse artists and choreographers. He specialises in many forms of dance including traditional African, freestyle, hip hop, afro-contemporary and acrobatics along with his impressive skills as a master drummer using both stick and hand drums.

He discovered his love of dance on the streets of Ghana as a young boy. Quickly identified as a talent, he was picked up by the Miracle dancers (a youth dance group) and began performing at various venues around Accra. He was often pulled up by his Headmaster at school for sleeping in class due to being out late performing and was regularly advised of the importance of school and being awake to gain an education. He continued to dance nonetheless.

By age 16 he was competing against Ghana's finest and became a national dance champion. He worked with many international artists and companies including Slim Buster, Agoro, the Ghana National Dance Ensemble and Afro Moses.

At 18 he moved to Cape Coast when he gained a position with one of the countries most prestigious dance companies. Just 2 years later the company collapsed and he, along with many of Ghana's finest dancers and musicians, was without work. Having little himself, the young entrepreneurial minded dancer had a vision to make a difference for his community. It was then that he initiated Asanti Dance Theatre. This project grew from a few artists living and training together on the beach, to an internationally recognised 15 piece drum and dance theatre company that regularly works with guest artists and students from around the world.

On coming to Australia in 2007 Appiah initiated Asanti in Australia. Asanti has quickly become known in the Australian Dance scene and have performed at a variety of events including in theatres, festivals, community, events, and operating an extensive schools program.

Following the success of his first full length afro-contemporary dance work 'Sankofa', which debuted at the Malthouse in December 2012, Appiah is now turning his focus to developing Asanti into a high quality afro-contemporary dance company that provides a platform for artistic migrants from various backgrounds to perform and access the Australian dance scene.

His compassionate and endearing nature has seen him initiate Nkabom – a non profit organisation in Ghana, West Africa that draws on the arts and education to engage and inspire youth to value education and gain skills that will make them employable. For more information about this visit www.nkabom.org

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION

60 minutes

SUITABLE VENUES

The work was initially developed for proscenium arch or black box theatres however is flexible and can be performed in town halls, cultural facilities or outdoors.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

7 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

120 minutes

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 7 people.

Name	Role
Appiah Annan	Artistic Director
Kwame Tosuma	Dancer
Ronald Mensah	Dancer / Acrobat
Nadiah Idris	Dancer
Belinda Annan	Dancer
Mohamed Camara	Musician
Emmanuel Laryea	Musician

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2012	Malthouse Theatre	4
2012	Drum Theatre	1
2013	Footscray Community Arts Centre	2
2015	Whitehorse Centre	1
2016	Regional Victoria Tour	15

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

POST SHOW 'JAM'

On conclusion of the show we often run a short interactive session getting the audiences to do simple dance movements, clapping and call and response singing. It's a great way to involve the audience and break the 4th wall.

Duration: 10 min

Participants: All audience members

Fee: \$0

PRE SHOW BUSKING

We have found this to be a very effective way to engage the local community and build hype around the event. Best done in popular centres around town ie, shopping centres, town squares etc.

Duration: Up to 60 min

Fee: \$0

Note: Busking permits must be obtained prior to our arrival

POP UP PERFORMANCES

Boost ticket sales and engage the community pre show with a pop up performance. Shows can combine live music, dance and acrobatics.

Duration: Up to 3 x 15 min performances

Fee: \$450-\$600 + GST

DRUM WORKSHOPS

These can be implemented in a formal workshop environment or in a communal area (town square, shopping centre etc). We provide drums for participants.

Duration: Up to 90 min

Participants: Up to 100 per session

Fee: \$400 + GST

DANCE WORKSHOPS

Dance workshops can be facilitated in African dance, Afro-Funk, Gumboot Dancing (Body percussion), Afro-contemporary or BoomSa (our new Afro- aerobics program).

Duration: Up to 90 min

Participants: Up to 100 (space dependent)

Fee: \$350 + GST

SCHOOL INCURSIONS

Our most popular school incursion is the Taste of Africa. Students get treated to a 15 min intro & performance, 3 x 30 min workshops in dance, drumming and village activities, 1 x 10 min interactive 'jam' and a Q&A.

Duration: 120 min

Students: Up to 300

Fee: \$1500 + GST

Details: Other incursions available on request

PROMOTING A POSITIVE CALD EXPERIENCE

The show creates a positive experience of diversity that audiences can connect to and identify with.

Coming from a range of CALD backgrounds our artists are extremely approachable and will happily talk with audiences pre and post show (where possible).

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

ONE LINE

Raw energy, stunning dance, music and connection to culture.

SHORT

Featuring incredible international guest artists from Asanti's sister company in Ghana, combined with some of Australia's most exciting afro-contemporary dancers and musicians, Sankofa explores the Adinkra symbol from the ancient Ghanaian beliefs that teaches before you can move forward you must look back to the past.

Utilising the afro-contemporary dance form the company exquisitely pair traditional African dance technique with contemporary moves that leave audiences blown away by their energy, connection to culture and extraordinary talent.

EXTENDED

SANKOFA – Return and Get It.

An Adinkra symbol from the ancient Ghanaian traditional beliefs depicted by a bird reaching its neck back towards its tail, Sankofa teaches us that before one can truly move forward, one must look back to the past.

Directed by Sidney Myer Creative Fellow, Appiah Annan, Asanti Dance Theatre explores the concept of Sankofa through a raw, intense and exiting approach to dance that draws on traditional West African movement fused with the contemporary influences of Australia.

Featuring incredible international guest artists from Asanti's sister company in Ghana, combined with some of Australia's most exciting afro-contemporary dancers and musicians, you will be blown away by the energy, connection to culture and extraordinary talent that these artists present.

With undulating torsos, flips through rings of fire, raw energy, exhilarating dance moves and phenomenal acrobatics fused with a combination of live and pre recorded sound, Sankofa beautifully explores the traditional yet universal theme that these artists explore.

Sankofa debuted at the Malthouse Theatre in 2012 to standing ovations, followed by seasons at the Drum Theatre (Dandenong) and Footscray Community Arts Centre (Footscray).

The work has since been redeveloped for touring and will be touring Regional Victoria in 2016.

Join Asanti as they follow one mans journey through the centuries and into the unknown, all the time under the watchful eye of Sankofa.

[MEDIA QUOTES](#)

This is a refreshingly innovative fusion of African and Australasian culture....Annan's Baushian inspired choreography creates an interesting cultural friction, using the core elements of each action to build a new language in movement.

-Time Out

[AUDIENCE REVIEWS](#)

World class entertainment. As good as any international act that I've seen and I've seen many. How wonderful to move and perform in such a way. Please come back soon.

Your show stirred in me my migrating experience - which was also my experience of my parents migrating experience. I was witness to their suffering as they longed for their home and family and friends, their sense of belonging. I didn't understand their talking so much (I was very young) but I felt it in their music... It was very moving, an exhilarating experience of the African culture through music and dance.

Brilliant show. A real treat. Real inspiration. So many symbols and stories that inspire the imagination.

Amazing show. Had my heart dancing!

Totally fantastic! Great music. Great dance. Great show. Loved it! Thank you thank you!

[PRESENTER REFERENCE](#)

Name: Greg Hordacre (Director)

Venue: Drum Theatre

Telephone: +61 3 8571 1601

Mobile: +61 402 423 599

Email: greg.hordacre@cgd.vic.gov.au

[INDUSTRY REFERENCE](#)

Name: Jill Morgan (CEO)

Organisation: Multicultural Arts Victoria

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Mobile: +61 425 776522

Email: eo@multiculturalarts.com.au

[VIDEO LINKS](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYZQfgqcL2o>

[IMAGES](#)

Available upon request

MARKETING MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Images
Video footage
Media Release
Copy

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



PRODUCTION DETAILS

BUMP IN

Proscenium Arch – 1 Day
Black box – 1 day
Halls – 4 hours
Outdoors – 2 hours

BUMP OUT

Proscenium Arch – 2 hours
Black Box – 2 hours
Halls – 1 hour
Outdoors – 1 hour

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

1 x head mech and 1 x support for bump in.
1 x head mech to operate the show.
Ushers and box office staff as per venue and requirements.

We stage manage ourselves and our artistic director will be on hand to guide the bump in, plotting and for any technical questions on the day.

STAGE

Ideally we require a stage space no smaller than 8 x 10. We are flexible and can adapt the show to suit a range of stages and spaces including outdoor community events and halls.

Asanti to supply

All set, props and musical instruments. Fire blankets will be kept side stage.

Venue to supply

Fly where available. Fire extinguisher to be pointed out and accessible in case of emergency.

LIGHTING

The show has been modified to have less than 50 cues. The artistic director will work directly with the head mech to plot and run the lighting plan.

Asanti to supply

Lighting plan

Venue to supply

1 x Head mech. Basic rig.

SOUND

The show consists of a mix of pre recorded and live sound.

Asanti to supply

Sound plan

Venue to supply

A range of microphones, PA and a DI. Full details available on request.

WARDROBE

All costumes will be handled and supplied by Asanti Dance Theatre

Asanti to supply

Costumes

Venue to supply

Dressing rooms x 2. Iron and ironing board where possible.

FREIGHT NOTES

The group will be travelling by van/ truck with a few large instruments and set pieces that will need to be unloaded at a loading dock in close proximity to the backstage area.

CONTACTS

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