

Public Programs/Education Presents
in Association with Community Works
and New Heritage Theatre Group

Kwanzaa Spirit 2006!

Saturday, December 30, 11:00am–5:00pm
Free with Museum admission

KWANZAA SPIRIT 2006! recognizes 40 years of KWANZAA celebrations throughout the world with an all-day festival honoring the seven African-based principles (called *Nguzo Saba* in Swahili) of KWANZAA through song, dance and spoken word.

Special Kwanzaa foods will be sold at the Museum Food Court



David Pleasant, photo: Roberta Berman

Umoja—Unity Celebration

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, lower level

12:00 noon–1:30 pm

Hosted by Artistic Director **James Stovall***, the first of the Seven Principles *Umoja* (unity), will be observed with a riveting celebration of African-American pride featuring over 100 African and African-American artists of all ages.

THE UMOJA PROCESSIONAL Led by members of *Drumstruck* (South African Off-Broadway Musical hit) and *The Lion King* (Tony Award-winning Broadway musical).

AFRICA—THE BEGINNING African drummers honor the power of the drum, as a universal symbol of life's heartbeat—the beginning.

STILL I RISE Opening words encouraging self-acceptance and community consciousness will be offered by host James Stovall bringing *Kujichagulia*, the second principle of Kwanzaa, to light.



Obediah Wright, photo: Brookie Maxwell

AFRICA TO AMERICA: THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

Director/Choreographer **Obediah Wright** of the *Balance Dance Theatre* brings an impressive cast of young artists in an excerpt from their highly praised production *Higher Ground, Still Rising*, written and directed by Mr. Wright.

HONORING THE ANCESTORS—A LIBATION CEREMONY

“Pasha,” an African stilt walker and a member of the Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble will conduct an African traditional ceremony paying homage and respect to ancestors and pioneers.

RHYTHMS OF RESISTANCE! The spirit of African-American self-determination and empowerment as told through the drum by percussion virtuoso **David Pleasant/Now Griot!**

THE RHYTHM OF URBAN AMERICA SPEAKS Harlem's **IMPACT Repertory Theatre** bring their young voices of change and self-awareness to the *Umoja—Unity Celebration* through their music, dance, and spoken word.

THE PEOPLE “FLY” Closing narration and music led by host.



Stiltwalker, photo: Courtesy of Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble



(above) IMPACT Repertory Theatre, photo: Hubert Williams

(left) James Stovall, photo: Kwame Brathwaite

(right) Vickie Fremont/puppet, photo: Courtesy of V. Fremont



Tsidii Le Loka, photo: Kwame Brathwaite

Kuumba—A Tribute To Creativity

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, first floor and lower level
1:45 pm–2:15 pm

ABADA—Capoeira NYC, based in Washington Heights, is dedicated to teaching and educating youth in the art of capoeira, a 500-year-old martial-arts form fused with dance developed by Africans in Brazil. Founder and Executive Director **Freddy Correa** will narrate an award-winning presentation with his students



ABADA—Capoeira NYC, photo: Courtesy of Manhattan Times

Nia—A Tribute To Purpose

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, lower level
2:15 pm–2:45 pm

Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble* features their young legacy keepers in a performance celebrating the beauty of African culture and, most of all, family.



(above) IMPACT Repertory Theatre, photo: Hubert Williams

(left) James Stovall, photo: Kwame Brathwaite

(right) Vickie Fremont/puppet, photo: Courtesy of V. Fremont

*Kwanzaa, founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga as an African-American celebration pays tribute to African history and origin. **Kwanzaa Spirit 2006!** highlights the lives and artistic talents of African and African-American visual and performing artists, teachers, merchants, and community organizations through Kwanzaa's Seven Principles (Nguzo Saba) as a compass for the programs for the day: *Umoja* (unity), *Kujichagulia* (self-determination), *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics), *Nia* (purpose), *Kuumba* (creativity), and *Imani* (faith). The Seven Principles will be shared with our guests.*



Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble

Imani—Faith Concert

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, lower level
3:30 pm–5:00 pm

Host **James Stovall** leads an *Imani—Faith Concert* honoring the seventh and final Kwanzaa principle featuring:

PROCESSIONAL FOR “A NEW DAY”

The triumphant brass and ethereal woodwinds with **Elder Ed Babb*** and the resounding drums of the **McCullough Invaders*** from the **United House of Prayer for All People**, joined by the electrifying **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble** in a “roof-raising” rendition of the classic “When the Saints Go Marching In.”



(above left) McCullough Invaders, photo: Courtesy of Schomburg Center/ABG Series (above right) Ed Babb, photo: Ruth Morgan



AFRICA: TODAY AND FOREVER The **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble**, one of the largest professional African dance and drum ensembles in the United States, captures varying African traditions from Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Ghana, Gambia, and elsewhere.

AFRICA'S CHILDREN COME HOME: TSIDI LE LOKA Multi-award winning Broadway star, **Tsidii Le Loka** (“Rafiki” in the original cast of *The Lion King*), tells her story through song and narrative of her life in Lesotho, Africa, and her magnificent journey that led to the Broadway stage. She is currently developing projects that will bring due attention to the thousands of people in her homeland suffering from AIDS.

WE’VE COME THIS FAR WITH AMAZING GRACE

Heralded as one of America's outstanding women of color who has established a legacy of artistic excellence from Broadway (**Tony Award winner**) to television (**Emmy Award winner**), **Lillias White** pays tribute to the classic song of survival, “Amazing Grace.”



Lillias White, photo: Erik Savage

AND STILL WE RISE! Harlem's newest gospel choir taking New York City by storm, **Mama Foundation's Gospel for Teens Choir**, founded by **Vy Higginsen** and **Dr. Emily “Cissy” Houston** highlights the triumph and “soul-stirring” found in gospel music.

Ujima-Ujamaa Marketplace

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, first floor
11:00 am–5:00 pm

Honoring the third and fourth Kwanzaa principles *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility) and *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics) will be a Marketplace of international exchange and communication. Vendors, visual artists, and craftsmen, as well as representatives from major cultural organizations will participate.

“Life Celebration” Workshops for Children and Young Adults (ages 6 and older)
11:00 am–12:00 noon and 1:30 pm–3:00 pm

Vickie Fremont, artist, designer, and anthropologist, will offer workshops in African mask making and puppetry specifically geared to a young audience. They will explore various African art forms using recycled materials. Several workshop participants will be invited to display their creations as part of the festive procession that will open the *Imani—Faith Concert* beginning at 3:30 pm in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life.

Workshops are limited to 25 participants.



All programs are free with suggested Museum admission. Neither tickets nor reservations are required. Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is recommended that you arrive in plenty of time to enter the Museum and locate the program space.

For further information, call the Museum's Department of Education at 212-769-5315 between 9:00am and 5:00pm weekdays. Program information is also available on the Museum's Web site at www.amnh.org/kwanzaa.

A three-story parking garage is open during Museum hours; enter from West 81st Street.

For public transportation, call 212-769-5100.

All programs subject to change.

Global Weekends are made possible, in part, by The Coca-Cola Company, the City of New York, the New York City Council, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional support has been provided by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc., the Tolan Family, and the family of Frederick H. Leonhardt.

*These artists are a part of the Museum's World Music Live series supported by The New York State Music Fund, established by the New York State Attorney General at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Flyer Design: Olga Zhivov and Harriet Spear

(cover) Mama Foundation's Gospel for Teens Choir
photo: G.N. Miller

Upcoming Public Programs

Living in America: The Allure of Gold
Three Sundays, January 14, 21, 28
1:00–5:00 pm
Kaufmann and Linder Theaters, first floor
Free with Museum admission

In conjunction with the Museum's dazzling exhibition *Gold*, this year's Living in America series traces the historical cultural influence of this glittering symbol of wealth, power, and beauty from ancient times up through modern America with performances, discussions, and films for adults and families.

Live performances from the Americas and Africa will include Tahuantinsuyo*, Atl-Tlachinolli (Aztec Dancers), Travesia Taina*, the Tagish Nation Singers and Dancers*, and Juxtapower*.

For details, visit www.amnh.org/livinginamerica or call 212-769-5315.

Gold is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in cooperation with The Houston Museum of Natural Science. This exhibition is proudly supported by The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, with additional support from American Express® Gold Card.



Katherine Dunham in *Cabin in the Sky*, 1940, photo: Carl Van Vechten, Museum of the City of New York

African-American Heritage Month
Dedicated to Dunham
Sunday, February 25
1:00 pm–5:00 pm
Kaufmann and Linder Theaters, first floor
Free with Museum admission

In celebration of the life and legacy of Katherine Dunham (1909–2006), an anthropologist; an accomplished dancer, choreographer, teacher, humanitarian and historian. Join us as we honor Ms. Dunham's many contributions featuring performances, workshops, and symposia with an array of local companies, national dance troupes, and noted educators and historians. Participants include founding members of Paradigm, Gus Solomons jr and Carmen de Lavallade; ASE Dance Theatre Collective; students of Dance Theatre of Harlem; David Pleasant/Now Griot!*; Obediah Wright Balance Dance Theatre; and a special Dunham presentation featuring advanced students from The Ailey School.

Dedicated to Dunham is coproduced by Barbara Horowitz, Founder and President, Community Works and Voza Rivers, Executive Producer, New Heritage Theatre Group. For details, visit www.amnh.org/blackhistory or call 212-769-5315.

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Public Programs/Education
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, New York 10024

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