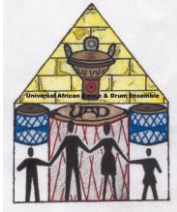


UNIVERSAL AFRICAN DANCE

AND

DRUM ENSEMBLE



ELECTRONIC PROMOTIONAL

and

INFORMATION PACKAGE

ATTENTION TO ALL:

School Administrators, School Activity Directors,
Event Planners and Promoters:

Many say

"This is the most spectacular performance of its kind ever seen in America"

Sensational, **Electrifying**, Exciting, **Amazing**, **Powerful** and **EDUCATIONAL**

Truly a representation of "The Beauty of African Culture" and most of all

FAMILY

CALL: (856) 365-4817,

(856) 365-1226

(856) 365-7318- Fax

Web Site: www.UnityCommunity.com

Web Site: www.UniversalAfricanDance.com

E-Mail: UccUpk@aol.com

Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble



1544 Mt. Ephraim Avenue
Camden, New Jersey 08104
(856) 365-4817 or (856) 365-1226
(856) 365-7318- Fax



E-mail: UccUpk@aol.com

Web Sites: www.UniversalAfricanDance.com or www.UnityCommunity.com

Dear School Administrators, School Activity Directors, Event Planners and Promoters:

Re: **For those needing references**

Since 1984 Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble have presented the beauty of African and African-American culture with presentations of workshops, seminars and performances throughout America, especially the east coast. The **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble** has performed at many prominent and prestigious events in this country, including performing for and honoring leaders of countries, celebrities, high leveled politicians, religious, business and community leaders. We have also represented the beauty of African culture by performing and being viewed by millions on cable, local, national and international television. Our many years of experiences have made it possible for us to be considered by renowned historians, scholars, celebrities and artist in America and abroad as one of the best African Dance and Drum troupes in America.

For those who may have never heard of Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble, and need references please visit our web-site at www.UnityCommunity.com or www.UniversalAfricanDance.com and click **SCHEDULE**. You will find all of our performances within this year and click **LAST YEAR SCHEDULE** for the previous year. Also one of our outstanding references is the **MANN CENTER for the PERFORMING ARTS** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We have been contracted by the MANN CENTER every year since 1998. We performed for the MANN CENTER and Philadelphia Schools through the **Connecting Arts-N- Schools Program** and the **Young People's Concert Series** directed by the MANN'S Educational and Community Engagement Director, Ms. Rhoda A. Blount. Because of the MANN CENTER we have presented our cultural educational workshops/performances to more than two hundred thousand young people in schools. Please visit the MANN CENTER'S web-site at <http://manncenter.org/> and click **EDUCATION**. For further information, please feel free to call, e-mail or write.

Thank you very much

ROBERT & WANDA DICKERSON
Founders & Directors

Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble



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Specializing in **THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS, PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS** and **SEMINARS**
for **SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES** and **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

★ *On the beauty of recognizing, respecting and appreciating African culture* ★

What are the objectives, benefits & purposes?

Research has found schools that suffer **school drop-out rates** and **social problems** are primarily due to family and community dysfunction. How can the school systems of this country enhance their ability to help the students achieve higher academic standards? Many students complain about **boredom**. Boredom causes a lack of motivation and enthusiasm to learn. Our educational, discipline and cultural **school assemblies** that we present deal directly with this and other problems. We specialize in getting in touch with the student's inner-self by educating, teaching, motivating and inspiring them through the arts. We heighten their zeal to learn. We also instill a **purpose of life** by inspiring, encouraging and displaying a good example for the students to value the love of heritage, family and humanity. We focus on **all students**, especially capturing the attention of the borderline students, as well as the achieving students to serve as **good role-models** and encouragement for **others** to attain higher academic achievement.

- **PRESENTATION OF CULTURE:** A presentation of ideas, customs, skills, arts and etc. of the culture of a people during a given period. To enhance **diversity** and **multicultural** awareness and African folklore presentations.
- **EDUCATIONAL:** This performance and/or workshop will enhance the knowledge of (social, historical, and global studies) and African Culture. The engagement of the arts presentation will excite them to learn more about other cultures.
- **THE PERFORMERS:** Consist of school teachers, nurses, administrators, entrepreneurs, employees, college, high, middle, elementary and pre-school students.
- **ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Blessed and Sanctioned to be one of the BEST and the most exciting African Dance and Drum ensembles in the USA. In addition the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble were chosen and endorsed by world renowned historians, scholars and artists in America and Africa to **represent the USA** at the **World Festival of Black Arts and Culture (FESMAN)** in **Dakar, Senegal, Africa** in December 2010, where over **80 nations presented their best**. At this **historical event** Universal performed in **Saint-Louis, Goree Island, and Dakar, Senegal, AFRICA.**

THE PERFORMANCE and/or WORKSHOP

- (A) You will witness instruments from **West Africa** including the countries of Guinea, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and etc.. You will also witness instruments from other parts of Africa.
- (B) You will hear cultural songs from these areas, sung by the members of the Dance & Drum Ensemble.
- (C) You will witness one of the **most educational**, exciting, sensational and electrifying events displaying **African Dance** and **African Drum** in the U.S.A.

UNITY COMMUNITY CENTER / **Robert H. Dickerson** -1544 Mt. Ephraim Avenue, Camden, N.J. 08104
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Rationale for Hosting Workshops and Performances for Colleges, Universities, and Community events, utilizing the Arts and Artistic Expertise of the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble

Goals of Our School Assembly Program. Integrating the various disciplines of education while promoting educational achievement, arts, culture and history are the key goals of the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble School Assemblies Initiative.

We offer schools with hands-on residencies, assemblies and workshops in African dance, music and ensemble performances; workshops for colleges, universities, community-based organization and churches with professional study guides for teachers and students.

Rational for Utilizing Arts in School Assemblies. Major reports conclude that the essential knowledge and skills in the arts can be used by students to express themselves and communicate with others. Learning about and experiencing the arts encourages the development of cognitive and creative abilities that help students achieve academically and contributes to their communities by lessening acts of violence and disruptive behavior in the classroom. In addition, learning about and experiencing the arts forges connections between and among educational goals and all academic disciplines.

According to the Americans for the Arts organization, the nation's leading non-profit organization for advancing the arts; maintains, "Young people who participate in the arts for at least three hours three days a week for at least one full year are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement or participate in a math or science fair." Noteworthy research reports that arts education does the followings: (1) improves test scores, (2) builds upon critical thinking skills, (3) promotes broad development, and (4) increases graduations rates.

In another reports outlines how school assemblies make a positive impact on a student's self-development and that assemblies are at the heart of raising achievement and standards. We all should encourage schools to include whole school, group and **school assemblies**. One of the learning objectives of an assembly is to help a child reflect on who they are, and consequences of their actions in order to grow.

Our Approach. The Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble Program covers several disciplines and current issues in schools: arts, culture, history and aspects of school violence and bullying. The actual school assembly performances, enriches and enhances the educational and social development experience for youth, particularly urban youth and youth of all ethnicities. Our approach utilizing the arts helps makes the assembly experience that more relevant and real, because arts and culture are already at the center of most youth lives outside of the classroom.

Benefits to Youth and the School. The benefits of the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble Assembly experience are the following:

- A. Raised self-esteem and respect for others
- B. Self-Discipline and good behavior
- C. Raised academic achievement
- D. Heightened awareness of social dynamics, especially the debilitating repercussions of their involvement in promoting or engaging in violence or bullying, and
- E. Increased awareness of the positive contributions of Africa to the arts, culture and history of the world and how African-Americans have furthered developed this world arts form.

Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble



UNIVERSAL AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM ENSEMBLE, founded and directed by [Robert](#) and wife [Wanda Dickerson](#) in 1984 and co-directed by their oldest son [Jamal](#) and wife [Ronsha Dickerson](#), has grown to be one of the largest professional African Dance & Drum Ensembles in the United States of America. The **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble** headquartered in **Camden, New Jersey** which includes members from **Camden, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** and **Africa**.

The **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble** has also been **blessed** and **sanctioned** the **best of its kind** as an African-American Dance and Drum Troupe in America by scholars, historians and African Djelis (historians). They strive to be **sensational** and **electrifying** with their amazing [Stilt Walkers](#), Dancers, Drummers, Ground Masquerades and with an exciting acrobatic show. The Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble has performed at many prominent and **prestigious events** in this country, including performing for and **honoring leaders of countries**, celebrities, politicians, religious, business and community leaders. The Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble's teachers and officials, have been taught by many great teachers from many countries in Africa. They are known for their **West African presentations**, of *Guinea, Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, The Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone*, and more. They have been blessed to have learned songs, dance and drum from a famous **South African troupe** called [Thula Sizwe](#). In 2007, Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble also had the privilege to learn and perform with a wonderful group from **KENYA, East Africa**, called [The Friends of Sironka African Dance Troupe](#).

The **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble** is also a very versatile group of professionals, educators, nurses, veterans, police, business, community personnel, college students, school students and children. They are a very flexible troupe who are able to conform their troupe from **69 to 2 performers**. They professionally perform song, dance and drum from many sections and cultures of Africa, while teaching the culture of [West, East, South, Central and North Africa](#), through the arts. Their artistic and exceptional choreography gives them the ability to accommodate your specific events.

Blessed and sanctioned to be one of the **BEST** and the most exciting African Dance and Drum ensembles in the USA. In addition the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble were chosen and endorsed by world renowned historians, scholars and artists in America and Africa to **represent the USA** at the **World Festival of Black Arts and Culture (FESMAN)** in **Dakar, Senegal, Africa** in December 2010, where over **80 nations presented their best**. At this **historical event** Universal performed in [Saint-Louis, Goree Island, and Dakar](#), Senegal, **AFRICA**.

Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble has been blessed with five outstanding Stilt walkers and greatly blessed with the famous ["Pasha" the Stilt walker / Dancer](#). "Pasha" the Stilt walker has been a member since 1984.



All 69 active members of the **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble** are **Martial Artist (Karate)** practitioners and many are local, national and world Karate champions from the 4-time Hall of Fame Karate School, called the **Universal Pasha Karate School (UPK)**. The group is made up of various inner-city African-American families of contrasting religions and different ways of life. This proves through the understanding of **love** and **discipline**, while practicing, working and training together, that **UNITY** can exist in the inner cities of America and other communities. Everyone should honor, respect and appreciate the culture from which African Americans (black people) of America originate. The Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble presents to you, **family values** and the beauty of **African Culture**.

One of the **Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble's** goals, is to help African Americans or Black People understand the importance of honoring their place of origin, **AFRICA, (The MOTHERLAND)**, while at the same time helping the African Family appreciate that there are African Americans helping to build between the two, **UNITY**, through emphasizing the **AFRICAN DIASPORA, HISTORY, EDUCATION** and the **PERFORMING ARTS**.

Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble is honored to represent the beauty of **African Culture** in America. They love and admire many African troupes all over Africa. **Les Ballet Africains** from West Africa (**Guinea**), has been their **mentors, role-models, teachers** and the **group that they have modeled themselves after**. The Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble presents a powerful, sensational, electrifying and educational performances for everyone and especially for African-Americans (black people) in America to easily appreciate their culture.

Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble's identity, signature and highlighted performances with **five generations of performers** are how they represent the **beauty of family** with **children, teenagers, young adults, adults** and **elders** performing traditional African songs, instruments, dance and drum. Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble has been considered to be the **trend setters** for this kind of performances all over America. They are very happy to witness people of many **racess, religions, cultures** and **ways of life**, appreciating their performances of **Love, Discipline, Culture** and **Family**. The kind words of encouragement from thousands of people from all over the world, has been very inspiring. This appreciation helps Universal to stay strong, preserving and representing the beauty of African culture and most of all **FAMILY**.



Performing at many prestigious venues, such as: **United Nations-NY, AFRICA, CARIBBEAN, Political Inaugurations, NAACP National Convention, NJPAC-NJ, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)-NY, War Memorial (Trenton, NJ), Sony Blockbuster Entertainment Ctr., Tweeter Ctr.-NJ, New Jersey State Aquarium, Kimmel Ctr.-PHILA., Forum-Harrisburg, PA, Taj Mahal Casino-NJ, Trump Casino-NJ, Sands Casino-NJ, Show Boat Casino-NJ, Academy of Music-PHILA., International African Arts Festival-NY, Mann Center-PHILA., Robin Hood Dell-Phila., WDAS Unity Day-PHILA., Odunde-PHILA., West Oak Lane Jazz & Arts Festival-PHILA, Penns Landing-PHILA., The famous UniverSoul Circus, Six Flags GREAT ADVENTURE, Expos, Performing Art Centers, Museums, Convention Centers, Festivals, Colleges, Universities, Schools, Fraternity & Sorority National Conventions, Government & State Agencies, United States Arm Force Facilities, City Halls, Fortune 500 or High Profile Corporate Events and many community events all over this country.**

Seen by millions on Local, National, International and Cable Television, such as: Charles Perez Show- 1995, National News Networks, Positive Impact (JOE PISCOPO) Show, NBC-Today's Show - Matt Lauer & Katie Couric with Joe Piscopo-2003, SPIKE TV- 2005, C-SPAN (International)- Millions More Movement 2005, CNN- (JOE PISCOPO-2007), TLC CABLE- 2009, WPVI 6, WCAU 10, KYW 3, WTXF 29, WPHL 17, WYBE 35, CN8 and many local TV shows around the U.S.A. since 1984.

CD (DIMEDI FAABE) & PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Music that penetrates the soul

"Their performance was so thorough, we are going to play the CD all day at the Imani Celebration fest in California." [DR. MAULANA KARENGA](#) - Professor, Author, Historian / Creator & Founder of KWANZAA

"I've traveled all over the world, they are the best I've ever seen in this country." [DR. MOLEFI KETE ASANTE](#) - Professor, Author & Historian / *The father and author of Afrocentricity*

"This group is producing miracles." [JOE PISCOPO](#) - Famous Actor / Comedian & Philanthropist / *Positive Impact Foundation & One of the original Saturday Night Live Superstars*

"This group is wonderful, you must see them, it is hard to explain how good they really are." *Legendary* [DR. BABA CHUCK DAVIS](#) - Over 40 years of African Dance & *Artistic Director* for 30 years of [DANCE AFRICA / BAM](#)

"I've traveled the world touring and performing and never found a group uplifting family and African Culture in America until meeting this FAMILY." [MOUSSA DIABATE](#) - Djeli, Griot, Historian & African Dance & Drum Teacher / *Les Ballet Africain- Guinea, WEST AFRICA*

"*I heard a lot about them, (Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble) when I seen them, (Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble) (October 20, 2007) they are number one*" [M' BEMBA BANGOURA](#) - Djeli, Griot, Historian & African Dance & Drum Teacher / *The Ballet of Conakry & Ballet Djoliba - Guinea, WEST AFRICA*

"They are the BEST, like the BALLET." [MITO CAMARA](#) - African Dance & Drum Teacher / *Lead Drummer for Les Ballet Africain for many years- Guinea, WEST AFRICA*

"I am 96 years old and I have traveled the world many times and seen many dance performances. That was the best dance performance that I have ever seen in my life"- (January 31, 2010) a wonderful elder Jewish Lady at a *Jewish Elderly Center* in Pennsylvania

"*The impact that you (Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble) put on people; if more people would do that, it would impact the world*" (October 5, 2011) [DR. JOHNETTA BETSCH COLE](#), Director of [Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art](#)

Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble

69 MEMBER TROUP



- (1) **BROADWAY TYPE OF PERFORMANCES**
(Ballet Quality Performances / OUR BEST PROFESSIONALS)
- (2) **FAMILY PERFORMANCES / Most Requested**
with children, teenagers, adults and elders
Witness 4 Generations of Amazing Dancers and Drummers
- (3) **COLLEGE and SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES**
(Workshop and/or Performance with request of a stilt walker and/or story-teller)
- (4) **POWER HOUSE PERFORMANCES** (Small Group of Professionals)
- (5) **ADULT PERFORMERS ONLY**
- (6) **YOUTH PERFORMERS ONLY**
- (7) **DRUMMERS ONLY PERFORMANCES** (Which includes male and female)
- (8) **STILT WALKING and STILT DANCING PERFORMANCES**
with Drummers and/or Dancers
- (9) **SMALLER TROUP (Break Down Troupe of approximately 2 to 8 performers)**

We can customize our performances for any promoter or any individuals needs

Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble has been blessed with professionals, which include Educators, Nurses, Administrators, Entrepreneurs, Police Personnel, Arm Force Veterans, Musical Writers, Composers and Producers.

Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble also consist of College Students, High, Middle, Elementary, Pre School Students, Community Residents, Business and Community Leaders.

**Specializing in Educational - THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS,
SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS
and COMMUNITY EVENTS**

"Recognizing, respecting and appreciating the beauty of African Culture"

This stage plot is designed for LARGE STAGES covering a large area.

STAGE PLOT

BACK DROP

BACK DROP



17



18



19



14



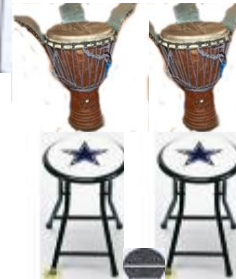
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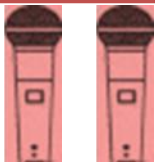
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MONITOR

Two microphones preferably wireless for off stage and on stage vocalist.

We supply our own chairs. Unless notified by the promoter

This is the area for the Dancers, Roving Drummers who are also stationery, Roving Instrumentalist and Stiltwalkers. Microphone #14 is used for our KORA Instrumentalist which is wireless and supplied by us. MONITORS are very important for DANCERS to hear breaks



15 & 16

Stage Right



8



9



10



11

Stage Left



2

MONITOR



1

MONITOR



3

MONITOR

Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble Dancers, Acrobats and Stilt walkers

See attached legend – Contact: **Robert** or **Jamal** Dickerson / **Kysame Watson**- Stage Manger / 856-365-4817

WEB-SITE: www.unitycommunity.com / E-MAIL: uccupk@aol.com

Mic. 1,4,5,11,14,15 & 16 mandatory for minimum setup

Audience

SEE ATTACHED LEGEND FOR DETAILED EXPLANATIONS

Legend for Stage Layout

Universal African (Dance & Drum) Ensemble

STAGE AREA This stage plot is designed for large stages covering a large area. Minimum stage requirement is normally 30 feet across x 25 feet deep, however we perform on smaller to the largest of stages internationally.

MICROPHONES -

Mic 1, 2 & 3- Omnidirectional Overheads or Hanging (approximately 10 feet high) or microphones on stands approximately five feet high

Mic 4- Bass Microphone for our **Bass Line Drum**

Mic 5, 6 & 7- Unidirectional microphones on stand

Mic 8-thru 13- Unidirectional microphones for the DRUMMERS, sitting on the chairs

Mic 14- For amp or DI connection -Cordless Mic for the instrument called the **KORA (This special connection will be supplied by Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble)**

Mic 15 & 16- Cordless unidirectional microphones for the vocalist

Mic 17 & 18- Unidirectional for both Balaphones (Vibraphone) or other instruments

Mic 19- Unidirectional for the instrument called the **KRIN (Karukato)** a.k.a. Wodden Log Drum

MONITORS - (1) Drummers in the chairs (2) Drummers in the front of Stage (3) Drummer playing the Kenkeni at Mic 5

Box will be checked if needed:

STAGE LIGHTING

BACK GROUND (BACK DROP)

AMPLIFIER SYSTEM with () Cassette Deck () CD Player () Other -----

NOTES:

This stage plot is designed for LARGE STAGES covering a large area. Most stages we will never need this many microphones. Also in most situations we would only need to be miked by sections or a surround sound of miking. Microphones 1.4.5.11.14.15 & 16 definite for surround sound and/or smaller stages.

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BASIC RIDER OR CONDITIONS BELOW

For Schools exclude steps 5, 6 and 7 only if you prefer

- (1) A discussion in full detail of all arrangements or contracts.
- (2) Total fee: donation, contribution, honorarium, or stipend given before or upon arrival.
PAYABLE TO: UNITY COMMUNITY CENTER / c/o Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble
- (3) Reserved and secured parking for all of our vehicles. (**Parking passes or paid parking, if needed**)
- (4) One or **preferably two rooms** available for uniform dressing and the security of our personal belongings and equipment. (**NO BATH ROOMS or REST ROOMS**)
- (5) When advertising the event, via posters, flyers, programs, tentative programs, media broadcast or etc., we request to be promoted as The Sensational & Electrifying Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble. Which is the better promotion of us and should be beneficial for you as well?
- (6) To have a table for our promotional paraphernalia, which includes photos, brochures, audio, video DVD's, CD's and etc. of our promotional groups and its programs.
- (7) Bottles of Spring Water for the performers and our technical assistants.
Light refreshment – Crudités (vegetables), fruit, salads, Pasta salads, basic snacks and/or PIZZA
Keep in mind that most of our group members are Vegetarians.

Event / Date & Time: _____

Number of performers and staff, being transported for this event by us will be? _____

For this event we will be arriving by using- / Bus(s) _____ Van(s) _____ Trunk(s) _____ Car(s) _____

Other special requirements-

Air-Fare Train-Fare Tour Bus-Fare School Bus-Fare Rented Vehicles

Rented 15 Passenger Van(s) Personal Vehicles Other _____

Thank you,

Robert H. Dickerson
Founder & Executive Director