

DIASPORA SHOWCASE

A F R I C A



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006 TUCSON ARIZONA

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DIASPORA SHOWCASE





PROGRAM SOUVENIR CREDIT

EDITOR Kwevi Quaye

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Tokunbo Kehinde

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Dele Ajaja

ADVERTISING SALES Diaspora Showcase

SALES ASSOCIATES Olugbenga Fatogun
Emmanuel Igene
Douglas Pam
Miriam Igene
Juliette Rowlan
Felix Quaye

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Bisrat
Arthur Whitman

PHOTOGRAPHERS John Bae
Sonny Sholola
George Howard
Julie Rackow

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Lynne East-Itkin
Nancy Parker
Leigh Diles
Tracey Martell

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Kwevi Quaye

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For Information
520-888-1262
info@diasporashowcase.com



LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

MAIN PHONE: 602-542-4331
FACSIMILE: 602-542-7601

July 19, 2006

GREETINGS !

It is an honor for me to extend a most warm and cordial greetings to all of you at the annual **Diaspora Showcase Africa**.

This is certainly a very special event, and I am pleased to join with other members of the community in recognizing the **Diaspora Showcase Africa** contribution to the growth of our Arizona community. By spotlighting both African designers and our Arizona designers under the same fashion show platform, Diaspora Showcase continues to promote international understanding in our global community.

On behalf of the people of the State of Arizona, I extend best wishes for a successful event.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:msj





Rohan McDonald is wearing Nigerian fabrics & fashion. Photo: John Bae

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Diaspora Showcase is a unique event that utilizes various entertainment vehicles to highlight the countries in Africa, with focus on its culture and tradition, - through music, dance, fashion and other entertainment medium. Diaspora Showcase also creates visibility for some non-profit organizations that undertake humanitarian services globally, especially in Africa.

Those that have not attended our show sometimes ask how we could showcase Africa in six hours. I often tell them how simple it is. The Diaspora Showcase is a sampling of Africa in six hours. This year, the delicious cuisine at the event is from 15 countries, fashion is represented by 10 countries, live performances from Senegalese and Guinean artists, and the music soundtrack to the fashion show is a compilation of African artists' greatest hits from 25 countries.

Cherished friends and colleagues make this "Six Hours of Entertainment" possible in the broader global community. Many gave their time and expertise to implement the concept of the Diaspora Showcase. From fashion designers, models, interior decorators, graphic designers, producers, chefs, entertainers, and other volunteers, there are 100 participants and contributors to the Diaspora Showcase Africa.

Most of all, the success of the showcase is the loyal following it has garnered in various cities throughout the United States. The annual audience at the showcase has extended beyond the borders of Tucson to Phoenix, Scottsdale, San Diego, Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago, Washington D.C., Cleveland, New York, Lagos, Accra, London and Paris. It is indeed a pleasure to see Africa celebrated in her most gracious form by her sons and daughters amongst friends from around the world.



C O N T E N T S

Letter from the Governor of Arizona	3
Producer’s Note	4
Letter from the Mayor of Tucson	6
Program for the Diaspora Showcase Africa	13
Host and Producers Profile	15
Noah Samara, Creator of Satellite Radio.	17
History of The Ghana Education Project.	18
Advisory Board Members of the Ghana Education Project	19
Entertainers Profile	20
Soundtrack to the Fashion Show	23
Fashion Collections and Featured Designers	25
Spotlight: Ghana “The Pearl of Africa”	34
Shopping - Silent Auction Items	54
Important U.S. Public Holidays	55
African Destinations	56
African Embassies and Consulate in the United States of America	58
Advertisers Index	59



Cover:
Photographer:
John Bae;
Designer:
Nigerian Fabrics
and Fashion;
Makeup:
Ultra Fragrance
and Cosmetics;
Models:
Elvia Arevalo
(center),
Angilena Paulo
(left),
Alex Davis
(right)



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



CITY OF
TUCSON

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

ROBERT E. WALKUP

September 16, 2006

Welcome to Tucson, Arizona

DIASPORA SHOWCASE AFRICA

On behalf of the people of Tucson, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the attendees to Diaspora Showcase Africa! We are proud to be the host city for your celebration and believe you will be delighted you chose our unique city.

As part of the event, attendees will be treated to an exceptional evening of delicious cuisine from the five regions of Africa, a silent auction, and live entertainment. We understand proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the Ghana Education Project, an organization started by Princeton University students to promote volunteer-driven international aid and education in the rural areas of Ghana.

We are honored to have you as our guests and encourage you to take advantage of all that our city has to offer, including our special attractions, desert and mountain scenery and fine southwestern dining.

We hope you will be as touched by our hospitality as our lives have been enriched by your presence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Walkup".

Robert E. Walkup
Mayor

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EVENT PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director and Producer Kwevi Quaye

Associate Producer Anselm Omoike

Taping Production Producers Todd Hoffman, Andre Wiseman

Assistant Producer Olugbenga Fatogun

Fashion Assistant Producer Angela Johnson

Assistants to the Producers Juliette Rowlan, Diane Barrett

Entertainers Master Kora Player, Prince Diabate; Percussionist, Alioune Faye; Dancers, Walter Jones & Liz Watts, Todd Hammes, Patricia Harris, The Marelle String Quartet

Deejays Clement Ataboh, Hope Izugbu

MC Bitaya Mulato, LaMar Donovan

Fashion Designers Kike Adeeko, Pelá, Nigerian Fabrics and Fashions, Susan Di Staulo, Kristin Dinnis, Kanksha Mehta, Jennyvi Dizon, Angela Johnson, La-Rae, Emilie Uriate, Lenore Aispuro, Tiffe Fermaint, Mary Petrich, Olga Ptashnuk, Suwatana Rockland

Stylists Kurt Quanna & Co., Eulalia Gaston

Models Elvia Arevalo, Daynaly N Wain, Nicole West, Desire Mihelish, Jenny Frei, Breiannia Gaston, Cristina Irimiciuc, Doelis Martinez, Amparo Elizabeth, Kanksha Mehta, Lisa Gomes, Ally Lee, Rachel Jackson, Christine Harshman, Modupe Ogunde, Alex Davis, Alex Garcia, Greg Martin, Rohan McDonald, Celeste Marquez, Shardee Larkin, Maria Williams, Michelle Perez

Master Chef Magdi Nafeh

Chefs Lilian Forlemu, Mildred Osakwe, Adisa Okeke, Gisele Nzeukou Mary Pam, Pam Chollom, Gilbertine Mulato, Mary Prah, Nalisa Njanyau, Felix Quaye, Grace Donovan, Ifeoma Ononye, Adja Ndoye

Volunteers Afra & Afrooz, Modupe Ogunde, Yemisi Ogunde, Timothy Dunne, Bayo Ijagbemi, David Johnson, Omotayo Olabumuyi, Janelle Effiwatt, Marlene Effiwatt, Stephanie Kooffreh, Sara Cohen, Sharlene Nehs, Margaret Johnson, Robert Forlemu, Francis Sumba, Doreen Wilson, Leigh Diles, Tina Van Putten, Rohan McDonald Jimmy Effiwatt, Abraham Galadima

Special Thanks Angela Johnson, Timothy Dunne, Anselm Omoike, Dele Ajaja Pam Chollom, Margaret Johnson, Rohan McDonald, Felix Quaye, Angel of Color, Richard Gill, Selome Haileleoul, McMahon's Prime Steakhouse, The Good Egg, Cameroonian Association of Arizona, Mariee Gallery-Scottsdale, Suwatana Imports, Hair Follicles - House of Hair



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P R O G R A M

Host Vanessa Williams

Emcee LaMar Donovan and Bitaya Mulato

"African Child" Poem written by Dele Ajaja

Recital Fatima Ndoye

Introduction of the Mayor of Tucson Dr. Anthony Okeke, President
Beyond Looks

Welcome Address Robert E. Walkup
Mayor of Tucson

DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT

Door Prizes and Silent Auction

Arthur Whitman, President
Ghana Education Project

Introduction of Keynote Speaker Kwevi Quaye, President
Diaspora International Inc.

Keynote Speaker Noah Samara, Founder and CEO
WorldSpace Corporation

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Host Vanessa Williams

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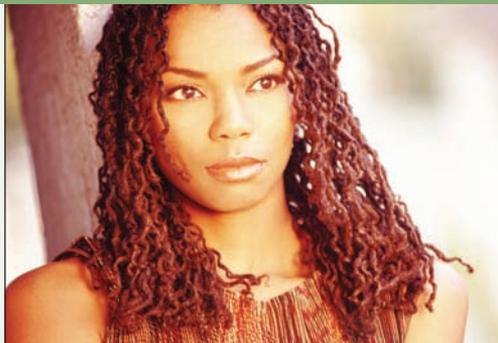
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HOST & PRODUCER

VANESSA WILLIAMS' early break came when she landed a role on "The Cosby Show" as Jade. Impressed with her performance, Mr. Cosby asked her back to play the recurring role of Theo's girlfriend, Cheryl Lovejoy, a sweet young lady from Barbados. Ms. Williams starred in the Fox TV hit Melrose Place in the 90's, "Murder One," as well as a recurring role in "Chicago Hope." She has guest starred in numerous Television shows including "Total Recall," "The Pretender," "NYPD Blue," "Living Single," and "The Steve Harvey Show." Ms. Williams stage credit includes the Lincoln Center production of "Death and the King's Horseman" and "Mule Bone," a Broadway production. In her first feature film appearance, "New Jack City" directed by Mario Van Peebles, Vanessa plays Keisha. She was Anne-Maria McCoy, a supporting role in the gothic horror film, "Candyman." As an author, Ms. Williams has written a book of poetry and prose entitled: Shine. Her poems and essays have also been published in Essence Magazine. She has also co-wrote, produced, and directed a short film, "Dense" for Showtime Television. Ms. Williams is a recipient of the NAACP Image Award as an Outstanding Actress in "Soul Food," a TV hit Drama Series.



Vanessa Williams

KWEVI QUAYE, creator and producer of the "Diaspora Showcase Africa" is also a prominent architect. With more than twenty years in the entertainment, media and sports industries, the multi-dimensional Mr. Quaye coined the phrase "Travel as Entertainment," a concept that was utilized to launch a Travel Club for ESSENCE magazine in 1999, and later extended to Mr. Quaye's production of the 2000 "ESSENCE Music Festival Cruise" and "Jazz at Sea." As a soccer coach in the 80's, Mr. Quaye created the annual SISTEMA Soccer Classic, considered a superb Women's Soccer tournament, featuring the best players globally. This feat led to the U.S. Soccer Federation requesting Mr. Quaye to produce the final Exhibition Games for the U.S. Women National Team in 1991, as part of the preparation for the first Women's World Championship in China. Mr. Quaye is currently developing a music concert and soccer exhibition games for South Africa.

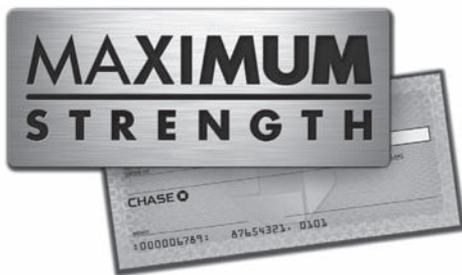


Kwevi Quaye

ANSELM OMOIKE, an associate producer of the "Diaspora Showcase Africa" has featured in several Nigerian radio shows such as "Na True I Talk," "Long Throat Junction," "Gandu Street," "Play Of The Week," and "Join The Bandwagon." In 1985, he wrote and directed the "Octet Rule," a science stage production, as an extension of his work with Jide Ogungbade and Gbenga Ariba, both veteran Nigerian producers of drama. Dr. Omoike's theatre performance include "The Trials of Brother Jero," a play written by Nigerian playwright and Nobel Prize Laureate, Wole Soyinka. Dr. Omoike is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan-Flint.



Anselm Omoike



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DIASPORA SHOWCASE



FEATURED SPEAKER

Noah A. Samara, founder of WorldSpace corporation and creator of satellite radio, is an avid reader of classical literature. Born in Ethiopia and raised there and in Tanzania; his Sudanese father was a teacher and diplomat. During his education in England and the United States, which culminated with him earning a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Georgetown University Law school. Mr. Samara began to develop the vision that information was the key to expanding opportunities.

Mr. Samara is credited for pioneering XM satellite radio, and his vision of an information-rich society led him at age 34 to found WorldSpace in 1990, which is now a publicly traded corporation on the U.S. Stock Exchange. WorldSpace mission is to create information affluence by using a new satellite-based infrastructure to deliver programming to the three-quarters of the world's population that lacks adequate radio reception and program choice and that wants high quality news, knowledge and entertainment at an affordable cost. The aim is to bring the rich man's radio to an audience of the poor.

Veteran in developing business and regulatory frameworks for the satellite communications industry, he has advised many international telecom organizations such as the ITU on issues that relate to global telecom business. Mr. Samara has also been involved in the development of geostationary and low earth orbit (LEO) satellite systems. He has published numerous articles and academic works on international law and telecom issues.

In the last few years, Business Week, Newsweek, The London Times, Billboard and The Washington Post have profiled Mr. Samara. Africa International magazine awarded Mr. Samara its 1997 Innovation Trophy for his development of the WorldSpace system. In 2000, Mr. Samara received the Peace Through Education award from the Pacem In Terras Institute of La Riche College.



Ghana Education Project

“Education is the Foundation of Freedom”



The Ghana Education Project (GEP) was founded in 1999 as a result of a trip several Princeton University students took to Ghana. In its first several years, the organization was focused on two major tasks: Creating a Summer Volunteer Program, and Researching ways to improve Ghana's Health and Education Infrastructure.

done in close collaboration with local government and traditional rulers, an ethic which forms the backbone of the program's success.



The Volunteer program has been extremely successful, having sent 75 Princeton and Harvard

University students to the village of Komenda and Anomabu in Ghana. While there, the students executed over 150 AIDS Awareness workshops in outlying areas, and have worked with the communities to establish eight local libraries. All the work was

GEP is now focused on a new project called the Epidemic Prevention Vehicle (EPV), a mobile hospital with the ability to administer general anesthesia, have an ICU, and other medical facilities that other "mobile clinic" have lacked. The facility is meant to stay in an area for a period of days, then move on to the next designated sector. In this way, it traverses a given route again and again, providing access to healthcare that would be





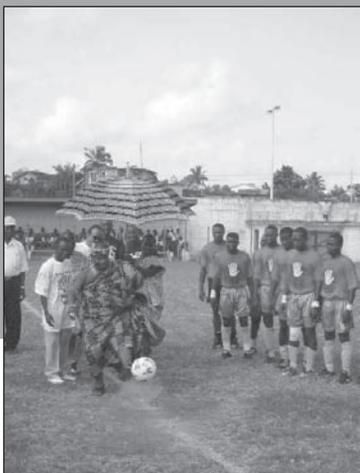
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impossible under current infrastructure conditions. The eighteen-wheeler is designed to fold out into three circus-style tents, making it roughly the size of a pee-wee soccer field.

While GEP continue to focus on its core competencies of Volunteerism and Social Entrepreneurship, it has also helped numerous Ghanaian-based NGOs get their start, as well as provided resources for several doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in the country of Ghana. GEP has become a true cornucopia of gifts and resources regarding the many different forms of exchange between Ghana and its neighboring West African States, and the United States.

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Technology, and President of
Ghana Library Association



Yusef Komunyaaka



DIASPORA SHOWCASE



E N T E R T



PRINCE DIABATÉ

Considered to be one of the leading kora players of his generation, PRINCE DIABATÉ brings not only total mastery over his ancestral tradition, but a commitment to renew it through fresh ideas and exchanges with

musicians from many cultures. The kora combines elements of the harp and the flute, and in Diabate's hands it is especially effective when he uses its multi-stringed sounds to accompany his singing of spirited traditional songs. Moving easily between the classical traditions of Mandé music and modern fusion, Prince Diabaté has incorporated reggae, rap, blues and funk into his work. Recently, he has added the music of the Wassolou, which he plays on the kamelen n'goni. The result is entirely his own: a fresh, powerful brand of twenty-first century Manden music, which remains strongly rooted in traditional codes and references. In 2000, he was creative consultant and lead performer on an IBM commercial for the Olympic Games in Sydney. In 2001, he recorded a track on "Embrace The Chaos", the Grammy-winning CD from Ozomatli. In 2002, he was a nominee in the LA Weekly Music Awards and the New Times Music Awards. His latest semi-acoustic album, entitled DJERELON is arranged and produced by Kante Manfila, longtime collaborator of Salif Keita.



ALIOUNE FAYE, PERCUSSIONIST was born and raised in a Griot (storytelling) family in Dakar, Senegal, West Africa and began drumming at the age of 7. Alioune specializes in Sabar, Tama (talking drum), Djembe and Soruba drums. He has performed at various concerts and festivals in West Africa, Western Europe and the United States. He performed for two years as a master drummer for the Ballet d'Afrique Noire of Senegal. He has played with top African bands and dance ensembles such as: Sing Sing Rhythms, Am Yaka, and Youssou N'Dour. In the United States, Alioune currently tours with Winard Harper Jazz Sextet and Bouso Dancers. He has worked with Peter Gabriel, Whitney Houston, Macy Gray, Destiny's Child, Jimmy Cliff, Frank London, Lemzo Diamono, Wycliff Jean, Stevie Wonder, Eric Clapton, Jack DeJohnette, Dr. Billy Taylor and Harry Belafonte, all world known artists. He also works with a newly formed band in New York City called "the 21st Century Band".



LIZ WATTS began her dancing career with Los Angeles premier Salsa dance company, Salsa Brava. She has performed throughout the U.S., including major salsa hot-spots such as Miami, Puerto Rico and New York. Ricky Martin, Marc Antonio Solis and Paulina Rubio are a few names whom she has worked with. Aside from the Latin field, Liz has also worked with the Black Eyed Peas, Pink and Destiny's Child. Her most popular music video is Bootylicious in which Beyonce and Liz look like twins! Most recently Liz's focus has shifted again to singing and acting. She has sung with different artists including Ricky Martin, Shaggy and Brian Mcknight.



A I N E R S

WALTER JONES is Internationally known for his creation of the Character Zach The Black Ranger from the Children's Action Adventure Phenomenon "The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. He has been featured as a Series Regular or Guest star in over 150 episodes of various shows and has been featured in 7 films. Some of his credits include: The Golden Globe and Emmy Award winning police drama "The Shield" and the top rated series drama "CSI". Walter dance credits prove to be equally as impressive. He has been trained in Salsa, Hip Hop, Jazz, Ballet, Modern, and Tap. He was chosen as one of fifty dancers to represent the United States in the 1992 Olympic Closing Ceremonies in Barcelona. In the Salsa World Walter made his presence known as he captured the Title of the Mayan World 2004 Champion. Walter has choreographed some of Hollywood's biggest celebrities such as Jennifer Love Hewitt, Van Diesel, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Sheila E.



TODD HAMMES has extensively studied western contemporary music and the music of many cultures with some of the best artists of our time, including Pandit Sharda Sahai of Benaris, India and Glen Velez. As a composer and performer, his own compositions are featured on a Joven Records CD, "Thoughts". A member of the critically acclaimed group, Sonoran Consort in Tucson, he continues to improvise music in which the audience's input is made a part of the music. At a recent concert, an audience member challenged the performer to make music inspired by the imagery of "what an angel flying through a wet sponge" might sound like.



PATRICIA HARRIS is a seasoned veteran of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, having been its principal harpist for more than 30 years. In that time, she has established herself as one of the premier harpists in Arizona and the United States. She began her studies at the age of eight with her mother Anne Adams, principal harpist with the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Opera. She has made several recordings including her acclaimed Two Harps as One, featuring Patricia and her mother.



MASTER DJ CLEMENT ATABOH has entertained audiences from the global village for more than a decade. He gained fame in 1995 when he disc jockeyed at the trendy "Bamboo Club", a popular Los Angeles African night club noted for World underground dance music. With his mix of current music trend from various genre to American, European and African classics, the Cameroonian Master DJ is considered the best African DJ on the West Coast of America. Blending Ghanaian "Hip- Life" tunes and Cameroon's "Makossa" with a touch of Nigerian "Afro- Beat", he has developed an international following. From the melodic sound of the Soukous guitar masters of the Congo and Zimbabwe to the upbeat tempo of South Africa, Master DJ Clement brings African music to the forefront of the American music scene. He has worked with many notable African recording artists, such as Sonny Okosun, Mike Okri, Petit Pays, Meiway, and Oliver de Coque's brother Nze Eugene de Coque.



HOPE IZUEGBU IS a veteran deejay since the 1980's. His mix of diverse music from Nigeria and the West African sub-region provides an entertaining moment on the dance floor. Hope has played in numerous African based events in Arizona, including the 2004 Diaspora Showcase Africa, where the guests were on the dance floor all night to the mixes of Hope Izuegbu and Master DJ Clement Ataboh.



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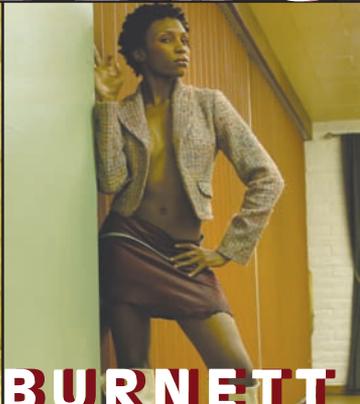
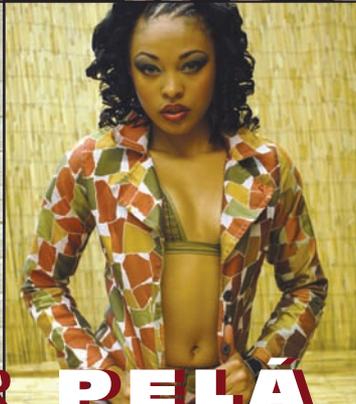


S/N	ARTIST	ALBUM	SONG	COUNTRY
1	Jonathan Butler	Surrender	Wake Up	South Africa
2	John Chibadura	The Great Mr. Chatungwiza	Chiiko	Zimbabwe
3	Fela Anikulapo-Kuti	The Best Of Fela	Shakara	Nigeria
4	Fela Anikulapo-Kuti	The Best Of Fela	RoForofo	Nigeria
5	Salif Keita	Remix	Madan	Mali
6	Kojo Antwi	Tattoo	Osebo	Ghana
7	Kojo Antwi	Densu	Amerika	Ghana
8	Sunny Ade	Odu	Mo Ri Keke Kan	Nigeria
9	Jimmy DluDlu	Smooth Africa	Point of View	South Africa
9	GiGi	GiGi	Nafeken	Ethiopia
10	Youssou N'Dour	Egypt	Tijannya	Senegal
12	Salif Keita	Remix	Ana Na Ming	Mali
13	Faquzi Guarmra	North Africa Planet	Farquzi Ben Guarmra	Tunisia
14	Kojo Antwi	Tattoo	Osebo	Ghana
15	Baaba Maal	Lam Torro	Sy Sawande	Senegal
16	Alpha Blondy	Masada	Yeye	Ivory Coast
17	Cheb Mami	Let Rai	Haoulou	Algeria
18	Oliver	O Mtuk	Mkuru Mkuru	Zimbabwe
19	Oliver	O Mtuk	Kwanza Kodaka	Zimbabwe
20	Allou April	Smooth Africa II	Bringing Joy	South Africa

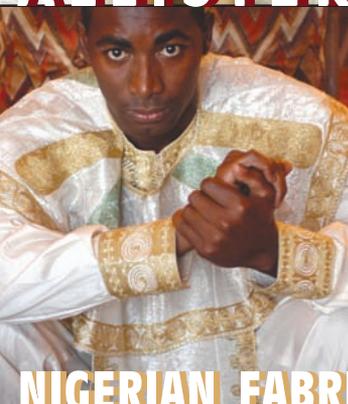




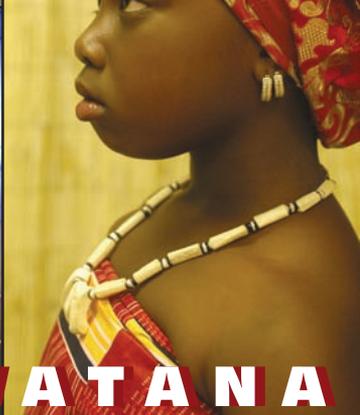
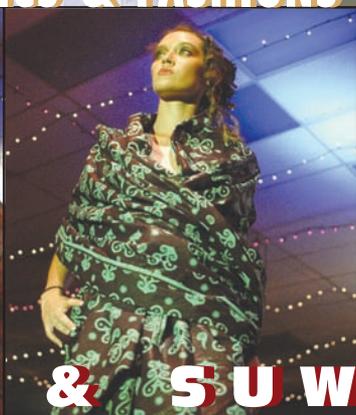
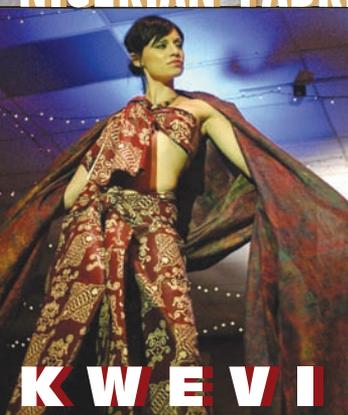
K I K E A D E E K O



A L L I S T E R P E L Á B U R N E T T



N I G E R I A N F A B R I C S & F A S H I O N S



K W E V I & S U W A T A N A

by Tokunbo Kehinde & Kwevi Quaye



Arizona Designers

Susan Di Staulo

Kristin Dinnis

Kanksha Mehta

Jennyvi Dizon

Angela Johnson

La-Rae

Emilie Uriate

Lenore Aspuro

Tiffe Fermaint

Mary Petrich

Oga Ptashuk

Besides satisfying human needs for covering and adornment, African fashion designs provide an outlet for artistic expression that is indeed unique to her alone. The styles are an embodiment of many diverse ethnic groups, tradition and culture from the continent. Clothing are made with pronounced embroidery of different colors, machine and hand-woven, to complete the uniqueness of the clothes.

These elements are translated to western style through the "African Renaissance" special collection by Arizona designers at this year's showcase.

For the first time, we are featuring both American and African designers under the same fashion show platform. Ten designers from Arizona, which includes Angela Johnson, Susan Di Staulo, and Jennyvi Dizon were selected to present a collection under the AFRICAN RENAISSANCE theme. The idea was to see how Western Fashion Designers in America translate African fabrics into an African inspired design in Western style. This collection will grace the runway, along with the collections of African designer such as Kike Adeeko, and the Nigerian Fabrics and Fashion. Allister "Pela" Burnett, a designer from Trinidad and Tobago based in New York is also showing his Spring Collection.

The background of these designers is as varied and as diverse as the collection they are presenting. **Jennyvi Dizon** usually creates classy, hand-made bridal and evening wear designs but she has captured the essence of North African stylish use of embroidered patterns to accentuate its formal wear. **Susan Di Staulo's** theory on fashion design, as a reflection of choice, of freedom, and of individuality is echoed in her use of lines and beads, providing creativity and originality to her work. **Angela Johnson** who is known for her T-shirt composition of formal ball gowns has interpreted the fabrics of Africa, in the context of the peacock with ruffles, just like feathers, as parts and pieces of her elegant design

PELÁ

ALLISTER BURNETT

Blending earth tones with vivid colors, Pelá's fashions feature embroidered appliqué, and display a combination of the African and Caribbean influences that inform his work. From his Brooklyn workshop in New York, Pelá continues to pursue two passions: To educate people about the richness of African diasporic fashion and to make fashion accessible.

Pelá's work has garnered attention from diverse sources. Counted among the Who's Who of Caribbean Fashion Design by Caribbean Life, Pelá has also been named a designer to watch for by the New York Daily News, and one of today's most prominent Black designers by Black Elegance.

Collection available at
Malkia World Arts
(520) 884-7494

ADEEKO

MAGIC IN AFRICAN FASHION THROUGH THE EYES OF KIKE ADEEKO



What relevance does magic have to clothing today? One may not think there is much to this but a quick look in our closets and bathrooms tell us that there must be something to the magic. This, in a nutshell, explains the fashion statement of Kike Adeeko.

The styles are made with pronounced embroidery of different colors, machine and hand-woven; bias binding (satin) and window laces of various patterns are also used to complete the uniqueness of the clothes. Common fabric-decorating techniques include appliqué designs, sewn on in contrasting fabrics with brightly colored threads; and dyeing.

Fabrics such as *ankara*, *adire* and *linen* are used in making the different styles. The uniqueness of the designs also lies in the fact that the clothes are suitable for all occasions, naming ceremonies, weddings, cocktail and dinner parties, and are easily adaptable to all cultures.

By Tokunbo Kehinde

K I K E

MALKIA

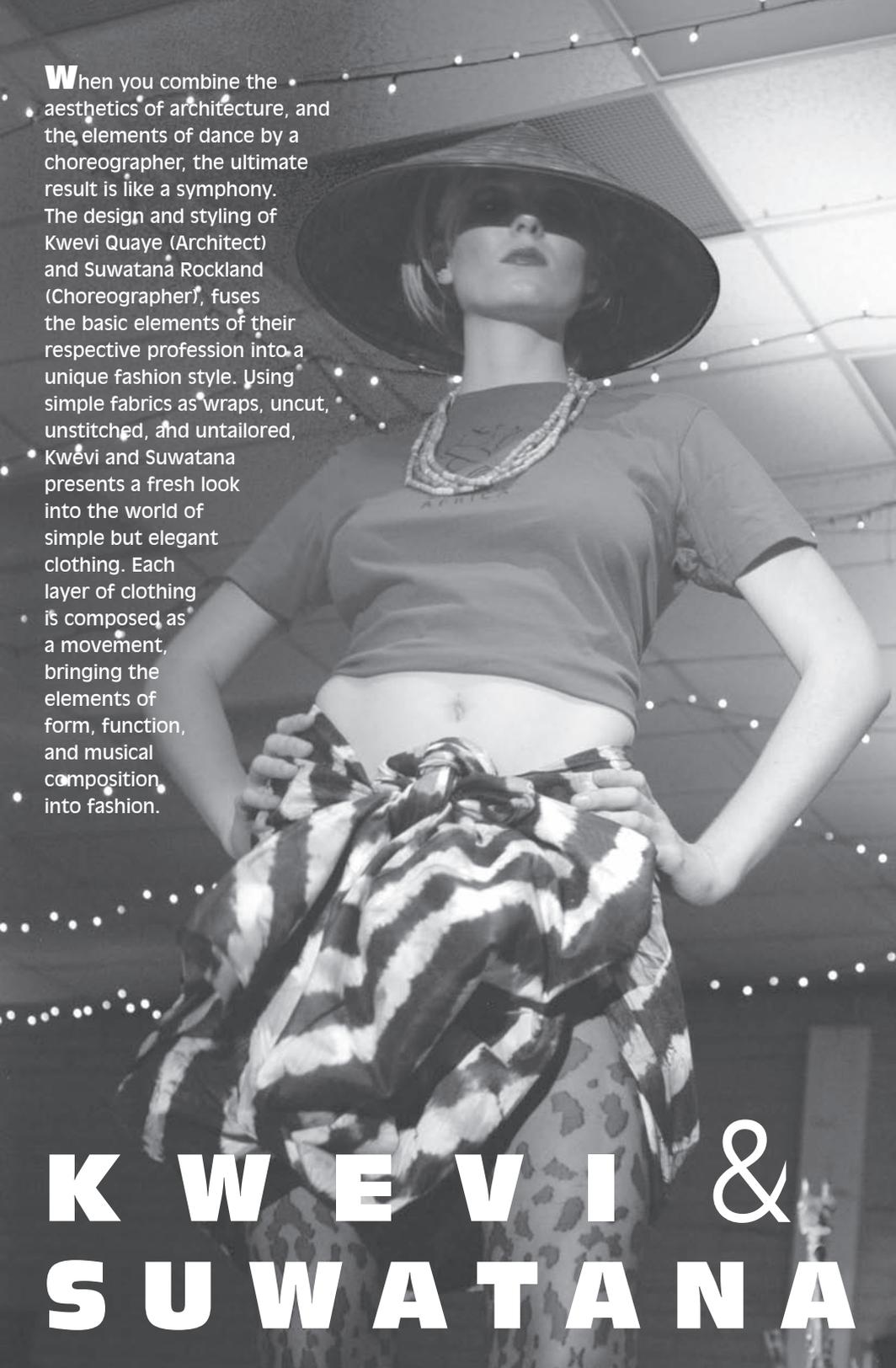
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and wood, and much more...
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When you combine the aesthetics of architecture, and the elements of dance by a choreographer, the ultimate result is like a symphony. The design and styling of Kwevi Quaye (Architect) and Suwatana Rockland (Choreographer), fuses the basic elements of their respective profession into a unique fashion style. Using simple fabrics as wraps, uncut, unstitched, and untailed, Kwevi and Suwatana presents a fresh look into the world of simple but elegant clothing. Each layer of clothing is composed as a movement, bringing the elements of form, function, and musical composition into fashion.



**K W E V I &
S U W A T A N A**

Nigerian Fabrics & Fashions is the brainchild of the Adewumi brothers, Jonathan, Emmanuel and Gboyega, products of Ibo and Yoruba parents. The brothers specialize in apparel for weddings and other special occasions. A designer to many stars such as Stevie Wonder, Wesley Snipes and Keith David, the Nigerian Fabrics & Fashions is one of the largest and most recognized African clothing label in the

United States. As a fashion house for authentic traditional and contemporary Nigerian influenced clothing, the designers create garments that enhance the natural attributes of their customers, while providing an elegant alternative to traditional Western design.

The companys design has captured the international spotlight, receiving attention



NIGERIAN FABR

in publications such as Ebony and Essence magazines. It has also been honored by the Museum of the City of New York when two of its bridal designs were placed in the museum's permanent collection. Recently the company created the African fashions for the famous United Nations scenes in the Hollywood movie *The Interpreter* (Sydney Pollack's political thriller starring Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn).



AFRICANS & FASHION

GHANA: THE PEAR

President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana and Secretary General Kofi Annan of the United Nations have reasons to be proud.



They are illustrious sons of a first-among-equals nation. What makes Ghana influential in the West African sub-region? Her name would be

"Hospitality" if countries choose their nomenclatures based on what they know how to do best. Ghanaians are reputable for being some of the friendliest peoples on the African continent. They treat visitors with reverence and dignity. Opulently rich in gold, Ghana derived her pre-colonial name, Gold Coast, from the golden endowment. The country's exquisite beaches, stunning national parks, famous heritage sites, warm tropical climate, and congenial nightlife make Ghana the most sought after tourist attraction in West Africa.



Ghana's startling centers of attraction begin in the capital, Accra, where the marble mausoleum of Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah is located. Nkrumah was the celebrated pan-Africanist founding father of modern

Ghana. Current Ghanaian president resides in one of the country's historical castles, near the Atlantic Ocean in Accra. The most memorable castles in Ghana are in Cape Coast and Elmina, located some distances southwest of the capital. Cape Coast is a world heritage center - venue of the annual *Fetu Afahye* festival, and the biennial Pan-African Festival of arts and culture (Panafest). Elmina is unforgettable as the first European settlement in West Africa.

Visitors get better bargains when they see other Ghanaian cities. Aburi, a must-see Ghanaian town, has played host to dignitaries from around the world. Located on the Akwapem hills, some 23 miles north of Accra, Aburi maintains a year round mild weather similar to late fall in the United States of

America. Aburi Botanical Garden parades diverse trees planted by visiting world leaders. Kumasi, the Ashanti Regional headquarters, is Ghana's foremost historical and market center. It is also the country's gold mining center. Navrongo, the Kassena-Nankana District headquarters in the Upper East Region, is a commercial center near Burkina-Faso frontiers in the north. Nearby Bolgatanga, the headquarters of Bolgatanga Municipal District in the Upper East Region is among the nation's treasured tourist attractions, with its savannah architectural edifices. Sunyani, the headquarters of Sunyani District in Brong Ahafo Region, is the center of Ghanaian cocoa production. Ghana joins Cote D'Ivoire and Nigeria as some of the world's leading cocoa producers. Cocoa, gold, timber, rubber, cotton, sugar cane, palm oil, and tobacco are some of what Ghana supplies her main trading partners - Britain, USA, Japan, and Germany.

Highlife, a genre of African music, dominates Ghanaian nightlife. Local and continental dishes, foreign and native drinks, and beverages are available in Ghanaian cities. Prominent Ghanaian foods include *fufuo* (pounded yam, plantain or cassava); *banku* (fermented corn served with palm-oil stew or okra soup); and *waache* (rice and beans, sometimes served with *gari*). Ghana's wide range of restaurants and hotels caters to an equally wide range of customers. A typical weekend in Accra is busy both day and night, and inexpensive transportation is available round the clock.



Other must-see tourist centers in Ghana include *Makola* market in Accra, one of the largest open markets in West Africa;



Du Bois Center (named after a f ê t e d

L O F A F R I C A

African-American and *pan-Africanist*); and the premier University of Ghana, Legon. Ghana maintains some of the adorable natural vegetations and botanical gardens in West Africa. Participating in the canopy walk through Kakum National Park, where the forest remains virgin in southern Ghana, could be enthralling. Mole National Park in Northern Region is worth seeing, too. Beaches teeming with tourists and natives from morning till evening adorn the country shorelines. These include the popular Coco, Labadi, Kokrobite, Cocoloco, Ada, and Alaska beaches. The Akosombo

hydroelectric power dam on Lake Volta is fed by the world's largest artificial lake. Other water attractions in the country comprise of Lake Bomtwi in Ashanti Region, Boti Falls in Eastern Region, Wli Waterfalls in Volta Region, and Fuller Falls in Brong Ahafo Region, among others.

Ghana has impressive history and culture to compliment her amiability. The powerful Ashanti Kingdom began its authority in the south-central part of the country in the 16th Century. Ashanti people (also known as *Asantes*) are reputable for being industrious and firm. History has it that the kingdom's influence began when Okomfo Anokye, an Ashanti priest, conjured a golden stool (*sika 'dwa*) from the heaven into the lap of Osei Tutu I (the first king of the Ashanti people, known as the *Asantehene*.) Ashanti people are famous for their symbolic and colorful *kente* materials, worn by well-heeled people. Kente is at its dazzling best when worn by the *Asantehene*, the king of Kumasi and the paramount ruler of Ashanti, with solid gold rings, golden bracelets, and

amulets during the annual carnival of the Ashanti people.

The first sub-Sahara African nation to gain sovereignty from Great Britain, Ghana attained independence on March 6, 1957, and became a republic on July 1, 1960, under the leadership of Nkrumah. A member of the United Nations Organization, Commonwealth of Nations, African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States, Ghana remains a major stabilizing nation in West Africa. The country operates a constitutional democracy where the executive, a unicameral parliament, and the judicial arm of government share power. The country is divided into ten regions, including Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta, and Western. About the size of the state of Oregon, USA, Ghana's population is a little more than 21 million. Ghana is a revered nation in sports. She ranked first among African nations at the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Ghana sailed to the second round with ease, and remained in the tournament ahead of other African nations of Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, and Tunisia. A visit to Ghana, the pearl of Africa, should end up as a vacation well spent.

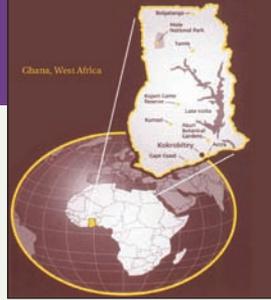
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Dele Ajaja is a published author who has lived in Ghana. His recent book is available on Amazon.com.



SHOPPING ✦ SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Partial List of Auction Items

- 1 Carvings collection and Malikite/Copper Map of Africa
Donated by Bitaya Mulato
- 2 Day Spa at Canyon Ranch
Donated by Canyon Ranch, Tucson, Arizona
- 3 Gift Certificate for Exquisite furniture
Donated by Robb & Stuckey Outdoors Living Store, Phoenix
- 4 One year membership
Donated by Iron Unlimited Gym
- 5 Oil Painting "Twin Mother"
Donated by Dr & Mrs. Anthony Okeke
- 6 Oil Painting on Cloth "Ethiopian Woman"
Donated by Ekwe Quaye
- 7 Duane Maktima earrings handmade sterling silver
Donated by Bahti Indian Arts, Tucson
- 8 Original Lithography "San Xavier del Bac"
Las Donas de los Descendientes del presidio de Tucson
- 9 Original design necklace by Foree
Donated by Lele Peterson
- 10 Jewlery set designs by Artist Angela Marquez
Donated by Angela Marquez
- 11 Weekend stay at Casa Luna Bed & Breakfast
Donated by Nancy Mellon
- 12 Decorative pillow
Donated by Calico Corners
- 13 Car parts, accessories and repair services
Donated by Chapman Automotive
- 14 Fabrics and textiles from Africa
Donated by Beyond Looks
- 15 Shopping Spree
Donated by Sparkle Cleaners, Jones Photo, E & J Designers Outlet
- 16 Water Color " Flower in a vase"
Donated by Kristine Sullivan
- 17 Car detail and car accessories
Donated by Lexus of Tucson
- 18 African glass/crystal beads necklaces
Donated by Adaku Quaye
- 19 Tickets to Great Performances at UA Presents/Arizona Opera
Donated by Arizona Opera and UA Presents
- 20 Travel packages to Las Vegas and Chicago
Donated by Southwest Airlines & Marriott Hotels



IMPORTANT US HOLIDAYS

	2007	2008	2009
New Year's	Mon/Jan1	Tue/Jan 1	Thu/Jan1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (US)	Mon/Jan 15	Mon Jan 21	Mon/Jan19
(Eid) al Adha	Thu/Dec 20	Tue/Dec 9	Fri/Nov27
Ash Wednesday	Wed/Feb 21	Wed/Feb 6	Wed/Feb 25
Chinese New Year	Sun/Feb 18	Thu/Feb 7	Mon/Jan 26
Lincoln's Birthday (US)	Mon/Feb12	Tue/Feb 12	Thurs/Feb 12
Valentine's Day	Wed/Feb 14	Thu/Feb 14	Sat/Feb 14
President's Day (US)	Mon/Feb 19	Mon/Feb 18	Mon/Feb 16
Washington's Birthday (US)	Thu/Feb 22	Fri/Feb 22	Sun/Feb 22
Eastern Orthodox Lent begins	Mon/Feb19	Mon/Mar 10	Mon/Mar 2
St. Patrick's Day	Sat/Mar 17	Mon/Mar 17	Tues/March 17
Spring begins	Wed/Mar	Thu/Mar 20	Fri/March 20
Palm Sunday	Sun/Apr 1	Sun/Mar 16	Sun/Apr 5
Good Friday	Fri/Apr 6	Fri/Mar 21	Fri/Apr 10
Easter	Sun/Apr 8	Sun/Mar 23	Sun/Apr 12
Daylight Saving Time begins	Sun/Apr 1	Sun/Apr 6	Sun/Apr 5
Passover	Tue/Apr 3	Sun/Apr 20	Thurs/Apr 9
Eastern Orthodox Easter	Sun/Apr 8	Sun/Apr 27	Sun/Apr 19
Holocaust Remembrance Day	Sun/Apr 15	Thu/May 1	Tues/Apr 21
Mother's Day (C, US)	Sun/May13	Sun/May 11	Sun/May 10
Armed Forces Day (US)	Sat/May19	Sat/May 17	Sat/May 16
Memorial Day, Observed (US)	Mon/May 28	Mon/May 26	Mon/May 25
Father's Day	Sun/June 17	Sun/June 15	Sun/June 21
Summer begins	Thu/June 21	Sat/June 21	Sun/June 21
Independence Day (US)	Wed/Jul 4	Fri/Jul 4	Sat/Jul 4
Labor Day (C, US)	Mon/Sep 3	Mon/Sep 1	Mon/Sept 7
Autumn begins	Sun/Sep 23	Mon/Sep 22	Tues/Sept 22
Rosh Hashanah	Thu/Sep 13	Tue/Sep 30	Sat/Sept 19
First of Ramadan	Wed/Sep 12	Tue/Sep 2	Sat/Aug 22
Columbus Day Observed (US)	Mon/Oct 8	Mon/Oct 13	Mon/Oct 12
Yom Kippur	Sat/Sep 22	Thu/Oct 9	Mon/Sept 28
National Boss Day (US)	Tue/Oct16	Thu/Oct 16	Fri/Oct 16
United Nations Day (US)	Wed/Oct 24	Fri/Oct 24	Sat/Oct 24
Daylight Saving Time begins	Sun/Oct 28	Sun/Oct 26	Sun/Oct 25
Halloween	Wed/Oct 3	Fri/Oct 31	Sat/Oct 31
All Saints Day (M)	Thu/Nov 1	Sat/Nov 1	Sun/Nov 1
(Eid) al Fitr	Fri/Oct12	Thu/Oct 2	Sun/Sept 20
Election Day (US)	Tue/Nov 6	Tue/Nov 4	Tues/Nov 3
Veterans' Day (US)	Sun/Nov11	Tue/Nov 11	Wed/Nov 11
Thanksgiving (US)	Thu/Nov 22	Thu/Nov 27	Thurs/Nov 26
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (US)	Fri/Dec 7	Sun/Dec 7	Mon/Dec 7
Winter begins	Sat/Dec 22	Sun/Dec 21	Mon/Dec 21
Christmas	Tue/Dec 25	Mon/Dec 25	Fri/Dec 25
Hanukkah	Wed/Dec 5	Mon/Dec 22	Sat/Dec 12
Boxing Day (C)	Wed/Dec 26	Fri/Dec 26	Sat/Dec 26
Kwanzaa begins	Wed/Dec 26	Fri/Dec 26	Sat/Dec 26



A F R I C A N D E

By DELE AJAJA

From Abuja to Zanzibar, the awe-inspiring mountains of Africa to the frothy oceans that straddle the continent, the scenic plateaus to the stunning waterfalls, the teeming coastal mangroves to the breathtaking grasslands, the swarming forests to the warm sandy deserts, Africa remains the untainted custodian of nature's raw beauty.



Serengeti Wildlife Refuge, Tanzania



The Sphinx, Egypt

Africa could as well be a synonym for "art". The unique sculptures, leatherworks, paintings, and drawings from the continent distinguish African craftsmen as masters of the arts. Africa's unadulterated

cultural displays continue to pass from one generation to another. Visitors across the world see the wonders of Africa year round.

Located along the northeastern frontiers of Tanzania, ice-capped Mountain Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the continent, towers above the surrounding east African



Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

countryside like a giant in the sun. Two of the world's largest bodies of water, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, caress the continent in the west and east respectively. The Mediterranean and Red Seas bestride the north and northeastern portions of

Africa correspondingly. The year round mild weather of Jos Plateau in Nigeria is an example of Africa's spectacular tablelands that stand above the surrounding lands. Nature displays its splendor and bravura at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, where Zambezi River forms spectacular rainbows in the sun as it descends to the earthly plates below.

The abundant aquatic life of Volta, where the river joins the Atlantic in Ghana, is impressive to see. The webbed roots of the mangrove plants provide natural protective webs for the brimming aquatic life. The savanna of East Africa is the home to some of the world's most exotic wildlife. Lions, cheetahs, tigers, leopards, elephants, buffaloes, giraffes, rhinos, gazelles, antelopes, hippopotamus, crocodiles, and other wild animals, inhabit Tanzanian and Kenyan safaris. African rain forests are more discernible near the western coastline and western fringes of the central parts of the continent, with huge tropical trees competing to grow beyond each other. The wind sculptured waves of the sand dunes of Sahara and Kalahari deserts, in the northern and southern parts of Africa in that order, could be stunning at sunset.

Principal tourist destinations in Africa include The Sphinx and the pyramids of Giza, Egypt; Robin Island, where the legendary Nelson Mandela of South Africa was held captive by the apartheid regime; Serengeti wildlife refuge in Tanzania, and the national wildlife reserve in Kenya; "Door of No Return" – UNESCO designated World Heritage Monuments in Cape Coast and Elmina Ghana; Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe; Argungu



S T I N A T I O N S

Fishing Festival in Sokoto, Nigeria; and the Sahara sand dunes in Morocco. Others include Volta River dam resort in Akosombo, Ghana; the foamy beaches of Madagascar, Africa's largest island in the Indian Ocean; Lake Nasser in Egypt; and more.

The Sphinx and the pyramids are some of the wonders of ancient times, left behind by influential Egyptian Pharaohs. These are massive monuments built centuries ago, but remain astonishing to the 21st Century architects and builders – some of what made Africa the cradle of civilization. Tanzanian Serengeti and Kenya reserve are popular all over the world for their famous flora and fauna. The East African safaris remain the natural habitat for many species of the world's carnivores and other animals on their food chain. A visit to the Kenyan wildlife refuge is an opportunity to witness the enduring Masai culture of East Africa.

Cape Coast and Elmina are popular historical centers along the coast of Ghana. They played major roles in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, when European and American slave traders shipped away millions of Africans. Africans at home, and in the Diaspora reinvent the "spirit of the dead" when they see the dungeons and the last doors



Elmina Castle, Ghana

through which their ancestors were taken. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization UNESCO, designated the "Door of No Return" (as the doors are called) as World Heritage Monuments in 1972.

Zambezi River drops tons of water down the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. The enchanting sound of the tumbling waters and the amazing force of nature are therapeutic. Erin-Ijesha Waterfalls in Osun State, Nigeria, is a mini waterfall that one may see additionally.

Argungu Fishing Festival is a colorful event in Sokoto State, Nigeria. It is an annual fishing fiesta, enriched by the tradition of the northwestern people of Nigeria. Visitors come from all over the world to see the boat regatta and fishing expenditure. Visiting Casablanca, some distance southwest of Rabat (the capital of Morocco), offers one the opportunity to ride a camel with the Berbers of northwestern Africa. The out of the ordinary Mediterranean weather could provide the much needed change for travelers from temperate and tropical regions of the world.

"Seeing is believing', they say, a vacation at some of African tourist destinations could be a marvelous experience. The Yorubas and Igbo's of Nigeria, and the Twi of Ghana mean it when they say "E kaabo," "Nno," and "A kwaba" respectively. They mean, "You are welcome!" Visit Africa, the cradle of civilization.



Sahara Desert, Morocco



Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



Dele Ajaja is a journalist from Nigeria, residing in Tucson, Arizona. He is currently working on a book "Enslaved By Freedom".

DIASPORA SHOWCASE



US TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF AFRICAN EMBASSIES

*Unless otherwise noted, the area codes for **all** these numbers is (202) in Washington, DC.*

Algeria	265-2800
Angola	785-1156
Benin	232-6656
Botswana	244-4990
Burkina Faso	832-5577
Burundi	342-2574
Cameroon	265-8790
Cape Verde	965-6820
Central Africa Republic	483-7800
Chad	462-4009
Chomoros	(212) 972-8010
Congo	726-5500
Congo/Democratic Rep	234-7690
Cote D'Ivoire	797-0300
Djibouti	331-0207
Egypt	895-5400
Equatorial Guinea	296-4174
Eritria	319-1991
Ethiopia	234-2281
Gabon	797-1000
Gambia	785-1399
Ghana	686-4520
Guinea'	483-9420
Kenya	387-6101
Lesotho	797-5533
Liberia	723-0437
Madagascar	265-5525
Malawi	797-1007
Mali	332-2249
Mauritania	232-5700
Mauritius	244-1491
Morocco	462-7979
Mozambique	294-7146
Namibia	986-0540
Niger	483-4224
Nigeria	822-1500
Rwanda	232-2882
Sao Tome & Principe	(212) 697-4211
Senegal	234-0540
Seychelles	(212) 687-9766
Sierra Leone	939-9261
Somalia	(212) 688-9410
South Africa	232-4400
Sudan	338-8565
Swaziland	362-6683
Tanzania	939-6125
Togo	234-4212
Tunisia	862-1850
Uganda	726-7100
Zambia	265-9717
Zimbabwe	332-7100



Listings

Provided by

African Times

800-883-6103

DIASPORA SHOWCASE



A D V E R T I S E R S I N D E X

A G Edwards	12	Linda Leonard	49
Adams & Ogundele	9	Liz Boutique & Accessories	39
Africast	22	Lopez Mechanic Shop	36
Aladdin Middle Eastern Restaurant	43	Lynne M East Graphic Design Studio	32
Al's Barber Shop	36	Madeline Friedman, Realtor	10
American Built Corporation	52	Magdi Nafeh, Loan Consultant	52
Ari's Downtown	45	Malkia World Art	28
Arizona Lithographers	47	Maly & Associates	48
Barbra Bourne, Realtor	52	Marriott Hotels	40
Beyond Looks	42	MCMahon's	44
Bluefin Seafood Bistro	45	New York Life	52
Bon Voyage Travel	13	Nimbus Brewing Comapny	10
Bridge Capital Group	47	Old Pueblo Frameworks	42
Calico Corners	51	Old Pueblo Traders	37
Canyon Ranch	40	PF Changs	43
Caravan Foods	36	Patricia Green, Attorney	9
Chaparral Travel	33	Pima Federal Credit Union	16
Chase	16	Real Pros Real Estate	60
Dearing Automotive	36	Rich Mlakar Construction	49
D.I.I. / Greer House	53	Rubin Salter, Jr., Attorney	33
DJ's Computer & Electronics	36	Sal Brownfield	42
Dental Village	9	Sistema	22
Desert Empire	38	Southwest Airlines	7
E & J Designer Shoe Outlet	14	Sparkle Cleaners	32
El Charro Café	45	Sparkle Janitorial	36
Emmanuel Mounkam, Realtor	52	State Farm	33
Environmental Saftey	38	The Chiropractic Center	9
Environmental Strategies	48	The Good Egg	43
Esquema Architecture	52	The Hammeroff Law Firm, PC	9
5 Star Pest Control	53	Tucson Lifestyle Magazine	11
Francis Moses Floor Covering	52	UA Presents	41, 46
Galeria Mistica	22	UBS	9
Gary Hardy Realty	49	Wolf & Sultan, PC	9
Gwen Thompson, Realtor	52	World Care	36
Hair Folicles - House of Hair	36		
Hear's Music	23		
Imaging by Tommy	9		
Intuit	32		
Jill Rich, Realtor	49		
Jones Photo	50		
King Fisher	45		
Lexus of Tucson	8		





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