



Specialized artist booking agency

### **Educational notebook (4-7)**

## **AFRICAN DANCE**

The Kotou dance is a typical dance of Ivorian culture.

There are several kinds of African dances.

There are dances that were created and dances that were taught by the spirits; and most of the dances were taught by the spirits to hunters in the secrecy of the night.

The dances are used to express each stage of life in Africa. They are practiced by men, women or even children who dance to the rhythm of the percussions. Traditionally, these dances are performed at baptisms, weddings, parties, etc.

They are a means of expression and are used to express emotions. These dances bring flexibility and resistance as the men perform jumps and acrobatics while the women work on their

hip agility. The sound of the djembe or other percussion is fast and tonic. It is carried out by professionals but can also be taught.

## THE KÔTOU DANCE

### 1- Description

As in all of West Africa, dancing is a very important activity in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Kôtôu dance takes its name from the Baoulé dance. Kôtôu means “will jump”.

The Baoulés (Ba Ou li) are a people of Côte d'Ivoire, living for the great majority in the center of the country. They represent about 23% of the country's population, which makes the Baoulés the largest ethnicity in the Ivory Coast.

The diversity of peoples and ethnicities of the Ivory Coast have earned him a variety of dances. They are numerous, ranging from war dances, dances to ward off bad spells, acrobatic dances to dances requiring demanding physical skills.

The Kôtôu dance is defined as a harmonious and rhythmic dance. It is a communication tool whose movements are inspired by everyday life.

### 2- History

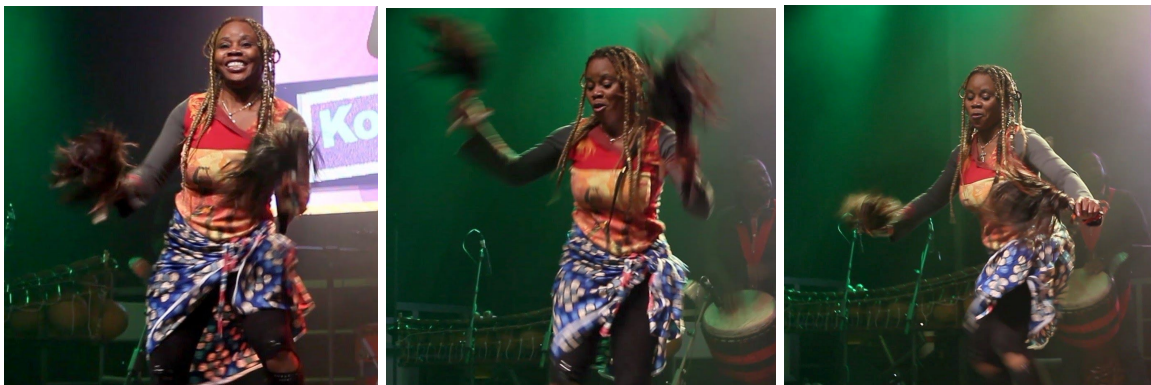
It was originally a dance to celebrate the harvest.

### 3-How does a workshop take place

The teacher clearly performs a movement, then invites participants to imitate it. The workshop includes a warm-up, the teaching of precise steps which will be integrated with a choreography and a stretching session.

#### 4-How is the Kôtou dance performed?

Unlike other dances in which the dancers follow the music ... during the Kôtou dance, the dancers take turns taking the stage, or dance together, and it is the percussionists who follow the rhythm of the dancers.



Bibliography:

**-African Dance** par Kariamu Welsh-Asante. 2010 édition.

## FOLLOWING THE MEETING

1- What does the word Kôtou mean?

2- The Kôtou dance is associated with which ethnic group in Côte d'Ivoire?

**3- Initially, we danced the Kôtou dance during which celebration?**

**4- Do you think that dance has an important place in African culture? Explain your answer.**

**5- Can you find Côte d'Ivoire on a world map?**

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