



Educational Notebook - (K-3)

AFRICAN DANCE

The Kotou dance is a typical dance of Ivorian culture (Ivory Coast).

There are several kinds of African dances.

They express every period of life in Africa.

The dances are practiced by men, women or even children who follow the rhythm of the percussions. These dances are performed at baptisms, weddings, parties, etc.

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 that accompanies the dances is rapid.

THE KÔTOU DANCE

1- Description

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

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

The Baoulés (Ba Ou li) are a people of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), living for the great majority in the center of the country.

In Ivory Coast, there is a whole 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 Kôtou dance is a harmonious and rhythmic dance. The movements are inspired by everyday life.

2- History

It was originally a dance to celebrate the harvest.

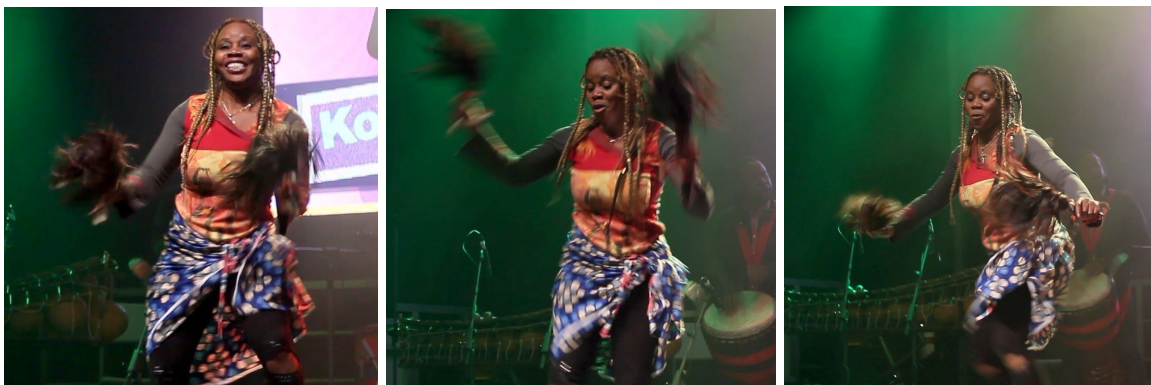
3-How does a workshop take place

The teacher shows a movement, then lets the participants 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- What country does the Kôtou dance come from?

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

4- How can people express their emotions when they dance?

5- Can you find Ivory Coast on a world map?

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