



Specialized artist booking agency

Educational notebook - (8-12)

AFRICAN DANCE

The Kotou dance is a dance typical of Ivorian culture (Côte d'Ivoire).

There are several kinds of African dances. These dances all have a different geographical, historical and social context.

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 serve 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, that is to say, they serve to express emotions because the whole body is aroused. Since the

early 2010s, these dances have been a fashion phenomenon. These dances provide flexibility and resistance as men perform jumps and acrobatics while 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 “sacred dances” are never shown to the “uninitiated”, whether Europeans or Africans; only the spectacular part is exhibited in public.

KÔTOU DANCE

1- Description

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

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, 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 the peoples and ethnicities of the Ivory Coast has 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.

As for the Kôtou dance, it 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 teaching is based on two aspects: the patience of the teacher and the communication with the participants. The teacher clearly performs a movement, then invites participants to imitate it. He observes and corrects them with a positive and encouraging approach.

Procedure: The workshop includes a warm-up, the teaching of precise steps which will be integrated into a choreography and a stretching session.

4-How is the Kôto dance performed?

Unlike other dances during which the dancers follow the music ... during the Kôto dance, the dancers, in turn, take the stage, or dance together, and it is the percussionists who will 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 in the Baoulée language?
- 2- Initially, we danced the Kôtou dance during which celebration?
- 3- In your own words, describe what you learned about African dances and the Kôtou dance.
- 4- Also explain what you understand about the value of dance in African culture.
- 5- Can you find Côte d'Ivoire on a world map?

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