

Public Programs/Education Presents
in Association with Community Works
and New Heritage Theatre Group

Kwanzaa Spirit 2006!

Saturday, December 30, 11:00am–5:00 pm
Free with Museum admission

KWANZAA SPIRIT 2006! recognizes 40 years of KWANZAA celebrations throughout the world with an all-day festival honoring the seven African-based principles (called *Nguzo Saba* in Swahili) of KWANZAA through song, dance and spoken word.

Special Kwanzaa foods will be sold at the Museum Food Court



David Pleasant, photo: Robert Dorsey

Umoja—Unity Celebration

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, lower level
12:00 noon–1:30 pm

Hosted by Artistic Director James Stovall*, the first of the Seven Principles *Umoja* (unity), will be observed with a riveting celebration of African-American pride featuring over 100 African and African-American artists of all ages.

THE UMOJA PROCESSIONAL Led by members of *Drumstruck* (South African Off-Broadway Musical hit) and *The Lion King* (Tony Award-winning Broadway musical).

AFRICA—THE BEGINNING African drummers honor the power of the drum, as a universal symbol of life's heartbeat—the beginning.

STILL I RISE Opening words encouraging self-acceptance and community consciousness will be offered by host James Stovall bringing *Kujichagulia*, the second principle of Kwanzaa, to light.



Obediah Wright, photo: Brooke Maxwell

AFRICA TO AMERICA: THE MIDDLE PASSAGE

Director/Choreographer Obediah Wright of the Balance Dance Theatre brings an impressive cast of young artists in an excerpt from their highly praised production *Higher Ground, Still Rising*, written and directed by Mr. Wright.

HONORING THE ANCESTORS—A LIBATION CEREMONY

"Pasha," an African stilt walker and a member of the Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble will conduct an African traditional ceremony paying homage and respect to ancestors and pioneers.

RHYTHMS OF RESISTANCE! The spirit of African-American self determination and empowerment as told through the drum by percussion virtuoso David Pleasant/Novy Griot*



Stiltwalker, photo: Courtesy of Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble

THE RHYTHM OF URBAN AMERICA SPEAKS

Harlem's IMPACT Repertory Theatre bring their young voices of change and self-awareness to the *Umoja—Unity Celebration* through their music, dance, and spoken word.

THE PEOPLE "FLY" Closing narration and music led by host.



(above) IMPACT Repertory Theatre, photo: Albert Williams

(left) James Stovall, photo: Eugene Bruchanski

(right) Welkie Fremont-puppet, photo: Courtesy of F. Fremont

(right) Welkie Fremont-puppet, photo: Courtesy of F. Fremont

"Life Celebration" Workshops for Children and Young Adults (ages 6 and older)
11:00 am–12:00 noon
and 1:30 pm–3:00 pm

Ujima-Ujamaa Marketplace

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, first floor
11:00 am–5:00 pm

Honoring the third and fourth Kwanzaa principles *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility) and *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics) will be a Marketplace of international exchange and communication. Vendors, visual artists, and craftsmen, as well as representatives from major cultural organizations will participate.



Tsidii Le Loka, photo: Anne Bruchanski

Kuumba—A Tribute To Creativity

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, first floor and lower level
1:45 pm–2:15 pm

ABADA—Capoeira NYC, based in Washington Heights, is dedicated to teaching and educating youth in the art of capoeira, a 500-year-old martial-arts form fused with dance developed by Africans in Brazil. Founder and Executive Director Freddy Correa will narrate an award-winning presentation with his students



ABADA—Capoeira NYC, photo: Courtesy of Africanist Theatre

Nia—A Tribute To Purpose

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, lower level
2:15 pm–2:45 pm

Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble* features their young legacy keepers in a performance celebrating the beauty of African culture and, most of all, family.



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(left) James Stovall, photo: Eugene Bruchanski

(right) Welkie Fremont-puppet, photo: Courtesy of F. Fremont

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Kwanzaa, founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga as an African-American celebration pays tribute to African history and origin. *Kwanzaa Spirit 2006!* highlights the lives and artistic talents of African and African-American visual and performing artists, teachers, merchants, and community organizations through *Kwanzaa's Seven Principles* (*Nguzo Saba*) as a compass for the programs for the day: *Umoja* (unity), *Kujichagulia* (self-determination), *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics), *Nia* (purpose), *Kuumba* (creativity), and *Imani* (faith). The Seven Principles will be shared with our guests.



Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble

Imani—Faith Concert

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, lower level
3:30 pm–5:00 pm

Host James Stovall leads an *Imani—Faith Concert* honoring the seventh and final Kwanzaa principle featuring:

PROCESSIONAL FOR "A NEW DAY"

The triumphant brass and ethereal woodwinds with Elder Ed Babb* and the resounding drums of the McCullough Invaders* from the United House of



(above left) McCullough Invaders, photo: Courtesy of Schenberg Center/ABC Series (above right) Ed Babb, photo: Arth Morgan

Prayer for All People, joined by the electrifying Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble in a "roof-raising" rendition of the classic "When the Saints Go Marching In."

AFRICA: TODAY AND FOREVER The Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble, one of the largest professional African dance and drum ensembles in the United States, captures varying African traditions from Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Ghana, Gambia, and elsewhere.

AFRICA'S CHILDREN COME HOME: TSIDIH LE LOKA Multi-award winning Broadway star, Tsidii Le Loka ("Rafiki" in the original cast of *The Lion King*), tells her story through song and narrative of her life in Lesotho, Africa, and her magnificent journey that led to the Broadway stage. She is currently developing projects that will bring due attention to the thousands of people in her homeland suffering from AIDS.

WE'VE COME THIS FAR WITH AMAZING GRACE

Heralded as one of America's outstanding women of color who has established a legacy of artistic excellence from Broadway

(Tony Award winner) to television (Emmy Award winner), Lillias White pays tribute to the classic song of survival, "Amazing Grace."



Lillias White, photo: Erik Scarpis

AND STILL WE RISE! Harlem's newest gospel choir taking New York City by storm, Mama Foundation's Gospel for Teens Choir, founded by Vy Higginsen and Dr. Emily "Cissy" Houston highlights the triumph and "soul-stirring" found in gospel music.



Vickie Fremont, artist, designer, and anthropologist, will offer workshops in African mask making and puppetry specifically geared to a young audience. They will explore various African art forms using recycled materials. Several workshop participants will be invited to display their creations as part of the festive procession that will open the *Imani—Faith Concert* beginning at 5:30 pm in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life.

Workshops are limited to 25 participants.