



2022 CONCERT PROGRAM

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF WEST AFRICAN
DANCE • MUSIC • CULTURE

BE THE WELL THAT OTHERS DRINK FROM

MAY 12

6:30PM
MOUTHS OF GARDEN
BOOK RELEASE + ART EXHIBIT
FEATURING BARBARA FANT
& APRIL SUNAMI
SPECIAL GUEST
RENEE DION + DJ EMARBLEZ

MAY 14

7:00PM
COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

7:30PM

CONCERT

"BE THE WELL THAT
OTHERS DRINK FROM"
PRESENTED BY

THIOSSANE PERFORMING COMPANIES

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

LINCOLN THEATRE COLUMBUS, OHIO

MAIN FLOOR \$25

BALCONY \$35

FREE FOR 6 AND UNDER

MAY 15

3:00PM
THIOSSANE'S PILGRIMAGE TO AFRICA
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

THIOSSANE[®]
INSTITUTE

LINCOLN
THEATRE

MAY 12-15, 2022



769 EAST LONG STREET
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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF WEST AFRICAN
DANCE • MUSIC • CULTURE

THIOSSANE'S PILGRIMAGE TO AFRICA



DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

SUNDAY
MAY 15

LINCOLN
THEATRE

RSVP REQUIRED TO ATTEND



769 EAST LONG STREET
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TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 01 LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
- 02 THIOSSANE WEST AFRICAN DANCE INST. PROGRAM
- 03 SPONSORS
- 04 THIOSSANE WEST AFRICAN DANCE INST. PERFORMING COMPANY
- 05 THIOSSANE WEST AFRICAN DANCE INST. APPRENTICE PROGRAM
- 06 THIOSSANE INSTITUTE 2022 INITIATES
- 09 SPECIAL GUESTS
- 10 MEET THE TEAM
- 11 VENDORS
- 12 THANK YOU



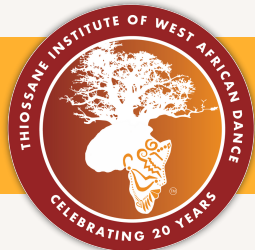
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A Letter from the Director



Greetings,

I am so happy to have you here with us today. ThioSSane Institute of West African Dance are making strides in ares of education, research, and most importantly community.

Our program this weekend is pact full with an eclectic program that threads the riches of west Africa through visual and literally arts and authentic dance, music and culture.

We were honored to share our creative space with the emerging author, poet, and writer Barbara Fant and other musical guest artists on May 12, 2022.

And on tonight, ThioSSane West African Dance Institute has composed a phony of traditional musicians to serenade audiences with the rhythms of West Africa. Instrumentalists of the flute, violin, djembe, djundjun, tama, sotiba and sabar orchestras will play with narrations of origins and influences of the sounds of Africa. The traditional West African ethnomusicology of this composition is a must-see for connoisseurs and music enthusiasts of all levels. Also gracing the stage will be ThioSSane's own performing company in full regalia displaying exceptional choreography that is entralling with technical precision of dance and song.

Make sure you come back tomorrow at 3pm as ThioSSane Institute will culminate with a documentary of Ohio artists travels to Senegal and Gambia, West Africa. Senegalese entrepreneur of the Da'African Village and the Africa Love Store, Serigne Mara Diakhate, and President and Artistic Director of ThioSSane Institute, Suzan Bradford Kounta, will lead the discussion of the documentary. This screening and discussion is open to the public. Registration is required. For more information, scheduling and tickets click here <https://bit.ly/3LFZqmH> .

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors who made this event possible.

Best regards,

Suzan Bradford Kounta

Suzan Bradford Kounta
Founder | Executive Director

**BE THE
WELL**
THAT OTHERS
DRINK FROM

PROGRAM
MAY 14, 2022

Mission of Thioossane West African Dance Institute is to present and preserve traditional dance, music and culture and to perpetuate its significance to future generations, while promoting mental and physical wellness.

Kooyaag Siteen Bahg Feki Lafa – Be The Well That Others Drink From:
I am thirsty and I drink from well of Thioossane Institute

Welcome: Suzan Bradford Kounta President | Artistic Director

Welcome Dance – Timidy (Guinea) the customs in which travelers to Africa are greeted as they return to the homeland of civilization, to the origin of world resources, to humanity and a spiritual connection.

To Drinkis essential to hydrate, feed fuel, replenish, cleanse, quench, calm, sustain, grow, and provide. Water in its infinity rules the co-existence of nature and humans. The science of water remains a constant mystery of how and when its impacts our presence on earth. Life lessons makes it very clear that water is to be respected always and it will care, comfort and the protect humankind. I am thirsty, I wish to drink.

Khalam of Africa – Ethnicity of traditional instruments and musicality. Thioossane's own musicians have merged harmoniously with local and international musicians to speak the universal language of music. These seasoned instrumentalists have created an euphony of khalam the wolof word for the sound of music.

Thioossane's own Carlton Pope – playing the cho, one of many instruments in the sabar orchestra, that holds the tempo.

Ishmael Konney from Ghana, will accompany the tempo and bass needed for the fullness of sound spaces.



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**BE THE
WELL**
THAT OTHERS
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PROGRAM
MAY 14, 2022

CONTINUED

Kevin Seals, Thioissane's music legacy, learned for our beloved Abdou Kounta, Kounta' hand is now Kevin's hand. The djembe is the leader in the djembe orchestra spanning several countries in West Africa.

Local accompaniment is supported by classical trained violinist Stephen Spottswoods, creator of the Columbus Cultural Orchestra. The violin share similarity in shape, tone and playing styles of many African Instrument. Scientist have dated the oldest flutes at about 42,000 years old. A tambin is a flute that is a primary instrument found in the music of the Peul, Fula, Fulani people of West African specifically Guinea and Senegal. Jason Moncrief, a local flutist talent and skills run the musical scale.

The Tama Drum uniquely fits under the arm and with precise pressure from the shoulder with perfectly design bow has serenaded and amplified Khalam (sounds)of Africa. Tonight, we have a special, guest who hails from Senegal, West Africa and has played on many global stages. A friend of Thioissane's for more than 8 years our love for the culture and the arts have allowed an international relationship. Just returning from the respected religious pilgrimage to Mecca, this is his first performance since completed this life's journey. If you can know the sound of T.Challa in the Marvel movie Black Panther, than you know this sound of Elhadj Massamba Diop.

Let The Water Come to You was call of caution as while we released and revered in the joyful moment to unite, cleanse, and celebrate on the western coastline of the Atlantic Ocean. Poetess Barbara Fant was encouraged to pin this statement. The poem was scribed, and the choreography naturally moved in sync. This choreopoem combines the lived experience in Africa. Poetess Barbara Fant, Choreographer: Quianna Simpson, Dancers, Ami Kounta, Talia Walls, Eboni Edwards



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CONTINUED

Intermission – 15 mins

The Village of Sippo in Toubacounta, Senegal, welcomes tourists to witness the very traditional lifestyles of rich and respectful customs and heritage. The village reminds us of the simplicities of life and the virtue of patience. Sippo is define by the high and low tides of the water. The tides teach us, after you have done all you can, you must sit and wait to move at the right time.

Doundounba | Soko Medley from Guinea is the community engagement of west Africa favorite's sport, wrestling. It teaches the community not to violently react to conflict but dance until peace is made.

Initiation – Never know what grows from a seed planted – Reflection 2015 Thioassane Alum, Kalea Lucas. It is customary at the completion of academic and personal milestones in a young person life, that skill acquisition and knowledge gained be put to the test to ensure they are prepared to move to the next stage of life.

The 2022 accomplished initiates are Ajallah Iman Toure and Javaeh Elaine Deborah Hannah Brice, you will witness the inspiring and hopeful traditions for our promise of young people and the future of Thioassane. Dance and Music – Marakadon – Akon Kon –Sabar.

Finale' – Sabar



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Barbara & David Brandt

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THIOSSANE WEST AFRICAN DANCE INST. PERFORMING COMPANY



Kenneth Eaddy



Jesse Jackson III



Earth Jallow



James Kemp



Charlette Keuchler



Ami Kounta



Lori Lindsey



Keisha Moorehead



Carlton Pope



Kevin Seals



Quianna Simpson



Damani Wade

Not Pictured: *Community Performers

Coral Bealer, *Ebony Edwards, *Ishmael Konney Kamira Morgan, Talia Walls



THIOSSANE WEST AFRICAN DANCE INST. APPRENTICE PROGRAM



Kyla Bell



Javeah Brice



Omari Edwards



Desiree Henry



Jonathan Hughes



Malia Ray



Kaydence Seals



Kendall Simpson



Mackenize Spain



Ajallah Toure





THIOSSANE INSTITUTE 2022 INITIATES Javaeh Brice

My name is Javaeh Debra Elaine Hannah I am a senior at Marion Franklin high School. I began African dance at the age of four and I have grown up in the programs at the ThioSSane institute West African dance. My love for dance has given me a place and brings me joy every time I hit the stage. ThioSSane has grounded me and giving me confidence to co-mingle in both School socially and academically. I have maintained a 4.0 for more than six consecutive grading periods. I am a member of the Marion Franklin Red Devils Drill Team, where I have served as Captain. I have participated in the following programs Ready Set Grow, the Huntington Financial Literacy program for youth, as well as the Ohio State Dance Collective where I was chosen to travel with the dance department to New York City. I will be attending Columbus State in the fall and plan to enroll into an HBCU to complete my 4 year degree with a major in Psychology. I am a child of the village and the daughter of the late Mr. Tatum Lamar Brice.



**CONGRATS
JAVAEH!**

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THIOSSANE INSTITUTE 2022 INITIATES Ajallah Toure



Ajallah Toure is a multidisciplinary artist. She has spent her whole life exploring different mediums of art whether that be visual or performing. This year alone she has starred in 3 separate plays at her high school, those including Little Women, The Laramie Project, and Chicago. She also has been a member of both of the highest ranking choirs at her school, one of which tours around the elementary and middle schools around her local community. She officially joined the apprentice program her sophomore year of high school and is excited to perform her initiation. Aside from performing arts, Ajallah has a strong passion in visual arts and has had her work showcased in art shows as well as the Lincoln theatre. She served in her schools National Art Honor Society for the past 3 years as public relations and Vice President. She has had the privilege of working in the patternz summer camp for the past two years as a "covid ambassador" and later took on the role as an assistant art teacher, under muralist and art teacher Francesca Miller. Ajallah plans to attend Kent State University with a fashion design major and a creative entrepreneurship minor. Ajallah plans to use these creative gifts bestowed to her as a stepping stone for a greater future.



**CONGRATS
AJALLAH**



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THIOSSANE INSTITUTE 2022 INITIATES Paige Dudley

Date: May 25, 2022

Area of Study:
2yr certificate in Hospitality

University:
Otterbein University
(Best of Both Worlds
transitional program)



OTTERBEIN
UNIVERSITY

CONGRATS PAIGE!



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SPECIAL GUESTS

Stephen Spottswood – Violinist

Jason Moncrief – Flutist

Massamba Diop – Traditional Drummer (Tama)

Thiossane's own instrumentalist

Barbara Fant – Author & Poetess

Moussa Sonko – AD Natl Ballet du Senegal

The Ohio State University Dance

Department Community Engagement Program

Dr. Nyama McCarthy – Brown

Students of Dr. Brown:

Ami Kounta

Ishmael Konney

Sophie Kussman

Kevin Seals

Liv Sexton

Quianna Simpson

Clancee Synco

OUR TEAM

“

Here's to believing in a dream. carving a vision and creating a purpose for the love of dance and the betterment of our community.

”

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Suzan Bradford Kounta



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"Everyone that Barbara writes about feels so richly and tenderly rendered. This book builds a world, and then does everyone and everything within the world justice."
—HANIF ADBURRAQIB, AUTHOR OF GO AHEAD IN THE RAIN: NOTES ON A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

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Thank You!

“

Thank you for allowing us to share
the richness of traditional dance,
music and culture.

”

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