

Dehkontee Artists Theatre 2016 Spring to Fall Season Auditions and Schedule:
Spectacular Productions in the Limelight Focusing on Peace and Reconciliation and Voters
Education!

Salutations



Rabbi Joe Gbaba, Executive Director of DATI performing in his “The Minstrel’s Tales” as the Minstrel at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia in the early 1990s.

Special greetings in the name of our “Glorbah” (heavenly Father), and the spirits of our forebears! They send you many kinjahs of blessings and wish us all good health and happiness! As all our fans and supporters join DATI’s staff to kick off our official 2016 Spring to Fall Season Auditions and Schedule, the Management of DATI would like to seize the opportunity to immensely thank our sponsors, patrons, supporters, loved ones, relatives, and friends who stepped up to make our programs a success thus far.

Special thanks and appreciation are in place for the President of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc., Mr. James Krischen Wah, Sr., his able Vice President, Mr. Timothy Gardiner, our dynamic Chair Lady of the distinguished Dehkontee Artists Theatre Patrons Club, Mrs. Comfort Shilue-Sobah and her Vice Chair, Mrs. Alfreda Chayee-Morris, Ms. Nellie Rue, Mr. Josephus Cassell, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bedell, Sr., Mrs. Juliana Koffa-Dixon, Senator Archibald Bernard, Dr. Eugenia Cooper-Merchant, and many others whose names are not herein mentioned. We say a big “Thank you” to all of you for your very successful fundraising drive that consequently led to the staging of “The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville”, as well as the First Green Carpet Event ever hosted in the United States of America, at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, on January 9, 2016.



Ambassador & Mrs. Jeremiah Sulunteh on the Green Carpet at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts on January 9, 2016

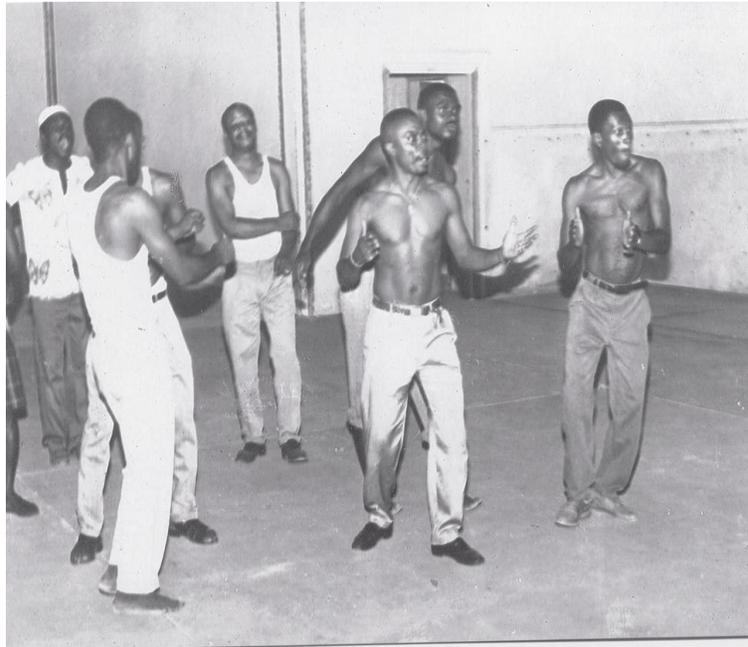
Indeed, our debut public performance since DATI was revived in Maryland was historic and it was graced with the presence of His Excellency Jeremiah Sulunteh, Liberia's Ambassador to the United States and Canada. We equally extend our thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Sulunteh and his gracious staff for their support and recognition. We look forward to participating in the forthcoming July 26, 2016 Event at the Liberian Chancery in Washington, D. C.

Last but not the least, we would like to register the kind contributions and active participation of DATI's staff and thespians who courageously pulled the event off with their commitment and hard work. In this light, DATI expresses grateful thanks and appreciation to Princess Ariminta Gbaba for her support and kind contributions and commitment toward the realization of the goals and objectives of DATI. Special thanks to Mrs. Annette Landers, Alie Kamara, Prince Julian Gbaba, Prince Jacques Gbaba, Mrs. Rita Pierre and Mr. Alexander Pierre, Mr. Archie Wilson, Mr. Harrison Jiedueh, Mr. Lars Tomo McCritty, Princess Jolynn Gbaba, the late Mary Nusser, Dr. Gerald George, Kerry Brandon, Mrs. Clara Roger of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, Mrs. Annette Esterheld at the Bowie City Hall, Pastor Christopher Miller and Mrs. Brihanna Miller, and all those whose names were not mentioned herein.

Auditions and Start Date for the Spring-Fall 2016 Season

DATI's Spring to Fall Season kicks off on April 4 and 5, 2016 at the Bowie Gymnasium located at 4100 North View Drive, Bowie, MD. All individuals who are interested in participating in DATI's 2016-2017 productions may appear for auditions on Monday, April 4th or Tuesday, April 5, 2016. The auditions begin from 7 p.m. and close down at 9 p.m. on both nights. Interested candidates may also e-mail the Executive Director at gbaba5@aol.com to express their interest and the audition date and time that will be suitable for them. The audition process involves a face-to-face interview, as well as a display of your artistic talents and reasons why you would like to be a part of the Honorable Body of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI).

Candidates accepted in DATI's adult theatre and children's peace theatre will be required to attend rehearsals twice every week on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. Rehearsal activities will include exercises in acting, role play, singing, dancing, reading, writing and other forms of literacies to prepare actors, actresses, and DATI staff to provide quality educational and cultural services to its customers throughout the universe.



Dr. Gbaba (in the middle) conducts rigid rehearsals and actors training exercises during a DATI rehearsal at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia, Liberia in the early 1992.



DATI actors and actresses engaged in a role play exercise during one of their rehearsals at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia in 1992.

Different Programs for Children and Adults



Members of DATI's Children's Peace Theatre at a cultural extravaganza at the Liberian Chancery in Washington, D.C.

DATI will feature a variety of interesting literacy and peace education, visual and performing arts programs that will be suited for both children and their families, as well as adults. The Spring to Fall Season rehearsals will constitute vigorous acting exercises to keep thespians fit and agile; rehearsal of Part One of "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville" to improve the production concept, add in special effects (lights and acoustics), as well as the stage design, background sceneries. The adult theatre will rehearse on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at the Bowie Gymnasium. The schedule for the DATI Children's Peace Theatre will commence in May when schools close for the summer break.



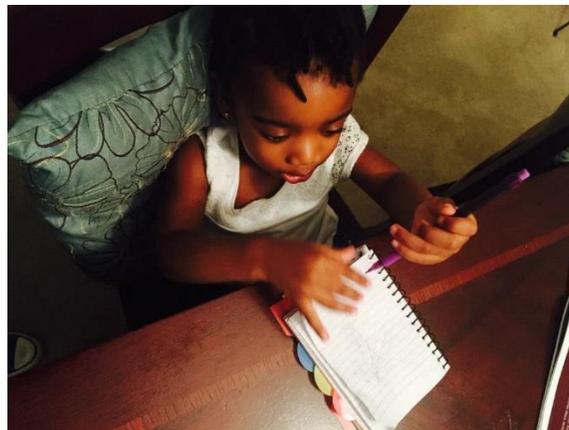
The children's program will include literacy and peace education classes and the participation of all children in the DATI Children's Peace Theatre events that may be scheduled during the summer months. Overall, both the adult and children's peace theatre will conduct a number of performances (including Parts One and Two of "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville", monologues and peace and reconciliation skits performed by the children's peace

theatre) in various communities in Prince George’s County (dates and venues to be announced later), and at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, August 19, 2016 to feature Part One of “The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville”; and Part Two of “The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville” on Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. each night.



Members of DATI Children’s Peace Theatre in a literacy session with Dr. Gbaba.

DATI’s Chiandeh Afrocentric Literacy and Peace Education Program



Early literacy intervention for children

DATI’s Chiandeh Afrocentric Literacy and Peace Education Program is designed to entertain, educate, and intellectually and culturally engage children between the ages nine to thirteen years of age by immersing them into literary and artistic activities such as: writing,

reading, speech and acting exercises, dance, roleplay, learning non-violent means of problem solving and conflict resolution; development of individual portfolios and journals, as well as the participation in the DATI Children's Peace Theatre projects and performances during the summer months. This program may be continued during the course of the academic year with the provision of funding and logistics needed to successfully implement the goals and objectives of the DATI Chiandeh Afrocentric Literacy and Peace Education Program.

Parents whose children fall within the age range of 9-13 may sign up their children as soon as possible by shooting an e-mail to the Executive Director at: gbaba5@aol.com expressing their desire to enroll their children in the program. An audition date will be provided during which parents and their children will be scheduled for a face-to-face interview, as well as implementing the registration process that entails filling out application and consent forms to ensure parents and their children are committed to the guidelines and policies regarding the active participation of parents and their children in all activities of the literacy and peace education program.

Further, it is important to inform the public that parents who desire their kids to participate in the DATI Chiandeh Afrocentric Literacy and Peace Education Program to know that the training process is rigorous, yet relaxing and engaging for children and their families. Parents are expected to drop off and pick up their children on time as DATI staff are not responsible for overseeing children after the stipulated class time. Please be advised also that parents and their children who do not comply with our attendance and participation rules will be automatically dropped from the program.

If DATI receives a grant to underwrite the cost of the literacy program children may enroll free of charge but parents will still be responsible to ensure that their children have all of the literary tools and requirements needed in order to participate in the program. Children will need such basic materials as: pens, notebooks, folders to develop their individual portfolios, and purchase costumes that may be needed for children participating in the DATI Children's Peace Theatre events during the course of the summer and fall months. The registration process begins now until the end of April, 2016. Candidates accepted in the program will be notified via e-mail or postal mail.

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City of Bowie, Maryland, U.S.A.

22 March, 2016