

Dehkontee Artists Theatre Proudly Presents

“The Art of West African Masquerades: Simulating the Magical Appearance of Garlay-boo Gleh!”



Introduction

Back in the day in the jungles of Mother Africa where all human life began, our ancestors were inhabitants of the wild. They lived among the wild life and vegetation of the rich tropical rain forests of West Africa, the new “*Fertile Crescent*” of the Black Race after the expansion of humanity from the *Cradle of African Civilization* in the East, through the great migration that took thousands of years to complete. Thus, in the tickets of West Africa, the Mandes and Kwa linguistic speaking peoples of Africa developed a form of ancestral worship, as well as an affinity for their immediate environment, to shed light on their history and culture as humans. Consequently, this led to the creation of different art works and forms that present multiple interpretations of our ancestors’ spiritual and customary beliefs and practices. Also, through these vast artistic and creative media our ancestors expressed themselves through dance, music, painting, drawing, choreography, and through the creation of masquerades to express their inherent cultural, religious, political, and spiritual beliefs.

During the 40th Anniversary Gala of DATI, several artistic creations of Dr. Joe Gbaba will be featured to exhibit the vast diversity of cultural and educational services Dehkontee Artists Theatre’s staff is able to provide for the public. One of the special treats the public will receive from DATI will be the simulation of a West African masquerade.

As a form of West African masquerade, the simulation of the magical appearance of “Garlay-boo Gleh” is intended to exhibit an example of the deep spiritual celebration that goes along with the appearance of a traditional African war mask, and the rich cultural lessons and

fanfare the event presents for its audience. This is part of DATI's continued contribution toward the preservation of Liberian arts and culture, as well as the safeguard of our blessed heritage and hegemony as God's chosen people.



A photo of a traditional Krahn mask

Therefore, please pay close attention to the theme of DATI's 40th Anniversary: ***“National Peace and Reconciliation and Cultural Awareness Campaign through the Performing and Visual Arts”!*** Consequently, we request that every patriotic Liberian, African, and peace-loving citizen of the world attend DATI's 40th Anniversary Gala at the African Cultural Center, 5000 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143, from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., to demonstrate our resolve for national peace and reconciliation in post war Liberia.

All those who have received electronic as well as personal invitations from Dehkontee Artists Theatre members and officers are asked to please RSVP asap to ensure appropriate accommodations are made on time for our invited guests and the public. Reservations are based on “first come, first serve” basis and the program will commence at sharp 6 p.m. beginning with: (1) Book signing ceremony; (2) 40th Anniversary Dinner; (3) Talent & Fashion Show; (4) Fund Raiser; and (5) 40th Anniversary Ball. Funds raised will finance the launch of DATI's National Peace and Reconciliation and Cultural Awareness Campaign in Liberia in 2018. If you truly believe in peace and want peace for Liberia, then we invite you to make your contribution toward a worthy cause by purchasing your tickets online or from organizers of the program as soon as possible.

Log on: www.dehkonteeartiststheatreinc.com to purchase your tickets. Tickets will also soon be available through organizers whose names will be listed in our subsequent advertisement.

Admissions

Grand Patron: \$100

Patron: \$50

Couple: \$35

Single: \$20