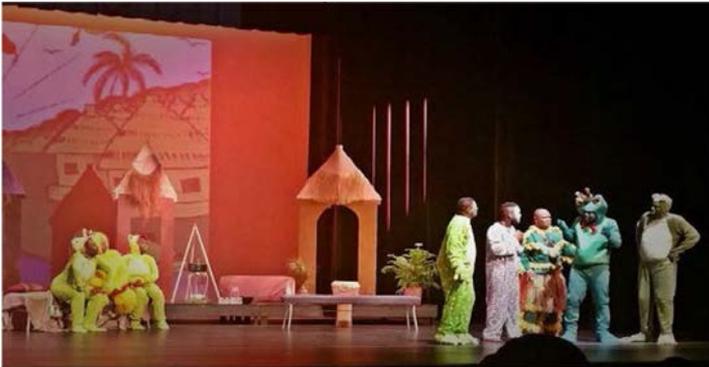


Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI) in Concert



Featuring

***"Black History and Culture Matter" Performance
directed by Dr. Joe Gbaba***



Held in Honor of Senior Citizens & Residents of
Pin Oak Village Community
16010 Excalibur Road, Bowie, Maryland 20716
Saturday, October 1, 2016 @ 5 p.m.

Mistress of Ceremony: Muriel McNair

Salutation

Our beloved senior citizens, family and friends, ladies and gentlemen: Good afternoon to all of you wonderful folks at Pin Oak Village! This is the day the Lord has made. We rejoice and are glad in it! How are you all doing today! You all look great and we hope our time spent with you will be very rewarding and indeed blessed!

We prepared an exciting program to educate and entertain you about Black History and Culture and your right to make an informed decision and vote! We will be featuring three different aspects of our performing arts program: (1) traditional African storytelling which will be presented by none other than our Executive Director, Dr. Gbaba; (2) three monologues featuring Black History Poems from the Poetry Collection of our Executive Director Dr. Joe Gbaba; and (3) we will end our program with a dramatic skit and traditional African dance centered on the topic of voter's education to be performed by members of our DATI staff: Alie Kamara, Annette Landers, Kormassa Bobo, our Director, Dr. Gbaba, and myself, your mistress of ceremony, Muriel McNair. But before we begin our fantastic show, let me first tell you a bit about Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc.

About Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DAT!)

Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI) is a nonprofit 501 © (3) African-focused cultural and educational organization that is devoted to the promotion of Black History and Culture through the performing and visual arts and Afrocentric literacy. DATI was organized thirty-nine years ago by Dr. Gbaba at the University of Liberia in the African nation of Liberia, West Africa.

For some of you who do not know Liberia, it is the First Black Independent Republic on the continent of Africa. It was founded by freed slaves that returned to Africa after the Emancipation Proclamation to establish self-rule as an independent nation and sovereign people. Hence, there is a very close political and historical tie between the United States of America and Liberia.

The Impact o(Dehkontee Artists Theatre

Over the decades Dehkontee Artists Theatre became a household name in Liberia where the group under the direction of Dr. Gbaba performed for African presidents, world class diplomats, and the international community. DATI was also organized at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G) in the early 1980s when Dr. Gbaba pursued graduate studies in Theatre at UNC-G School of Music, Theatre, and Dance where he earned his Master of Fine Arts degree in Directing and Acting.

Dehkontee Artists Theatre has also performed in other parts of the United States including Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. Our first public performance in the State of Maryland was held at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts on January 9, 2016 when we presented "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville". We have also toured a couple of schools in Prince George's County to teach our children (particularly children of color) the importance to know and appreciate their cultural and historical heritage, as well as the history and cultures of others. We believe that through the performing and visual arts and Afrocentric literacy, we can help our children and grandchildren appreciate cultural diversity in order to help reduce racial prejudice, bias, and violence in our society.

Services That DAT/ Offers

We do live performances for children, adults and senior citizens in schools, communities, and group homes throughout the State of Maryland and other parts of the United States of America. We also conduct Afrocentric literacy classes to teach children and adults about the history and culture of Africa. Furthermore, we conduct writing and acting workshops and classes for those who would like to improve their acting, speech, and writing skills. In addition, we also do main stage public performances if funding is available. Presently we have submitted an application to the PG County Public School District to partner with PGCPD to teach African arts and culture and conduct after school Afrocentric literacy classes for students of all grade levels.

Need for Public Support

Public support and the support of the political leaders in Prince George's County, as well as PG County Public School District leaders and principals, has been slow in coming. However, we are very grateful to Council Member Todd M. Turner of District 4 and Council Member Andrea C. Harrison of District 5, as well as Ms. Donna Hooper and her staff at the Bowie Gymnasium, who have identified with our program in Prince George's County. Also, we believe that through your ardent support as senior citizens, we may be able to make headways in reaching out to our targeted audiences in the County, the State of Maryland, and the entire United States. Accordingly, your financial, material, and moral support may enable us fulfill our mission and goal to educate and entertain the general public about Black History and Culture through the performing and visual arts and Afrocentric literacy.

For this reason, we would like to appeal to you to help speak on our behalf to your County, State, and Federal Senators, Representatives, and policy makers, to give us the support we need to carry out our task of promoting Black History and Culture throughout the United States and the entire world. You can also make a personal donation through our corporate account and your contribution is tax deductible.

How to Make a Donation

You can make a donation online through our website at:

www.dehkonteeartists theatreinc.com and click on the "Donate" button to make your contribution through our PayPal account. You can also make a check payable to Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. via mail to: 16010 Excalibur Rd., Apt. 105-D, Bowie, MD 20716; or through our Wells Fargo Checking Account#: 3931972677.

The Order of Our Performance

1. First, we will begin with African fireside storytelling which will be done by none other than our Executive Director, Dr. Joe Gbaba, a traditional African royalty and cultural expert originally from the Republic of Liberia. Apart from his training in acting and directing, Dr. Gbaba is also a seasoned educator, playwright, and author of several self-published books. He has written, directed, produced, and acted in several of his plays, one of which is "The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville". Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage, Dr. Joe Gbaba.
2. Please give it up for Dr. Gbaba. Thank you. Our next item consists of a series of Black History Poems from the "Poetry Collection of Dr. Joe Gbaba":

Our first actor is Alie Kamara. He is originally from Sierra Leone, a former British colony and independent African nation on the West Coast of Africa. Alie is interested in becoming an actor. Please remember him in your prayers. Here is Alie as he presents: "The Hidden Mysteries of African Civilization" by Dr. Gbaba.

A Please give a round of applause for Alie! Thank you! Our next presenter is Annette Landers. Annette is an avid supporter of the arts and a theatre enthusiast. She is a local artist born and raised in the State of Maryland. She will be doing for us: "In America I Understand February Is Black History Month"? written by Dr. Joe Gbaba. Please welcome Annette Landers to the stage!

B. Ladies and gentlemen, please give Annette Landers a loud round of applause! Thank you! Our next presentation is entitled: "The Lone Gwonyon-zwe". The word "Gwonyon-zwe" is an African expression which means a "soothsayer" or "counsellor". Please join me in welcoming Dr. Gbaba to the stage as he enacts his poem: "The Lone Gwonyon-zwe"!

3. Ladies and gentlemen, we have saved the best for the last. We want to conclude our performance today with a short dramatic skit entitled: "Voter's Education". It seeks to educate us about the importance to exercise our right to vote and to make an informed decision in choosing and electing our leaders during the forthcoming election season.

In this skit members of Dehkontee Artists Theatre demonstrate the various stages of the election process and intersperse them with traditional African dance steps performed by one of the best female traditional dancers from Africa named Kormassa Bobo. Madam Kormassa Bobo is a celebrated master dance artist and teacher from the Republic of Liberia, and is also a distinguished member of the National Cultural Troupe of Liberia. Madam Bobo has performed for many African presidents and foreign dignitaries on the continent of Africa and around the world. Please welcome to the stage Madam Kormassa Bobo as she opens and closes the dramatic skit, "Voter's Education" with a series of traditional African dance steps.

4. Conclusion of Program

Ladies and gentlemen, every good thing must come to an end! We want to thank you and management and staff of Pin Oak Village for welcoming us to your beautiful and peaceful community. For those of you who would like to be included on our mailing list and to register as supporters of Dehkontee Artists, please sign your names on the sheets at the front desk after this show. We will keep you informed of our future programs and will make sure you receive discounts during our shows in the future.

Once again, please welcome to the stage members of Dehkontee Artists Theatre:

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. Alie Kamara | 6. Harrison Jieudueh (our Videographer) |
| 2. Annette Landers | 7. And yours truly, Muriel McNair. |
| 3. Ariminta Gbaba | I will now hand the rnike over to |
| 4. Kormassa Bobo | Dr.Gbaba to rmake the vote of thanks. |
| 5. Dr. Joe Gbaba | 8. Dr. Gbaba. |