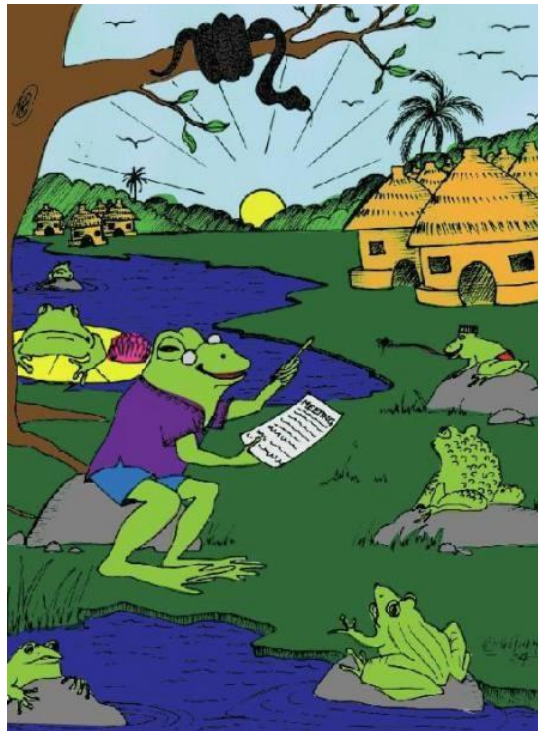


Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI) Presents:



“The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville”



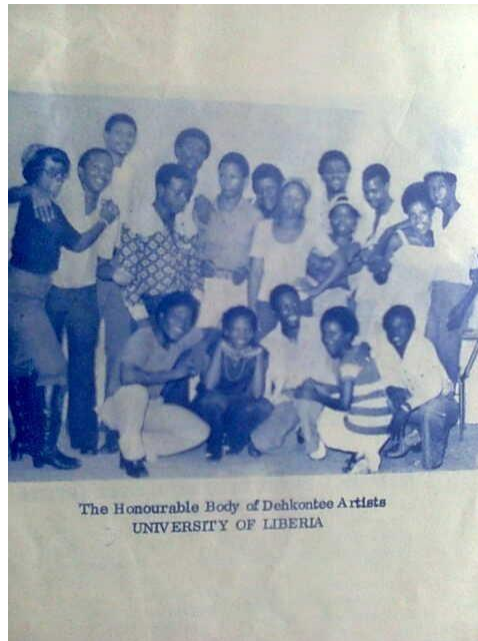
In Celebration of DATI’s 39th Anniversary of Its Founding &
42ND ANNIVERSARY OF RABBI PRINCE JOSEPH TOMOONH-GARLODEY GBABA, SR., ED.D.

AS PLAYWRIGHT, POET, THEATRE DIRECTOR, ACTOR & PRODUCER

Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715

January 9, 2016 @ 7:30 p.m.

Brief History of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI)



Original members of Dehkontee Artists Theatre at the University of Liberia in 1977 (Back roll: L-R) Kathy Lokko, Eric Goll, Joshua Howard, Christopher Diggs, Herbert Elliott, Melvin Smith, Claude Langley, Dr. Maude Major, Dr. Henrique Zobon Scott, Sonia Tubman, Joseph Kappia, Comfort Innis, Festus Russell; (Front roll: L-R: Bill N. Ross, III, Josephine Gibson, Dr. Joe Gbaba, Evelyn Broderick, Edwin Gibson. Other original founding members not in the photo above include: Christian Fenning (aka Fumbah), Alicia Murray, Mona Bedell, D. Eugene Wilson, Stephen Crayton, Raymond Kromah, Dr. Nathaniel Sieh Doe, Jestina Gibson, Sweetie Martin, Joseph Butler, Calvin Harris, Nyema Elliott, Bliidi Elliott, etc.

Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI) was founded at the University of Liberia in 1977 by Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba along with some conscientious University of Liberia colleagues including but not limited to: Joshua Howard (Dehkontee's first President), Claude Langley (Business Manager), Bill N. Ross, III (Stage Manager), Kathy Lokko (Secretary), Mona Bedell (Treasurer), Guy Melvin Smith (Scenic Designer), Dr. Henrique Zobon Scott, Dr. Nathaniel Sieh Doe, Raymond Kromah, Stephen Crayton, Jr., Josephine Gibson, Jestina Gibson, Christian Fenning (aka Fumbah), Herbert Elliott, Joseph Kappia, Comfort Innis, D. Eugene Wilson, Alicia Murray, Sonia Tubman, Evelyn Broderick, Edwin Gibson, Sweetie Martin, Eric Goll, Festus Russell, and many others.



Dr. MacKinley A. Deshield, Jr. (First Chief Sponsor of DATI)

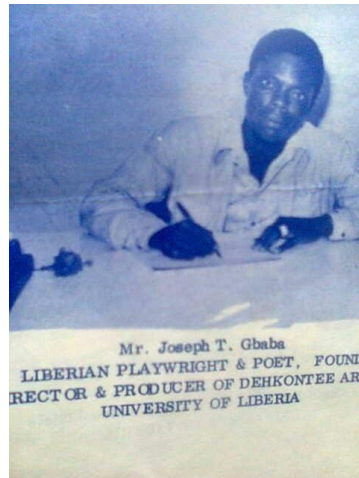


Photo of Dr. Joe Gbaba as Director of Dehkotee Artists Theatre @ University of Liberia in 1977



President William R. Tolbert, Jr. 19th President of Liberia & First Chief Grand Patron of the Honorable Body of Dehkotee Artists Theatre

Past & Present Contributions of Dehkotee Artists Theatre to Liberian and American Cultures and Societies

DATI is a non-profit cultural and educational organization presently based in the City of Bowie, Maryland, U.S.A. It was incorporated as a non-profit entity in the State of Delaware in 1998 and is also registered in the State of Maryland as a non-profit organization since 2015. DATI was established at the University of Liberia 39 nine years ago and became Liberia's premiere theatre in the mid-1970s through the patronage of Liberia's 19th President, Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr. who took a special liking to Dr. Gbaba as his "Precious Jewel". DATI on two different occasions performed at the Executive Mansion

Theatre in Monrovia in December 1978 and 1979, first as a private performance for President William R. Tolbert, Jr. and First Lady Mrs. Victoria Tolbert, in the company of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Richard A. Henries, Chief Justice James A.A. Pierre, including the Haitian Ambassador to Liberia, among other distinguished guests. The second occasion was during the state visit of Ghanaian Head of State General Fred Akkuffu and Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings. Prior to the Executive Mansion performances in Liberia, DATI previously held a command performance under the auspices of Sierra Leone's First Vice President S.I. Koroma, the Acting President during the absence of President Siaka Stevens at the State House in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on July 26, 1978, as well as a performance at Fourah Bay College and the Freetown City Hall. DATI also entertained all diplomats accredited near Monrovia at the Monrovia City Hall Auditorium in 1979 under the aegis of Liberia's Foreign Minister C. Cecil Dennis, Jr.

A branch of DATI was established at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro from 1982-83 and staged Joe Gbaba's "The Chains of Apartheid" at the UNC-G Aycock Auditorium and participated in the Annual Greensboro City Stage Event ("African Marketplace"). Dehkontee Artists featured "Gee, the Mighty Warrior King", performed by students of UNC-G and A&T State University including: Keith Hill, Andre Minkins, Maurice Donnell, Scott Carter, Sheba Wilson, Sherry Jamaison, and many others.

Dr. Gbaba returned to Liberia in 1983 after he earned his Master's in Theatre with emphasis in Directing and Acting from UNC-Greensboro. He served in many educational and political positions in Liberia as lecturer at Cuttington University, University of Liberia, A.M.E. Zion Community College, Mother Pattern School of Social Work; Acting Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of Liberia, including but not limited to teaching at various secondary schools in Liberia, such as St. Patrick's High School, A.M.E. Zion Academy High School, College of West Africa, St. Teresa's Convent, and Zwedru Multilateral High School among many others.

Dehkontee Artists Theatre was revived and incorporated in Liberia after the cessation of hostilities in 1992. DATI played a pivotal role in the Liberia peace process in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Educational Fund (UNICEF) by providing civic and peace education programs such as radio and live theatrical performances, conflict resolution workshops for school teachers, administrators, and displaced persons through the Kukatonon Conflict Resolution Project. DATI was also incorporated in the United States in 1998 as a non-profit cultural and educational organization and has performed in Philadelphia, Allen Town, Pennsylvania and in St. Paul, Minnesota over the years.

About the Play



“The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville” is an African fireside fable and children’s play that emphasizes the importance of unity and the promotion of cultural diversity and tolerance. It stresses the need to educate electorates so that they may be able to make informed decisions when holding free and fair democratic elections. The play also promotes cultural awareness, nationalism, and peaceful coexistence of persons of varied cultural and political leanings.

Cast of Characters

Julian Gbaba (Toad Frog) Jacques Gbaba (Bull Frog); Joseph Gbaba (Spring Frog); Annette Landers (Mother Toad); Ariminta Gbaba (Baby Toad); Daniel K. Moore, Jr. (Black Snake & Old Grandfather Toad); Christopher Miller (Old Grandfather Toad); Alie Kamara (Narrator/Elder); Rita Pierre (Winged Creature & Chicken); Lars Tomo McCritty (Winged Creature).

Celebrating 42 Years of Service to Mankind in the Literacy and the Performing Arts



RABBI PRINCE JOSEPH TOMOONH-GARLODEYH GBABA, SR., B.A., M.F.A., M. Sc. Ed., Ed. D.

Rabbi Prince Joseph Tomoonh-Garlodeyh Gbaba, Sr. is the founder and Executive Director of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI). He is one of the surviving descendants of the royal Nien Dynasty of ancient Krahn kings in Liberia, West Africa. He received his calling forty-two years ago when he heard

a strange voice call out his name three times while he was a senior student at a Catholic all boys boarding school called Carroll High that was then located in Grassfield, Yekepa, on the lower range of Mt. Nimba. His first drama he wrote, directed, and produced was titled: “Life Story of Kekula”. Its theme was based on “national unity and integration.” The play was staged at the Open Door Theatre in Yekepa in 1974. Later the young playwright enrolled at the University of Liberia after he completed secondary school and majored in English and Literature. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts from Liberia College in 1980. Dr. Gbaba studied theatre (with emphasis in Directing and Acting) and earned his MFA in 1983 from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Subsequently, he returned to his homeland Liberia where he contributed meaningfully in the areas of arts and culture and education and taught at various institutions of higher learning including but not limited to: University of Liberia, Cuttington University, Mother Pattern College of Social Work, A.M.E. Zion Community College, and also served as Principal of the Zwedru Multilateral High School and consultant to the United Nations Children’s Educational Fund (UNICEF). Prince Joe Gbaba also taught at St. Patrick’s High School, A.M.E. Zion Academy, College of West Africa, and St. Teresa’s Convent, respectively.

The Executive Director and founder of DATI also holds a Master of Science degree in Education (emphasis in Elementary and Special Education) and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from St. Joseph’s Jesuit University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is married to his wife of 32 years Princess Ariminta Porte-Gbaba and is father of five children and five grandchildren, respectively. Further, Dr. Gbaba is also author of three self-published books: *Conflict Resolution and the Concept of Change* (Dr. Gbaba’s assessment of the Liberian civil war and how Liberians and international peace negotiators can achieve sustainable peace and reestablish genuine rule of law), *Ah-zeo, Ma Garh* (an autobiographical account of the pivotal role his mother and other surrogate mothers played in his life as a child and a creative youth leader, artist/scholar); and, *The Frogs and Black Snake in Frogsville* (an African fireside fable and children’s play that focuses on the principles of democracy, the need to celebrate cultural diversity and reinstate rule of law in post conflict societies, etc.). Added to his credit, Dr. Gbaba has also written and directed numerous other unpublished plays such as “Chains of Apartheid”, “Zon Ninneh Taryee”, “Town Trap”, “Love for Mymah”, “The Resurrection”, “Yah” (“Vision”); “The Minstrel’s Tales”, etc.

Officers of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc.

James Krischen Wah, Sr. (President)

Timothy Gardiner (Vice President)

Ariminta Gbaba (Box Office Manager)

Lars Tomo McCritty (Acoustic Technician)

Harrison Jiedueh (Videographer)

Annette Landers (Scenic/Costume/Make-up Designer)

Julian Gbaba (Stage Manager)

Alie Kamara (Props Manager)

Sponsors and Board of Advisors

Christopher Miller (Sponsor)

Emmanuel Gbedee (Sponsor)

Father James Yarsiah (Sponsor)

Father Allen George & members of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany and St. Simon in Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Sponsors)

Mrs. Juliana Koffa-Dixon (Sponsor & Member of Board of Directors)

Mrs. Comfort Shilue-Sobah (Chair, DATI's Patrons Club)

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Sobah (Sponsors)

Mrs. Felicia Gaye-Wright (Patron)

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac & Amanda Sobah-Yah (Sponsors)

Mrs. Edith Walo-Smith (Sponsor)

Mrs. Alfreda Chayee-Morris (Sponsor)

Ms. Nellie Rue (Sponsor)

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Bedell (Sponsors)

Mr. & Mrs. Handel Diggs (Sponsors)

Mr. Archie Wilson (Member of Board of Directors)

Mr. Emmanuel Sumo Clarke (Sponsor)

Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel N. Reeves (Advisors & Sponsors)

Mr. Josephus Cassell (Sponsor)

Senator Archibald Bernard (Advisor & Sponsor)

Mr. & Mrs. Ansumana Sirleaf (Sponsor)

Father Wilmot & Dr. Eugenia Cooper-Merchant (Sponsors)

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Mr. Ignatius Taplah (Sponsor)

Adam Kyne (Advisor)

Dexter Tueh (Sponsor)

Amula Goba (Sponsor)

****** Event made possible in part through a generous grant from the City of Bowie.**