



Born in Conakry, Guinea, **Fodé Bangoura** has been recognized internationally for his work as the lead drummer with the acclaimed ensembles “Les Merveilles de Guinée” and the national ballet of Guinea, “Les Ballets Africains”. A protege of the late, great Mohamed Kemoko Sano, Fodé is now one of the most respected and sought after drummers of his generation. Teaching and performing in Japan, Europe and across the U.S., Fodé brings a unique energy and electricity to audiences around the world. Fodé has toured with some of the biggest names in African music and dance such as Sekouba Bambino, Sekouba Kandia Kouyate, and Les Ballets Africains. Fodé appeared on MTV during the celebration of Black History Month and in 2007 was invited to be the featured guest artist in “Imanga Bette Doho”, a 3 day drum and dance conference in Milan, Italy. Fodé has performed at Lincoln Center “Out-of-Doors”, Walt Disney World “Africa” and The Apollo Theater for the “Tribute to Bob Marley”, a concert featuring Damian Marley.



Naby Bangoura is a native of Guinea, West Africa. He has danced since birth and performed with a number of groups, including internationally acclaimed “Les Merveilles de Guinea”. Since moving to California, Naby has rapidly become one of the most sought after teachers on the west coast. His authentic presence and dynamic teaching style convey the spirit of his culture with skill, inspiration, and joy!



In thirteen years with the Ballet National, **Youssouf Koumbassa** traveled extensively throughout West Africa, Japan, Bangladesh, India, Holland, Hungary, Russia, Korea, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the United States. Since moving to the United States twenty two years ago Youssouf has established himself as the pre-eminent teacher of dance from Guinea, and now

travels widely throughout the world as a much sought after master teacher at dance conferences, workshops, camps and schools. When at home in New York his classes are attended by a large and loyal following who are appreciative of his mercurial energy and grace. www.westafricandance.com



Mouminatou Camara founded Seewe African Dance Company in September 2005. For a decade, she was the principal dancer for the world-renowned dance company, Les Ballet Africains. She also performed with Les Ballet Djonllba and the Army Ballet. An instructor and performer of West African Dance and Drum, Mouminatou has performed and taught workshops extensively in the USA, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Martinique and the West African countries of Senegal, Mali and the Ivory Coast. Having spent her life in Guinea, Mouminatou has stated that she has been dancing since she was in her mother's womb. Affectionately called “Moumi”, she brings firsthand knowledge of the history of each dance and imparts that knowledge with great clarity and passion to her students



Moussa "Bolokada" Conde is a master drummer from Kissidougou, Guinea, expert of Malinke rhythms, and one of the world's foremost djembefolas. He joined the Les Percussions de Guinée^[1] to replace the legendary Noumoudy Keïta as their lead drummer. He has traveled and performed in major venues all over the world since 1996 and was featured in the IMAX movie *PULSE: a Stomp Odyssey*. Since 2004, he has been performing and teaching in the United States. He has conducted percussion workshops in many cities in the US and Europe. He has released two musical CD's, *Morowaya* and *Sankaran*. He stars in the DVD *M'bemba Fakoli: A Musical Journey Through Guinea* and has released the djembe instructional DVD *M'bara*.



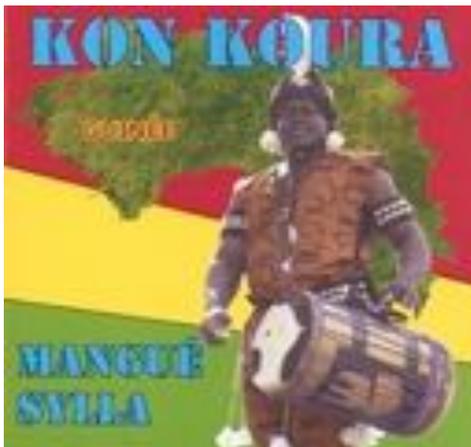
Vado Diomande has danced since the age of four, learning the dance and drum traditions of his Mahouka people. At an early age he was initiated into becoming Gue-Pelou, the sacred masked stilt-dancer. This distinction brought him to the Ballet National de Cote d'Ivoire, where he became a principal dancer for more than fifteen years. Vado learned the over sixty ethnic dance traditions of Ivory Coast, choreographing and touring extensively throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia. In 1989 he established L'Ensemble Kokiegna d'Abidjan, which has resided in New York City as the Kotchegna Dance Company since 1994. He continues his experience as a choreographer, Artistic Director, teacher and performer.



Djenane Saint Juste is the founder and artistic director of AFOUTAYI, an Haitian, Dance Music and Arts company based in Minnesota. Djenane has trained in ballet, hip hop, modern, jazz and ballroom at the Institute de Danse JAKA, Institut de Danse Vivianne Gauthier, Artcho Dance Company in Haiti and Dancing Classroom by Pierre Dulaine in New York. She is currently pursuing a license in ESL and a Master in Education at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis.



Mandjou Mara began his professional drumming career when drum and dance group Oiseau Blanc, recruited him when he was just five years old as a djembe player. It was with this group that he honed his djembe skills and learned other aspects of Guinean music, dance, song, and staging. The djembe soloist of Oiseau Blanc recognized Mandjou's talent and introduced him to the prestigious Les Percussions de Guinee who took him on as one of their players. Momordiba Camara of the world renowned Les Ballets Africains was the next to recruit Mandjou as a djembe soloist and assistant director for his group Tayeli of Kaporo in 2000. Mandjou created his performance ensemble Limanya de la Guinee in 2007.



Born in Conakry, Guinea in West Africa, **Mangue Sylla** started playing music at the age of 7. In 1993 Mangue joined the well known ballet troupe: "Les Merveilles de Guinee". This provided him the opportunity to travel throughout Africa and study under the leadership of Kemoko

Sano. In 1998 Mangué moved to the US with the same ballet. Since then, while still an active member of "Les Merveilles de Guinée", he has been working with numerous groups including: Alvin Ailey, Magbana Drum and Dance, Drum Cafe, Marilyn's Bamdulaye, and Nandy's Sankofa Kuumba Cac (summer program for children). Mangué Sylla currently lives in New York City. He keeps a busy schedule performing, teaching, attending workshops and dance conferences.



Abou Sylla was born into a family of traditional musicians in Guinea, West Africa, Abou began his study of both the djembe and balafon as a child. He lived, studied and performed with his balafon teacher until he reached adulthood, at which time he moved to Conakry, the capital of Guinea, to perform with his family, as well as other musicians. At this time, Abou was invited to join Les Ballets Africains, the prestigious national dance company of Guinea. For six years he performed with them, playing not one, but five traditional West African instruments – the balafon, djembe, krin, doundoun and bote.