

Alseny Yansane & Andrea DiPalma

New Artist



Mission Statement:

Sharing the joy and passion of Guinean culture through vibrant music and dance, enhancing education, sustaining strong community bonds, promoting emotional and physical health: We expand worldviews, while instilling sensitivity of all cultures and values of team work and positive challenge in an encouraging environment.

Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

Lives In:

Eugene, OR

Homestay:

Need for home stay depends upon location and scope of project/residency

Curriculum Connections

CL	CS	DM	DR
GH	LA	MM	MC
MU	PE	PG	PA

Magnificent Music & Dazzling Dance

Students learn traditional and contemporary dance steps from Guinea, West Africa while improving upon their fluidity, expanding on their movement vocabulary, deepening spacial and kinesthetic awareness, developing physical strength and endurance while emphasizing both artistic and technical growth. Participants learn the integral connection between the music and the dance, how to recognize musical signals and improve upon moving together as a group while exploring traditional poly-rhythms and songs along with their cultural significance and history. Using traditional, handmade African instruments and interactive games

students will learn proper hand positions which will improve their focus, hand/eye coordination, clarity of notes, and sound projection while receiving a deeper understanding of the wealth and diversity of West African culture.

Staff and Community Offerings

Won Tan Nara Productions offer quality in-service workshops that facilitate the integration of the classroom curriculum with that of their art residencies while giving teachers tools to better engage kinesetic and non-traditional learners.

Facilities & Supplies

A large classroom, cafeteria, all-purpose space or gym free from desks and equipped with one chair and one drum per student is required for the entire residency. A \$50 weekly fee for the use of Won Tan Nara Productions' traditional, handmade West African instruments averages out to approximately \$.50-\$1.00 per student.

About the Artists...

Alseny Yansane, dynamic teacher and fourteen year performing artist with world renowned Ballets Africains has dazzled audiences across the globe with his fancy footwork, powerful percussion and heart stopping acrobatics. Alseny is internationally recognized as a cultural ambassador for his broad understanding of the dances, rhythms and traditions from each geographical region of Guinea and has brought new songs and musical arrangements to the Pacific Northwest. Alseny is a wonderful teacher who is energetic, inspiring, and fun, adored by kids of all ages who snap to attention in his presence.

Andrea DiPalma has spent close to seven years in Guinea, immersing herself in the art, culture, and way of life. She has trained with many disciplined and visionary artists, performed in a variety of prestigious venues, including festivities for the Guinea President, General Lansana Conte and collaborated with Alseny to teach young people wanting to become performance artists. Because she is fluent in Susu, Guinea's national language, Andrea has been able to transcend much of the cultural barrier and gain an appreciation and understanding of the inner workings of Guinean society. Throughout the Pacific Northwest she is recognized by educators for her creative curriculum development, classroom management skills and her ability to integrate educational themes with Won Tan Nara Productions' interactive residencies. 30