

NOAH ANDZONGO

Dance Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Noah Andzongo is a performer, choreographer and educator trained in the art of traditional and contemporary dance of Cameroon. He began his professional career under the direction and guidance of Kengmo, internationally renowned performing artist, educator and member of the Royal Council of Nine (Keepers of Traditions). Noah has trained with the highly respected Alphonse Tierou, a renowned researcher, historian, contemporary African dancer and choreographer. Furthering his studies in Zaire, Noah was deeply influenced by the Congolese style of Mutuashi and would later establish “Loketo” with Dinganga, one of the great performers of the Mutuashi. Noah was principal dancer with the National Ballet of Cameroon and Le Baobab. He has produced choreographic works for Esuah, Africa Labina and Loketo dance companies. Noah has toured extensively with the National Ballet of Cameroon; Esuah and Le Baobab, demonstrating his artistry throughout Europe, Central and West Africa. Noah received a Professional Designation in Arts Education from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.



MUSIC · CENTER

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Noah’s workshop shows students the traditions and history of Cameroon through the art of dance, music and stories. Through the platform of these art forms, he is able to provide an understanding and appreciation of another culture. This workshop is designed for children to learn, create and perform the traditional dances, music and songs of a typical Cameroonian village. Noah takes students on a journey into the heart of Central Africa, sharing the spirit and traditions of his native country. This workshop series is inspiring, educational, and fun for students of all grade levels.



BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Discuss what kind of group activities use signals to organize the group, i.e., sports.
- Discuss the different types of music and dance the students have been exposed to, and the different places where they have heard music.
- Locate Africa on a world map. Locate Cameroon and have each student research a different aspect of Cameroonian culture, i.e. food, music, clothing.
- Introduce students to the concept of pulse. Let them feel their own pulse. Play tapes and CD's and lead the students in finding and tapping the pulse.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn about Central African music and dance? What did they learn about themselves?
- Ask students to write about their experience of drumming and dancing.
- Challenge students to create their own signals to start and stop singing simple songs or clapping simple rhythms.
- Ask student to select a specific tools from Central Africa to draw. Have them explain the technique to use this tool. Describe the sound it might make.
- Direct students to build a shaker. Use an empty pill container or coffee can and fill it part way with un-popped popcorn. Replace the lid, or make a cardboard lid, then cover the container with white paper and decorate with patterns or designs. Play drum music and use the shakers to accompany the music.