



Mbote! And Welcome to the Mfouambila Experience

Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company preserves the traditional rhythms of the Congo steeped in Central African history and fuses it with the company's unique infectious energy and hypnotic groove.

The Seed

“I want to show where I come from and why I am dancing”

-Andoche Loubaki, Artistic Director of Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company

Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company is a New York City-based dance and drum collective founded in 2015 by Artistic Director, Andoche Loubaki – a master of Congolese dance and drumming from Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, Congo with over 30 years of drumming and dance experience. While the Republic of Congo (also called Congo-Brazzaville) has several

ethnic groups – among them the Kongo, Teke, Mbochi, and Shangha – and nine regional states, Mofuambila's focus is to represent all music of the Congo from all groups and the four corners of the Congo, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (also called Congo-Kinshasa) to the East. Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company completes that connection to the African diaspora with its traditionally-rooted yet progressive performance repertoire

Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company's Roots

Andoche Loubaki began his dance career in 1986 with the “Muesi Modern Dance Company,” directed by Celestin Kauset, in the Republic of Congo. He later performed as a member of the Ballet Mfouambilia, and then served as cofounder and choreographer of the Tourbillon Sonnore Percussion and Dance Company with Co-Director Gerve L'autre.

In 2013, while touring the United States with Ngoma Za Kongo Dance Company, Andoche took the radical step to establish himself in New York City to keep the Congolese dance traditional alive in the Big Apple. Once the center of a robust Congolese community in the United States, the Congolese presence in New York dwindled as many of the luminaries of the Congolese community migrated to California, particularly Oakland. Congolese traditional dance is often overshadowed by more well-established West African styles, but Andoche stayed committed to his mission of building a Congolese company that would preserve the culture in New York.

MFOUAMBILA KONGO DANCE COMPANY: PLANTING CONGO ROOTS ON NEW YORK STREETS

The mission needed steady and persistent cultivation. He started – to use one of his mantras – “malembe, malembe” (meaning: slowly, slowly).



New Growth

“You cannot look for happiness in someone else’s house”

-Andoche Loubaki, Artistic Director of Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company

Andoche quotes a bit of advice from his father that he’s taken to heart. While there may be bigger Congolese communities elsewhere, New York is where he planted his roots and where he intends to grow. Since 2015, the company has grown and incorporated a wide group of performers with roots throughout the diaspora, including Belize, Haiti, and the American south. It has taken time to cultivate and pass on the Congolese traditions he learned growing up in Point Noire, Brazzaville. Still, it’s important to take the time to get the details right and convey the meanings.



The Branches Reach Out

The company’s mission is to promote African culture and history through dialogue, theater, music, and dance. In the Lari language, “Mfouambila” means energy, and the company brings to life the traditions of Central Africa with Ngoma drumming, and a variety of traditional African songs, and dance through high-energy performances.

Andoche and the company have performed at the Museum of Natural History, Fordham University, The United Nations, and uptown stalwarts like The Shrine and Silvana’s. As a teacher, Andoche has taught classes at Cumbe Center for African and Diaspora Dance, the Gibney Dance Studio, and his regularly held dance and drum classes at the Ida Strauss School on New York’s Upper East Side.

Mfouambila is seeing its foundation grow as it prepares for its fourth annual Congolese New York City Dance Conference at the Joseph P. Kennedy Center in Harlem. With the conference, Andoche brings things full circle by hosting an

MFOUAMBILA KONGO DANCE COMPANY: PLANTING CONGO ROOTS ON NEW YORK STREETS

immersive three-day conference featuring Congolese teachers with whom he has performed. So, the power of Congolese Dance NYC is growing, malembe, malembe.



Mfouambila's Recent Performances

- ◇ March 1, 2019: School Assembly, Success Academy Bed-Stuy 2 (211 Throop Ave, Brooklyn NY)
- ◇ February 17, 2019: African People Alliance, 4th Annual Black History Month Celebration, Fordham University, Bronx NY
- ◇ February 15, 2019: School Assembly, Success Academy Upper West (W 84th Street, Manhattan)
- ◇ September 16, 2018: African American Day Parade (Harlem)
- ◇ September 15, 2018: African Diaspora Parade & Festival, Crotona Park, Bronx
- ◇ August 11, 2018: Miss Congo Brazzaville Pageant, National Black Theater (Harlem)
- ◇ July 2018: African Day Celebration, French Church du Saint-Esprit (East Manhattan)

Congolese New York City Dance Conference

- ◇ July 2016: Obeira Dempsey Center (Harlem)
- ◇ July 2017: Joseph P. Kennedy Center (Harlem)
- ◇ July 2018: Joseph P. Kennedy Center (Harlem)
- ◇ UPCOMING: July 2019: Joseph P. Kennedy Center (Harlem)

Artistic Director, Andoche Loubaki



Company Affiliations

- ◇ Muesi Modern Dance Company
- ◇ Ballet Mfouambilia
- ◇ Tourbillon Sonnore Percussion and Dance Company (co-founder)
- ◇ Ballet Ngoma Za Kongo
- ◇ Mfouambila Kongo Dance Company (founder/Artistic Director)

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Teaching Experience

- ◇ Cumbe Center for African and Diaspora Dance
- ◇ Gibney Dance Studio
- ◇ KowTeff School of African Dance
- ◇ YMCA of Montclair
- ◇ International Child
- ◇ Boy's and Girl's Harbor
- ◇ Richard Rhoda Center
- ◇ Boerum Hill School for International Studies

Performance Venues, Events & Engagements

- ◇ United Nations (Manhattan, NY)
- ◇ Aqua Fest (Ghana)
- ◇ The Mami Wata Production (Cameroon, Gabon, Congo-Kinshasa)
- ◇ Capesterre Festival (Guadalupe)
- ◇ Fia Festival (Congo-Kinshasa)
- ◇ African Round (Guinea, Gabon, Ivory Coast)
- ◇ Fordham University (Bronx, NY)
- ◇ The Bronx Museum (Bronx, NY)
- ◇ Shrine World Music Venue (Harlem, NY)
- ◇ Silvana (Harlem, NY)

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Links:

www.congolesedancenyc.org
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