



Visual Story for
WON'MA AFRICA
by Kalabanté Productions

June 27 - May 1
At the Granville Island Stage

A visual story helps people prepare for a new experience or decide if this show works for them



What information is in this visual story?

You can click on the things you want to know about

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This is the visual story for the show.

[Click here to see the visual guide for the Granville Island Stage, the theatre.](#)

Schedule / Important times

These times will be a little different for every performance.

Sometimes things happen a little earlier or a little later.

- The performance is about 50 minutes long.
- There is a no intermission
- 15 - 30 minutes before the start of the show the doors open and you can find your seat

The Stage

Here is a picture of what is on the stage
with all the performers



The Performers

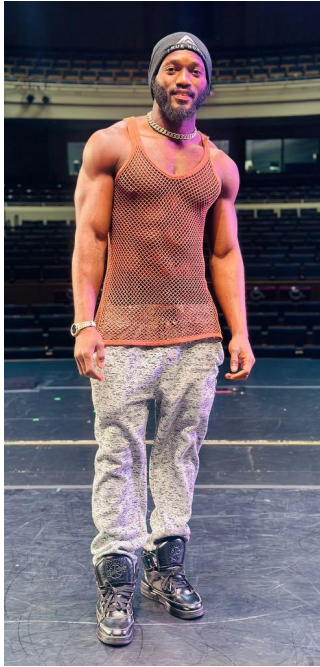


Mama Adama plays an African lady
She dances, does flips, singing,
percussions and contortion



Mohamed Ben plays an African man in
the beginning and later on he plays a fish
(without a costume)
He is our main contortionist

The Performers



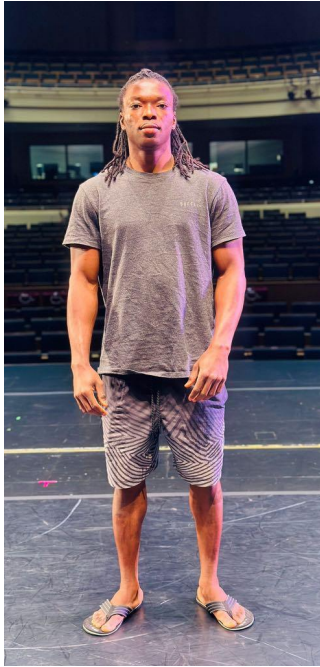
[Name] plays [Character]
+ more info if needed



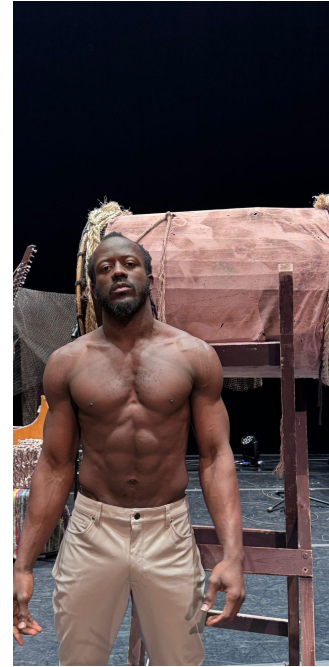
Yamoussa is the leading artist in the show.
He sings, does percussions and plays kora.



The Performers



Yamo plays an African man.
He does acrobatics and percussions.
He also dances.



Moussa plays an African man in the show.
He helps support the human pyramid,
dances and does acrobatics.

The Performers



M'mahawa plays an African lady in the show, she does contortion, dance, singing and percussions



The Curtain Speech

Before the show starts, someone will come to the stage and talk. It might be a little bit different, but these are the things they often talk about:

- The indigenous land we are on
- Thank you to sponsors and donors and volunteers
- How you can donate to the festival or help in other ways

This is a short speech
between 1-3 minutes

[Click here to read the speech](#)

In this photo, someone is doing a curtain speech.
When you go, it could be another person.

About the Show

Won'Ma Africa is a show about what it is like to be in an African village. You see the things people do every day, like kids playing football, selling things at the market, fishing and celebrations.

There is not a lot of talking but a lot of live drumming, dancing, acrobatics, juggling and a contortion act.

Sometimes lighting is bright in warm colors like daylight. Sometimes it's darker in blue or black colours like nighttime.



Things in the show that might be intense

These are some things in the show that might be intense.
On the next pages we will explain more, or you can click on them.

- [Talking in a different language](#)
- [Throwing something at the audience](#)
- [A contortion act](#) Warning: this page has pictures of contortion that can be intense for some people

Talking in a different language: Soussou

There are a couple of short moments where people say or shout something in Soussou. Usually it is one word or a short phrase.

For example, when Yamoussa is juggling, he will say “Souli” and that means “5” in Soussou.

Other times it’s just a way to make everyone feel like we are really in Guinea. All artists are from Guinea.

When the performers talk to the audience, they will speak English or French. You can see what days the show is in English and what days the show is in French [on the festival website](#).

Throwing something into the audience

About halfway through the show, when Yamoussa is juggling, he drops a club in the audience on purpose. But people don't know it is on purpose.

Someone in the audience will pick it up and want to throw it back.

Yamoussa pretends to be scared that it will hit him and people in the audience laugh.

Sometimes the person in the audience has to throw it again.

After that Yamoussa continues juggling.

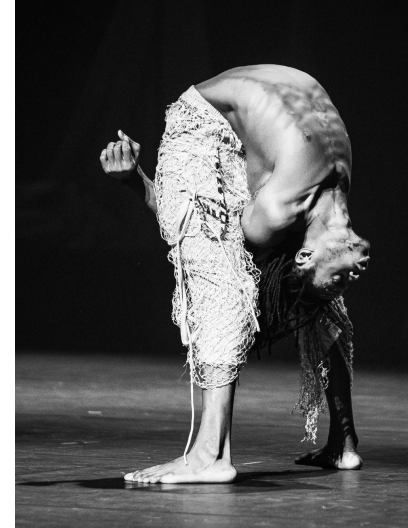
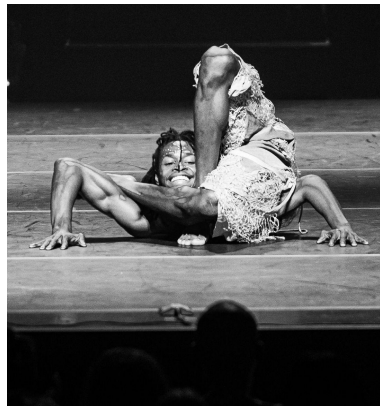
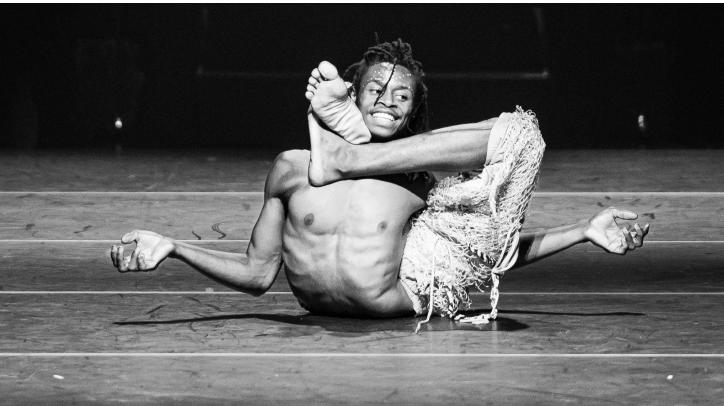


Contortion

Contortion is moving and bending your body in ways that is impossible for almost everybody.

It can be really weird to see and it looks like it would hurt a lot.

The people who do this can do it because they have very flexible bodies and have practiced a lot. It is hard, but it doesn't hurt them.



Sound

During the show, there will be West African rhythm played on a kora (that sounds like an occidental harp) and it is gentle. However, there will also be a lot of percussions on djembés and dunduns. These are also traditional instruments from Guinea but they are intense and they sound very loud.

These are the moments or effects that will be most intense:

- Whenever you see someone arriving with a percussion instrument on stage

Warnings for Loud Sounds

If you are bringing your own ear protection, look out for **artists bringing the drums closer to the front, that means they will start drumming soon.**

Lights

Overall, the lighting is simple. It lights up the stage so it looks like daylight. It is more dimmed for some scenes that are in the evening. When going from one scene to the next, it will be completely dark. Sometimes this happens very suddenly. Sometimes it stays dark for up to 30 seconds because they are moving things around.

There will be no strobes or flashing lights.

Bright colorful lights

There will be different colours changing during different scenes, but they don't flash. It's mostly either orange, white, brights or blue, purple, darker tones.



Spotlights

Sometimes it will feel a little darker when there is a spotlight on one person or two people.



How people react

In this show people in the audience laugh a lot because there are clownish moments.

Sometimes nobody laughs because it's a calm scene with gentle kora music

Sometimes people sing along with the main character when he asks so but it is not mandatory for people to sing.

Sometimes people are amazed and might have reactions (woah!; OMG!; wouh!; clapping hands), especially in a contortion act or a floor acrobatic tumbling act.

SPOILER ALERT :

When we say everything,
we mean everything.

Don't read this unless you want to
know everything that happens.

Everything that happens

At the beginning the curtain is closed and it is dark.
Then we see a lantern coming in between the curtains.
Yamoussa is carrying the lantern, he comes through the curtains.

There is a spotlight on him.
He has a musical instrument called kora.
He will introduce himself, his ancestors and the show.

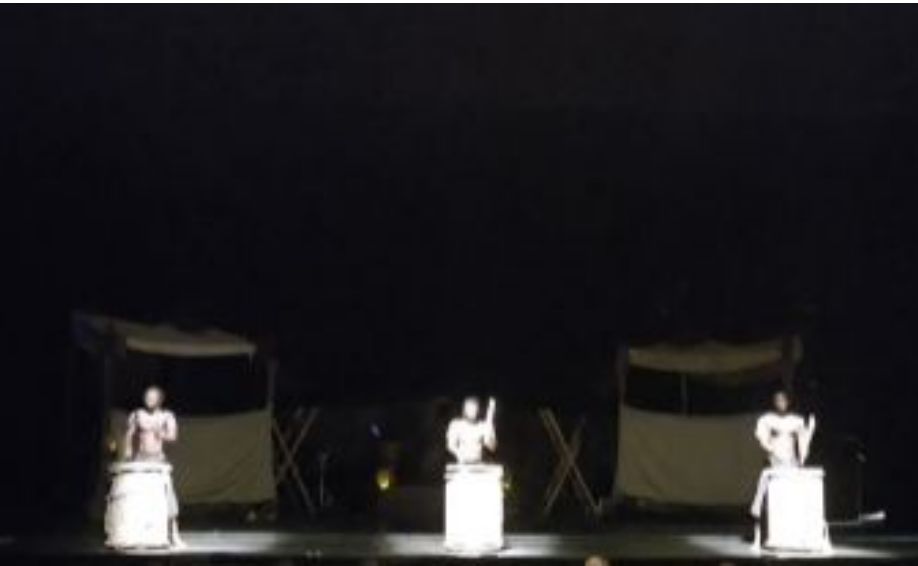


Then the curtains open.
We see the full stage in a warm blue light.
There are people speaking Soussou,
they are working in the village.



Then the drummers come with dunduns, a kind of drum.
Lights are dark and the drummers are in spotlights.

They will sing the rhythm and drum.
Most people think it is very loud.



The three drummers leave and Yamoussa comes with a djembé.

There is a spotlight on him.

He plays, it is less loud than before.



While he plays, some villagers come and have a celebration with dancing and more drumming on the dunduns.

There is a lot going on and a lot of different sounds.

The lights are white and bright.

Then things calm down and Yamoussa plays the kora, he also sings..

It is a calm song.

After this song, Yamoussa starts playing the djembé.

Some villagers come and do acrobatics.
They do a lot of tricks that are very hard
and look very dangerous but they have practiced a lot
and won't get hurt.



Then everyone gathers and dances together.
It is a modern dance inspired by West African dance.

The lights are orange and yellow.



Then a calm melody on the kora with singing plays from the speakers.

A woman sits at the front of the stage with her arms wrapped around her legs. When she starts moving, the lights change and become purple and blue.

She starts moving and bending her body in ways that look impossible. This is called contortion.

Then a man comes and also does contortion. It looks like he is breaking his arm, for example, and he turns his head so far it looks like it is backwards on his body.

They can do this because they have very flexible bodies and have practiced a lot. It is hard, but it doesn't hurt them.

Then another woman joins them and they do contortion and acrobatics together.





When the contortion act is over, Yamoussa comes and talks to everyone in the audience.

He asks everyone to sing along with a funny song. If you don't want to sing along, that is okay.

The lights turn orange and bright white again and the people from the village do more acrobatics.



Then everybody does a dance together.

It's loud and the music from the speakers is rhythmic and energetic.

Then the show is over and all the performers come and bow.

Credits

This Visual Story was created by [Kalabanté Productions](#) with the help of a template created with the input of many consultants, patrons, artists and fellow arts organizations.

Special thanks to the Vancouver International Children's Festival, the members of their Youth Council on Relaxed Performances, Intrepid Theatre, Vancouver Writers Fest, PuSh, the Gateway Theatre and Jake Anthony.

Want to create a visual story for your show, event or venue?
Email Anika Vervecken and she will share the template: access.activator@gmail.com

We welcomes all feedback!