



krannert center

YOUTH SERIES

CELEBRATING
35 YEARS

FESTIVAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN DANCE

FEATURING REAL ACTIONS
PANTSULA DANCE COMPANY



COLLEGE OF
FINE + APPLIED
ARTS

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

South Africa is home to a rich mix of cultural traditions that reflect the vibrant diversity, complex history, and inventive creativity of its nearly 56 million citizens. In this performance, students will experience the Pantsula dance form. Pantsula-style dancing was born of street culture in South Africa's black townships, influenced by the dances of the Sotho people and by American jazz and hip-hop, and inspired by everyday events. Real Actions Pantsula, founded in 1992 by Sello Modiga in Orange Farm Township near Johannesburg, features a diverse young troupe dedicated to education and social justice alongside their phenomenal skills as performers.



This season we invite school communities to explore the performing arts through a selection of topics that reveal the **IMPACT** of the Arts for Youth.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTS | PRODUCTION
MEANING AND CULTURAL CONTEXT | CAREERS
ART-MAKING AND CREATIVITY | TRAINING**

IMPACT FOCUS: M IS FOR MEANING

WHAT IS PANTSULA?

Pantsula dance developed in South Africa during the Apartheid era. Apartheid was a system set up by the all-white National Party government in 1948 to give power, wealth, and privilege to white citizens, and oppress other races. Under this system many black South Africans were forcibly removed from their communities to live in townships outside of Johannesburg that were assigned to black citizens. Access to jobs, education, voting, and many other aspects of a healthy life were severely restricted or denied to black citizens during the Apartheid time. Pantsula dance developed as a way to express unity and creativity during difficult times. People gathered in public places such as open lots and streets to dance.

Today, many of the problems of poverty and lack of access to education and jobs continue, even though apartheid officially ended in 1994. Dancing is one way that people create something positive in their lives. The dancers of Real Actions Pantsula come together to share their joy in dancing, express their own creativity and power, and share their culture with people around the world.

During the Youth Series performance you will see dances set in many different scenes, from a train platform to a "shebeen" or club where people relax after work. Other numbers feature traditional South African dances, individual stunt choreography, or the musical skills of the DJ.

QUESTIONS FOR AFTER THE PERFORMANCE:

How did the dance connect to the music?

Think of a dance or a moment that caught your attention. What was going on? How did you feel while watching it?

What parallels do you see between the development of hip-hop in the United States and Pantsula in South Africa?



EXTREME TEAMWORK

One of fans' favorite Real Actions Pantsula dances is a choreographed number that uses soccer balls! It takes concentration, precision, and teamwork to coordinate all of the movements. Grab a few soccer balls or kick balls and head to the playground or gym for these activities!

CIRCLE TIME

Form circles of 8-10 students. Start with one ball. The first student should call out the name of another and then gently toss the ball to that student. See how long you can go without a drop! Once you have the hang of it, introduce another ball to the game! What skills did you have to use to keep the balls from dropping?

All set? Now add some hip-hop or house music and see if you can keep your moves on the beat!

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Choose a leader to begin. The leader gets to pick any movement they wish (tap their head, march, jumping jacks, wavy arms, a sound) and the rest of the class must mimic them. Take turns with different leaders or incorporate the soccer balls into the game if you have enough. What senses do you need to mimic someone else? What happens if two people try to lead at the same time? Can two leaders coordinate their movements?

Ready for the next step? Have a leader make up a sequence of moves, and then practice your sequence until you can all do it together. Working with music that has a strong beat will help you stay together.

TEACHER NOTE
Need an easy source for some great tunes? We like local DJ KamauMau at www.mixcloud.com/kamaumau.

ON THE MAP

THE REAL ACTIONS PANTSULA DANCE COMPANY COMES FROM . . .



ORANGE FARM TOWNSHIP, SOUTH AFRICA

ORANGE FARM TOWNSHIP



THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG



TRADITIONAL SOTHO HOUSE



Festival of South African Dance Featuring Real Actions Pantsula Dance Company

Columbia Artists
Tim Fox, manager

Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 10am

Foellinger Great Hall
Approximately 60 minutes
Recommended for grades 2-12

Campaign for Young Audiences

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Festival of South African Dance

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LOCAL CONNECTIONS

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Krannert Center has partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to *The Festival of South African Dance* on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

www.champaign.org | www.urbanafreelibrary.org

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

SPURLOCK MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Drop in for a self-guided interactive visit before or after the performance. Museum guides in each room will offer hands-on object studies and gallery-based challenges for students, tied to the themes of *The Festival of South African Dance*. The Spurlock Museum has a variety of resources for classroom use. Contact Kim Sheahan at ksheahan@illinois or 217.244.3355 for information on available artifacts and lesson plans.

KRANNERT ART MUSEUM

Explore art from across the African continent at the Krannert Art Museum through *Encounters: The Arts of Africa*. Head to kam.illinois.edu to schedule your tour online.