

Oronde S. Sharif,
**Artistic Director Shona Sharif African Dance and
Drum Ensemble**

Lecturer II, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of Africana Studies
University of Pittsburgh
4142 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
senegal1@pitt.edu

EDUCATION

1997: MSW, Community Organizing, School of Social Work,
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

1995: BA, Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2018 - Present Lecturer II

2000 - Present

- **AFRCNA 0212: WEST AFRICAN DANCE**

This course is designed to develop an understanding and eliminate stereotypes of African dancing by introducing, at a basic level, specific ethnic dance forms of West Africa. These include the Yoruba of Nigeria, Akan of Ghana, and the Mande people of the Senegal-Gambia area. The dance cultures will be introduced from theoretical and aesthetic perspectives based upon historical material, videotapes illustrating the various ethnic dance forms and guest artists.

- **AFRCNA 0352: AFRICAN-AMERICAN DANCE**

This course is designed to analyze and explore, at an introductory level, the African American Experience influence on dance from an anthropological, sociological, and historical perspective. In addition, this course will examine various styles and pioneers and their relationship between the dance world and American society. African American Dance will consist of two components: a) Introduction to the history, basic concepts and theories of African American Dance; b) Exploration of the evolution of Black Dance in America; and c) the role and impact of African-American dance in society.

- **AFRCNA 1353: COMPARATIVE DANCE EXPRESSION**

The purpose of this course is to examine how historical and cultural factors influence our perceptions of dance expression. Particular attention will be given to how personal histories, cultural identity, social values including race, class, and gender, and spiritual beliefs impact our ideas about dance. This comparative study will also explore the cultural aesthetic of dance and how it transforms culturally. These objectives will be accomplished through lectures, video, guest speakers, and dance.

- **AFRCNA 1555: AFRO-CARIBBEAN DANCE** This course is designed to examine, at a higher level, dance influences of West Africa on the islands in the Caribbean and parts of Latin America. In this course, students will examine 3 aspects of dance in the Caribbean - Historical, Religious, and Sociological. In addition, students will develop an understanding of and participate in techniques devised by Katherine Dunham.



PROFESSIONAL DANCE TRAINING

Afro-Caribbean Dance: Dunham Technique - Shona Sharif, Lecturer, The University of Pittsburgh, PA
1986 to 1999

Dunham Technique - Ron Hutson, Lecturer, Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA
1992-1995

Shango – Ronald K. Brown, Artistic Director Evidence Dance Company, New York, NY
2003

Shango – Antoinette Connell, African and Caribbean Dance Instructor, Washington, DC
2004

West African Dance: Shona Sharif Lecturer, The University of Pittsburgh, PA 1992-1999

Nigeria – Ajaja (Ethnic group: Yoruba)

Liberia – Funga Alafia (Ethnic group: Pele)

Ghana – Gota (Ethnic group: Ewe)

Kye Kye Koolay (Ethnic group: Fanti)

Eya Eya (Ashanti)

Mali – Mandiani (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Djondon (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Lamba (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Guinea – Doundounba (Ethnic group: Malinke)

Sorsornet (Ethnic group: Sousou)

Coucou (Ethnic group: Baga)

Senegal – Lenjengo (Ethnic group: Mandinka)

Thiosanne (Ethnic group: Wolof)

Assane Konte, Artistic Director, KanKouran West African Dance Co. Washington, DC 1997-Present

Djembe Drum dances

Balanta (Ethnic group: Balanta)

Dansa (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Djelidon (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Djinafoly (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Djondon (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Domba (Ethnic group: Malinke)

Doundbounba (Ethnic group: Malinke)

Koteba (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Mandiani (Ethnic group: Malinke)

Markadon (Ethnic group: Maraka)

Monsoke (Ethnic group: Bambara)

N'gri (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Soli (Ethnic group: Malinke)

Sounou (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Take (Ethnic group: Bambara)

Wolossodon (Ethnic group: Wolosso)

Wango (Ethnic group: Toucouleur)

Yella (Ethnic group: Toucouleur)

Bougararbou and Kutiro Drum dances

Bougarabou (Ethnic group: Jola)
Chingo (Ethnic group: Mandinka)
Ekonkon (Ethnic group: Jola)
Faro (Ethnic group: Jola)
Gnaka (Ethnic group: Mandinka)
Lenjengo (Ethnic group: Mandinka)

Sabar Drum Dances

Bara M'baye (Ethnic group: Wolof)
Kaolack (Ethnic group: Wolof)
Nyari Garong (Ethnic group: Wolof)
Serer (Ethnic group: Serer)
Thieboudien (Ethnic group: Wolof)
Yaba (Ethnic group: Wolof)

Nimba Diallo, Les Ballet Maliens 2003

Sounou (Ethnic group: Bambara)
N'gri (Ethnic group: Bambara)
Marakadon (Ethnic group: Maraka)

Aly Sylla, National Ballet of Guinea, 1993-1995

Djembe Drum Dances

Kassa (Malinke)
Doundounba (Malinke)
Sinte (Ethnic group: Baga)
Yamama (Ethnic group: Manding)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

- September 2019** 36th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
Dance Classes/Workshops: Jola Dance, Sabar
Instructors: Marie Basse-Wiles, Assane Konte
- September 2018** 35th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
Dance Classes/Workshops: Sabar -
Instructors: Babacar MBaye, Assane Konte
- September 2017** 34th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
Dance Classes/Workshops: Wango Dance, Sounou
Instructors: Idy Ciss, Mariamma Basse
- September 2016** 33th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
Dance Classes/Workshops: Yammama Dance
Instructors: Aboubacar Camara
- September 2015** 32th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
Dance Classes/Workshops: Lenjengo Dance, Wolossodon
Instructors: Babacar Ndiaye, Souleymane Sana
- September 2014** 31th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
Dance Classes/Workshops: Bougarabou Dance
Instructors: Marie Basse-Wiles

September 2013	30 th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Ngri Dance Instructors: Marie Basse-Wiles
September 2012	35 th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Wango Dance, Sounou Instructors: Idy Ciss, Mariamma Basse
September 2011	28 th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Kutiro Dance, Bougarabou Dance Instructors: Marie Basse-Wiles, Assane Konte
September 2010	27 th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Mandiani Dance, Sabar Instructors: Mounmounatou Camara, Babacar M'baye
September 2009	26 th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Mandiani Dance, Dansa Instructors: Babacar N'diaye, Mariama Basse
September 2006	23 rd Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Wango Dance, Sorsonet Instructors: Idy Ciss, Youssouf Koumbassas
September 2005	22 nd Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Kutiro Dance, Balanta Instructors: Marie Basse-Wiles, Mariama Basse
September 2004	21 th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC Dance Classes/Workshops: Kutiro Dance, Doundounba Instructors: Marie Basse-Wiles, Youssouf Koumbassa
May 2004	Dance Classes/Workshops: Toucouleur dance, Sabar dance, djembe drumming Instructors: Members of the Senegalese National Ballet Company Master, Dakar Senegal
May 2003	Dance Classes/Workshops: Mali Dance – Sounou, Wollosodon, Marakadon, N'Gri Instructors: Nimba Diallo, Dakar Senegal
January 2002	International Association of Blacks in Dance Annual Conference, San Diego, CA
June 2000	3 rd Annual African Dance and Drum Festival, Tallahassee, FL Master Class/Workshop: Guinea
June-September 2000	Apprenticeship Recipient, Pennsylvania Council for the Arts Instructors: Assane Konte, KanKouran West African Dance Co. Master Dance Classes/Workshops/Training, Washington, D.C

Dec. 1999 - Jan. 2000 Master Class/Workshop: Senegalese
Instructors: Members of the Senegalese National Ballet Company Master Dance
Classes/Workshops, Dakar, Senegal

June 1997- 1999, Master Class/Workshops: Senegalese-Mandiani and Sabar J
Instructor: Awri McKee, Muntu Dance Co., Chicago, Ill.

November 1997 Master Class/Workshops: Senegalese
Instructor: Chuck Davis, African American Dance Ensemble, Durham, NC

August 1995 Master Class/Workshops: Modern, Jazz
Instructor: Kevin Jeff, Artistic Director Jubilation Dance Co.; Chicago, Ill
2-Week Residency, Choreography,

AWARDS

2019 Men of Excellence, New Pittsburgh Courier
2011 **FAB 40** New Pittsburgh Courier

ACTA Awards

2007 Best Choreography-**Black Nativity**
2006 Best Music-**Black Nativity**
Best Costumes
2004 Best Ensemble Musical-**Black Nativity**
Best Choreography Best Lead Actor
2000 Auberle Association
2001 Voted one of the Top 102 Pittsburgh Thing, Best of Pittsburgh 2001, *In Pittsburgh Magazine*
2002 Family Health Council Hot Pink Pittsburgh 2000 and 2002
2000 Letter of Commendation, Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
2000 Federal Executive Board Pittsburgh
2000 Family Health Council Hot Pink Pittsburgh
2000 Auberle Association

CREATIVE ACTIVITY AND PROJECTS:

1993-Present: SHONA SHARIF AFRICAN DANCE AND DRUM ENSEMBLE

- Nativity: A Christmas Gift
- *Black Nativity*
- *KUUMBA Workshop*
- Workshops/Lecture Demonstrations
- *Swing Low, Sweet In The Mornin'*
- *African Fables*
- *Freedom Expressed*

2000-Present: KanKouran West African Dance Company-Performer

2005 - Present: Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT) - Instructor

2014-2017 Magic in the Middle, Teaching Artist, Penn Hills Schools District, Penn Hills, PA

2010-13 Freedom School, Teaching Artist, Pittsburgh, PA

2010-2012 Culturally Responsive Arts Education, Pittsburgh Public Schools

2008 *Flight*, The City Theatre, Choreographer, Pittsburgh, PA

2007 *Sarafina!*, Kuntu Repertory Theatre, Choreographer/Performer, University of Pittsburgh

2004 *Peace Movement*, Xpressions Dance Co. Pittsburgh, PA

2000 *Swing Low, Sweet in the Mornin'*, Salem University, Salem, WV

2000 *African Fables*, Kingsley Association, Pittsburgh, PA

CONFERENCES/PANELS/PRESENTATIONS

2020 "The History of Juneteenth", University of Pittsburgh, Equipoise Presents: Juneteenth - A Prelude to True Equity and Social Justice at Pitt

2020 Gullah Geechee conference, Charleston, South Carolina

2020 *Circle of Praise Black to the Future: A Festival of Art, Social Justice and Dreaming*, the African American Alumni Council, the Africana Studies Department, the Center for African American Poetry and Poetics, Equipoise, the Jazz Studies Program, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement, 1Hood Media and the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. The program is part of the Pitt Year of Creativity. Panelist, Performer, Department of Africana Studies, Jazz Studies, University of Pittsburgh and the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

2020 *Black to the Future: A Festival of Art, Social Justice, and Dreaming*, Panelist, the African American Alumni Council, the Africana Studies Department, the Center for African American Poetry and Poetics, Equipoise, the Jazz Studies Program, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement, 1Hood Media and the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. The program is part of the Pitt Year of Creativity. Panelist, Performer, Department of Africana Studies, Jazz Studies, University of Pittsburgh and the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

2020 *Midnight Bantaba*, International Association of Blacks in Dance, Philadelphia, PA

2019 "The History and Connection of the Drum, Culture and Aesthetics to Juneteenth" August Wilson Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2019 *Circle of Praise*, 36th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC

2018 *The Spirit Lives On*, 35th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC

2018 Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, Grants Panel, Pittsburgh, PA

2017 *BOLO: Bridge of Togetherness*, 34th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC

2017 Discussant, Symposium on Embodiment and Relationality in Religions of Africa and its Diasporas University of Pittsburgh

2015 *Mandinka*, 32nd Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC

2014 Heinz Endowments/The Pittsburgh Foundation Advancing the Black Arts in Pittsburgh Grants Panel, Pittsburgh, PA

- 2014** *Sounougal: Our Boat*, 31st Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2013** *Kounta Balamoure*, 30th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2012** *Rhythm of the Drum*, featurette, WQED Horizon's Television Show
- 2011** *The Legends*, 28th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2010** *Circle of Praise: Blessings*, 27th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2009** *Bolo Moyo Dolle*, Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2008** *The Spirit Lives On*, 25th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2006** *Visit Casamance*, 23rd Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2005** *Koniaya (The Wedding)*, 22nd Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2004** Day of Dance-Penn St. Altoona University, Altoona, PA
- 2004** *Circle of Praise*, 21th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2004** 4th Annual Nguewel Festival, Dakar Senegal
- 2003** *Bantaba*, 20th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2002** *A Visit to Africa*, 19th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2001** *Koyoboyo*, 18th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC
- 2000** *Boka Ndeye*, 17th Annual African Drum and Dance Conference, Washington, DC