

Hopkins Center for the Arts

at Dartmouth

presents

Sankofa Danzafro *The City of Others*

Funded in part by the Wetzel Family Fund for the Arts, the Melville 1960 and Leila Straus Fund, the Nathan W. Pearson 1932 and Sons Fund, and the Amy and Henry Nachman Jr. 1951 Fund for VPA in Dance

Thu & Fri • Sep 26 & 27, 2019 • 7:30 pm
The Moore Theater • Dartmouth College

Program

Direction and ChoreographyRafael Palacios
Light and set design Álvaro Tobón
Costumes conceptRafael Palacios
Tour managerJimena Alviar

Performers Yndira Perea Cuesta, Feliciano Blandón Salas,
Juan José Luna Cocha, Diego de los Rios Naranjo, Andrea Bonilla Ospina,
Camilo Perlaza Micolta, Liliana Hurtado Hinestroza, Armando Viveros Mosquera,
Sandra Vanesa Murillo, Yeison Moreno Córdoba.

Music credits

Rumberólogo

Composed by Lino Agua Limpia and Harrison Palacios, performed by Explosión Negra, used with permission by Gotok Music LLC

Remolinos

Composed by José Velásquez, performed live by Juan José Luna Cocha, used with permission by Codiscos S.A.S

Mañana, tarde y noche

Composed and performed live by Juan José Luna Cocha

Andando pela Africa

Composed by Fernando Barba, performed by Barbatuques, used with the permission by MCD World Music

Spring Waterfall

Composed by Phillip Glass and Foday Musa Suso, performed by Jail Kunda, used with permission by Foday Musa Suso

Omgjya switch 7

Composed by Richard D James, performed by Aphex twin, used with permission by Warp Records

Riding the waves

Composed by Emmerson, McNally, O Lionáird, Russell, Brown, performed by Afrocelt sound system, used with permission by Real World Records

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Approx duration: 60 minutes, no intermission

Program Notes

Most cities are inhabited by people of different origins, cultures and ways of understanding the world. In cities, thousands of people coexist in a defined environment, each having its own view of a common reality. In many countries, far from being a source of progress, cities can be a place of hostility, loneliness and discrimination. *The City of Others* was created from our personal experiences of racism and oppression in our daily lives in Medellín, Colombia.

The City of Others includes traditional Colombian songs and rhythms, such as the Vallenato from the Atlantic region coastline, and dances, such as the Bullerengue (also from the Atlantic coastline) and the Currulao and Abozao dances from the Pacific coastline.

For life in a metropolis to be a positive space for constructive living and collective communities, I feel it is necessary to embrace the extended family concept prevalent in rural communities: what I own is

for everyone; under my roof, there is room for someone else; if you need me, I am here; I am not the exclusive owner of what surrounds me.

The City of Others examines the lack of opportunities for the many who, for generations, have been marked by ethnic discrimination and social inequality. In Colombia, African diaspora communities and other marginalized peoples have been treated in the same dismissed manner—as second class citizens. In *The City of Others*, these communities claim political and social power, transcending racism and prejudice. This is their city—it is everyone's city.

The City of Others was created in celebration of Colombia's 159th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery and was commissioned by the Mayor's Office of Medellín, Casa de Integración Afrocolombiana, 2010.

—Rafael Palacios, Artistic Director, Sankofa Danza Afro

About the Artists

Sankofa Danza Afro

We dance, more than to be seen, to be heard!

In Akan, a Ghanaian language, Sankofa means “to return to the root.” More than a word, it is an African philosophy that proposes to know the past as a condition to understand the present; as a way to see the future. This thought has guided the path of the Afro-Colombian dance and music company Sankofa Danza Afro. Founded by Rafael Palacios in 1997 with its home in Medellín, Colombia, Sankofa is dedicated to training and creation in dance as well as interacting with the community. Through the practice of dance, Sankofa's mission is to bridge the gaps between the many African diaspora communities in Colombia—along with other populations whose human rights have been violated. Sankofa's choreographic language searches for the poetics that are at the root of Afro dance, experienced through the frame of today. In this way, Sankofa honors both the traditional and the contemporary. Through

its programs, the company nurtures community mentorship, social awareness and personal growth, and supports the sustainability of local cultures inside of the national dynamics of Colombia.

Sankofa's achievements have been noted with recognitions such as the 2008 National Dance Award to Rafael Palacios for *San Pacho ... Blessed!*; a mention in 2010 by the United Nations as a “good practice of Afro-descendant social inclusion in Latin America” with the cross-cultural collaboration *Steps in the Earth Project* (created with dancers in the Pacific, Chocó and Urabá regions and the Archipelago of San Andrés y Providencia), which resulted in the publication of a book of the same title; and by the Training of Trainers and Danza Viva Program of the Ministry of Culture between 2008 and 2016. Sankofa has a wide repertoire of works and has toured to countries such as Brazil, France, Peru, Spain, Jamaica, Burkina Faso, Canada, Uruguay and China. The company made its “electrifying

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New York debut” (*New York Times*) in the US invited by the Battery Dance Festival in 2015.

Rafael Palacios is a Colombian choreographer, teacher, dancer and researcher of traditional, Afro-contemporary and urban dance. His experience as a dancer in Africa and Europe, studying with Germaine Acogny and Irene Tassemedo has been the basis for the founding of Sankofa Danzafró. His creations explore social and racial inequality, ancestral knowledge and a search for a new place of Afro-Colombian culture in the Colombian society. With a trajectory of more than twenty years, his works for Sankofa Danzafró have been presented in theatres and festivals around the world, showing the diversity of Afro-Colombian dance.

He has been a guest choreographer for the Celebration of the 159 years of Abolition of Slavery, in Medellín, Colombia in 2010 for which he created *The City of Others*. He was also guest choreographer for The Summit of the Americas (Cartagena 2012), Inauguration of the World Games (Cali, 2013), and for the First International Dance Biennial of Cali (Colombia, 2013). In 2008 he received the National Dance Award from the Ministry of Culture with the work *San Pacho ... Blessed!*.

Palacios has been a social activist through dance and has been committed to education of Afro-descendent youth since he started his work in Colombia. *Steps on Earth*, his project of knowledge exchange among black communities in Colombia, received mention of the UN as a good practice of Afro-descendant social inclusion in Latin America (Cali, 2010). In 2018 he received the National Prize for the Arts with his work *The City of Others* awarded by the Universidad de Antioquia.

Palacios is a specialist in epistemologies of the South of CLASCO (Latin American Council for Social Sciences) and is currently getting his master’s degree in education and human rights at the Latin American Autonomous University.

Feliciano Blandón Salas, performer, began training and performing in 1990 with group Novatos de Turbo

for regional performances of dance and music, and as a percussionist of Drums of Urabá in 1993. Later he joined Ballet Folclórico de Urabá, directed by Marino Sánchez (1998). In 2000 he moved to Medellín and joined various artistic projects such as: Danza Caracumbé (2001), Corporación Barrio Comparsa (2001), Grupo Danzas por Colombia (2002), Musical Group Canto Arena (2003) and Grupo Musical Velé (2003). He has been a member of Sankofa Danzafró since 2005. He was awarded with the EDIT School Burkina Faso Internship (2009) among other recognitions.

Andrea Bonilla Ospina, performer, is an Afro-Colombian dancer, teacher and researcher. She holds a BFA in Performing Arts from the Universidad Distrital-ASAB in Colombia. She has been awarded the Ministry of Culture scholarship with her research “Afro-contemporary dance, representing new thinking” (2008), the ICETEX Young Talents in the Arts Scholarship to travel to Argentina (2010), and “Colombia–Cuba dance” Internship by the Ministry of Culture of Colombia (2014). In 2016, she began her master’s studies in Intercultural Studies at the Universidad del Cauca. Currently, she is a teacher at the College of Integrated Arts at Universidad de Valle and at Javeriana University of Cali.

Diego León de los Ríos Naranjos, performer, has been a member of Crew Peligrosos since 2004 in the form of B-boying (Break Dance). He was part of the first generation of the school 4 Elements Skuela where he now serves as an instructor. He is a student and practitioner of hip hop culture and has stood out for his own style. Since 2010 he has been a member of Sankofa Danzafró, where he researches the dialogue between urban dance, traditional Afro-Colombian dances, and different African dances with Afro-contemporary dance as its axis.

Liliana Hurtado Hinestroza, performer, is currently studying sociology at University of Antioquia. She is a company member of Sankofa Danzafró and has participated in national and international festivals. She is also a member of the itinerant school of training

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in gender with emphasis on Afro-descendant black women and the diaspora. She has attended training workshops in different dance techniques such as Colombian traditional dance of the Atlantic coast with Wilfran Barrios and traditional dance of the Pacific coast with Ninosca Salamandra, Afro-contemporary dance with Rafael Palacios, as well as traditional African dance with Gorsy Edú of Guinea Conakry.

Juan José Luna Coha, performer, born in the municipality of Arboletes, Antioquia, is a musician and performer of folk instruments of the Colombian Caribbean coast. He has been a member of Sankofa Danzafro since 2012 with whom he has attended national and international festivals (China, Jamaica, Canada, United States, Peru). Thanks to that tour, he was invited to the Barro Project in Medellín in 2012. In 2013 he joined Wangari Dance Company, directed by Yndira Perea, and the musical group Black Explosion, directed by Harrison Palacios.

Yeison Moreno Córdoba, performer, has been a performer of traditional dance from Chocó since 2000. He has trained under the baton of recognized teachers of the region, which allowed him to participate in various artistic events nationwide. During 2013 to 2016, he was part of recovery and cultural preservation process of the “San Pacho” Franciscan festivities in Quibdó. He attended the workshop on Strengthening, Innovation and Artistic Creation, aimed at cultural managers, by Roberto Salazar Segura. and the Diploma in Pedagogy, Creation and Culture of Dance, taught by the Ministry of Culture. He joined Sankofa Danzafro in 2017.

Sandra Vanessa Murillo Mosquera, performer, was born in Medellín (Antioquia) where she graduated high school with an emphasis in graphic design technique at the Blanquizar Educational Institution. She is currently studying early childhood care at Nafõem Polytechnic. In the city of Medellín she has been part of numerous dance groups such as: Afro Power, La Unión Master, Afrokiamba, Dance Network of Medellín 2014 - 2017, and Wangari Dance Company participating as a dancer for the Flower Fair and the Festival of Myths and Legends.

She is a company member of Sankofa Danzafro (2017–2019) and has participated in national and international events performing *The City of Others*. She was part of the dance cast for *Crew Peligrosos Sinfónico*.

Yndira Perea Cuesta, performer, was born in Quibdó, Chocó. In 1997 she met Rafael Palacios with whom she started studying Afro-contemporary technique. She is an original cast member of Sankofa Danzafro. In 2009 she was awarded an internship opportunity at the EDIT School Burkina Faso; and in 2015 she was awarded the “Colombia–Cuba dance” Internship by the Ministry of Culture of Colombia (2015). She is the founder and artistic director of Wangari Dance Company.

William Camilo Perlaza Micolta, performer, began his artistic career at the age of 4 at the the Colombian South Pacific Folk School, Tumac, with national and international dance and music performances. Since 2004 he has been part of Sankofa Danzafro, where he began his training in Afro-contemporary technique under the guidance of Rafael Palacios. He has participated as a dancer in various creative processes presented in Colombia and in countries such as France, Spain, Burkina Faso, Jamaica, Brazil, Canada and China. He was awarded with the EDIT School Burkina Faso Internship in 2009.

Jimena Alviar, tour manager, originally from Bogotá, Colombia, holds a MFA in Dance Choreography from Temple University (2009) and a BFA in Performing Arts from the Universidad Distrital-ASAB in Colombia. She has been awarded with the Fulbright Scholarship (2006–2008), the Rose Vernick Choreographic Achievement Award (2009), and IDARTES grants (2011). She is the founder and artistic director of ja dance company. She was assistant to the technical director of the Conwell Dance Theater (2008–2010). She currently works for Elsie Management as Contract Manager. Alviar joined Sankofa Danzafro’s production team in 2017.

Álvaro Tobón, lighting and set designer, is an architect at the National University of Colombia. In 1982 he was awarded a scholarship by the Ministry of

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Culture of France for a degree in theater architecture and theatrical shows assembly at the Paris Opera, and a scholarship for lighting technology at the Comedie Française in 1986. He was the producer of the Pacific Music Festival “Petronio Álvarez” for its first ten

season. He has been the scenic designer Sankofa Danzafró since 2004, for whom he has designed, among other works, *San Pacho iBendito!*, *La puerta*, *The City of Others* and *The Other One Hundred Years*.

Special thanks:

Colombian Ministry of Culture / Ministerio de Cultura de Colombia.

Elsie Management.

Alcaldía de Medellín, Casa de Integración Afrocolombiana.

Mary Lou Aleskie, Karen Henderson & the Hop's staff & crew.

Connecting Artists to the Community

While at Dartmouth, members of Sankofa Danzafró taught a dance master class, visited a classroom, and participated in a public pre-show discussion. For more information about Hop Engagement and Community programs, call 603.646.2010 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu/faculty-staff or hop.dartmouth.edu/community.

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