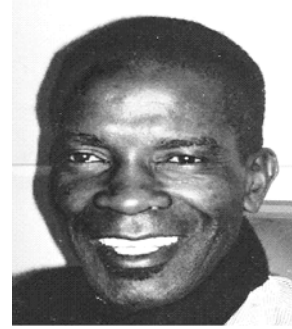


## TITOS SOMPA

Master Dance Teacher,  
Choreographer and Musician



### Artistic Director and Founder

#### The Mbongi Dance Theater Project

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<http://www.mbongivillage.org/titos.html>

<http://www.themagicshop.com/titos.htm>

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Internationally known dance instructor, choreographer, composer, drummer, musician and singer.
- Artistic director, specializing in the cultural arts of the Congo and Central Africa.
- Lecturer on the influence of African culture via the Diaspora on the arts and heritage of the Americas.
- Influential teacher of techniques using the arts to empower individuals in community development.

### INSTRUCTION:

#### *Central African Dance and Drum Teacher*

Teacher of traditional dances, songs and drum rhythms from Central Africa at classes throughout the USA.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2007           | <i>Kukundi African Music Camp</i><br>Teacher, organizer and producer, Asheville, NC.  |
| 2005           | Residency and teacher training, teaching and performance,<br>Foundation for Art and Music in Elementary Education, Inc. ("FAME"), MI. |
| 2004 - present | <i>Spirit of the Congo Camp</i><br>Teacher, organizer and producer, Ann Arbor, MI.  |
| 2004 - present | Residency<br>Oakland University, Rochester, MI.   |
| 1997 - present | <i>Bantu Camp</i><br>Co-founder and instructor, multi-ethnic dance and drum workshop, Santa Fe, NM.                                   |
| 2005           | <i>African Dance Conference</i><br>Teacher and presenter, Debbie Allen Dance Academy, Los Angeles, CA.                                |
| 2005           | <i>African Dance Conference</i><br>Teacher and presenter, Harlem YMCA, New York, NY.  |
| 2004 - 2005    | Residency<br>Albion College, Department of Dance, Albion, MI.   |
| 2002           | Residency<br>Williams College, Department of Dance, Theater & Music, Williamstown, MA.  |
| 2001-2002      | <i>Introduction to Ngoma</i><br>Residency, University of Michigan, International Institute, Ann Arbor, MI.                            |

- 2000 Residency  
University of New Mexico, Department of Dance, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2000 Instructor  
Morning Physical Education Class, Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 1990-1998 *Yo Puedo Migrant Education Program*  
Workshop leader teaching leadership, community development and self-esteem, to migrant high school students Salinas, CA
- 1990-1991 *Discover Dance Program*  
Dance instructor for children and adults in multi-residency program, sponsored by the Tandy-Beal Company, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1987-1999 Organizer and presenter of African history and culture series to elementary and middle school students, through the California Artists-in-the-School Program. Monterey, Santa Cruz and Oakland County Public Schools, CA
- 1986 - 2000 *NLP Business Executive Seminars*  
Dance Instructor, performer and lecturer for international attendees of Neuro-Linguistic Programming conferences held at locations throughout the USA.
- 1986-1988 Dance Instructor  
Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA.
- 1985 *Lisangua Ya Bato Annual Summer Ethnic Dance Camp*  
Co-founder and Instructor for intensive camp programs emphasizing traditional African music, dance, and folklore; Kingston, NY.
- 1982 - 1998 *Congolese Dance and Drum Workshop*  
Co-founder and Instructor for the longest-running residential ethnic music and dance workshop in the USA, Nevada City, CA.
- 1980 - 1998 *Omega Institute*  
Instructor, African dance and music for international participants, Rhinebeck, NY.
- 1979 - 1980 *Naropa Institute*  
Instructor, traditional African dance, music and folklore, Boulder, CO.

#### **WORKSHOPS PRESENTED:**

- 2002 - present *University of VeraCruz, Xalapa, Mexico*  
Two week dance and drum workshop; Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.
- 1999 - 2000 *Maui Cultural Center*  
Dance and Drum workshop, Maui, HI.
- 1997 *Duke University*  
Master dance class, Durham, NC.
- University of North Carolina*  
Dance and drum classes, Greensboro, NC.
- Hayti Heritage Center*  
Master dance and drum classes, Palo Alto, CA

## **ARTISTIC DIRECTION:**

- 1999                    “*Liyanja*” - a Congolese legend.  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 1987 - present        *Mbongi Dance Theatre Project, Inc.*  
Founder and artistic director for non-profit arts educational organization.
- 1988 - 1994          *Spirit of Africa*  
Producer of annual African arts and cultural extravaganza featuring international dance and music performances, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1983 - 1986          *Fua Dia Congo Dance Company*  
Choreographer and performer, Oakland, CA.
- 1972 - 1983          *Tananwa Dance Company*  
Founder and Director of the first U.S. Congolese Dance Company, New York, NY.

## **PRODUCTIONS:**

- 2007                    “*Andrew Jackson and the Shaping of American History*”: Film soundtrack.  
(with flautist R. Carlos Nakai.) KCET Los Angeles, directed by Carl Byker.
- 2006                    “*New Heroes*” CD and soundtrack: Featured musician.  
Oregon Public Broadcasting and Malone-Grove Productions, directed by Robert Redford.
- 1997                    “*Mbongi*” CD: Co-producer, musical arranger and musician.  
Magic Shop Studio, San Francisco, CA.
- 1990                    “*Matondo*” Audiocassette tape featuring music and songs by Sompa Productions.  
Magic Shop Studio; San Francisco, CA.
- 1983                    “*Children of the Congo*” Video production. Creator, producer and director.  
Nevada City, CA.
- 1978                    “*From Tradition to the New African World*” Sound recording. Composer and performer.  
Vanguard Records, New York, NY.
- “*Road to Rome*” Choreographer for a NYU production, directed by James Earl Jones. New  
York, NY.
- “*Yao*” LP recording: traditional and original composition.  
Vanguard Records, New York, NY.

## **PERFORMANCES:**

- 2007                    Performer, African World Festival, Detroit, MI.
- 2006                    Performer, Winter Olympics, Italy.
- 2005 - present        Co-director of Biakuye, African jazz, MI.
- 2005                    Recording project with Chico Freeman.
- 2002                    “*Blissfest*”, Folk music festival, Traverse City, MI.

- 2001 *Inaugural Celebration*  
Center for World Performance Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 1999 *REJN Annual Conference*  
Regional Economic Justice Network, Atlanta, GA.
- First Nite Monterey*  
African High-life band at Millennium New Year's Festival, Monterey, CA
- 1998 *International Film Festival*  
Music video entry of composition "Trail of Tears" from Mbongi CD, Asolo, Italy.
- 1992 12 City Tour of Japan
- 1991 *Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art*  
Monterey, CA.
- 1988 - 1994 *Spirit of Africa Festival*  
Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1972 - present Toured the USA accompanying renowned artists including Sun Ra, Cecil MacBee, Leon Thomas, Ahmad Jamal, Chico Freeman, Olu Dara, Hamiett Bluett, Eddie Jefferson, Beaver Harris, Grayson Mancour III, Ann Miller, and Louis Hayes.

#### **AWARDS:**

- 1996 Ethnic Dance Award from *Dance Giant Steps* dance magazine, New York, NY.
- 1991 Award of Recognition, United Artists "Peace Day", Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1990 Award of Recognition for Artistic Excellence,  
Santa Cruz Ethnic Arts Network, Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1988 Mayor's Proclamation of the week of May 16-22, 1988 as the "Spirit of Africa Week",  
Santa Cruz, CA.
- 1987 Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding contribution to the city of Seaside, CA.

#### **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:**

Drum, kalimba or kissansi (thumb piano), bells and voice.

#### **EDUCATION:**

Bachelor of Arts, Ecole Dramatique D'Arts, Paris, France.

#### **LANGUAGES:**

English (fluent), French (fluent), and Lari, Mounoukoutouba, Lingala and Kikongo (native speaker).