KULU MELE AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM ENSEMBLE is one of America’s premiere performing arts companies, based in Philadelphia, PA. For 50+ years, Kulu Mele has entertained and educated audiences worldwide. Kulu Mele’s highly energetic shows of live music and dance are exquisitely performed on indigenous instruments, in colorful, authentic costumes, by talented and vibrant artists who meaningfully engage with audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Kulu Mele has performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Music Center of Los Angeles, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival and in Guinea and Cuba.

KULU MELE PERFORMANCES

Ogun & the People *NEW: Full company, national and regional touring production — $13,500
Now available as a touring show: a powerful dance-drama about a collective effort to rebalance the world with love. This Afro-Cuban pataki (parable) is traditionally about addressing an impasse, used to imagine ways forward. Timely, thought-provoking, uplifting. 22 performers and dramatic staging. 90 minutes including film, with intermission. Documentary films, books and other materials available for residencies and pre- and post-performance discussion. All ages. All audiences.

Mixed repertoire touring performances — $6,750
We bring you West African and Afro-Cuban dance and drum, African American hip hop and Diasporan creativity. We share collective traditions to mark and enable change—rites of passage, remembrance, praise, mobilization—and name common experience. Kulu Mele’s excellent dancers and drummers perform with heart, spirit, indigenous instruments, and in beautiful traditionally-inspired garb. Shows also include drum segments and hip hop performances to live or recorded music. Kulu Mele performances typically feature a cast of 12 to 15 performers. 60 to 75 minutes, not including intermission.

School & community performances — $3,500
Ideal for schools, libraries, museums, civic- and faith-based organizations, and for private functions such as corporate events. A selection from Kulu Mele’s repertoire, featuring a cast of 7-10 performers. Up to 45 minutes without intermission. Educational and interactive components are available. Out of town performances (20+ miles away) incur additional fees. Discounts possible for Philadelphia public school assemblies.

Residencies and commissions
Available on an individually-negotiated basis. Virtual programs under development. Talk with us!

BOOK KULU MELE TODAY!

Contact Information
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Kulu Mele offers master classes and workshops featuring West African, Afro-Cuban and hip hop dance for adults and children ages 5 and older, for participants of all skill levels.

Up to 30 participants per master class or workshop

30% discounts apply when booked in conjunction with a performance

Enhanced West African or Afro-Cuban Master Class — $1000
60 to 90 minutes, one teaching dance artist, three drummer accompanists

West African Master Class — $750
60 to 90 minutes, one teaching dance artist and one drummer accompanist

Hip Hop Master Class — $500
60 to 90 minutes, one teaching dance artist, recorded music

Drumming Master Class — $500
60 to 90 minutes, one teaching drum artist

IN-SCHOOL, AFTER-SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RESIDENCIES

Afro-Cuban Residency — $8500 / 12 weeks ▶ $5000 / 6 weeks
45 to 60 minutes weekly, one teaching dance artist, three drummer accompanists

West African Residency — $4500 / 12 weeks ▶ $3000 / 6 weeks
45 to 60 minutes weekly, one teaching dance artist, one drummer accompanist

Hip Hop Residency — $2500 / 12 weeks ▶ $1500 / 6 weeks
45 to 60 minutes weekly, one teaching dance artist, recorded music

12-week residencies include an optional Family & Friends Finale Showcase performance by the participating students, accompanied by their Kulu Mele teaching artists

Kulu Mele Travel Requirements
Travel expenses apply for all engagements beyond 25 miles from central Philadelphia. For travel within 75 miles of central Philadelphia, travel expenses may include van rental and/or mileage and toll reimbursement(s). For travel beyond 75 miles from central Philadelphia, travel expenses may include round trip transportation, baggage fees, local ground transportation in Philadelphia and the host community, lodging and per diem at $50 per day, per traveler, including all travel days.
Kulu Mele has toured worldwide for 50+ years performing indoors and out at a wide range of venues from classrooms to major performing arts centers. In recent seasons, Kulu Mele has performed at BAM, The L.A. Music Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and officially for the Pope during his 2015 US tour. Kulu Mele is flexible and committed to meeting presenters’ needs. To ensure the best possible experience for presenters, audiences and its artists, Kulu Mele requests the following:

Access
- Exclusive access to the stage at least three hours prior to the first performance, to load-in, focus lights, perform a tech rehearsal and conduct a sound check.
- Exclusive access to the stage for at least 90 minutes following the final performance for load-out.

Personnel
- A venue representative who is readily available to Kulu Mele from the time of the company’s first arrival, until the time of its final departure.
- Two highly qualified, experienced technical personnel who are familiar with the venue, to include one lighting technician and one sound technician, who are readily available from load-in through strike.

Stage
- Minimum of 30 feet wide by 25 feet deep.

Floor
- A stage floor that is flat, level and free of holes.
- A sprung wood dance floor is strongly preferred.
- A stage floor that is covered with a Rosco, Harlequin or Marley dance floor that is uniformly black, without holes or rosin and covering the entire stage deck, also is strongly preferred.
- Rosco, Harlequin or Marley floor should be laid prior to the arrival of Kulu Mele.
- Marley tape or black gaff tapelines should run from stage left to right (not up and down stage).
- Floor should be properly maintained, and cleaned prior to rehearsal(s) and performance(s).

Equipment
- Presenter should supply standard theatrical lighting equipment.
- If Kulu Mele requests a specific light plot, Kulu Mele will supply it to presenter at least 21 days in advance of performance(s).
- Kulu Mele must agree in writing to any changes to its light plot, once the plot has been approved by the presenter.
- Presenter should supply a professional stereo sound system capable of being heard by all audience members at concert levels.
- Presenter should supply an MP3 player with speakers (boom box) on stage for rehearsals and warm-ups.
- Presenter should provide on stage, two vocal microphones and four stem/instrument microphones, all on stands, and five chairs without arms.
- All equipment rental expenses are the responsibility of the presenter.

Dressing Rooms
- Presenter should provide dressing rooms sufficient to accommodate all performers (approximately eight to 18 artists depending on the show).
- Dressing rooms should be climate controlled, clean and in close proximity to restrooms with hot and cold running water.
- Dressing rooms should be equipped with lights, mirrors, chairs, a professional garment steamer, iron, ironing board, wardrobe rack and hangers.
- Dressing rooms should be reserved exclusively for use by performers (including Kulu Mele and other artists performing on the same program as Kulu Mele).

Security
- Secured storage must be provided for Kulu Mele’s instruments, costumes, equipment, supplies and the personal property of Kulu Mele’s performers (purses, cell phones, etc.).

Climate & Elevation
- Performance, dressing and rehearsal areas should be climate-controlled between 74-78°F at all times.
- Two oxygen bottles should be available to Kulu Mele at all times, at any venues where the elevation is above 5,500 feet.

Hospitality
- Two hours prior to each performance, presenter should provide two approximately liter-sized bottles of water for each performer, chilled and in cooler(s) with ice.
- For performances approximately 50 miles or more from central Philadelphia, presenter must provide a meal for all performers, after all performances.

Parking
- Presenter should provide parking spaces for four Kulu Mele vehicles.

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