



Bheki Ndlovu

Choreographer, Dancer, Musician,
Facilitator, Composer, Director

Growing up in South Africa made me a sensitive, holistic, and resilient artist, with a strong belief in the force of art and an honest conviction that integrating diverse backgrounds in a co-creational process leads to the most transformative outcome. I infuse ancient african knowledge of awarness into my art of dance and music. As my career doesn't fit into structure or common time frames let me introduce myself more story telling alike. The underlined words are linked with websites, that give you more insights.



Early Artistic Life

I obtained my education in Musical Theatre at the Committed Artist Academy of Mbongeni Ngema, Johannesburg.

In this theatrical company I've got the chance to travel the world with the biggest shows of Africa and get mentorship from the greatest choreographers. After years of being part of shows like Sarafina, Lion King, Wizard of Oz, my quest was to grow and take the creative lead role at Sun City. That's where my wings grew from a dancer to a dance captain, from choreographing to directing.

Other honorable and meaningful artistic experiences of mine were the choreographing of scenes in the movie Bafana (The story of Mandela) and creating and spreading a Mandela-Dance after he passed away.





Community Projects and Art Works

In later steps of my career I wanted to fulfill my own visions in meaningful projects. That's how Shikila was born. With this project I trained young dancers and gave them a perspective to trust in their artistic talents. On a national level I designed a community project for the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture of South Africa. I was honored to spread the knowledge and beauty about tribal African dances at University of Cape Town (2014-2016).

As a freelancing choreographer I created performances for the Carnival of Cape Town and for many years now I am the head choreographer and creative director of South African Traditional Music Award.

Besides I was an owner of a dance studio to bring the joy of movement to everybody who was eager to learn. With the purpose of mentoring young artists into their professional lives I founded Ukhamba Academy before I left South Africa.



International Projects

I'm even more grateful I had the chance to go abroad with my own art projects. One of the most educative and transformative experiences was, when I produced and directed the show «Amakhosi» in the year 2008 in Canada.

In Vancouver I was a solo performer and speaker on a panel discussion at the Pan African Arts Culture and Film Festival, 2008.

In the year 2016 I went to Boston for intercultural exchange at the Paige Conservatory of Performing Arts.

Experiences in Switzerland

In 2017 I moved to Switzerland with my family. With assistant from fellow artists I founded a dance school in Zürich.

Soon I got involved into first projects like «Zürich tanzt!» and I coached the Choir of Johanna Hernandez presenting Lion King Music.

In the free artistic scene of Zürich I'm regularly joining Jam Sessions (Jaba Jam Kontiki e.g.) and I'm leading Drum Circles. My heart beats for those collective moments of arts.

Now I engage in cooperations with MAXIM Theatre in Zürich and Schlachthaus in Bern (Rassismus Stammtisch) to pursue the societal discussions about postcolonialism and diversity which are of great passion and importance to me.





References

Following people are glad to give you more information about their experiences in working together with me:

- Johanna Hernandez - Vevey Choir Master - +41 78 603 39 55
- Mo Wa Baile – Berner Rassismus Stammtisch – +41 76 331 15 03
- Simone Frey – Dozentin Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz – +49 76 522 89 94
- Ivor Jones - Director and Choreographer, Sun City - +2714 557 1059/1414
- Adele Blank – International Choreographer – +27824430057
- Mbongeni Ngema - Director and writer of Sarafina and Owner of the Committed Artist Academy – +27825587722
- Chief P. Kote - Cultural Leader and Community Developer in Cape Town – +27727991790



Contact Bheki Ndlovu

- Mühlegasse 35a
6340 Baar
Switzerland
- +41 78 724 54 66
ukhambaacademy@gmail.com
- www.bhekindlovu.org
- Languages spoken: English, Xhosa, Zulu
- Languages learning: Suthu, Setswana, German