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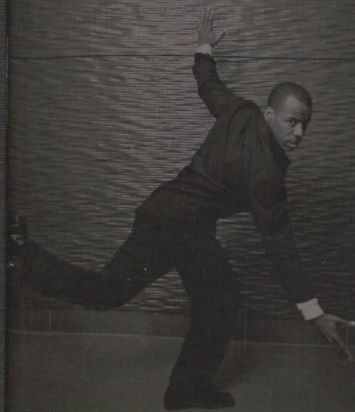
nxt / step

Home Performance Series 2012

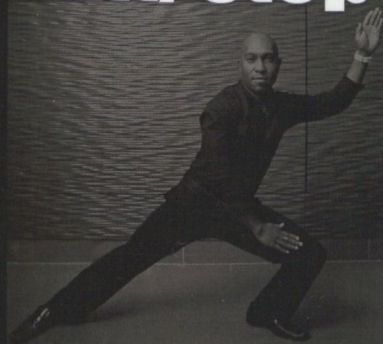


STEP

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nxt/step



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STEP AFRiKA!

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Jacqueline N. Francis, MD - Chair, Board of Directors

Jakari Sherman - Artistic Director

presents

2012 HOME PERFORMANCE SERIES

nxt/step

June 21 - July 1, 2012

Atlas Performing Arts Center

featuring

Mfoniso Akpan

Assata Barton

Christopher Brient

Dionne Eleby

Danielle Glover

Shannan Johnson

Brian McCollum

Joe Murchison

Jakari Sherman

Andrew Vinson, Jr.

with special guests

Kenny Muhammad - The Human Orchestra

DJ RBI

DJ An!kan

Elaine Rudolph

Aneikan Udofia

Dan Covey

Mfoniso Akpan

Lucas Zuniga

Production Manager

Visual Artist

Lighting Designer

Costume Designer

Sound Designer

welcome

Greetings and welcome to the world premiere of **nxt/step** for our 2012 Home Performance Series.

The Series is the finale to an amazing 2011- 2012 season for Step Afrika!

In schools and through residencies across the country, Step Afrika! artists worked with more than 25,000 students, instilling values of teamwork, discipline and commitment that will last a lifetime. Our annual tour of US colleges and universities reached an additional 25,000 students on more than 50 campuses, underscoring the importance of both academic achievement and the arts in college life.

On stage and at home, we launched our first-ever Holiday Show at the Atlas Performing Arts Center. We then partnered with the Washington Performing Arts Society for a sold-out special engagement at Sidney Harman Hall to celebrate Black History Month.

Internationally, we visited countries as diverse as Croatia and Canada. Our week long residency in the Balkans was particularly gratifying as we carried messages of tolerance and understanding to cities still grappling with ethnic conflict and tensions. We toured South America, collaborating with artists in Ecuador and Peru, and most recently served as the only American dance company invited to the 50th Anniversary Independence celebration in Samoa.

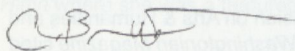
Fall 2011 witnessed the introduction of two fantastic new projects: our groundbreaking collaboration with classical music and international tours to serve American troops and their families. *Symphony in Step*—our joint venture with Maestro Randall Fleishcher and the Anchorage Symphony—made a huge impact on audiences. Look for it at a concert hall near you soon! The Company also joined forces with Navy Entertainment boarding helicopters to entertain the troops at bases in Japan, Guam, Bahrain and Djibouti including a special performance on the deck of the legendary USS Enterprise.

After this whirlwind year, Step Afrika! is thrilled to be at home in the Atlas performing for our amazing friends in DC. **nxt/step** represents a completely new artistic direction for the Company, bringing to the stage a much more urban and contemporary performance. We enjoy the fact that we can be historic and traditional one year and wear a completely different skin in the next.

Tonight (or this afternoon, perhaps!), we will get a personal look at the artists of Step Afrika! as they celebrate & dance the culture, movement, music and memories that mean the most to them.

Thanks again for coming! We look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Sincerely,



C. Brian Williams
Founder & Executive Director
Step Afrika!

meet the artists



C. BRIAN WILLIAMS

(Founder & Executive Director) is a native of Houston, Texas and graduate of Howard University. Brian first learned to step as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Beta Chapter, in 1989. While living in Africa, he began to research stepping, exploring the many sides of this exciting, yet under-recognized, American art form and founded Step Afrika! in 1994. Brian has performed, lectured and taught in Europe, Central & South America, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and throughout the United States. He is co-founder of the Step Afrika! International Cultural Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Brian has been honored as a distinguished alumni by the Howard University Alumni Association and "Nation Builder" by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. He is the recipient of the 2011 Pola Nirenska Award for Contemporary Achievement in Dance, numerous awards from the DC Commission on Arts & Humanities and is featured in *Soulstepping*, the first book to document the history of stepping. The *Washingtonian Magazine* cited Brian as one of "40 Washingtonians under 40" to watch in the years to come. He also received the 2008 Mayor's Art Award for "Innovation in the Arts" and led the company to three Metro DC Dance Awards for "Outstanding New Work", "Excellence in Stage Design/Multimedia" and "Outstanding Group Performance".

Under Brian's leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's newest cultural exports and inspired the designation of Step Afrika! as Washington, DC's official "Cultural Ambassador."



JAKARI SHERMAN (Artistic Director) is an intense performer, percussionist and choreographer, whose stepping experience extends over 15 years. Jakari has served as the Artistic Director of Step Afrika! since 2007 and brought new life to the folkloric tradition of stepping both locally and across the globe. He has coached and choreographed for numerous community organizations, and directed the NBA's first step team.

Jakari is Founder and Director of the non-profit stepping education initiative, Ordered Steps, based in Houston, Texas. As a choreographer

he seeks to create a body of work that is experimental and challenging for both the dancer and the audience. Jakari received a Young Artist Grant Award from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities in 2008, and was a 2009 finalist for "Outstanding Emerging Artist" by the city's prestigious Mayor's Arts Awards. In 2010, Jakari received Metro DC Dance Awards for "Outstanding Emerging Choreographer" and "Excellence in Sound/Composition". Sherman studied Management Information Systems at the University of Houston and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



MFONISO AKPAN (Assistant Artistic Director) has trained extensively in tap, ballet, jazz, modern, African dance and step. While attending the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook, she majored in biochemistry and cultivated her stepping skills as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Mfon has recently toured with the off-broadway show *Hoofin' 2 Hittin'* where she was a featured stepper and dancer.



ASSATA BARTON began dancing at the age of two at Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy in Brooklyn, New York. She is a graduate of the prestigious Fiorello H. LaGuardia School of Music & Art and She has graced the stages of Lincoln Center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Assata is a graduate of Howard University and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



CHRISTOPHER BRIENT, from Houston, TX, performed in his first step show in the ninth grade, and has been addicted to the stage ever since. His love of dance began while attending Texas A&M University, where he taught hip hop classes, served as Step Master for the Potent Pi Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and earned his B.S. in Agricultural Journalism. Chris joined Step Afrika! in 2009.



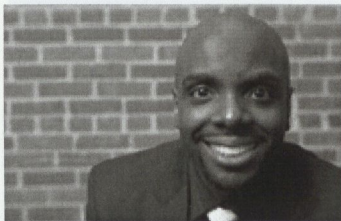
DIONNE ELEBY is a graduate of Elon University where she majored in Musical Theatre and minored in African American Studies and Business Administration. This native of Atlanta, Georgia has performed with the African American Dance Ensemble, Artpark Regional Theatre, and Rotterdam's Lef in Holland. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



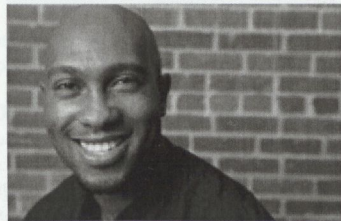
DANIELLE DUBOIS GLOVER comes from Queens, NY. She is a graduate of Howard University where she received her BFA with a concentration in Dance. Under the mentorship of Dr. Sherill Berryman Johnson, she worked with artists such as Ronald K. Brown, Kevin Igea Jeff, Zane Booker and Whitney Hunter. She is a former member of Danco II, DBDT II, and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



SHANNAN E. JOHNSON is a product of Houston, TX where she began stepping as Captain of the citywide championship Mademoiselle Step Team. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Texas A & M University and a Master's of Fine Arts degree from Florida State University. Shannan is the Founder/Co-Director of the MLLES (Mademoiselles) Alumnae, Inc., a Houston-based nonprofit organization. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



BRIAN MCCOLLUM is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Alpha Rho Chapter. As an accomplished stepper, Brian has led step teams to national championships and is a featured artist in *The Human Hambone* and *Soulstepping*. Brian joined Step Afrika! in 2002. He recently received his Master's degree in Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.



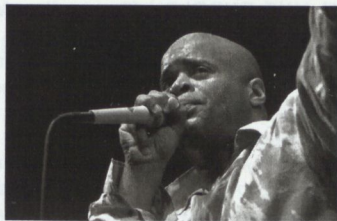
JOE MURCHISON is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma where he holds a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology and Health Science. He has performed and trained with the accomplished Dallas Black Dance Theatre II. Joe is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



ANDREW VINSON, JR. attended Elizabeth City State University, where he earned a BS in Graphic Design and Computer Science with a concentration in Business Administration. He is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Lamda Gamma chapter, where he served as Basileus and Hop Master. Andrew is also a gifted percussionist ranging from jazz, symphonic and marching band styles. He joined Step Afrika! in 2009.



Ron Brown pka (**DJ**) **RBI** is a an artist/entrepreneur working in arts & entertainment (focusing on DJing/turtablism, radio programming & production, stage performance, and music production). A longtime participant in Hip-hop theatre, he currently works with nationally lauded Hip Hop Theatre act, "Hueman Prophets". He works as Co-Producer/DJ of 89.3 FM WPFW's *ILL Street Grooves* and is a principle member of the newly formed DJ collective, Diamond Cutterz.



KENNY MUHAMMAD began his extraordinary march to becoming the Human Orchestra in the summer of 1980 in his Mother's house in Far Rockaway, New York. A 3-time consecutive winner of Showtime at the Apollo in 1991, Kenny has performed all over the world as well as on Much Music, MTV, 30 Seconds of Fame and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. The New York Times hailed Kenny as "One of the World's Premier" Beat Boxers.



DJ AN!KAN has been sharing his talents as a Disc Jockey with the Washington DC area for 10 years, working as a DJ for the areas well known radio stations like WHUR, WPGC and WPFW. He considers it an honor to share the stage with Step Afrika! Fusing hip hop culture and the history rich artforms of stepping and dance. For more information about DJ An!Kan and bookings, email him at koowusu@gmail.com BluePHI!!!!

ELAINE RUDOLPH (Production Manager) Elaine's credits include stage management (compulsive) and lighting design (creative) in theater, music, and dance, for the Kennedy Center, Walnut Street Theater, Actors' Theater of Louisville, Washington Stage Guild, and 12 years at Totem Pole Playhouse. Favorite projects include: *Quilters*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Noises Off*, *Pump Boys & Dinettes*, *Radio Gals*, *A Tuna Christmas*, *Forever Plaid*, and *A Christmas Carol*.

DAN COVEY (Lighting Designer) is dancing with glee to be working for the first time with Step Afrika! Dan's work has been seen at many of the cool theaters locally. His Off-Broadway credits include *Sholom Aleichem* at the The National Yiddish Theatre/Folksbiene, *Beyond Glory* at Roundabout Theatre, and *columbinus* at The New York Theatre Workshop. Dan received Portland, Oregon's *Drammy Award* for work at Portland Center Stage's production of *Sometimes A Great Notion*. In 2001 he received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for his work on *The Tempest* at Folger Theatre.

www.dancovey.com

ANIEKAN UDOFIA (Visual Artist) The 36-year old Udofia achieved local notoriety for his towering murals of Duke Ellington, Fredrick Douglas and George Washington as well as his solo and group live paintings at Washington events sponsored by the likes of Red Bull, Heineken, Honda, Current TV, Timberland and Adidas. He garnered national attention with his caricatures and photorealistic illustrations for urban publications *XXL*, *Vibe*, *Rime*, *Elemental*, *DC Pulse*, *Frank 151* and *The Source*. He further entrenched himself within the visual vernacular of the hip-hop landscape with designs for urban athletic wear companies And 1 and the D.C.-based Native Tongue.

LUCAS ZUNIGA (Sound Designer) is an eclectic visual and musical artist living in the DC metropolitan area. He is currently studying painting at GMU and working extensively as an electrician and sound designer at the Atlas Performing Arts Center in northeast DC. He has recently designed sound for Jazz at the Atlas and also the Washington Savoyards' production of *A Grand Night for Singing*.

PRODUCTION STAFF

John D. Alexander
Associate Lighting Designer

Jeff Porter
Master Electrician

Brian Townsend
Light Board Operator

Lucas Zuniga
Sound Board Operator

Lily Whitman
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The Home Performance Series is generously sponsored by



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track list

01 THE PLAYGROUND

Choreographer: Jakari Sherman

Assistant Choreographers: Shannan Johnson, Brian McCollum and Joe Murchison

Performed by: Mfoniso Akpan, Assata Barton, Christopher Brient, Dionne Eleby, Danielle Glover, Shannan Johnson, Brian McCollum, Joe Murchison, Jakari Sherman, Andrew Vinson, Jr. and Kenny Muhammad

02 GOTTA WORK

Choreographer: Mfoniso Akpan

Assistant Choreographers: Shannan Johnson

Performed by: Mfoniso Akpan, Assata Barton, Dionne Eleby, Danielle Glover, Shannan Johnson

03 LOVE STORY

Choreographer: Danielle Glover and Christopher Brient

Performed by: Danielle Glover and Christopher Brient

04 FIFTH ELEMENT

Composed by: Kenny Muhammad

Performed by: Kenny Muhammad

05 AMERICAN ZULU

Choreographer: Mfoniso Akpan

Performed by: Mfoniso Akpan, Assata Barton, Dionne Eleby, Christopher Brient and Joe Murchison

06 HERE WE GO-GO

Choreographer: Jakari Sherman

Assistant Choreographers: Brian McCollum and Andrew Vinson, Jr.

Performed by: Mfoniso Akpan, Assata Barton, Christopher Brient, Dionne Eleby, Danielle Glover, Shannan Johnson, Brian McCollum, Joe Murchison, Jakari Sherman, Andrew Vinson, Jr. and Kenny Muhammad

07 PARTY WALK

Choreographer: Jakari Sherman

Assistant Choreographers: Step Afrika! Cast

Performed by: Mfoniso Akpan, Assata Barton, Christopher Brient, Dionne Eleby, Danielle Glover, Shannan Johnson, Brian McCollum, Joe Murchison, Andrew Vinson, Jr. and Kenny Muhammad

08 NXT/STEP: RMX

Choreographer: Jakari Sherman

Performed by: Mfoniso Akpan, Assata Barton, Christopher Brient, Dionne Eleby, Danielle Glover, Shannan Johnson, Brian McCollum, Joe Murchison, Jakari Sherman, Andrew Vinson, Jr. and Kenny Muhammad

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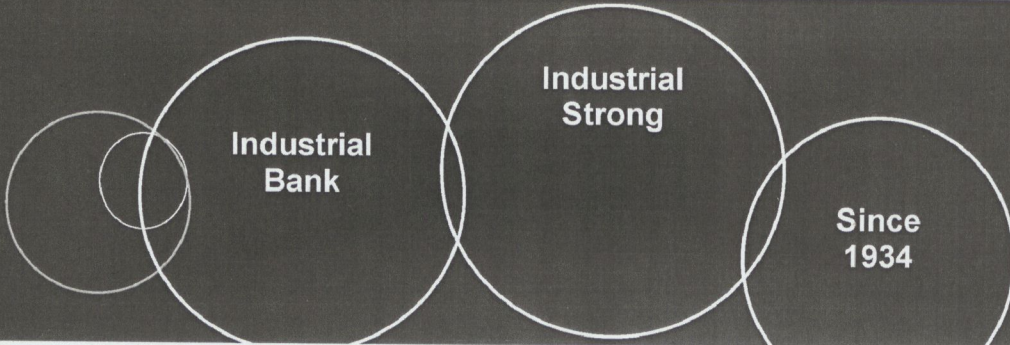
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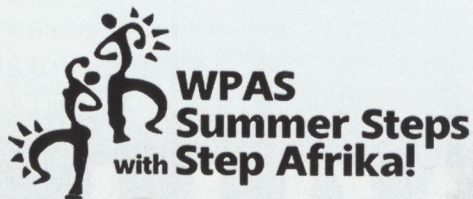
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High energy step routines and other percussive dance styles help enhance leadership and team building skills while preparing for an exciting end-of-camp performance. The application fee is \$35.00.

Tuition Scholarships are available. Healthy breakfast and lunch included.

Call the WPAS camp hotline (202) 533-1865 for guidelines, applications, and more information.

For more information, visit www.stepafrika.org

step up!

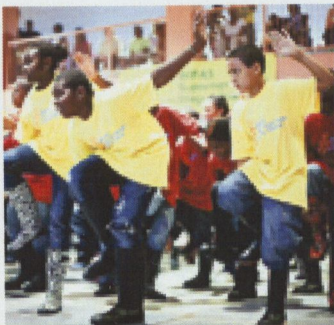


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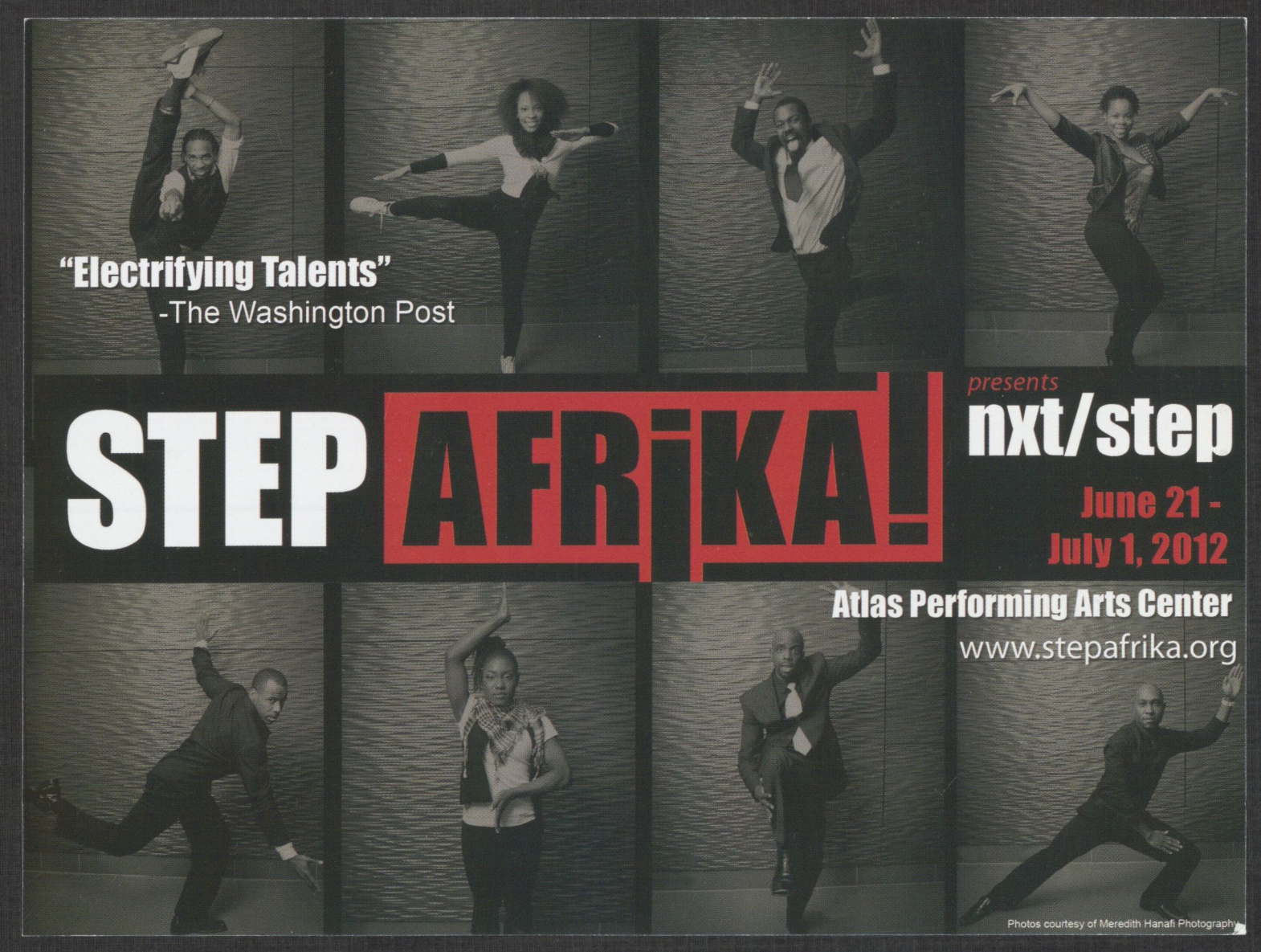
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www.stepafrika.org

Photos courtesy of Meredith Hanafi Photography

STEP AFRiKA!

Step Afrika!
1333 H Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Step Afrika! returns to DC with the world premiere of *nxt/step*: an all new production merging the rhythmic power of stepping with hip hop and the hottest social media trends. Cited by *Washingtonian* as a "showstopper," Step Afrika's world class artists will electrify audiences in a performance featuring the superhuman "beat-boxing" skills of NYC's **Kenny Muhammad** and the pulsating sounds of DC's own **DJ RBI**

Call and purchase tickets **TODAY** at **202.399.7993** (press "2") or visit www.stepafrika.org.

Performance Schedule

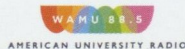
Thursday, June 21	8:00pm	Wednesday, June 27	8:00pm
Friday, June 22	8:00pm	Thursday, June 28	8:00pm
Saturday, June 23	8:00pm*	Friday, June 29	8:00pm
Sunday, June 24	4:00pm	Saturday, June 30	2:00pm
			8:00pm
		Sunday, July 1	4:00pm

Tickets start as low as \$20.00

*VIP Performance & Reception (Saturday, June 23rd): \$125.00

A limited number of VIP tickets are available. Price includes VIP seating plus a post-performance "after-party" featuring drinks and desserts.

MEDIA SPONSORS



Step Afrika! is the critically acclaimed dance company celebrated worldwide for its performance of stepping. Step Afrika! is supported in part by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, Sprenger Lang Foundation, the Harman Family Foundation, Corina Higginson Trust, the Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, corporations such as Verizon, PEPCO, PNC Bank, Comcast, Industrial Bank, Washington Gas and many other generous donors.



**VIVEZ
DANSENCORE...**

**PLUS DE
150 ARTISTES**

**CUBA - ITALIE - FRANCE
ÉTATS-UNIS - CANADA**

**PLUS DE
135 PRESTATIONS**

