Snake *Awake*

Dance & Music live Performance

Participatory. Personal. Political.

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Sinopsis

SnakeAwake is a **ritual performance** with **Afro-fusion live music.**

The performance is based on a Yoruba myth, where the **snake** turns into a **rainbow** - an ancient-modern symbol **celebrating diversity.**

SnakeAwake combines **artistic innovation**, **active audience engagement** and **cultural sensitivity** into a transformative experience that calls for freedom and justice for all.

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Concept

SnakeAwake draws its inspiration from the **Yoruba creation myth** and the **Orishás**, who embody the human aspects of the deities and the divine aspects of humans.

Each dancer embodies a rainbow colour, representing both the spectrum of diversity and the elements of the orishas. The cast features artists from a **variety of cultural backgrounds**, making SnakeAwake an inclusive performance for a diverse audience.

Old **traditional instruments** like Kora, Flute, Balafon are played live by griot musicians.

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Different interpretations of the Yoruba creation myth can be heard across the whole African diaspora. In fact, in many indigenous cultures, from Indian to Greco-Roman, Chinese and Native American, the **snake** is a powerful symbol of diversity and **connection between the material and spiritual worlds**.

„A long time ago, the gods and spirits ruled the heavens, whilst humans and animals ruled the earth. Like oil and water, the two worlds did not mix.

But one day, the serpent decided to unite them, transforming its long body into a rainbow, and thus connecting heaven and earth.

It is said that since then, humans and the divine are eternally one.“

Maïmouna Jallow - Storyteller

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Artistic Vision

In the spirit of the snake as a connector of worlds, SnakeAwake seeks to...

- open up the boundaries between artists and audiences in order to enable **empowerment** and **genuine encounters**
- offer a transcultural and inclusive ritual experience for a new **embodied culture of connection**
- establish a **contemporary animism** in arts and culture beyond "tradition versus modernity"
- contribute to a **paradigm shift** and the de-stigmatisation of West African dances and other **traditional performative art forms**

Format Options

In line with our vision and goals, the performance can optionally be preceded by a ritual dance workshop. The workshop establishes an **embodied sense of connection** with oneself, each other and the space while introducing the archetypal themes and dance moves of the orishas. Afterwards, the participants can join in on parts of the performance, flashmob-sytle, that then seamlessly follows the workshop.

After the performance, a **performative lecture** and an open **audience discussion** can be facilitated by the artists. This serves as **integration and reflection,** both on personal experiences during the performance and the bigger picture of how to adequately approach **African dance forms in the contemporary art world.**

This integrated concept makes SNAKEAWAKE beyond its artistic innovation **personally transformative and educationally valuable.**

Optional:
Introductory Ritual Dance Workshop

SNAKEAWAKE
Ritual Dance Performance

Optional:
Performative Lecture &
Open Audience Discussion

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Staging

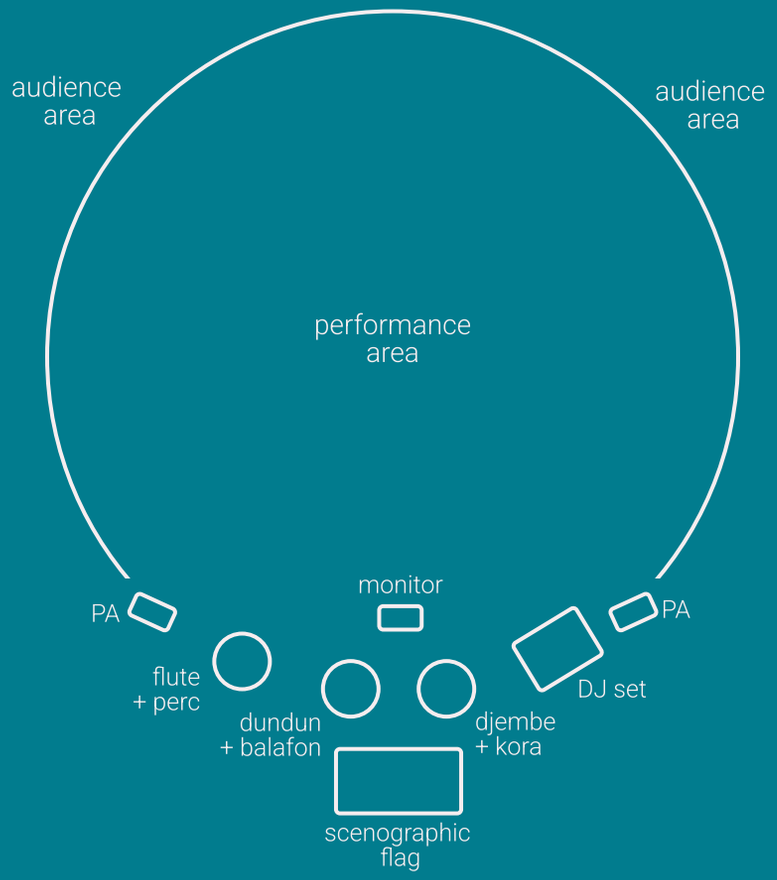
Length 40min (adaptable)

Setting Originally designed as a pop-up show in the streets, SnakeAwake can also be performed indoors for a planned audience, adapting seamlessly to different environments.

Structure The performance is a dynamic blend of dance and music solos, group choreographies, and sung chants. Interactive moments invite the audience to join the performers, forming a circle and creating a communal atmosphere.

Technical Requirements

1. **Space** Flexible (75-800 m²), including performance + audience area. Circular area with a maximum diameter of 20m. Open-air preferred; indoor adaptation including lighting.
2. **Power** Electrical outlet needed (or portable batteries, which we can provide).
3. **Sound System**
   - 2 PA speakers + 1 monitor (or in-ear).
   - DJ: with own laptop + controller (XLR or 1/4" outputs); also serves as sound engineer.
4. **Microphones & Mixer**
   - 2 wireless mics for singers (long-range)
   - Wireless mic for flute.
   - Mixer with 6 channels.
   - Optional mics for percussion (djembe, dumdum, balafon).



Performers

TEMMIE OVWASA
Singerin (Nigeria)

MASSA DEMBELE
Griot Multi-Instrumentalist (Burkina Faso / Germany)

HAMZA PRIMO
Obatalá (Uganda / Germany)

LAURA VECHOT
Oxum (France)

SOLO DIARRA
Griot Multi-Instrumentalist (Burkina Faso / Norway)

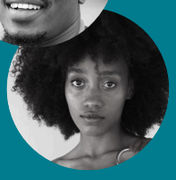
ALI DIARRA
Griot Multi-Instrumentalist (Burkina Faso / Denmark)

CAMILO BUENO DE LEON
DJ and Sound Engineer (Colombia / Germany)

NICOLÁS VIGNOLO
Omolu (Chile / Germany)

MIRIAMBA
Yansã (Spain / Germany)

RODOLPHO SAGBO
Oxossi (Benin / Germany)



YESHIHAREG COMAS
Yemanjá (Ethiopia / Spain)

Creative Team

STEPHANIE BANGOURA
Concept and Artistic Director
(Germany / Brazil / Senegal)

MAïMOUNA JALLOW
Creative Director
(Gambia / Spain)

CARMELITA SIWA
Choreography
(Benin)

MIRIAM DEL BARRIO
Assistant Choreography
(Spain / Germany)

MASSA DEMBELE
Griot, Music coordinator
(Burkina Faso / Germany)

Calculation

SnakeAwake minimum line-up

5 People (2 musicians + 3 dancers)

Ritual dance workshop with live music (4 hours)

Performative ritual (25 min) with participation of all those present

Lecture 'How we translate African animistic dance forms into contemporary practice, or how dance becomes a healing experience' (2 hours)

Total 2000 € (plus travel costs, arrival and departure on the same day)

SnakeAwake complete rainbow

10 People (3 musicians + 7 dancers)

Opening ritual (25 minutes) involving all colleagues attending the event

Two ritual dance workshops with live music (3 hours each)

Ritual concert with the performance 'SnakeAwake' (45 min) and special participation by workshop participants, who then invite all those present to perform.

Lecture and public discussion with key figures from the scene: 'How we translate African animistic dance forms into contemporary practice, or how dance becomes a healing experience' (2-3 hours)

Total 3800€ (plus travel costs and accomodation)

Links / Videos

Trailer

Documentary Film

Full Performance

Contact

Stephanie Bangoura
Artistic Director
+49 151 520 133 06
info@tanz-der-kulturen.de

www.tanz-der-kulturen.de