

# Spirit of Uganda

*Artistic Director & Master of Ceremonies*

**Peter Kasule**

*The Company*

**Brian Aine**

**Solace Ataho**

**Jimmy Ayo**

**Rajab Basoga**

**Joseph Chan**

**Faith Kansiime**

**Daniel Kasata**

**Anthony Kiranda**

**Sharon Kyomugisha**

**George Lukwago**

**Moses Mudiope**

**Yudaya Nabbanja**

**Noeline Nabesezi**

**Faith Ruth Nabukenya**

**Joyce Nagujja**

**Mary Nakabuubi**

**Percy Nakaggwa**

**Donatina Nakimuli**

**Miriam Namala**

**Maria Namanda**

**Brian Odong**

**Mukusin Wasswa**

*Lighting Design by*

**Dan Ozminkowski**

*Produced by*

**Empower African Children**

**Alexis Hefley**, *Founder & President*

[www.EmpowerAfricanChildren.org](http://www.EmpowerAfricanChildren.org)

*The 2012 Spirit of Uganda Tour is presented by arrangement with Lisa Booth Management, Inc.*

**Running Time** One hour and 45 minutes inclusive of one 15-minute intermission.

Program and cast subject to change.

The taking of photographs or other recording in any media is prohibited.

## Director's Note

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Dance and music in Africa are the Breath of Life. The deeper we breathe, the longer we live, and the more diverse and culturally rich we become. The beauty of African dance and music lies in the authenticity of our embedded traditions that are carried from one generation to another. Like our elders and ancestors before us, our creative legacy will be added to this long history when we take our last breaths.

African music is nearly always coupled with some other art form, such as poetry, ritual or dance. All of these art forms are rooted in rhythm. Through interaction and creativity our culture is constantly moving, growing and changing. And together, they reveal the African life and soul.

More than 50 distinct ethnic groups contribute to Uganda's rich culture and while modern borders are fixed, these cultures spill out across traditional territories into neighboring countries. Many of the songs and dances presented here are rooted in individual societies. Some are attached to specific rituals, occasions or ceremonies; others capture everyday activities or express the joys, hopes and sorrows of life and love. All have been transformed, repurposed or newly created by young artists eager to celebrate their origins and add their own voices to this living history.

Welcome to Uganda! - *Peter Kasule, Artistic Director*

## The Program

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**Amaggunju** Long ago a Bugandan king died without a male heir. A pregnant woman from the court was seated on the throne in anticipation that her unborn child might be the next king. An heir was indeed born, and as a king should never cry, 'Amaggunju' was sung and danced to entertain the infant. Originally, this dance was performed by people of the Obutiko clan, and only in the palace; it has since become a well loved Ugandan folk dance.

**Bakisimba** is a traditional dance of the court of Buganda, the largest ethnic group of Uganda. Originally performed only by women, it celebrates the creation of banana wine for the king. The drummers' rhythms and the dancers' movements mirror the king's words of thanks, "speaking" for him and reflecting his increasingly celebratory mood.

**Zamuranza** is a song of praise sung in Luganda and Swahili.

**Gaze** is a traditional dance of the Lugbara people from Uganda's West Nile region. This dance reflects an exchange of dance movements between the Lugbara and their neighbors in the Congo.

**Omuvangano** showcases the boy's drumming skills in a collection of well-known African rhythms, signifying Uganda's ability to welcome and celebrate all the goodness of Africa.

**Hurira Engoma** A bravura showcase for the girls as they balance clay pots on their heads, this dance features a mix of traditional and newly created movements. The music is by company member Jimmy Ayo, and the song's lyrics encourage us to "listen to the sweet sounds and pitches of the African drums, and how well they are played."

**Oruntege-Ntogoro** Originally a courtship dance of the Banyoro and Batooro people of southeast Uganda, this exuberant and demanding dance gives everyone a chance to show their individual talents. In the past, young men and women would be brought together in front of the community to choose their future mates. This ceremony was a critical event, especially for the boys, since bad dancers risked remaining bachelors. The girls were expected to dance well in return, exhibiting pluck, style and grace.

**Aida** is an Acholi song performed by two of our youngest girls. It praises the beauty of a girl named Aida, who respects herself and lives an exemplary life as an example to the rest of the community.

**Larakaraka** is an Acholi dance. In northern Uganda near the Sudanese border, *Larakaraka* has become a rallying cry and therapeutic dance for those who have been abducted by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Derived from a courtship dance, this piece is accompanied by rhythms pounded out on gourds struck with bike spokes to attract attention. Gourds or calabashes are multi-purpose vessels used to fetch water, sat upon as stools, and held overhead to limit the effects of the hot sun; mothers will lightly tap out rhythms on them to console crying babies on their backs and help them fall asleep.

### Intermission

**Arihe** is an ode to Rwanda as a motherland of beauty and love never to be forgotten. The lyrics: "love that united all of us should be with us forever. Let us join and dance for our homeland. Long live Rwanda."

**Kinyarwanda** is named for the language spoken in Rwanda, a border country to Uganda in the southwest. In the past, Rwandan women and men were forbidden to occupy the same space. One day, the men needed to hunt for an elephant and take it as a present to the king. When their efforts proved futile, they visited the women to inquire. As it turned out, one woman knew the elephant's whereabouts. Upon capturing the elephant, both sexes danced the Amaraba dance together in celebration.

**Abuda** Named after the Lango word for drums, the girls celebrate their skills with this sampling of intricate rhythms from some of Uganda's many rich cultures.

**Mwaga** The Bagisu, inhabit the western and southern areas around Mount Elgon, whose land is now integrated into one of Uganda's most visited national parks. With no history of migration, the Bagisu encouraged fierce internal competition to ensure the longevity and strength of its people and culture. This piece features *mukila* (cow tails) and is based a coming of age ritual held in leap years for young males who have reached puberty. Here the Kidoibi rhythm is spoken with three medium sized drums.

**Eyogera Biyaka** is a song composed for the Embaire, one of the world's largest xylophones, and it extols the exceptional creativity of the Embaire players from the village of Nakisenyi. It encourages everyone who visits Uganda never to miss out by not going to Nakisenyi. The dance movements express friendship and unity. They are derived from three dances - Thamenaibuga, Irongo, and Nalufuka - from the Busoga region in eastern Uganda.

**Ding Ding** comes from the Acholi people in northern Uganda who are highly regarded for their dark complexions and tall statures. Girls developing into young women perform this high-energy dance, with its engaging melodies and intense syncopated rhythms. Their movements are meant to imitate birds. The girls dance to attract the young boys, so the dance is usually held on bright days, when the sun is out.

**Kikibi** simply means 'dance' in Lukonjo, the native language of the Bakonzo in the Kasese District of southern Uganda that borders the Democratic Republic of Congo. Sinuous and slow paced, the movements are intended to imitate those of a snake.

**Doctor** The Lango people inhabit districts in northern central Uganda above Lake Kyoga. This song of praise says "My only doctor is the Creator, who created me, the Lord above! I leave my life in his hands."

**Ekitaguriro** is from the nomadic Banyankole of western Uganda, who cherish their cattle that they tend to for a living. This dance praises the long-horned cows of Ankole and Rwanda – found nowhere else on earth. The dancers imitate the sounds, rhythms, and the movements of the graceful cows. The *omukuri*, a flute used to herd the cattle, is featured here.

## Glossary

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### Rhythm and Instrumentation

*Percussion instruments are the primary carriers of rhythm and melody and also maintain specific beats for the dancers and singers. They can also be thought of as voices whose conversations may be held independently or in communion with vocals, other instruments and danced phrases.*

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|-----------|--|
| Amadinda  | Log xylophone, based on a pentatonic scale, to which all other instruments are tuned |
| Adungu    | Arched harp with nine strings that is plucked  |
| Bakisimba | The large main drum tuned to a high pitch  |
| Calabash  | Gourd used as a percussive instrument in <i>Larakaraka</i>                           |
| Ebinyege  | Leg rattles worn by boys in the <i>Orunyege-Ntogoro</i> dance                        |
| Embaire   | Large Xylophone  |
| Empagi    | Modified bike spokes used to strike a Calabash                                       |
| Empuunya  | Drum used for keeping a regular, metered pulse                                       |
| Endege    | Ankle bells  |
| Endigidi  | Tube fiddle with a single string that is bowed                                       |
| Engalabi  | Long, narrow drum  |
| Engoma    | Drums  |
| Enkoni    | A long stick used by the Banyankole to herd their cattle                             |
| Ensasi    | Shakers  |
| Filimbi   | Whistle  |
| Nankasa   | Small drum used for signals  |
| Obuti     | Sticks for playing the xylophone; drumsticks   |
| Okalele   | A flute from the Busoga region   |
| Omukuri   | A flute from the Ankole region   |

### Costumes and Implements

*The costumes worn by the performers are inspired by traditional and modern Ugandan textiles and patterns. Some also function as instruments – such as endege, listed above.*

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Akaliba       | Long hair goat skin, usually tied around the waist, for dancing   |
| Ebikubwe      | Round skirt for men   |
| Ebitambaala   | Buganda head piece  |
| Effumu        | A spear   |
| Ekikoyi       | Multi-colored Ugandan cloth worn most often by women on special occasions or celebrations as a long skirt, or belted around the waist |
| Ekisenso      | Raffia skirt  |
| Ekyesubizibwa | Belt  |
| Embazzi       | An axe  |
| Embira        | Beads around the neck   |
| Emigaala      | Head dress from Rwanda  |
| Engabo        | A shield  |
| Ensiimbi      | Cowry Shells  |
| Entogoro ring | A cloth ring tied around the waist for the <i>Orunyege-Ntogoro</i> dance  |
| Igitambara    | Dance robe  |
| Inkyindi      | Men's necklace  |
| Kanzu         | A white long gown worn by Bugandan men on special occasions   |
| Licumu        | Spear   |
| Mukila        | Cow Tail featured in <i>Mwaga</i>   |
| Ngabo         | Shield  |
| Umugala       | Men's head dress  |

## Spirit of Uganda and Empower African Children

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From January to April of 2012, **Spirit of Uganda** is touring to 23 cities from coast to coast. Ranging in age from 11-22, the group's 22 young artists represent the power and promise of Uganda's youth. Professional, critically recognized and publicly acclaimed, the company has performed at leading performing arts centers around the USA since 2007. Through their performances, educational activities and community exchanges, these goodwill ambassadors share their stories, promote East African culture and raise awareness to help ensure that they and their peers are fully prepared to assume leadership roles in their communities.

The troupe is a program within Empower African Children (EAC), a non-profit organization based in Dallas, TX and Kampala, Uganda. **Spirit of Uganda** exemplifies Empower African Children's three strategic initiatives: to provide a transformative whole-child education, to create global connections, and to prepare students for a lifetime of leadership.

Empower African Children mentors and supports 55 young Ugandans with a goal of increasing this number by 15% each year. Each student attends one of the best boarding schools in Uganda. Each student is supported with individual counseling, community service opportunities and a network of services that promote healthy child development. Every student receives post-secondary counseling, vocational training, or advanced education to meet their career interests and goals.

A college-level US Scholarship Program makes it possible for some of these students to deepen their education at leading colleges and universities. Currently 5 students are working towards completing their bachelor's, engineering or master's degrees in the USA.

Through a combination of proprietary programming and global collaboration, EAC has launched the **Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership** where goals of economic leadership and empowerment are vested in micro-lending, job creation, and career development through training in capital formation and investment, financial and operational management, fair trade practices and leadership skills.

Putting theory into practice, in the fall of 2011, Empower African Children founded **Uwezo Brands**, a sustainable clothing and accessories line. Made in Africa by Africans, and using African materials, UWEZO shoes and boots are fair trade, and locally made specifically for the American market. They are produced in environmentally friendly factories that employ workers under humane conditions. Every pair of shoes purchased supports EAC's programs.

Visit [EmpowerAfricanChildren.org](http://EmpowerAfricanChildren.org) and [UwezoBrands.com](http://UwezoBrands.com) for more information.

## Uganda Today

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The Republic of Uganda is a nation of great potential and great challenge. Located at the center of East Africa in one of the continent's most fertile and resource-rich areas and slightly smaller than the state of Oregon, Uganda struggles to feed its 34 million people and create the infrastructure needed to realize its potential. With 50% of its people younger than age 15, its greatest need may be the development of a generation of leaders prepared to empower a nation.

Uganda's national borders were artificially formed by colonial Britain, dividing the 50 plus different ethnic groups and kingdoms. The dissection complicated every aspect of traditional society from distinct governing systems, to languages, beliefs and cultures. Independence in 1962 did not bring true unity. The resulting ethnic tensions precipitated nearly two decades of human rights abuses, civil war and a plundered economy under two notorious strongmen – Idi Amin (1971-79) and Milton Obote (1980-85). In 1986, Lt. General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni seized power and established a government that remains in place today.

During the last 20 years Uganda's economy has stabilized, its political system opened to elections, its education improved, and its infrastructure steadily rebuilt. Today, it is estimated that over four million Ugandan's are internet users and nine million use cell phones. Primary education has increased from just over two million students to over nine million in one decade. Most Ugandans are bi or multi-lingual; English is Uganda's official language and 67% of the adult population is literate.

Even in this progress, challenges persist. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), infamous for its violence and brutality in Uganda, now hides in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Even if the LRA is eliminated entirely, the legacy of destruction and abuse have created chronic suffering in a country without the resources to address the needs of those tens of thousands of abducted, abused children and the estimated two million survivors displaced by a generation of conflict.

HIV/AIDS continues to be a leading cause of death, devastating the population of 25-40 year olds. Public and private partnerships over the past decade have reduced the rate of infection from 30% to 5% but with population increases the number of HIV positive citizens remains dangerously high. The disease has had severe impacts on family and community structures, which previously nourished a highly developed generational transfer of knowledge, resources and culture.

### **What does all of this mean for Ugandans coming of age now?**

In Uganda, 2.5 million children are orphans of HIV/AIDS or victims of civil strife and acute poverty. Primary school is open to all children but secondary school and vocational training require tuition. This is beyond the reach of any of EAC students' families. In fact, only 12% of primary school graduates in Uganda finish secondary school. Fewer than 3% make it to a University.

Realizing the promise of Africa's youth has severe demands but is within reach. The Ugandan economy is growing, education is on the rise, and healthcare is improving. The country needs to continue to educate and develop its citizens, to help people who may have known suffering and tragedy, but who are now emotionally and intellectually prepared to provide the grounded leadership the nation needs most.

*- Frank Roby, CEO, Empower African Children*

## Who's Who

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**Peter Kasule** (*Artistic Director and Master of Ceremonies*) is a musician, composer, and choreographer. The founding Artistic Director of Spirit of Uganda, Kasule researches, creates, and arranges all repertory; he casts and rehearses the troupe, and produces the company's music recordings.

Peter Kasule was born in Kampala, Uganda in 1981. Having lost his parents to AIDS, he lived at the Daughters of Charity Orphanage from 1989-96. In 1994, Kasule traveled to Germany for the International Children's Festival where his dance troupe was awarded "Best Performers." In 1996 he accepted an invitation from Alexis Hefley to attend Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas where he established himself as an award-winning musician.

With the assistance of Empower African Children's US Scholarship Program, Peter earned a degree from the College of Santa Fe in 2007 in music technology, with a focus on composition and recording and an interest in blending African and Western music. After graduation, he worked at the World Bank in Washington, DC as an audio/visual engineer. Peter was an original member of the Children of Uganda company and served as that group's director from 2004-2006. In addition to overseeing all of Empower African Children's artistic initiatives, Peter has established a recording studio. As a producer, performer and DJ his work is seen and heard throughout Kampala.



**Alexis Hefley** is the Founder and President of Empower African Children and producer of Spirit of Uganda. Recognized internationally for her work with vulnerable children in Africa, Hefley first traveled to Uganda in 1993, where she lived and worked with AIDS orphans in Kampala for 18 months before returning to the U.S. to found Uganda Children's Charity Foundation. She led that organization for 10 years before launching Empower African Children in 2006.

Hefley initiated and produced Children of Uganda, the award-winning and critically acclaimed performing arts company that introduced millions of Americans to East Africa's rich cultures and markedly raised awareness of the impact of AIDS and war.

Hefley's dedicated approach, passionate advocacy, innovative thinking and extensive experience are at the center of Empower African Children. Working in partnership with individuals, government agencies, public institutions and corporations in the U.S. and Uganda, she has developed and successfully implemented a wide range of programs to support thousands of Ugandan children and their families. In 2004, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni presented Alexis with the Ugandan North American Association's Philly Bongole Lutaaya award for her leadership role in increasing AIDS awareness.

## The company



**Brian Aine** (age 21) joined EAC in 2006 as a founding member of Spirit of Uganda and graduated in 2011 from Taibah College School (high school). Building on his experiences in student government, as a sport team captain and on tour in the USA in 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012, Brian will continue in EAC's Leadership Development Program until he begins university in September to study business and accounting. Brian is from Mbarara, in western Uganda, the third of four children whose mother died in 2006 and whose father is a policeman. Brian enjoys volleyball, football, reading and music. He hopes audiences will enjoy his confidence and remember his smile.



**Solace Ataho** (age 19) is from Nyakahita in southwestern Uganda where his seven siblings and extended family still live. Solace joined EAC in 2009 and first toured to the USA with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. He is excited to be performing in more dances this time in addition to playing the adungu (plucked harp.) He is in his final year (Grade 13) at Taibah College School. After graduation, he will continue in the Leadership Development Program and would like to continue studies in business.



**Jimmy Ayo** (age 16) joined EAC in 2009 and toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. He is in Grade 12 at Taibah College where his best subject is music. He particularly likes to play the adungu (plucked harp), and is a prolific composer. His song *Papawe* is featured on the tour CD and as part of the pot dance. He recently picked up bass guitar and has quickly become the school's best player. Jimmy is a class leader, a dining table leader, a discussion leader and a member of the Radio Listening Club. Originally from Adyegi, in northern Uganda, Jimmy lost his father in 1995 in the rebel war. He would like to become a lawyer, musician and producer. He hopes the audience will remember him by his sweet voice and friendly demeanor.



**Rajab Basoga** (age 18) comes from Nakisenyi in eastern Uganda and is the fifth of thirteen children. His father makes *chapati* (flat bread); his mother cooks in a restaurant. Rajab joined EAC in 2007 and toured to the USA with Spirit of Uganda in 2008 and 2010. He is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School where he was the top student in his class last year. Rajab loves dancing, singing and drumming, talents that run in his family. He hopes audiences will remember him for his unique and powerful voice. It is often said that he never needs a microphone. He hopes to become a choreographer.



**Joseph Chan** (age 21) was born in Kampala and lost his parents to HIV/AIDS in 1995 and 1999. He and his sister lived with extended family before moving into an orphanage. Later he worked odd jobs to help pay school fees. Joseph joined EAC in 2009 and toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. In his final year (Grade 13) at Taibah College School, Joseph is one of the top students in his class. He has served as a senator, is a class leader and enjoys playing on the rugby team. Joseph is a wonderful classical baritone singer. He would like to become a sound engineer and a classical singer.



**Faith Kansiime** (age 17) Originally from Mbarara in western Uganda, Faith lives near Kampala with seventeen other relatives. She met her father for the first time last year. She has never met her mother, but loves and admires her grandmother. Faith joined EAC in 2007 and first toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. Faith completed high school at Taibah College School last year and will begin university studies in September. An extremely talented dancer in every style, Faith hopes audiences will appreciate her fluid movements. She hates to see anyone suffer and strives to have a warm heart for everyone she encounters. She would like to be both a choreographer and a psychologist.



**Daniel Kasata** (age 21) is Spirit of Uganda's leading instrumentalist playing fiddle, xylophone, drums and adungu (harp). He joined EAC in 2009 and first toured with the company in 2010. Daniel was born in Nakisenyi in eastern Uganda as the youngest of five siblings, most of whom did not attend school. He graduated from Taibah College School in 2011, his greatest achievement so far. While at Taibah, he served as senator, presidential advisor and geography department student leader. He aspires to become a businessman.



**Anthony Kiranda** (age 16) joined EAC in 2009 and is touring to the USA in 2012 for the first time. He plays the xylophone and the tube fiddle. Anthony's parents are subsistence farmers in the village of Nakisenyi in eastern Uganda, where his three siblings also live with other members of his extended family. Anthony is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School where his favorite subjects are math and science. He hopes to become an accountant. He is excited about being a representative for Uganda as a member of Spirit of Uganda.



**Sharon Kyomugisha** (age 16) is the second eldest of four children all of whom live in the village of Lunguja in Kampala. She lost her father to HIV/AIDS; her HIV-positive mother cares for the family. Sharon joined EAC in 2009 and toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. She is in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School where she has served as a dorm senator. Sharon is a bright student who loves to study. She hopes to become a journalist because she likes to find out about and share other people's stories and experiences.



**George Lukwago** (age 17) loves to communicate through music and hopes the people he meets on this tour will remember him as the most disciplined performer. George joined EAC in 2011 and is encouraged because for the first time in a long time, he was able to stay in school the whole year without being sent home for school fees. For that, he continues to dance. 2012 marks his first tour with Spirit of Uganda. Currently in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School George would like to become a statistician and an entrepreneur. Orphaned at an early age, George has five siblings and is originally from the Masaka District in central Uganda.



**Moses Mudiope** (age 22) joined EAC in 2009 and toured to the USA with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. Moses has emerged as a strong leader among his peers and has been singled out for his admirable character. He is in his final year at Taibah College School where he is also an avid rugby player. He would like to become a lawyer and an artist. Moses lives in Budhuuba in eastern Uganda, the tenth of eleven children in his family.



**Yudaya Nabbanja** (age 12) is the sixth of eight children and lives in the Sonde of Wakiso District near Kampala with her paternal aunt and four siblings. Her parents are separated. She is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School and hopes to become a surgeon in the future. Yudaya joined EAC in 2009 and toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. She is happy that her dance talent has improved and to be part of the company a second time. She hopes to win over audiences with her beautiful smile.



**Noeline Nabesezi**, (age 20) joined EAC as a founding member of Spirit of Uganda in 2007 and toured with the company in 2007, 2008, and 2010. She graduated from Taibah College School last year and was recognized as one of the best students in textiles. As a dorm supervisor and head of the school theater production, Noeline honed her ability to organize and manage others. She would like to become a fashion designer and businesswoman and will enter the university to study fashion design and dance. Noeline comes from Sanje in Rakai in southern Uganda. She is the fourth of six children, most of whom are dancers. Noelle's father died in 1995; her mother is a subsistence farmer. She is joined on tour this year by her sister, Maria Namanda. She hopes audiences will discover and remember the beauty of the Ugandan culture.



**Faith Ruth Nabukenya** (age 11) comes from Nakasongola District in central western Uganda. She is the eldest of five children. Her mother cleans offices. Her father moved back to the village in search of work, and is rarely home. New to EAC as of 2011, Faith is now in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah Junior School. Although she is the youngest and smallest in the troupe, Faith is a beautiful dancer with captivating eyes and smile. She hopes to become a business owner.



**Joyce Nagujja** (age 14) lives in Makindye, a suburb of Kampala with her aunt and six siblings. She lost her father to a car accident and her mother to an unknown illness. Joyce joined EAC in 2011 and is now in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School. Last year, she was a class leader and managed to be the student of the week several times and hopes to continue on the same track. She loves large groups of people, so she is looking forward to her first tour with Spirit of Uganda and to performing in front of big audiences. She would like to be a bank manager in the future.



**Mary Nakabuubi** (age 14) joined EAC in 2011 and is excited to participate in her first tour with Spirit of Uganda. She comes from Kabojja in central Uganda's Mpigi District. She lost her father before she was born; her mother does not have steady income. Mary is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School. She loves to sing and dance because it is a talent that will help her become successful in the future and support her mother. She hopes audiences will connect with the joy she exhibits on stage while dancing. She would like to become an accountant.



**Percy Nakaggwa** (age 15) joined EAC in 2009, toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010 and is now in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School. She is very interested in academics; math and English are her favorite subjects. She also loves music and reading, and enjoys dancing. Her athletic abilities enabled her to be elected as the sports prefect for her class. Percy lives with a widowed paternal grandfather and many cousins in Kawunguli, the southern Ugandan Rakai District. Percy lost both her parents to HIV/AIDS in 2000. She hopes to become a doctor.



**Donatina Nakimuli** (age 11) comes from the Rakai District where her father is a primary school teacher in Sanje and her mother a subsistence farmer. She is the fifth of nine children. Dona joined EAC in 2009 and toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. Now in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah Junior School, Dona loves school; her favorite subject is English. Some of her hobbies include dancing and games, especially skipping rope. She would like to become a nurse so that she can cure people of their illnesses.



**Miriam Namala** (age 13) joined EAC in 2007 and is a founding member of Spirit of Uganda. She toured to the USA with the company in 2007, 2008 and 2010. The second of four children, Miriam is from Mmánya in Rakai, in southern Uganda. Her mother is a subsistence farmer who cares for the rest of the family. Miriam has never seen her father. Miriam is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School, where she continues to pass her exams with high marks. She is very confident and almost always happy. She enjoys games and traveling abroad as well as dancing and singing especially when it makes audiences happy too. She hopes to become an architect.



**Maria Namanda** (age 17) lives in Sanje in the Rakai District. She is the youngest of six children most of whom are dancers including her sister and fellow performer Noeline Nabasezi. Her father died in 1995 and her mother is a subsistence farmer. Maria joined EAC in 2009 and toured with Spirit of Uganda in 2010. Maria is now in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School, where she is a library assistant. She would like to become a journalist. When she dances, she feels a lot of happiness in and around her and feels like asking the whole world to join in. She is grateful for her capacity to love which she enjoys sharing, especially with children and the elderly.



**Brian Odong**, (age 19) joined EAC in 2007, is a founding member of Spirit of Uganda and toured with the company in 2007, 2008, and 2010. He is from Gulu in northern Uganda, an area adversely affected by the LRA insurgency. The youngest of four children, Brian lost his mother at birth; his father was killed by rebels in 2004. He is in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School and hopes to become a sound engineer. He loves to perform because it's the best way he can express his feelings and touch people positively. He enjoys helping others, making friends, singing, swimming, basketball and soccer.



**Mukusin Wasswa** (age 18) is new to EAC as of 2011 and looking forward to his first Spirit of Uganda tour. He enjoys 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Taibah College School where he is a class leader known both for his generosity and empathy. He hopes to become a doctor. One of eight children, Mukusin hails from Makindya, a suburb of Kampala. His father died in 1993; his stepfather shines shoes and his mother is looking for work. He hopes that audiences on tour will find him a successful performer.

## Staff



**David Kasata** (*Assistant to the Artistic Director*) began performing at the age of 6 in a group founded by his father, Kigenyi Kasata. As a member of various performing arts groups, he has toured to the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Austria, France and Japan. When he is not training Spirit of Uganda performers, David teaches dance in various schools around Kampala. He has assisted Peter Kasule since 2006. He is a dancer, instrumentalist and gentle soul.



**Peter Mugga** (*Audio Supervisor & Assistant Production Manager*) An accomplished composer and musician, Peter has been supported by Empower African Children since joining as a founding member of Spirit of Uganda in 2007. He toured with the company through 2008, contributing original compositions and musical arrangements in addition to performing. Upon graduation from high school in Kampala in 2008, Peter was invited to continue his studies under EAC's US Scholarship Program; he studies Music Technology and Composition at Santa Fe University of Art and Design in New Mexico on a full tuition scholarship. He is the co-producer and engineer of the 2012 tour CD *Tusiima*.



**Dan Ozminkowski** (*Lighting Designer*) Dan has been working with *Spirit of Uganda* since 2008. Regional: Arena Stage, Wexner Center, Philadelphia Theatre Company, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre. NYC: *A Celebration of Maurice Sendak with Tony Kushner* (92Y); Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre (Dance Theater Workshop & Kumble Theater); *To Walk in Darkness & B\*tch* (o/o Broadway). Summer: Merry-Go-Round Playhouse (3 musicals). Associate/Assistant: *Impressionism* (Broadway), *The Ritz* (Broadway), *Le Reve* (Wynn, Las Vegas), *Jennifer Muller / The Works* (Brazil), *Foxfire & Private Lives & Secret Garden* (Utah Shakespeare Festival). Nominated for Barrymore Award 2011. Member USA 829. Alumnus: Conservatory of Theatre Arts & Film, Purchase College.



**Rukia Nalwoga** (*Teacher and Spokesperson*), a 2005 graduate of Makerere University, is a geography and religious studies teacher at Taibah College School. When she joined Taibah, they lacked a good geography teacher, so she taught herself the subject. She is now an experienced teacher, manager, peer tutor, mentor patron for education tours and head of the Cleanliness Department. While leading education tours, she has traveled with students to Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and many parts of Uganda. All of her American geography lessons have been taught in theory, so she is looking forward to visiting the actual locations. Rukia strongly believes in children taking ownership of their learning and making responsible choices within a structured environment. She enjoys meeting people, traveling and history.



**Libby Kingman** (*Company Manager*) is the Administrative and Development Assistant for Empower African Children in Dallas. She graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in December of 2009 and first joined EAC as a volunteer on the 2010 Spirit of Uganda tour. Libby has interned for the Texas Speaker of the House of Representatives and volunteered as a tutor for both an after school program and the Junior League. Libby has traveled to Uganda every summer since 2009. She has been a part of many projects with Empower African Children's visitors program.



**Helen Beecherl** (*Volunteer & Chaperone*) graduated in 2011 from the University of Georgia with a degree in fine arts. Her studies took her to Cortona, Italy for a term in 2010. She has volunteered as a tutor for a Hispanic community after school program in 2009, interned as a primary school teacher in a village in Ghana, West Africa in the summer of 2008 and contributed to other community service organizations.

# Spirit of Uganda

## **Producer**

Empower African Children

**Frank M. Roby**, CEO

**Alexis Hefley**, Founder and President

**Donna Malouf**, Co-Founder

**Peter Kasule**, Artistic Director

**Jeremy Phillips**, Chief Operating Officer

**Agnes Kasule**, Program Manager – Uganda

PO Box 141226 Dallas, TX 75214

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## **2012 Tour Staff & Volunteers**

**Dan Ozminkowski**, Lighting Designer & Production Manager

**Libby Kingman**, Company Manager

**David Kasata**, Assistant to the Artistic Director

**Peter Mugga**, Audio Supervisor and Assistant Production Manager

**Rukia Nalwoga**, Teacher and Spokesperson

**Helen Beecherl**, Volunteer and Chaperone

**Joshua Cutler**, Assistant to the Lighting Designer

## **Tour Management**

**Lisa Booth & Deirdre Valente**, Lisa Booth Management, Inc.:

## **Partners**

AIMBRIDGE HOSPITALITY; The Richards Group: Branding; Quentin Faust, Andrews and Kurth, LLP: General Counsel; The SparkFarm: Marketing for Uwezo Brands; The Swoon Group: Branding for Uwezo Brands; Darrell Harris, Microbooks Management: Accountant; Mat Threadgill, DIB Creative: Website Design for Uwezo Brands; Bryan Young, Graphic Designer; Jonathan Nsubuga, Betsy del Monte, Beck Group: Architect; J.E. Nsubuga & Associates, Kampala Uganda: Architect

## **Lead Contributors**

Stephen and Carol Annest; Steve and Nicole Annest; John and Mary Beecherl; Jeff Berry and Eric Politzer; Den and Lynn Bishop; Jonathan and Elizabeth Bond; Eldridge and Paige Burns; Chris and Brittany Crow; The David M Crowley Foundation; Patricia Dedman; Roy and Suni Deskin; Edith Everett; Scott and Gina Ginsburg; Michael and Kathryn Hanley; Scott and Marlise Kercheville; Bill and Kate Kingman; Alan Loewinsohn; Michael and Barbara Mack; Stephen and Donna Malouf; Thomas Manuel; Bill and Nancy Maloy; David and Carolyn Miller; Milliman USA; John David and Leslie Moritz; Scott and Natalie Noble; Trevor and Elaine Pearlman; Brandon Pope; Jean Claude and Beth Saada; Ned and Billie Staton; Sean and Jill Sullivan; Grant and Carolyn Switzer; Rosemary Haggard Vaughn Family Foundation; Jim and Kay Wray

**Photos:** Donna Malouf, Douglas Menezes and Dan Ozminkowski