

Denmark, August 2000

Concerning Mr. Nkwabi Ng'hangasamala



Mr. Nkwabi Ng'hangasamala from Bagamoyo Art School, Tanzania, has been invited as a guest teacher at the annual Utamaduni dance-summer camp 2000, July 22-29.

The Utamaduni dance summer camp consists of 600 adults, young people and children, living in tents for one full week. 30 workshops on African drumming, dances and songs take place in different styles from East- and West Africa. The week ends up with an "open house day", where the guests of the camp can experience "live dance show" with the African instructors and the workshop participants. This year was the eighteenth Utamaduni Camp.

At the Utamaduni Camp Nkwabi Ng'hangasamala showed his long experience in Tanzanian dance- and song tradition. His heritage of both Christian- and traditional choir from the home region of Sengerema, led him to study at Bagamoyo Art School. Now after ten years as a teacher at the dance, music and drama section of the school he has acquired a great skill in teaching non-Tanzanian artists and has developed close contacts to the afro-dance scenes in U.S.A., Great Britain, Germany and Scandinavia. Furthermore Mr. Nkwabi engages in modern styles of educational- and informational forum theatre.

At the Utamaduni Camp his workshops were very highly estimated and popular, especially because of the lively and humorous warming up the body, and the well-chosen dances and songs he introduced.

Everyone was very pleased by his enthusiasm at all the different activities of his visit, and the members of the "SOCKS Project" dealing with response towards HIV & AIDS are looking forward to form a Show Group in Denmark in the month of November under the leadership of Mr. Nkwabi and two forum theatre instructors.

The fulfilled work program of Mr. Nkwabi Ng'hangasamala:

Date:

- 15/7 Arrival at Tirstrup airport, DK.
- 16/7 Resting and introduced to the work plan by Mr. Sander Nielsen.
- 17 & 18/7 Rehearsal of workshop material with Utamaduni Dance Troupe.
- 19/7 Helping the loading of container with effects for the building of the Camp.
- 20/7 Establishing in the "camper" and conducting rehearsal and repetitions of workshop material with Utamaduni Dance Troupe.
- 21/7 Second repetition with Utamaduni Dance Troupe, and attending the teacher's meeting.
- 22/7 Settling prices of artifacts from Bagamoyo Art School supposed to be sold from the "Duka" boutique of the Camp.
- 23/7 Leisure day looking at the different workshops, their working conditions and the methods of teaching.
- 24/7 Conducting the morning workshop on dance and song with Utamaduni Dance Troupe and 150 dancers. Showing a theatre piece dealing with HIV & AIDS at the dances shown by the different groups of the camp.
- 25/7 Participating in the Tanzanian "Tatunane Group" morning workshop with 150 dancers.
- 26/7 Repetition of "his own" workshop with Utamaduni Dance Troupe and 150 dancers.
- 27/7 Repetition of Tatunane Group workshop with 150 dancers.
- 28/7 Repetition of "his own"- and the Tatunane Group workshop with 150 dancers. Performing a final show with all the dancers from the workshops. Taking part in a "bunungule" porcupine dance, competing with the snake dancers "buyeye" show.
- 29 & 30/7 Taking part in the demolishing of the campsite.
- 31/7 Taking part in unloading of container with the effects from the campsite.
- 1/8 Attending SOCKS meeting at Kerteminde, Fyn, planning the future of workshops establishing the "SOCKS Show Group" in DK.
- 2/8 Continued SOCKS meeting and traveling by car 250 km. back to Djursland.
- 3/8 Packing luggage and leaving from Tirstrup airport to Kastrup airport, Copenhagen.
- 4/8 Traveling by air from Kastrup via Frankfurt to Dar es Salaam.

Utamaduni Cultural Association wishes Mr. Nkwabi Ng'hangasamala a comfortable journey, and send many thanks for his enthusiastic powerfully and humorous acting all the way.

Sander Nielsen
Member of the cultural board

Knud Erik Asak
Cultural project coordinator

Ingeborg Andresen
Workshop coordinator