

IRENE KOLOSEUS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR of FERABA - AFRICAN RHYTHM TAP COMPANY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR of SOUND BRIDGES

•CHOREOGRAPHER • DANCER • PERCUSSIONIST •EDUCATOR

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Recent performances as a dancer and choreographer

- Queens Library Jackson Heights (May 2023) with Sound Bridges
- Harlem Meer Festival with the group Sound Bridges (July 2022)
- Senior Center Concert Tour 2022 and 2023 (with the group Sound Bridges)
- Brooklyn Arts Council Spring Party (June 2022)
- Open Street Vanderbilt with Sound Bridges (May 2022)
- Nyack Main Library (June 2022 with Feraba)
- Live Sound Series – Anna Marie Kellen Concert Hall (2019)
- Make Music NY – varies locations (June 2021)

- Ongoing performances with both groups at schools, libraries, community centers and others

- Irene is currently (spring 2023) teaching at
- PS 33 (Manhattan) (Music and Movement)
- High School for Music and Theater (Latin Dance)
- PS 274 (Global Dance program)
- MS Ditmas 62 (West African Dance) and others

Professional Training

- Ballet Arts at City Center (NYC)
- Tap Dance: Savion Glover, Brenda Bufalino, Barbara Duffy, Cornell Lyons, Buster Brown and others.
- African dance: Master dancers from Senegal and Guinea: Youssouf Koumbassa, Mouminatou Camara, Ismael Kouyate, Alseny Soumah, Moustapha Bangoura, Babacar M'Baye, Lamine Thiam
- Flamenco with La Argentinita Sol Glenda Koeraus
- Percussion with: Ali Diabate, M'Bemba Bangoura, Abou Sylla, Yamoussa Camara, M. Diaby, Fara Tolno, Ibrahima Koliye Camara, Madou Dembele, Mohamed Camara and Ivo Araujo.
- Musical studies: piano (W. Fischbacher), balafon (Abou Sylla) and vocals (B. Sheppert)

Professional development

- Face to Face Conference 2023 (in-person)
- Many pd's on zoom (2020 to 2023)
- PD in Music Education at Carnegie Hall – July 2019 and July 2020 (on zoom)
- Teaching Artists Certificate Program – Teachers College Columbia University 2017
- PD in Creative Movement – with BAC and Together in Dance, 2013
- Special Education Professional Development Series (20 hours) – Young Audiences 2010
- Literacy and the Arts with Deirdre Hollman – Community Works 2010
- Empire State Partnership Seminar - 2003
- Bank Institute Artsgenesis' Summer Institute for Multiple Intelligence and the Arts - 2000.
- Face-to-Face Conference, NYC 2002, 2016, 2023
- Literacy and the Arts: workshops 1998-2005
- Many workshops with Educational Alliance 2000-2004

Grants & Awards

- City Artist Corps Grants (2021)
- Su-CASA grantee 2023: West African drumming and dancing at Narrows Older Adult Center, Brooklyn
- BAF grantee 2020, 2022, 2023 (Brooklyn Arts Fund)- developing material for Sound Bridges and Percussive Dance with performances at Senior Centers in Brooklyn
- Jubilation Foundation: Fellowship Award (2019)
- Assets for Artists: matching grant partnering with NYFA, LMCC and Midas (2013)
- Sunshine Award - 2013
- CITATION: from the Brooklyn Borough President for exceptional achievements in the Arts 2009
- MCAF/NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

- Arts International 2003, to research and study excision dances in Guinea, Africa
- NYFA 2000, artist fellowship grant in music composition – for Féraba
- Ethnic Dance Award with Féraba by Giant Steps, funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs.

Arts- in Education Instructions

Irene has been a teaching artist in the NYC public school system for more than 20 years, teaching Folk Dance and Percussion. She has designed curriculum-based movement and music residencies for students of all ages and abilities, and has conducted professional development programs for educators, including the ASAH Conference, (Atlantic City, 2005). Irene is also experienced working with district 75 population and she is part of the “Music that Heals” program, where she performs as a soloist for children and adults with severe mental disorders.

- Teaching artist and performer currently working with: Third Street Music School, Brooklyn Arts Council, and Arts Horizons Inc.

Choreography & Production

- Sound Bridges and Percussive Dance– Collaboration with composer Andy Algire and Sol La Argentinita since 2019
- Féraba - African Rhythm Tap (1995 to present)
- Developed school assemblies: “Roots of Tap”, “The Magic Woman”, Holiday Seasons Around the World”, “Sounds and Dance of the Mandingo Empire”
- Developed full length evening shows: “Ginee Na’n Ta Na” (I am a woman 2006), “The Journey” (2010) “New York impression” (1994), “Rhythm and Shoes” (1993-Austria)

Performance Experience

Lincoln Center Outdoors, Aronow Theater at City College, Town Hall, Aaron Davis Hall, College of Staten Island, International Tap dance festival at The Dukes, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Jamaican Arts Center, Neuberger Museum of the Arts, Pace University, Harlem Meer Festival, Merkin Concert Hall at Lincoln Center, South Street Seaport, Westchester Community College, Queens Community College, Sunrise Civic Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Music Beyond Borders, Morristown, Harn Museum of the Arts, Gainesville - University of Florida; State UNI St. Cloud, MN; Public Playhouse, MD; Southfield Center for the Arts, MN; Atlantic City, NJ-International Night Series; Centre Cultural Franco-Guinean: Conakry, Guinea, West Africa 2005 and many more.

Other skills

Fluent in German and English, videographer, video editor