

 한국문화원 Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles		Press Release			
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ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts
Stories of Migration: African & Korean Diaspora
Dances of Memories, Resistance and Rebirth



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- ▶ Title : ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts
Stories of Migration: African & Korean Diaspora Dances of Memories, Resistance and Rebirth
 - ▶ Date: Friday, October 5, 2018 at 7:30pm
 - ▶ Place: Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles 3rd Fl. Ari Hall
 - ▶ Presenters : Korean Cultural Center, LA (KCCLA),
Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute
 - ▶ Online Reservation : www.kccla.org
 - ▶ For more Info: tammy@kccla.org or 323-936-3015 Tammy Chung
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The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA) and Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute will present a special performance "**Stories of Migration: African & Korean Diaspora Dances of Memories, Resistance and Rebirth**" on Friday, October 5, 2018 at 7:30P.M. on the 3rd floor of the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, Ari Hall.

Stories of Migration: African & Korean Diaspora Dances of Memories, Resistance and Rebirth brings together the African & Korean dance communities of Los Angeles to interpret what it means to embrace our past that has shaped our lives in the present in order to understand where we are headed as a community.

Performance highlights include the story of Queen Nginga (c. 1583-1663) of Angola whose bravery has fought for freedom of her people from enslavement during the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This piece is choreographed by African Dance Master *Nzingha Camara* and performed by her dance company *Le Ballet de Kouman Kele*. West African Master Dance Drummer *Rene Fisher-Mims (Mama Nay Nay)* brings her powerful all women drum/dance group *SHINE Muwasi* to share their traditional rhythms and songs in honor of ancestors who dreamed their dreams that continue to give birth to new dreams. *Jinhee Kim* of Oulim Korean Gyeonggi Folk Song sings *Changbu Taryong*. *Sue Hee Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Company* showcases various traditional Korean drumming and dance pieces Director *Sue Hee Ko* and her daughter *Katherine Ko's* big drum dance *Tagomu* as part of the *Alliance for California Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program*.

Through the *Stories of Migration: African & Korean Diaspora Dances of Memories, Resistance and Rebirth*, we respectfully acknowledge and honor the countless lives of our ancestors who have come before us, whose creativity, spirit of resistance and resilience all stood before the hardships of oppression. Their heartbeats continue to live within us as we dance, drum, sing and give birth to new dreams.

The performance is free but phone or online reservation is required prior to the performance.

**This performance is presented as a part of the Korean Cultural Center's ARI PROJECT Season: Performing arts series, which features a rich program of various performing arts programs including Korean traditional music and dance, modern fusion world music, Jazz, royal court tea ceremonies, puppet shows as well as theater.*

-Program-

I. ORIGIN

Sambuk Chum

Libation

II. MOVEMENT, CROSSING

Janggo Chum

Hallyangmu

The Middle Passage / Queen Nzinga

III. HEALING

Changbu Taryeong

Chukwonmu

Lamba

IV. DREAMS

Tagomu

Finale

- *The program is subject to change without notice.*

Performing Groups:

Sue Hee Ko, Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute

Nzingha Camara, Le Ballet de Kouman Kele

Rene Fisher-Mims, SHINE Muwasi

Jinhee Kim, Oulim Korean Gyeonggi Folk Song



Performing Group Info:

Sue Hee Ko is a professional dancer and choreographer specializing in traditional Korean dance, drumming and mask performance. She is the founder and director of ***Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute & Dance Company*** in Los Angeles, CA where she has been offering traditional Korean dance and drumming classes to students since 1988. Ko has studied under renowned Korean folk artists in South Korea and performed before various distinguished audiences. In 2013, she was recognized from the government of Korea as one highly skilled in her field, designating her as a member of National Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 92, a highly regarded recognition among Korean cultural organizations. She is actively involved in the community and chairs many cultural performance organizations in the United States such as the *Gyobang Dance Preservation Society* of Los Angeles (see the full list below). Ms. Ko provides Korean folk dance and music instruction to students, cultivating appreciation for multiculturalism within LAUSD schools through such programs as Beyond the Bell afterschool program and numerous in-class teaching. In recent years, Ko's Korean Dance Company went on tour with pop-star, Shakira, playing the traditional Korean Three-Headed Drum Dance for the song "Did It Again". Performance highlights include appearances in the Dancing With The Stars (CBS Studios LA), Saturday Night Live (NBC Studio NY), XFactor (London, UK), Bambi Awards (Potsdam, Germany), and MTV Music Awards (Berlin, Germany). ***Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Company*** was founded in 1988 by LA-based dancer and choreographer Sue Hee Ko to preserve and share the beautiful expressions of the Korean heritage through traditional dance and music. Since its inception, Ko's Dance Company has performed at numerous cultural institutions, schools, Koreatown/Orange County festivals, parades, fairs, community events and held numerous public workshops. Ko's Dance Company recognizes the value of embracing traditional dance forms as a way of empowering our communities. Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Company is happy to contribute to the cultural diversity and vibrancy of the City of LA -- *Dance has the power to heal, connect and inspire our communities to thrive!*

Nzingha Camara, Professor of African Art, Dance & Culture, Producer, Artistic Director, Dancer/Choreographer, Lester Horton Award Recipient. Los Angeles based Artist NZINGHA is internationally known through performances with her Company 'KOUMAN KELE' in movies, television, and music videos. She was a highly esteemed and respected faculty member at UCLA, UCIRVINE, SMC, CSULA & CSULB. Currently NZINGHA CAMARA is the Artist-In-Residence for KAOS NETWORK MEDIA CENTER and Co-program Coordinator for LA Commons' Annual Day of the ANCESTORS/ Mask Festival.

"Nzingha Camara, dancer, educator, artist and choreographer whose illustrious career spans across the globe and covers three decades. Her spirit has inspired, motivated, and instilled a sense of grace and pride in individuals from the villages of West Africa to the far shores of the Caribbean over to Europe and, of course, the United States. Branded with the name of a magnificent African queen, Camara's sacred feet and poise live up to her legacy, having converted challenging dance moves into articulate expressions and fluid movements of art."

Le Ballet de Kouman Kele means "The Ballets of One Voice' in the Malinke language of West Africa. The Company is a 25 member group, which offers a unique performing arts theatre. These Cultural Ambassadors are highly trained professional Artists whose repertoire consists of many facets of African folkdance from the pulsating congos rhythms of the Carribean to the latest hip-hop street steps, songs and theatrical staged stories, all accompanied by traditional rhythmic drumming and other musical instruments. Under the Artistic Direction of Nzingha Camara, this Company has been delighting audiences and the community for over 30 years

S.H.I.N.E. Muwasi is about Sisters Healing, Inspiring, Nurturing, and Empowering, in the Hands of God. It was formed and established by ***Rene Fisher-Mims*** with an intent & purpose to spread the knowledge of West African Drum culture to women in the community. With a vision of healing, empowering, caring, and inspiring women to play the instruments of African descent, S.H.I.N.E. wishes to pass on the wisdom to those who desire to gain awareness of this culture through teaching and performing in different areas. Performances for concerts, Black History programs, churches, shows, and private parties are many tools used by S.H.I.N.E. in effort to show the wonderful joy of women drummers and musicians. These sisters come with fire, in addition to endless energy, singing and dancing with power from on High.

Jinhee Kim is the Founder and CEO of Los Angeles based Oulim Korean Gyeonggi Folk Song Inc. Jinhee Kim is officially designated Professional Singer of Korea's National Intangible Cultural Property No. 57.

*The term ***diaspora*** is defined as the dispersion of people from their original homeland.

*According to Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there are approximately 7.4 million *Korean Diaspora* living abroad in 170 countries, out of which 2.4 million reside in the US.

*The *African Diaspora* is the term commonly used to describe the mass dispersion of peoples from Africa during the *Transatlantic Slave Trades* between 1500s to 1800s.

*Currently, the African diaspora communities account for more than 140 million people of African descent living outside of the African continent.

*The immensity of the artistic, literary and cultural influences of the African Diaspora spans over jazz, blues, soul, gospel, country, cumbia, salsa, samba, merengue, hip hop, beat boxing, spoken word, poetry, polyrhythms, swing, trap, disco and many more.