



## KULTOUR 2010 TOURING PROGRAM SHORTLIST

### MANDINKA SOUND

[www.oneafrica.com.au](http://www.oneafrica.com.au)  
[www.myspace.com/muhanamwe](http://www.myspace.com/muhanamwe)

Mandinka Sound features two extraordinarily talented Melbourne based West African acts; *One Africa* and *Muhanamwé*.

Through music, dance and song, this unique show will take audiences on a journey that traces West African culture in contemporary Australia back to its roots in the ancient Mandinka Empire of West Africa.



#### One Africa

The show begins with a warm and intimate acoustic set from *One Africa* which brings together two of Melbourne's most loved West African performers, King Marong and Lamine Sonko. A subtle fusion of traditional West African culture and contemporary Australian influences, *One Africa* creates a hypnotically soulful repertoire of original songs.

Providing the rhythm and groove, King Marong has been performing professionally since the age of 12 and since arriving in Australia in 1998, has built a reputation as a master of many African drumming styles and instruments. Providing vocals and guitar, Lamine hails from a famous Senegalese griot musical family and has performed internationally alongside such greats as Youssou Ndour, Vivianne Ndour and Fatou Nguewel Diouf. Since arriving in Australia Lamine has discovered a love for guitar and songwriting and brings his new found talents to life in *One Africa*.



#### Muhanamwé

*Muhanamwé* then takes the stage with an electrifying set of traditional Guinean music and dance. *Muhanamwé*, meaning *culture*, has emerged from Melbourne's dense and vibrant world music scene as one of Australia's freshest and most exciting West African percussion and dance ensembles. With compelling rhythms, raw vocal harmonies, rippling balafon melodies, stunning costumes and superhuman dance moves, *Muhanamwé* not only draws from its deep roots in West Africa but also brings new life to the ancient musical and cultural tradition with original arrangements and drum solos.

The group was established in 2007 by Guinean master drummers Aliou Sylla (Les Percussions de Guinée, Visages de Guinée) and Mohamed Camara (Ballet Destin, Les Sorciers de Guinée) and also features Guinean master dancer Aicha Keita, and percussionist Anna Camara. It is nearly impossible not to move your feet when *Muhanamwé* begin the surge of their playing. *Muhanamwé* is proof that music transcends the boundaries of language, aiming instead for the heart and the feet.

**SHOW DURATION:**

One Africa – 60 minute set

Interval – up to 30 minutes

Muhanamwe – 60 minute set

**Please Note:** Set lengths can be negotiated according to presenter preferences. Each group can play up to a 90 minute set each.

**AVAILABILITY IN 2010**

February – December 2010

Not available January 2010

**TOURING PARTY OF 7**

One Africa

- Lamine Sonko – Vocals / Guitar / Djembe / Dance
- King Marong – Vocals / Djembe / Boucarabou / Sabar / Dun Dun

Muhanamwe

- Aliou Sylla – Djembe / Lead Vocals
- Mohamed Camara – Djembe / Lead Vocals
- Anna Camara – Balafon / Dun Duns / Backing Vocals
- Aicha Keita – Dance / Dun Duns / Lead Vocals

Kultour Tour Manager

**MARKETING**

As a part of the 2010 Kultour Tour of Mandinka Sound the following marketing support will be available:

- Marketing kits
- Printed tour posters and flyers + E-flyers
- Stills and DVD material
- Support to develop African community audiences for the show in your area

**TARGET AUDIENCES**

- Music lovers
- World music lovers
- Festival goers
- African communities

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **Sound equipment – to be provided by venue**

#### **One Africa**

- 1 x DI Guitar
- 1 x Guitar Amp
- 2 x Foldback Wedges
- 2 x Vocal Mics
- 4 x Instruments Mics

#### **Muhanamwe**

- 7 x Instrument mic for percussion
- 5 x vocal mic
- 3 x foldback wedges

See attached stage plan and tech rider

#### **Venue Staff**

- 1 x Sound Engineer required at venue
  - Sound engineer to set up equipment prior to the sound check
  - Bump-in / Sound check: 1.5 hours
  - Performance: 2 – 3 hours
  - Bump-out: 1 hour

### **Lighting – to be provided by venue**

- Standard lighting for a musical performance

### **Stage Requirements**

- Stage no smaller than 6m wide x 4 m deep
- A sprung floor for dancers is desirable, but not essential – the groups are flexible and adaptable.

### **Touring Adaptations**

- It is possible for both groups to perform acoustically if audiences are no more than 50 people, more than 50 people will require a PA
- Muhanamwe may be able to perform acoustically for larger audiences depending on the venue and style of event
- Muhanamwe can also provide a roving performance

# MANDINKA SOUND STAGE PLOT AND TECH RIDER

KEY: V = Vocal mic, IM = Instrument mic, DI= Direct Input, x= foldback wedge

## TECH RIDER

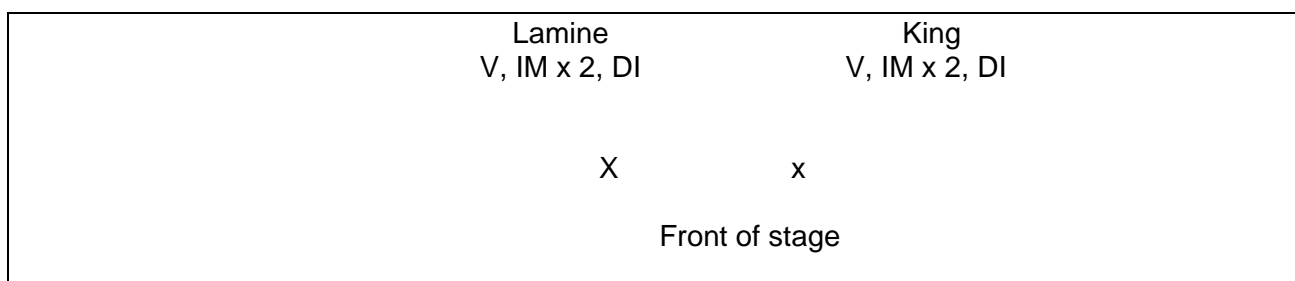
### One Africa

- 1 DI Guitar
- 1 x Guitar Amp
- 2 x Foldback Wedges
- 2 x Vocal Mics
- 4 x Instruments Mics

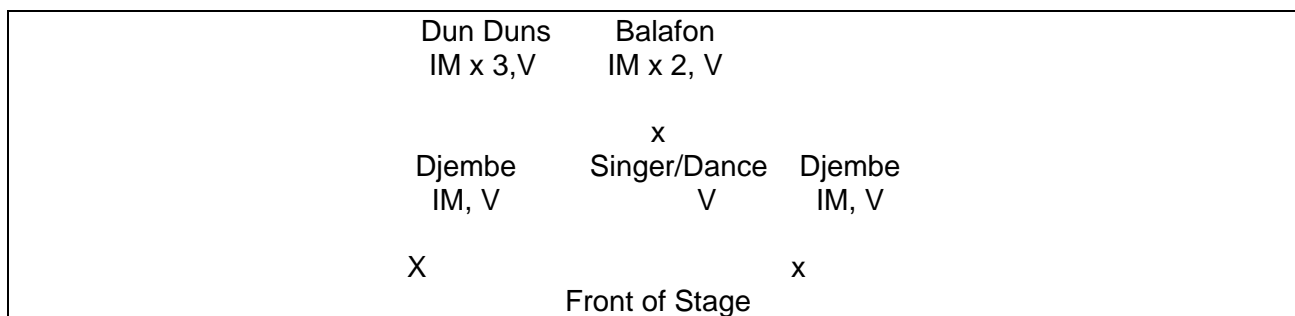
### Muhanamwe

- 7 x Instrument mic for percussion
- 5 x vocal mic
- 3 x foldback wedges

## ACT 1: ONE AFRICA



## ACT 2: MUHANAMWE



## WORKSHOPS

### **Guinean Drumming Workshop**

**Facilitators:** Aliou Sylla and Mohamed Camara from Muhanamwe

**Description:** Guinean master drummers Aliou Sylla and Mohamed Camara from Muhanamwé will lead this energetic and fun workshop in traditional West African drumming. Learn the basic techniques of djembe playing, as well as a traditional rhythm comprising both accompaniments and solos. BYO drum, no experience necessary!

**Workshop length:** 1 hour

**Participants:** **Maximum** 30, BYO drum, no experience necessary

**Venue Requirements:** enough room for participants and facilitators to sit with drums, armless chairs for all

### **Guinean and West African Dance Workshop**

**Facilitator:** Aicha Keita, accompanied by Muhanamwe percussionists

**Description:** Guinean master dancer Aicha Keita will lead an exciting, energetic workshop in traditional West African dance. Learn the basic techniques and skills specific to this style of dance, as well as a full traditional dance from Guinea. Accompanied by live drumming! No experience necessary.

**Length of Workshop:** 1 hour

**Participants:** Maximum 30, no experience necessary

**Venue Requirements:** Sufficient floor space for dancing and preferably a wooden floor, 2 chairs for drummers

## **MANDINKA SOUND**

The *Mandinka Sound* tour will see the two groups collaborating in an innovative way to show the depth and beauty of West African culture from traditional to contemporary music, dance and costume. The two groups' respective lead artists, King Marong, Lamine Sonko, Aliou Sylla and Mohamed Camara have worked together extensively in bands including Afro Mandinko, Asiko, The Public Opinion Afro Orchestra, The Avalanches and more, and are keen to support the development of each others' groups and spread awareness of their culture.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **ONE AFRICA**

**King Marong** – Vocals / Djembe / Boucarabou / Sabar / Dun Dun.

King has been performing professionally since the age of 12 and developed his skills in the coastal fishing village where he grew up surrounded by griots (hereditary musicians) and international musicians in Gambia. In his late teens he formed his band Kunta Kinteh which toured nationally (Gambia/ Senegal) and internationally in Europe and the UK. Since arriving in Australia in 1998, King has built a reputation as a master of many African drumming styles and instruments including Djembe, Boucarabou, Sabar, and Dun Dun. As well as *One Africa*, King has his own band *Afro Mandinko* which has built a strong following in Melbourne and has become popular on the national festival circuit.

**Lamine Sonko** – Dance / Vocals / Guitar / Djembe

Lamine hails from a famous Senegalese musical family and has been performing traditional Senegalese dance, percussion and song since he was ten years old. He has performed internationally alongside such greats as Youssou Ndour, Vivianne Ndour and Fatou Nguewel Diouf. Since arriving in Australia Lamine has established *One Africa* with King Marong and his own group, *Asiko*. Lamine is a talented song writer and draws on his rich cultural heritage to create his own compositions for guitar, vocals and percussion which he performs with both *Asiko* and *One Africa*.

### **MUHANAMWE**

**Aliou Sylla** – Djembe / Lead Vocals

Master drummer Aliou Sylla from Conakry Guinea started playing djembe at 9 years of age. His teachers include Lamine Lopez Soumah, Lancé Kanté and Koumbana Kondé. Aliou is a former member of the internationally renowned, *Les Percussions de Guinée* and founding member of *Les Visages de Guinée*. Since arriving in Australia in 2005 Aliou has performed at many cultural events and festivals all over the country. His high caliber, energetic and friendly style has lead him to work with many different groups such as *The Royal African Drummers*, *Afro Mandinko*, and *Jali Buba Kuyateh*. Aliou is currently teaching percussion at Footscray Primary School as well as private students.

**Mohamed Camara** – Djembe / Lead Vocals

Mohamed Camara, from Guinea, West Africa, has been performing and teaching traditional Guinean percussion for over a decade. Former djembe soloist for internationally renowned Guinean ensembles *Ballet Destin*, *Ballet Bolonta* and *Les Sorciers de Guinée*, Mohamed has studied and performed with many of the world's great master drummers including Fadouba Oularé and Miriam Makeba's percussionist Papa Kouyaté. Since arriving in Australia in 2007, Mohamed has performed at various festivals and events, including Woodford Folk Festival, Apollo Bay Music Festival and Manna Gum. He has conducted workshops at numerous schools and universities, and is currently artist-in-residence at Clifton Hill Primary School.

**Anna Camara – Balafon / Dun Dun / Vocals**

Anna Camara developed a passion for Guinean percussion from the age of ten. This has led her to play a broad range of percussion instruments and styles, and she recently completed a Bachelor of Music Performance with Honours at the Victorian College of the Arts, specialising in repertoire percussion. She has performed as a soloist with the *VCA Symphony Orchestra*, in a national masterclass for world famous percussionist Evelyn Glennie, and at the 2008 Apra Screen Music Awards in Sydney. Anna has travelled twice to Guinea to study percussion, dance and song with members of internationally renowned ensembles *Les Amazones de Guinée* and *Les Percussions de Guinée*.

**Aicha Keita – Dance / Lead Vocals / Dun Dun**

Aicha Keita started dancing at the age of 7yrs training with *Ballet Matam*, a local dance troupe in her home city of Conakry in the Republic of Guinea. She has since performed with many of Guinea's leading percussion and dance ensembles, including *Ballet Wasssa*, *Ballet Munafanye* and *Faré Ta*. In 2006, Aicha was invited to join *Circus Africa Africa*, a performance troupe that brought artists together from many different African countries. As a valued member of this group, Aicha made her first international tour to Germany. The group was then invited to tour around Europe for a further year before Aicha moved and settled in Australia. Based in Adelaide, Aicha also works in Sydney, conducting Guinean dance workshops and performing with several different Sydney-based groups. Aicha, although originally trained in traditional Guinean dance, has also danced other African styles including Senegalese Sabar and Zulu traditional forms. She is also familiar with Western forms including Hip-Hop and Contemporary Dance. Aicha's passion for dance continues to thrive and this is evident in her vivacious and high-spirited dancing and teaching style.

For more information please contact:

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