

## My Bio.

My name is Erick Fungo, a teaching and performing artist from Tanzania East Africa. My experience in performing arts began when I was six 6 years old when I was introduced to African acrobatics.

By the age of 9 I was a prodigy in the craft and was recruited to join the local performing arts company in Iringa region.

The performing arts group I was recruited in, had variety of stage performance acts including African music, African dance and drumming.

Due to my youth age and energy, I was eager to learn everything I was interested in. So I learned African drumming and dance in depth while continuing with acrobatic acts..

With the support of my parents as I was growing up, they directed my education in schools with performing arts programs.

I graduated high school and was accepted at a three year College Of Performing Artd Bagamoyo in the coast of Bagamoyo city in Tanzania, in 1993.

The three years experience at the college I learned performing Arits in depth. Practical and theories.

I learned more of African dance and drumming history, theories and practical among othe classes such as modern music, African theater, acting, stage technology etc.

I graduated college in 1996.

In 1997 I started a teaching and performing arts company in Tanzania Called O'Nkosi Muzimasango. Muzimasango was the acronim standing for Music, Acting, Circus and Traditional Dance.

I provided arts programs for the youth and adults who didn't have the privilege to be around traditions while in the city just to keep the culture alive in Dar Es Salaam and sorounding cities.

My company also provided art programs and performances in east African countries. In 2000 I had an oppportunity to come to the US for international performing arts Education.

I took basics foreign classes at Tyler Junior College in Tuler Texas for 2 years. It was in 2002 when I decided school was enough and started saving money to go to New York where there is more teaching and performing arts opportunities.

In 2005 I moved to New York City where I applied for the position at The African Poetry Theater located in Jamaika Queens area.

The African Poetry Theater is a non profit organization that provides educational programs in New York State.

There, I was able to be a part of the teaching and performing arts team. Among the programs we provided was African based arts like music, dance, story telling, poetry, spoken word for Schools and after school programs in Jamaika Queens and Brooklyn.

With after school programs we were able to rescue a number of youth / teens from gang life style by keeping them busy learning African based arts.

Other than teaching I was able to start a performing Arts company called O'Nkosi Rhythm Wizards And Dance Fanatics.

The performing arts company I started gained popularity in many non profit organizations and for profit festivities.

Among the biggest shows we did was with Okay Afrika. Okay Afrika is one of the biggest non profit organizations in the world based in New York that is dedicated in to promoting African Music and culture.

. The show was held at 3rd Ward warehouses in Brooklyn and had 4,000 attendees.

The biggest show we ever did was the Guinness Book Of Word Records event hosted by World Yogis. The event aimed at breaking the previous world record of 8,000 Yogis practicing Yoga at one place. To break the record they aimed at having 10,000 Yogis from all around the world at Central Park New York. They surpassed their own goal by 4,000, as the event ended up having 14,000 attendees, and that became the new Guinness record that have not been broken till today.

O'Nkosi Rhythm Wizards And Dance Fanatics opened the event with African music for 30 minutes, and closed the event at the end of their 90 minutes world record breaking yoga practice with a 1 hour African traditional dance music for celebration. The event took place in 2011.

The most Honorable show we ever did was performing in front of 200 indigenous grandmother's of North Dakota. The event was hosted by a non profit organization called Urban Zen, also located in New York City.

In November 2019 I moved to Salt Lake City.

Before I was settled and start any project the pandemic hit.

My first project in Salt Lake City was once the pandemic cooled off in 2022. I started an Afrobeat Live Band which focussed in bringing awareness of modern African dance music to Salt Lake City, Utah community. With the band since started we have done several local gigs and 2022 Summer Festival events. Also I have started establishing traditional music and dance in Salt Lake City schools. I have done 4 workshops with Teachers of Salt Lake City so far. .