



Department of Dance
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

SANKOFA

DANCE CONCERT

DIRECTED BY:
JASON ARYEH

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THURSDAY FEB. 19TH - 7:30PM
FRIDAY FEB. 20TH - 7:30PM
SATURDAY FEB. 21ST - 2:30PM
Dance Theatre (Dance Building)

Tickets:
\$11 (Students & Seniors)
\$17 (Adult)

Tickets Available at: Tate, PAC and
dance.uga.edu

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Greetings!

Welcome to “SANKOFA,” a performance concert celebrating dance and community. Sankofa is a word from the Twi language of the Akan people in Ghana that literally translates to “go back and get it.” It is based on an Akan proverb which means, “It is not a taboo to go back for the good things you forgot”. As a choreographer living in the world, I am compelled to embrace many things happening around me, as these stories constantly affect my life and creativity. Sankofa performance concert aims at building a community that remembers who we are and what we love about dance. A community ready to push ourselves into uncomfortable places to try new things. A community ready to keep the excitement alive in what we do. And when we feel lost, we can comfortably feel safe to go back and get it (Sankofa).

This concert remembers and embraces the shared passion and the care towards a common goal, and the emotional release it brings as an artist. A reminder that we can go back and bring the good to explore who we are. That we are not one thing, not one color. We can change constantly and still keep a solid base. Sankofa celebrates the many versions of ourselves as artists and explores the different ways of dancing and performing without getting stuck. Dance is a never-ending journey. You can always grow, always learn, and always evolve.

We hope this performance inspires you to “Sankofa” when you feel lost.

I am most grateful to have had the opportunity and pleasure of sharing my artistic vision through my creative movements with these talented students, technical director, guest choreographer, and the wonderful production crew.

I am dancing towards the future where our hearts will be heard as we dance. A future where changes come from the power of many, but only when we learn to embrace love, freedom, and the beauty of dance for the future, a remembrance of the past, and a joyful exclamation of thanks for the present. I hope you will join me!

Enjoy the Show!

Jason Aryeh
Artistic Director and Choreographer

PROGRAM ORDER

Ritual

Choreography by: Jason Aryeh

Music: Madan (Remix) by Salif Keita

Costume by: Emmanuel Saim

Dancers: Lee Alleyne, Summer Arrington, Danica Best, Mikhaila Johnson, Kat Lazos, Shania McConnell, Kendall Sanders, Katherine Stockton, and Sarah Tso

The Power in Us

Choreography by: Jason Aryeh

Music: On The Nature of Daylight by Max Richter

Dancer: Violet Sofish

Oracles Whispers

Choreography by: Jason Aryeh

Spoken Word: Unknown

Edited by: Samuel Quaye

Dancers: Summer Arrington and Mikhaila Johnson

Unspoken

Choreography by: Jason Aryeh

Music: I Wanna Be Ready by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Dancer: Shania McConnell

Beneath the Saltwater

Choreography by: Jason Aryeh

Music: Daniel Deuschle - Enduring Hope (Official)

Dancers: Danica Best, Shivali Kiehler, Kat Lazos, Shania McConnell, and Kendall Sanders

Movement and Community Study Abroad in Ghana

(Video Screening)

Afro Heat Beat!

Choreography by: Bright Amoah AKA “Charger”

Dancers: Kat Lazos, Shania McConnell, and Sarah Tso

Indigo Tears

Choreography by: Jason Aryeh

Music: Ave Maria by André Rieu

Dancers: Danica Best and Shivali Kiehler

Runway – “Kente Vogue & Vibe”

Choreography by: Jason Aryeh

Music: My Name Is by DJ Zinhle (feat. Busiswa Gqulu) (Radio Edit)

Music Edited by: Samuel Quaye

Costume by: Emmanuel Saim

Dancers: Lee Alleyne, Summer Arrington, Danica Best, Mikhaila Johnson, Kat Lazos, Shania McConnell, Kendall Sanders, Katherine Stockton, and Sarah Tso

BOWS

STUDY AWAY WITH UGA DANCE!

DANCE & COMMUNITY IN GHANA

The program offers a unique opportunity for movement study, exploration, community engagement and performance in the cultural



and historically rich surroundings of Ghana. Students will have wonderful opportunities to work with a locally acclaimed dance company while learning of the history of trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonization, decolonization and the unparalleled and unmatched contributions African people have made to human civilization.



Applications still open!
Maymester (May 11-June 8, 2026)

For more information, contact Jason Aryeh, Program Director
(jason.aryeh@uga.edu)

<https://studyaway.uga.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgramAngular&id=13897>

DANCE IN NEW YORK CITY

This Maymester domestic field study course offers first-hand dance experience in New York City, dancing and exploring the historic dance scene in the city. Students will participate in classes, network with professionals, learn professional practices in preparing for job auditions, and attend performances.



Maymester (May 11-June 8, 2026)

For more information, please contact Dr. Lisa Fusillo, Program Director
(lfusillo@uga.edu)

<https://dfs.uga.edu/portal/tds-program-brochure?programid=13984>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to:

Carina McGeehin- Technical Director and Lighting Designer
Ms. Betty Prickett- Business Manager, Department of Dance

Many Thanks To:

Professor Rebecca Gose- Chair, Department of Dance
UGA Dance Faculty
Bright Amoah- Guest Choreographer
Samuel Quaye- Music Composer and Editor
Emmanuel Saim- Costume Designer



SUPPORT DANCE AT UGA

Scan to give today! Your gift makes a difference to our UGA Department of Dance community.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Join the UGA Department of Dance at our upcoming performances:

UGA Dance Company Spring Faculty Concert

Thur.-Fri., Apr. 9-10 @ 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 11 @ 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

FACULTY

Jason Aryeh, Lecturer

Lisa Fusillo, Professor

Rebecca Gose, Associate Professor & Department Head

Barbara Powers, Senior Lecturer

Elizabeth Stich, Assistant Professor

Jennifer Weber, Assistant Professor

PART-TIME FACULTY

Natalie Cox

Michael Fulford

Lindsay Giedl

Tina Martin

Melissa Roberts

Lisa Williamson

STAFF

Shaun Baer, Director of Public Relations

Carina McGeehin, Technical Production Manager

Betty Prickett, Business Manager

PART-TIME STAFF

Abigail Schulze, Administrative Assistant

Sabrina Esmail, Work-Study Student Assistant

Amber Fetner and Louis Romanos, Music Accompanists



MOVEMENT AND COMMUNITY IN GHANA



APPLY NOW!

Summer, May-June



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
Office of Global Engagement
Study Abroad

**Movement
and Community
in Ghana**
African Studies & Culture

Accra, Aburi,
Koforidua, Kumasi,
Techiman, Cape Coast
and Tema.

Contact the program Director, Prof. Jason Aryeh (Jason.aryeh@uga.edu) for further information.