

Discovery Theater

presents

Afrique! with Balafon

The Smithsonian Associates joined with The Francophonie Committee of Washington are proud to present **Le Festival de la Francophonie 2009** March 1 – April 3.

Join us in celebrating the French-speaking world with a month-long series of award-winning international films, musicians and performers arriving from around the globe for this special occasion. Our concert events will feature folk music, children's groups, and cutting edge electronic music artists.

Discovery Theater Artistic Director:

Roberta Gasbarre

Handout: Jacqueline E. Lawton

Discovery Theater programs are made possible, in part, by gifts from



The Smithsonian Associates **Guenther and Siewchen Yong Sommer**

(202) 633-8700 • Info@DiscoveryTheater.org • DiscoveryTheater.org
See our website for tickets, location, directions, resources for teachers, and much more!

Who is 'Mama' Kadiatou Conte?

As a young girl born in Conakry, Guinea, West Africa in 1955, Kadiatou Conte loved to dance and sing. In 1985 Kadiatou moved to Washington D.C. to fulfill her dream. Kadiatou, affectionately known as Mama Kadiatou, has become a major force in the African Arts community serving as a bridge between the Guinean and the D.C.



community. She has taught at Howard University, the George Washington University, the University of Maryland, the Duke Ellington School of Performing Arts, and at private and public elementary schools throughout the region. Currently, she is the artistic director of the Balafon West African Dance Ensemble.

Balafon West African Dance Ensemble

(<http://www.balafon.org/cms/>) is easily emerging as one of Washington DC's and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's premiere contemporary African performance ensembles. Officially formed in 1997, Balafon is a creative partnership among several artists who masterfully blend the natural elegance of traditional West African dance and culture with amazing heroic athleticism. Balafon West African Dance Ensemble, incorporated in 2001, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.



DISCOVERY THEATER (www.DiscoveryTheater.org), the **Smithsonian Institution's theater for children**, is dedicated to offering the best in live educational performing arts for young people. Each year, more than 50,000 children and their adults visit Discovery Theater on the National Mall to explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs. Our new specially-designed performance space is located next to the Smithsonian Castle, in the S. Dillon Ripley Center—the Smithsonian's underground learning center with classrooms, lecture halls, artists' studios and more. For details, call 202-633-8700 or see: www.DiscoveryTheater.org.

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