



Discovery Theater has presented live educational performances at the Smithsonian to young people throughout the Washington, D.C., area and beyond since 1979. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and in our community. There's so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!

## OUR STAFF

Artistic Director.....Roberta Gasbarre  
 Administrative Coordinator & Group Sales.....Sara Lokossou  
 Production Manager.....Sam Game  
 Technicians.....Louis Davis & Ashley Thweatt  
 House Manager.....Morgan Hall  
 Summer Interns.....Zach Arlt & Addie Gomez

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D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities  
 DC Public Schools  
 The Nora Roberts Foundation  
 Smithsonian Women's Committee  
 Smithsonian Youth Access Grants Program  
 Sommer Endowment

# SPIRIT OF SOUTH AFRICA

## WITH LESOLE'S DANCE PROJECT



Photo by Nehemiah Walker

**July 9-12, 2019**  
**Ages 5 to 16**  
**Kindergarten and up**



Smithsonian Associates

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## ABOUT THE SHOW



Take a journey to the tip of the African continent and experience four exciting cultures! This performance seeks to foster a deeper understanding among people of different backgrounds and cultural traditions through four distinct dance traditions. These include the traditional **Ndlamu** dance from Zulu villages gives a snapshot of the clothing, customs, live drumming and high energy of South Africa; the moves and percussive sounds of **Gumboot**, a kind of "instant messaging" dance slapped out on gold miners' rubber boots; **Pantsula**, an upbeat urban dance like American hip-hop but with a cultural twist; and **Tswana**, a very energetic traditional dance form.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Lesole Dance Project** is a dynamic dance group that specializes in a blend of contemporary modern and Afro-Fusion dance.

**Lesole Z. Maine**, the founder of the group, was born in South Africa. Lesole Maine first received an internship with Moving Into Dance, where he studied traditional South African dance and modern styles. He formed the Lesole Dance Project in 2003. Since then, the group has performed at The Kennedy Center, the Wolf Trap Foundation of the Performing Arts, the National Museum of African Art in Philadelphia, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Miami International Book Fair, Cincinnati Play House, and many more. They group was a recipient of The Washington Post's Bringing the Arts to Our Community grant award, and nominated for the Metro DC Dance Awards in 2007. In August 2009, Lesole Dance Project launched its First Annual International Edu-dance Program, working with local primary schools in the townships of Sebokeng, South Africa.



## TRY IT AT HOME!

South Africa has 11 official languages—one of the most spoken is Zulu! Can you say these Zulu phrases?

- Hello — *Sawubona (sah˘oo-bóh-nă)*
- Goodbye or Stay well — *Sala kahle (sáh-lă káh-lěh)*
- How are you — *Unjani (ũn-jáh-něe)*
- Thank you — *Ngiyabonga (geé-yăh-bón-găh)*
- I am well — *Ngiyaphila (geé-ăh-peé-lăh)*



## RELATED RESOURCES

Visit the **Cultural Expressions** exhibit at the **National Museum of African American History and Culture**. The exhibition introduces visitors to the broad concept of African American and African diaspora culture and five ways through which that culture is expressed.

**More Info:** [www.nmaahc.si.edu](http://www.nmaahc.si.edu)

Right down the hall from our theater, you can check out the newly opened exhibit, **Striking Iron: The Art of African Blacksmiths**.

**More Info:** <https://africa.si.edu/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/>

Article on the benefits of dance in the Early Childhood classroom:

[https://www.ndeo.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=893257&module\\_id=55419](https://www.ndeo.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=893257&module_id=55419)

*We encourage you share your experience with us today through a photo or post on social media during or after the program. If you'll be using your phone, do it with consideration for those around you and on stage, and remember that recording the full program is not permitted.*



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