



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The fabric of African dance

Costumes help tell the stories

Alicia Williams, left, and Rokia Kali Quattara, members of Afriky Lolo, rehearse t \acute{e} mat \acute{e} , a harvest dance from the Ivory Coast. The blouses are made of indigo cloth, and the headdresses from leather, mirrors and cowry shells. Photos by Karen Elshout | Post-Dispatch

Pierre Smith (left), Robert Earl Harris and Alicia Williams rehearse the Marakadon, a wedding dance from Mali. The clothes are what the bride and groom would wear, with artistic embellishments.



To see a slideshow of more dance and fashion photos go to stltoday.com/fashion

By Debra D. Bass
POST-DISPATCH FASHION EDITOR

Diadie Bathily came to St. Louis from his twin native countries of Mali and the Ivory Coast to teach traditional African dance, and he imported an appreciation for his homeland's culture and dress.

About 30 dancers belong to his company, Afriky Lolo. There are three levels of expertise — students, apprentices and full company members. He also has a children's company of 20 dancers.

To advance in the company, students don't just learn choreography, they study the culture they are representing, including history, language and traditions.

There are as many tribal dance styles as there are dialects in Africa, which has the most diverse speaking population in the world. This makes attire very important. The costumes begin to tell the story and prepare the audience for the dance that will follow.

"When you see this costume, you know you are about to watch t \acute{e} mat \acute{e} (an Ivory Coast dance about the rice harvest), much like when you see tutus you know there will be ballet," Bathily says.

Rice is a primary food and source of income in the Ivory Coast, which is about the size of Texas. And much like jazz or modern dance traditions here, t \acute{e} mat \acute{e} is not just a dance but a dance style. The entire dance chronicles planting, growing, harvesting, cooking, eating and celebrating rice. The only people in Africa who perform t \acute{e} mat \acute{e} are the

PLEASE SEE **DANCE** | E2

GET REAL GUIDE | ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY FAMILY CONCERTS

Beethoven for beginners: Symphony designs concerts with youth in mind

A Dance of Opposites: Beethoven 5

When: 3 to 4 p.m.
Sunday

Where: Powell Symphony Hall, 718 North Grand Boulevard

How much: \$8, \$5 children

More info: 314-534-1700

By Diane Toroian Keaggy
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Ba-Ba-Ba-Bummmm.

Short-short-short-long. The most popular four notes in all of Western music also offer a cool study of opposites, said Scott Parkman of the St. Louis Symphony.

"Short, long, fast, slow — that's really how music is put together," said Parkman. "It's about the contrasts."

Parkman will lead the Symphony in its performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 for the third installment in its Family Concert Series. Introduced this season, the series has become an instant hit with parents who appreciate the cheap prices, kid-friendly presentation and Parkman's understated humor.

For Sunday's concert, Parkman will divide Beethoven's classic into five-to-10-minute chunks so kids can easily digest the music and his brief comments. The Symphony also will perform two shorter works: the overture to Rossini's "The Italian Girl in Algiers" and Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5."

"Most of these musicians could play Beethoven's No. 5 by memory if they had to," said Parkman. "But there is something



Young and old enjoy family concerts. Photo courtesy of the St. Louis Symphony

Where to eat a bite after ...

Symphony regulars have long bemoaned the dearth of nearby dining options. The pickings are even slimmer on Sundays. Here are some suggestions for not-so-faraway restaurants that are friendly to both kids and your pocketbook.

South City Diner

3139 South Grand Boulevard
314-772-6100

Retro diner features kid's menu and an array of pies, sundaes and shakes. Breakfast is served all day.

Crown Candy Kitchen

1401 St. Louis Avenue
314-621-9650

Beloved soda fountain serves humongous sandwiches and ice cream treats. Highlights include the artery-busting egg salad sandwich, BLT, chili dog and chocolate-banana malted.

Sweetie Pies

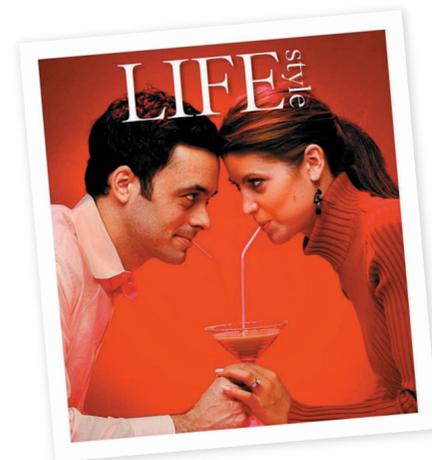
4270 Manchester Avenue
314-371-0304

Comfort-food cafeteria serves fried chicken, meatloaf, greens and potatoes. You will try, but probably fail, to save room for the peach cobbler and banana pudding.

Square One Soda Fountain

1801 Park Avenue
314-241-0099

This Lafayette Square luncheonette offers blue plate specials, sandwiches and breakfast served all day. The ice cream treats are delicious.



Dear Readers:

We'll roll out the new Lifestyle on Saturday — and we hope you'll enjoy us along with your first cup of coffee. Lifestyle is becoming friendlier and more colorful — with color on every page, in fact.

We'll still be a tabloid, but slightly smaller and much more portable. We'll have lots of great information for you, and we think you'll like the clear, clean presentations — easy to clip and save.

We've added some new features, including the Party of the Week, to inspire you. In another, Haute Home, we'll give you an eye-ful on how the hottest runway fashions are showing up in home d \acute{e} cor.

And we'll be asking you to e-mail your thoughts each week in answer to our Question of the Week. We love your good ideas.

So count on us to bring you timely stories to give you ideas for planning a fabulous life at home, with style. See you Saturday.

Nancy Miller | Lifestyle Editor

PLEASE SEE **GUIDE** | E5

TALK TO US

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FEB. 1 BIRTHDAYS

Big Boi | Rapper (OutKast) | **32**
Michael C. Hall | Actor ("Dexter," "Six Feet Under") | **36**
Paul Shore | Comedian | **39**
Lisa Marie Presley | Singer | **39** ➤



Billy Mumy | Actor-writer-producer ("Lost in Space") | **53**
Terry Jones | Actor-writer-director (Monty Python) | **65**
Don Everly | Singer (The Everly Brothers) | **70**
Garrett Morris | Actor-comedian | **70**

HOROSCOPE | JACQUELINE BIGAR

NOTE: Horoscopes have no basis in scientific fact and should be read for entertainment, not guidance.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★☆☆

No matter which way you turn, you could feel a bit awkward. Though ingenuity certainly plays a role in your life, it might not take some of the difficult moments away. Chalk up discomfort to the planets right now. Tonight: Let off steam.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★☆☆

Stay close to home, if possible. Many people and happenings seem to tilt you off-center. You would be happier relaxing and perhaps cocooning. Remember, you don't have to be available to all the people all of the time! Tonight: Homeward bound.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★☆☆

What you say might be right-on, but one would be hard-pressed to tell it by observing others' responses. Ultimately, what you verbalize and do needs to reflect you and not others. Plans do change. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★☆☆

Dig into your imagination and deal with issues directly and with finesse. How you handle a money matter might be clear to you, but not to others. What becomes evident is that you cannot control others. Tonight: Don't splurge!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★☆☆

You are all smiles but do have difficulty handling someone in a more direct and complete manner. You might want to try another approach or do something different. Others challenge your thinking and style! Stay

secure. Tonight: Just smile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★☆☆

Know when to cut your losses and say "enough." You could be tired and withdrawn because of what is going on. You might need some personal time. Don't put yourself last all the time. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★☆☆

You know what you want. Though you might want to zoom in and make it yours, this behavior could be a problem. Others are not as compliant as you might like. Sometimes their attitude or gestures say it all. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★☆☆

Though others want you to be in the limelight and take charge, they might not make it easy. Ignore underground currents. Don't be surprised

by someone's direct challenge. You can handle nearly anything. Tonight: Expect to be in demand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★☆☆

Taking an overview could be challenging. Others might be reactive and in a difficult mood. You could be out of sorts as well. Events and people don't calm down, but only become more lively. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★☆☆

Handle finances as directly as possible. You might want to gain a new perspective or do something a lot differently. Give yourself permission to flow and move with opportunities. Visualize and create with the help of a partner. Tonight: Let someone else make the call.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★☆☆

You might be more challenging than you realize when dealing with the many people in your life. Know when to step back and make what you would like happen. Listen to what others say, but don't feel like you need to go with the program. Tonight: Just flow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★☆☆

When your energy is off, you might be well advised to pull back and change directions. Your ability to realign more of what you want might be off. Just hang out or take a personal day. Avoid getting into new projects. Tonight: What would be restful?

STLToday.com/horoscopes. Get expanded horoscope information: star charts, peak times, outlooks and Chinese zodiac data.

BIRTHDAY OUTLOOK

If **Feb. 1** is your birthday: You have energy and ideas, though inevitably you'll hit an obstacle or two this year. The smart approach will be to let others have their way, as experience is the best teacher. The only control you can exercise is over yourself. Popularity and opportunity multiply with a laissez-faire attitude. With the right attitude, the world could be your oyster. Try not to scatter, keeping in mind your goals and long-term desires. If you are single, you might give up that status, as many will want to be your forever sweetie. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from openness and a willingness to try or experience life from your sweetie's side. Leo can be demanding.

DANCE | FROM E1

Fashion plays a part in African dance

➤ Wobe people from the Ivory Coast.

About 80 percent of the people in the Ivory Coast are farmers, so the dance pays homage to the earth. The movements are very grounded to keep the dancer and the energy close to the earth.

The costume includes a loose fitting fabric tank top and shorts that would be typical daytime attire in Mali. The distinct tie-dye print is a cultural identifier much as are kilts in the clans of Scotland.

A belt with dangling strips of fabric and leather adorned with Wobe designs of small wooden masks is attached to the waist. The headdress includes cowry shells, which are symbols of wealth and beauty, and a mirror to remind people to treat others with kindness.



Zsane Wrice and Diadie Bathily wear fashions by Anneliese Hubbard. Bathily is the founder of Afriky Lolo, a dance troupe that rehearses at the Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis.
 Karen Elshout | Post-Dispatch

Invited to teach

Diadie Bathily (pronounced jah-gee ba-chee-lee) has 11 brothers and sisters and was born in the Ivory Coast. He was raised in Mali, the homeland of his mother and father and divided his time between the two countries. He developed love and passion for the region's dance styles. Joseph Hellweg, a professor at University of Missouri at St. Louis, danced with Bathily in the Ivory Coast and asked him to come to St. Louis to teach for a semester.

"I was scared to come," said Bathily, who spoke French and four African languages at the time, but no English. His curiosity overcame his fear and he began teaching in 1998 with Hellweg, who translated for him.

Bathily soon discovered that St. Louis wasn't as foreign as he had expected. The African choreographer is a graduate of Ecole de Dance et D'Exchange Culturelle in the Ivory Coast. There are four other graduates from that dance school in his

'The Mask Returns'

The 4th Annual African dance celebration
When: 8 p.m. March 2 and 2 and 8 p.m. March 3
Where: COCA, 524 Trinity Avenue
How much: \$20
More info: 314-725-1834 ext. 124

local company. That's not surprising until he explains that the other graduates were already in St. Louis and each arrived here by different circumstances and found each other through word of mouth.

After Bathily began teaching at UMSL, Webster and Washington universities requested courses and soon he was also teaching workshops in public and private schools.

"It was a little overwhelming because it happened so fast and I was just starting to learn English," Bathily said.

When he decided to form the dance company, he knew he would need suitable costumes,

so he went back home to design and commission pieces. Bathily sews many of the costumes himself, but the more intricate braiding and beading work are done in Africa.

He said that, because hair style is also a key component of African costuming and daily attire, he had to create headpieces that represent those styles. Many scarves and wigs of intricate braid hairstyles are part of his cast wardrobe to create an authentic appearance. The illusion, however, is often broken because the expressive, chest-thrusting, head-whipping dance moves frequently send headpieces flying. When such things occur, dancers ignore the wardrobe malfunction and continue as if it were part of the exuberance of the dance.

"Everything has to adapt a little," and this is also cultural — working with what you have been given and making it beautiful, Bathily says.

dbass@post-dispatch.com | 314-340-8236

Fashion from Europe, U.S. converge with African prints

By **Debra D. Bass**
 POST-DISPATCH FASHION EDITOR

It is common in Africa to see many European-designed clothes rendered with bold, colorful fabrics: Women in two-button business suits cut from cloth bathed in red, green and gold or men in ties and button-down shirts made from an African tie-dye.

The mixing of dress styles is striking to western eyes because of the shock of color, but it is not uncommon. As cultures are tossed together like salad, wonderful combinations form.

"My dad wears his dashiki (a billowing shirt with wide arm holes) with khakis," said Chinyere Oteh of south St. Louis. Her father is Nigerian. She said that she likes to tie African-printed fabric, like a skirt, over her jeans.

She noted that when visiting metropolitan Nigerian cities, American and European fashions are everywhere. "If you didn't know where you were, you could be anywhere: New York, L.A., except everyone is African," Oteh said.

She said that she reserves her "best" African attire for special oc-

casions, but on a daily basis, she is apt to reach for an African print. Anneliese Hubbard, also of south St. Louis, takes her love of African fabrics even further. She has designed a line of clothing mixing African fabrics with an urban, American aesthetic.

Mustard-colored cloth stitched with raw seams form a halter wrap shirt. A mix of vibrant fabric remnants becomes a patchwork jean skirt. A piece of mud cloth with a bold graphic print is converted into a cropped men's jumpsuit. She operates her company, Hazelwear, out of her home and also makes jewelry.

A principal dancer in Diadie Bathily's Afriky Lolo, she says she is constantly inspired by the costumes and her study of traditional African attire. "What I come up with is unique, not traditional, but it respects the traditions," Hubbard says.

Ouattara Kali Roky of north St. Louis is a native of the Ivory Coast. She wore Hubbard's clothes for a fashion shoot and said they were beautiful. She said that she could easily see herself wearing them back home in the streets of Africa or strolling through the mall here.

The cultural fabric convergence

of style is already happening on high- and low-end fashion products. Converse introduced a limited edition pair of Chuck Taylor All-Star sneakers covered in African fabric, and Givenchy's latest advertisement for its haute couture features two European models in mudcloth-print dresses reminiscent of traditional tribal apparel.

Hubbard is one of many in St. Louis catering to people who want to mix cultures with their clothes. Andrea Loggins of north St. Louis is another. She also studies under Bathily and her company, 7541 Production, sells Afrocentric products.

"I sell them because I love them," said Loggins, who was wearing a swath of colorful fabric tied into a skirt and a belt, earrings and bracelet all made of cowry shells. "I'm Afrocentric every day."

Debbie Chase of Clayton says her 8-year-old son, who has been dancing with Bathily for three years, would wear his African dance costume daily. It is a traditional ensemble of deep gold and black printed fabric.

"But I'm afraid he'll ruin it, so I make him take it off," Chase says.

HELP YOURSELF | COMPILED BY SUSAN LUBERDA

QUESTIONS

Appraisals: Who can appraise an eight-piece set of Rosenthal China? W.L.

Balloon wine: Who knows how to make balloon wine that was popular during the 1950s? B.D.

Billfold windows: Where can I buy billfold windows for a tri-fold billfold? P.K.

Books: I'd like a copy of a 1963 yearbook from East St. Louis Senior High School. S.H.

•I'm looking for the book "How to Play Centerfield," written by Terry Moore. J.H.

Car radio: I'm looking for a factory replacement AM/FM radio for a 1993 Mercury Sable, or a place to repair mine. I'd also like to find a working radio from a 1993 Ford Taurus. W.B.

Christmas ornament: Where can I get a 2006 Lightning McQueen Hallmark ornament? C.R.

• Where can I buy personalized Christmas ornaments like those shown on the soap opera "Days of Our Lives"? B.W.

Clothing reweaving: Who does reweaving of clothing that has been damaged by moths? B.W.

Comb curling iron: I'm searching for a comb curling iron with a 1/4-inch barrel. E.K.

Doll repair: Who in the South County or south city area repairs dolls? M.C.

Flannel pajamas: Who sells men's flannel pajama sets in a size 52 extra-long? C.P.

Lamp repair: Where can I have a lamp rewired? K.H.

Large group games: Where can I buy games that can be played by groups on tour buses, such as Bus Bingo? B.W.

Pan spray: Where can I buy Weight Watchers butter-flavored non-stick pan spray? K.R.

Photo information: Who might be able to help me with information on a photo? It's 12 inches by 20 inches and says St. Louis District No. 26 Mantle Club O.M.M. It's dated

Sept. 2, 1941. Pictured is a large group of men, possibly at a movie theater. G.F.

Postal Service emblem: I'm seeking the patch that Postal Service employees wore on their uniforms before and during the 1970s. D.S.

Remote control boat: I'm looking for a remote-control cruiser-type boat with a battery pack and charger. R.K.

Reupholstering classes: Is there a local place that teaches reupholstering? D.S.

Rubber gloves: Where can I buy rubber dishwashing gloves in size XL? R.F.

Safety pins: Where can I get large heavy-duty safety pins to be used in a church mission that requires cloth diapers? D.D.

Seat swivel: Where can I buy a seat cushion that swivels in both directions, making it easier to get in and out of a car? A.P.

Song: Who knows the lyrics to an old song my mother used to sing to me called "Two Little Girls in Blue"? M.L.

Getting into Help Yourself

Selection of Help Yourself questions is based on brevity, clarity, variety and suitability. Send your question or answer, including your name, address and phone number and, if providing an answer, the date on which the question appeared to:

Help Yourself
 St. Louis Post-Dispatch
 900 North Tucker Boulevard
 St. Louis, Mo. 63101

You also can e-mail your questions and answers to: helpyourself@post-dispatch.com

ANSWERS

Antiseptic powder: The Vermont Country Store, 1-802-362-8484 or www.vermontcountrystore.com, has BFI antiseptic powder that J.D. requested. D.M.

Budweiser aluminum bottlers: I can help D.B. with two 16-oz. aluminum Budweiser St. Louis Cardinals Championship bottles. R.B., 636-391-2779.

•I will help with 16-oz. aluminum Budweiser St. Louis Cardinals Championship bottles. C.J., 314-741-4765.
 •I have 16-oz. aluminum St. Louis Cardinals Championship bottles. B.W., 314-351-0522.

•Two more readers with 16-oz. aluminum St. Louis Cardinals Championship bottles. C.F., 314-229-4114 and J.M., 636-458-3910.

Carbide lamp: Uncle Sam's Outfitters, 636-394-2888, on Manchester Road sells calcium carbide for a miner's lamp. J.S.

Console stereo: I can help J.O. with a console stereo from the 1960s. D.B., 636-939-2558.

•I have three stereo consoles. J.J., 618-465-7564.
 •I will help with a 1960s mahogany RCA console stereo. E.M., 314-843-0283.

•I have a Capehart console stereo with an AM/FM receiver and a stacked turntable from the early 1960s. Q.N., 618-656-6361.

Dishwashing liquid: I have found Sunlight Ultra dishwashing liquid for sensitive skin at the Wal-Mart Super Center in Wood River. Maybe other Wal-Marts have it. S.B.

Grill: I can make a barbecue grill for T.S. out of a 55-gallon drum. R.G., 618-939-1973.

Lamp prisms: Jon Paul Designs and Collectibles, 314-645-2722, 7014 Clayton Road, has all types of chandeliers. It can repair or provide parts from many types of lamps. W.M.

Manual: G.J. can get the operating

instructions for a Sony VA10 computer at www.sony.com. Click on service and support, then product support. In the upper right-hand corner, type in your VA10 model number into manuals and specs. Also, www.microsoft.com/windowsme/using has information on Windows ME. If you don't have access to the Internet, I'll gladly download them for you. D.G., 314-807-4541.

Tailoring: I can help teach B.P. some tailoring. M.P., 636-441-9751.

Toilet paper roll extenders: I was able to get toilet paper roll extenders by calling the 800 number on the package of Charmin toilet paper. B.P., 314-741-7010.

Zenith record changer: Inhome Jukebox Repairman, 636-227-3300, can do repairs on a Zenith automatic record changer.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Compiled by Susan Luberda

Reunions: The Normandy High School Class of 1957 will hold a 50th reunion Sept. 21-23 at the Westport Doubletree Hotel, 1973 Craigshire Road. Friday night will be an ice-breaker in the lobby bar. Saturday night will have dinner and dancing, and Sunday a morning brunch at Doubletree's Copperfield Restaurant. For more information, contact Ronna Owens Smith, 314-423-0145, e-mail Rosemary Cromer Boustany, bmfbk@carbotrade.com or visit the website: www.normandyhigh.com.
 •The Fairview High School Class of 1957 is having a 50th reunion Sept. 14-16. The alumni committee is looking for the following classmates: Robert Brown, Patsy Rodgers Esling, Margaret Robinson Cran, Carleen Sadler, Janet Schmidt, and Arthur (Ed) Yarbrough Jr. Information is available by contacting Bob Dody, 314-335-9969 or robertdody@sbcbglobal.net or Linda Phillips Margenau, 636-532-4721.

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