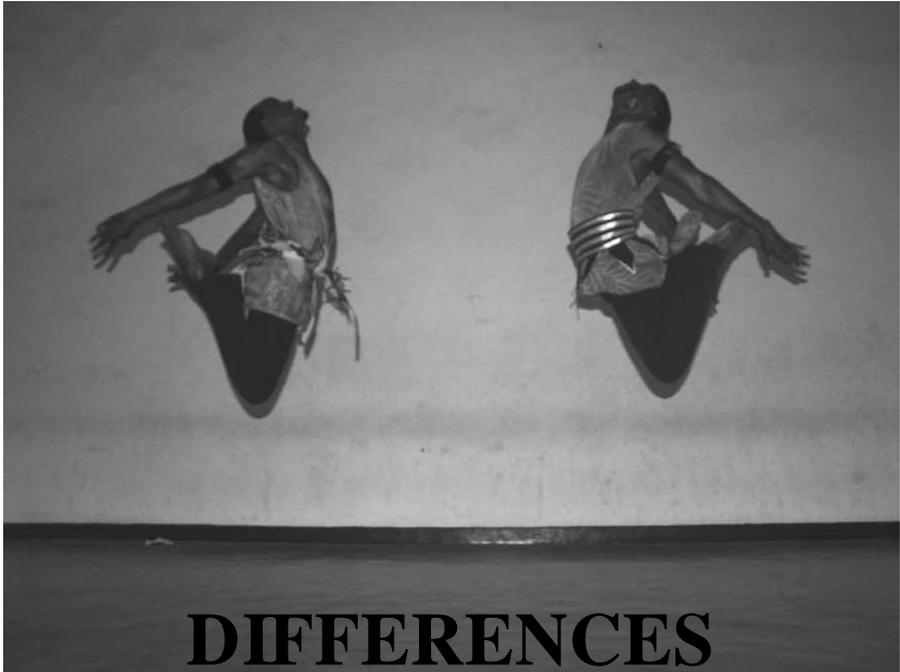


**Amizero Dance Company &  
Rebecca Davis Dance Company**



*An original contemporary ballet exploring  
interrelationships between different groups  
within a single society*

**December 30, 3009 – Kigali, Rwanda**



**Dancer & Project Coordination:  
Wesley Ruzibiza**



**Dancer:  
Viateur Benimana**



**Dancer:  
Eugene Dushime**



**Choreographer:  
Rebecca Davis**



**Photography & Documentation:  
Celesta Duivenvoorde**

**Concept & Translation:  
Costumes:  
Lighting Design:**

**Emmanuel Munyarukumbuzi  
Francine Baughman  
Steve Rukongi**

**Dear Friends,**

The concept of 'Differences' emerged from a dialogue between Americans and Rwandans in summer 2008. We posed a question to one another: 'what would it be like to live in a world where people were not divided and ostracized by their character traits, but rather had these peculiarities celebrated and praised for their uniqueness?' So often, we try to suppress or ignore differences, but in reality, it is those very elements that make life and cultural sharing an engaging and rewarding experience for those brave enough to participate in the exchange.

This evening we invite you into our story of the challenges and rewards of building friendships across historical cultural divisions. Whether those differences be based in religion, ethnicity, language, gender or otherwise, there is a way for us to be simultaneously different and united as demonstrated in our story.

Just as this project initiated from one simple conversation, we now hope to engage in a subsequent dialogue inspired by the movement motifs and choreographic construction of 'Differences'. This has been a remarkable process for each of us as collaborators, and we are excited to be sharing it with the broader community. Thank you for being part of this artistic journey tonight.

Murakoze cyane,

Rebecca Davis, Choreographer, 'Differences'

## Synopsis

### *Preface*

*Differences - enriching and worthwhile.*

*Part of life - good and not evil.*

*Who can claim that he has evolved without considering where others have reached?*

*What would imitation mean if there wasn't something different from*

*Who we are and what we do?*

*What would diversity mean if we were all alike?*

*What would be the essence of unity if the world was made up by a perfect uniformity?*



*Differences come and break the monotony,*

*Give room to creativity and underpin innovativeness.*

*New things emerge from a dreadful sameness*

*And fill the picture with totally new horizons of hope,*

*And progressive identity based on discovery.*

*Discovering those differences gives room*

*To finding ways of harmonizing them,*

*Hence creating what the world has always looked for.*

This contemporary dance work is told in five parts. In the first section, we are introduced to three characters, each representing a distinct segment of any denoted population. A strong bond is built between a teacher and a student through the encouragement of a common friend. The young boy learns from his teacher and a special relationship based on mutual respect is formed between them.

In part two, the environment changes and outside forces impose a random hierarchal system within society. This initiates tension between the teacher and the student. In part three, the situation further changes as society is thrust into chaos and uncertainty. Mistrust of each other's differences breaks all of the heartfelt relationships that had been previously formed. This insidious atmosphere reaches a climax in part four when the young boy dies. Revenge and sadness characterize the other two men's reactions to the boy's death; however, their shared love for the young boy leads them to mourn together, and consequently, accept each other's differences in this moment of commonality.

In the final section, all three dancers abstractly represent their differences while finding a way to become one unified family. Differences are celebrated, rather than divided and conquered.



## **Dedication of Tonight's Performance...**

This evening's performance is dedicated to someone very special to us: Agnes Mukandinda. She is an inspiration to one of our dancers and we all hope for a quick and full recovery. She is part of our family and will always live in our hearts.

## **More Information About This Project & The Collaborators**

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## **Music Selections:**

Rhythm Project  
Bells of Arcousanti  
Aftermath



**A special thanks to the following  
persons  
and organisations:**

**The American Embassy  
University Centre for Arts and Drama  
(UCAD)  
Leeway Arts & Change Foundation  
Positive Production  
Kalaos Media  
Goethe Institute  
Ishyo  
Gakire Katese Odile  
Steve Rukongi  
Gloria Magambo**