



REBECCA DAVIS DANCE COMPANY

Dance | Skill Development | Youth Advancement

Guinea

Dance & Acrobatics
Literacy
Meal Program

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Rwanda

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Basic IT Skills
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Mission



The Rebecca Davis Dance Company (RDDC)

RDDC uses dance to engage and advance the lives of underserved children in post-conflict and developing countries. Each RDDC program combines dance classes with skill-building or educational workshops (such as IT, health and water sanitation lessons). The Company currently has field offices and ongoing programs in Guinea, Rwanda, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Vision: Improving Children's Lives

RDDC aims to significantly improve the lives of children and youth in its focus countries by equipping participating youth with a skill or knowledge base that they can leverage in the future. Dance, found at the core of each program, is used to help the children develop confidence, self-esteem and discipline. RDDC trains a few of the most talented and committed students to become dancers or teachers directly involved with RDDC programs, but ultimately, serves the vast majority of students through the educational training associated with each program.



Who We Are

RDDC was founded in the USA as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization in 2005, and carries out its programs in conjunction with foreign partner organizations and local field teams. The programs are run day-to-day by staff from each participating country under the leadership of a Country Director and a team of instructors.

What We Do

The Company has standardized a model that integrates dance workshops and workshops focusing on an issue or educational topic relevant to a specific global community.

Each project is tailored to a specific global community, but all work is structured within a pre-defined framework, which:

- Targets and assembles approximately 60 children (ages 10 – 19 years) of diverse backgrounds
- Combines lessons in dance technique with educational and practical training in one of the following areas: IT, literacy, water conservation, and health and sanitation
- Contains a youth leadership/entrepreneurship component that trains the top students to become teachers' assistants, lead instructors, and eventually in-country program administrators
- Leverages skill-building components (IT, language, health) to help some youth find job opportunities in their respective countries

A common set of measurables determines success, including:

- Positive economic impact on participating youth and the local partner organization(s)
- Continuous programming led by local staff and youth leaders who have graduated from the dance training programs
- Greater community awareness about the social or global development issues addressed through presentations and performances
- Group of skilled youth that complete RDDC programs and are able to support themselves in their native country

Thank You!

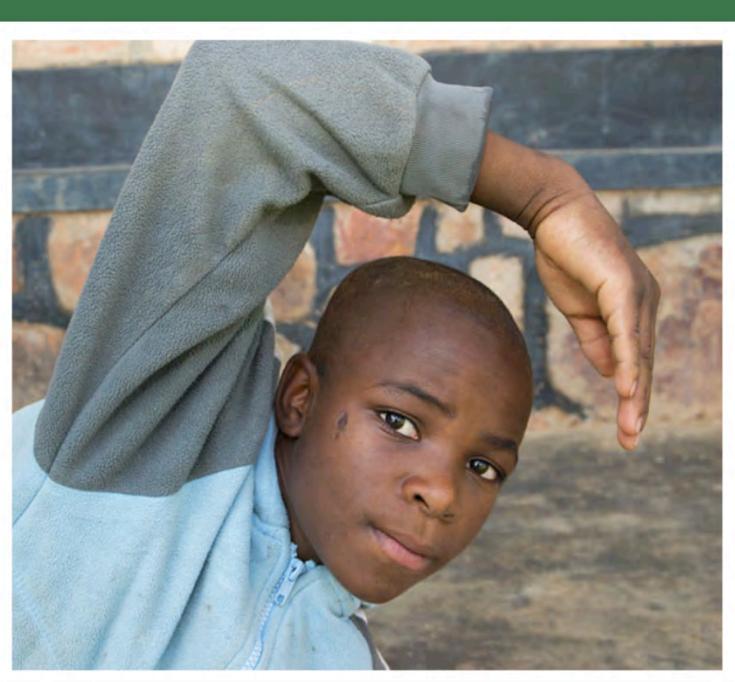
Our Supporters and Partners

Public & Foundation Support

Jewish Helping Hands
The Pennsylvania Council of the Arts
The Prince Claus Foundation via Amizero Dance Kompagnie (Rwanda)
Udruga Zamfis (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
The United States Embassy, Public Affairs Office (Bosnia-Herzegovina,
Rwanda)
The William Penn Foundation

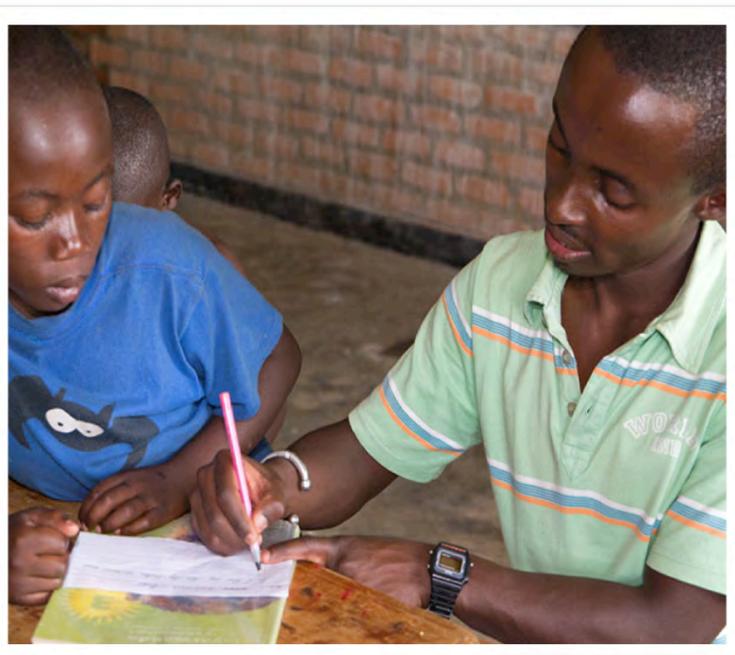
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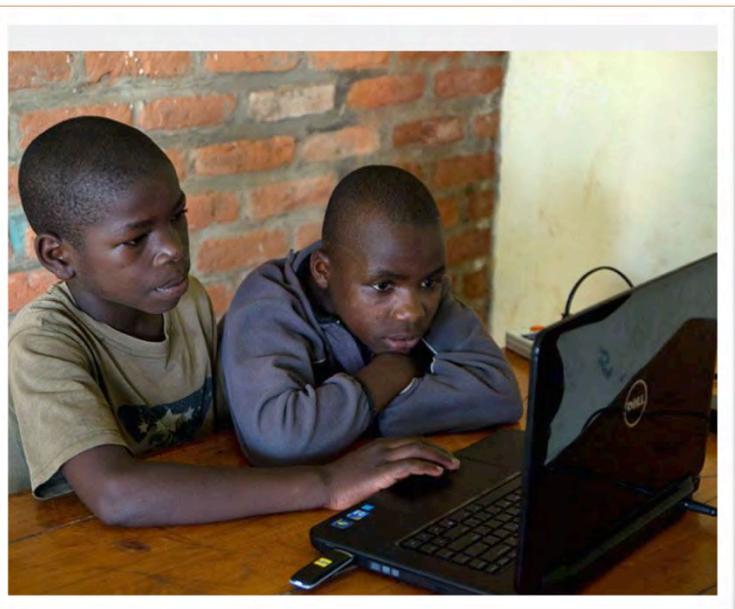
Dance |

Dance is used to attract, engage and retain students in order to meet outlined skill and educational objectives. Children, who are enthusiastic and motivated to attend the dance workshops, are then ready to take in the program's academic and vocational training components.



Skill Development |

Through supplementary classes taught in conjunction with the dance program, RDDC's programming ensures that children have a vocational skill or knowledge base in their respective country. Skills taught range from IT expertise to English language and basic health knowledge.



Youth Advancement |

RDDC uses dance to build confidence and self-esteem in children, but the program's ultimate goal is to advance the lives of youth through skill development. This ranges from sponsoring children to go to boarding school, hiring children to do basic IT work, to employing youth as teachers and trainers for RDDC international programs.

RDDC in Guinea

Improving Literacy & Nutrition in Kindia

On August 3, 2011, RDDC and the Association of Benka-Fissa officially launched their partnership creating an ongoing dance and academic program in Kindia, Guinea. The relationship between RDDC and Benka-Fissa emerged over a year of discussions and trial projects begun in 2010.

The program's first official cohort serves mostly boys who live in Kindia, aged 10 to 19 years. These boys face extreme poverty, lack of access to education and unstable family lives. RDDC's partnership with Benka-Fissa keeps children safe, educated and fed by involving them in productive physical and mental activities:

- Six days a week, the students attend a four-hour dance training program of classical ballet, modern, hip hop, traditional Guinean dance, and acrobatics.
- Children learn basic reading and writing skills in French and English through a daily academic program.
- RDDC sponsors a breakfast-lunch meal program to improve the nutrition of the children who come from poor and economically depressed circumstances.
- The top 14 children regularly present performances in Kindia while others are selected to advance their training in other countries through RDDC programs.



Country Background:

The Republic of Guinea, a country in West Africa, is currently going through democratic transition. Guinea's 10 million people belong to twenty-four ethnic groups, which are experiencing political and economic tension between the major groups. Guinea is also struggling to improve the country's employment opportunities. In 2011, Forbes ranked Guinea as one of the world's worst five economies with GDP per capita at \$440 and the inflation rate at 17%. Kindia, the city in which the RDDC program is based, is located two hours outside of Conakry, the capital.



RDDC in Guinea

Children's Daily Itinerary

Time	Program
8:00 – 8:30am	Breakfast Program
8:30 – 9:30am	Traditional Dance
9:30 – 11:30am	Classical ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop
11:30 – 12:30pm	Acrobatics
12:30 – 1pm	Lunch Program
1pm – 3pm	French or English Program



Artistry and Development: Learning a Marketable Skill

The program's artistic goal is to produce a small group of dance-acrobats who are sufficiently proficient to earn an income from their work as performers. The larger development goal is to improve the nutrition and educational levels of poor children in Kindia to help them survive and thrive.

Working alongside Ibrahima Mara (President) and Fode Keita (Assistant) of the Association of Benka-Fissa, this joint program has office space at Maison des Jeunes and has school materials for 50 students.

The training center now bursts with creative physical and intellectual expression generated from the bodies and minds of busy young people. Every day the building fills with chalkboards, exercise books, benches and work tables as the children move from their dance and acrobatic classes to their academic lessons.

RDDC and Association Benka-Fissa work with a team of six staff: five Guineans, followed by one consultant from Mauritania.

"When you walk into the barren stone building called "Maison des Jeunes" lacking electricity, furniture and plumbing, you would think it was deserted and abandoned for years. But, at 9:00am each and every morning, it fills with 24 street kids who have come to pass their long, isolated days with acrobatic lessons and now school lessons."

Ibrahima Mara, President, Association of Benka-Fissa

Before becoming President of Association Benka-Fissa, Ibrahima Mara attended the College of Tafory from 1997 to 2000 and then continued his advanced studies at a local institute from 2001 to 2003. He focuses much of his life and work on developing tourism throughout Guinea, and he is the Director of Le Representant de Samaya Rando Touristique. Mara organizes events, such as RAID International, in addition to working for RDDC.



RDDC in Rwanda



RDDC works with local partner organization FIDESCO in the capital, Kigali, to serve street children between the ages of 10 and 14 years. Before they are reintegrated into society, for a temporary period, the boys live at FIDESCO's sleeping quarters.

Five days a week all year round, RDDC staff work with the street boys living at FIDESCO. Three times a week, the children have a three-hour dance class, and twice a week, the children have a one-hour computer workshop. The boys channel their energy into the physical challenges of their dance class and then are able to focus and absorb the basic IT lessons they learn using the laptops provided by RDDC.

The IT program is featured on the website: www.rwandayouth.com. The site tells the life stories of these street children -- how they have experienced the repercussions of the 1994 Tutsi genocide and how they have overcome many obstacles with the help of governmental and nongovernmental agencies. An added benefit of the site is the way it has been designed to collect donations that support school tuition fees, and give these children - who have lived on the streets for most of their lives - the opportunity to go back to school. Another benefit of the site is the way it enables these children and youth to communicate with people from around the world while also giving them a practical way to implement the IT skills they are learning in the workshops.

Country Background:

Rwanda, is a country in central and eastern Africa with a population of approximately 11.4 million (2011). All of Rwanda is at a high altitude, with a geography dominated by mountains in the west, savanna in the east, and numerous lakes throughout the country. The climate is temperate, with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons every year. According to World Bank in 2011, Rwanda's GNI per capita was \$570 USD.

"People came and took me off the street. They saved me from the demons there. Now, I have stopped taking drugs too."

Zidane Ndatimana, age 11
-FIDESCO/RDDC Student
www.rwandayouth.com



Visit our
Website

www.rwandayouth.com

Rwanda Youth

CHILDREN'S STORIES FROM THE STREETS AND THEIR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

RDDC in Rwanda



ARTISTRY & DEVELOPMENT: Becoming Dance Assistants

To illustrate that the most hard-working, talented children can find a career path in the arts, RDDC employs some of the top students as dance teaching assistants. Yet, the program's larger development goal is served through the IT program, which imparts to the children a practical skill very much in demand inside and outside of Rwanda today.

Teaching Water Conservation & Basic Health in Rugerero

Every year, RDDC works with 150 children in Rugerero, a survivor village near the border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ethnically diverse children participate in daily dance and educational workshops about safe water practices, water conservation and basic health.

At the conclusion of the program, the children perform a dance-theater choreographic work for an adult audience. Through the performance, which portrays good and bad water practices, the children evolve into community educators. In 2011, the program expanded to also include a group of street youth from the city of Gisenyi.



Eugene Dushime, Country Director

Eugene holds a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry and Nature Conservation from the High Institute of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in Rwanda. He was a founding member and contemporary dancer with Amizero Dance Kompagnie in Kigali and began working with RDDC in 2009.

As Country Director, he manages RDDC's programs in Gisenyi/Rugerero and in Kigali. He also assists with the RDDC's Guinea program. Eugene speaks Kinyarwanda, French, and English fluently.

RDDC in Bosnia- Herzegovina



Country Background:

Bosnia-Herzegovina is a sovereign state in Southern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula. Formerly one of the six federal units constituting the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina gained its independence during the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s. From 1992-1995, the region underwent a severe war in which alliances formed between three ethnicities: the Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks. Today, Bosnia-Herzegovina is united, but vast distinctions and divisions remain inside the country.

Teaching Tolerance in Mostar

RDDC has been working in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 2009, but it formalized its partnership and started a permanent program with RINGO in 2011. RINGO is a not-for-profit association based in the city of Mostar that works to develop civic pride and a sense of unity.

In post-war and conflict-ridden Bosnia-Herzegovina, organizations are working to bring children together with cultural projects. This RDDC program takes the next step by encouraging students to develop and lead their own cultural projects. RDDC creates opportunities for global artistic engagement as a way to transcend local conflict and develop youth as the next generation of community leaders.

Together with RDDC, RINGO provides a multi-disciplinary dance program for underserved children living in the East and West Sides of the city. Dialogue sessions focus on social inclusion, and performances highlight the positive elements of life in Bosnia-Herzegovina today.

RDDC and RINGO have hired a team of Youth Leaders that live in Mostar to run a daily dance program at two centers serving disadvantaged children (ages 7 to 17): Egipatsko Selo (East Side) and International SOS (West Side). RDDC trains the Youth Leaders in dance, educates them about children's social development, and helps develop their leadership and entrepreneurial skills.



RDDC in Bosnia- Herzegovina

Teaching Tolerance in Brcko

Nas Svijet ("Our World") began in 2009 in Brcko. Every summer, RDDC instructors run a series of dance workshops for multi-ethnic youth in coordination with local partner organization Svitac ("Firefly"). The workshops follow the typical RDDC model involving dialogue about a pertinent social issue – conflict prevention or human rights – and a public performance as part of the city's Annual Children's Day Festival.

Teaching Tolerance in Tuzla

In 2012, RDDC will start a new project—an annual one-week children's festival in Tuzla in conjunction with local organization Zemlja Djece. At the festival, more than 150 children from the city will participate in dance workshops led by RDDC Youth Leaders. This project is being designed to improve the children's physical coordination and build their self-confidence.



Tanja Raic Tarcuki Country Director

As RDDC/BiH Country Director, Tanja is responsible for communication and logistics between RDDC/USA and all local partners in BiH. She plays a fundamental role in shaping the content of the program and ensuring that key measures of success are met. Prior to serving as RDDC's Country Director in BiH, Tanja published two books and managed cultural events in Mostar.

Using her entrepreneurship training, she founded RINGO in 2008. RINGO is a members-based association that promotes the interests of all citizens and assists them in creating conditions for meaningful, comprehensive and independent life within the greater society. Tanja holds a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and a Master's Degree in Communication and Public Relations from the University of Mostar.



Rebecca Davis, Founder

Social Entrepreneur | Dancer | Advocate

To create a powerful tool for social change, entrepreneur and choreographer, Rebecca Davis is constantly seeking a way to fuse dance with academic knowledge.

At the age of 23, she founded the Rebecca Davis Dance Company, a not-for-profit organization based in the USA. Her background in ballet, business and international relations has shaped the mission of RDDC and its use of dance as a tool of ethnic reconciliation in post-conflict countries. Rebecca is particularly concerned with creating opportunities for underserved youth who have the talent, potential and commitment to improve their lives and advance their countries.

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Rebecca has choreographed and taught in Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Guinea and the United States. She was classically trained in the Russian Vaganova method of ballet while studying in Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk, Russia. She received a degree in choreography from The Saint Petersburg Conservatory and is a Fulbright scholar and summa cum laude graduate of Temple University with a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship. She holds a Master's in International Relations with a concentration in Peacekeeping Studies from American Public University.

Rebecca has worked for The Carter Center (Atlanta & Conakry, Guinea), Stage Holding Russia (Moscow), and The Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts (New York City). Her business plan for The Rebecca Davis Dance Company was recognized as the most viable small business by Temple University's 2004 Annual Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition. She is the recipient of the Garfield Weston Scholarship, the Canadian Merit Scholarship, and a two-time Leeway Arts & Social Change grantee. Rebecca was a 2010 Carl Wilkens Fellow of The Genocide Intervention Network.

Currently she serves on the Board of the Fulbright Alumni Association (Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter) and she has been a guest speaker at Temple University, University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center, the Annual Fulbright Alumni Conference, Princeton University, and Brown University. Her work has been published in *Broad Street Review*, *Dance Spirit Magazine*, and *Ode Magazine*. In 2012, Rebecca was awarded a second Fulbright Grant to teach a specialized course in American dance pedagogy in Ukraine. She has choreographed six full-length ballets: *Antigone* (2006), *Helen Keller* (2007), *Darfur* (2008), *Greed: The Tale of Enron* (2009), *Van Gogh* (2009), and *Braving the New World* (2010). Currently, her work focuses on expanding the international impact of the Rebecca Davis Dance Company in helping disadvantaged children build their skills. In the future, Rebecca hopes to build a professional international dance touring company comprised of street children from conflict zones.



Support RDDC

Secure the chance for a child, now living on the street, to go to school.

Dear Valued
Supporter,

FIDESCO and RDDC work together year-round to provide dance programming and educational opportunities for street children who have shared their stories and opened their hearts to create this website—www.rwandayouth.com. School fees can range from \$40 USD to \$1,580 USD per year depending on whether the child is given the opportunity to go to a boarding school (living accommodations, clothing, food & tuition fees) or simply a public day school.

A donation of any size will greatly help— from \$.01 to \$4.32 a day can secure the chance for a child, now living on the street, to go to school. Each dollar, euro or Rwandan franc that is donated through our secure site goes directly to support the school fees of these children.



To Donate Visit:
www.RwandaYouth.com
All donations are tax-
deductible.

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www.rebeccadavidance.com
www.rwandayouth.com



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