Advanced Dance Practicum: Uganda
E892077.095: Spring 2010
Winter Intersession Study Abroad

**Days:** January 1-18

**Points:** 3

**Instructor:** Professor Deborah Damast, B.F.A., M.A.

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Course Description: Students from NYU will travel to Kampala, Uganda to work with students and teachers at the Kampala Ballet and Modern Dance School, Makerere University and children from several orphanages throughout Uganda in a dancemaking cultural exchange program focused on fostering community building through the arts. NYU students will learn traditional Ugandan dances, will study the pedagogic practices of the region, and learn about the arts and culture of Uganda and East Africa.

**Learning Indicators:**

As a result of this course, students will:

- Be able to perform a traditional Ugandan dance
- Have created and taught a lesson plan to children in Kampala
- Understand the healing properties of dance and drama
- Understand that teaching and learning happen simultaneously
- Develop relationships with students from Makerere University
- Know how to collaborate creatively with others

**Experiences/Activities**

Students will:

- keep a daily journal of experiences, ideas, questions
- take classes in traditional Ugandan dance and music
- take trips to the source of the Nile, nature walks in Jinja, the tombs, and dance performances
- teach classes and collaborate in dancemaking with children from 3 orphanages
- perform at the famous National Theatre and for the Queen

**Assignments:** Students will maintain a daily journal, design and implement lesson plans, learn traditional Ugandan dances, and develop a collaborative performance piece with Ugandan teachers and children. 2 short papers, one before the trip, the other after.

**Proposed Daily Schedule:** (subject to change)
Friday January 1: Fly from JFK

Saturday January 2: arrive Entebbe, Uganda, drive to Kampala

Sunday January 3: orientation, change money, welcome dinner at Makerere

Monday January 4: first day workshop: class 9:00-12:00, lunch at Fang Fang 12:00-1:00, planning meeting 1:00-2:30, Uganda Museum

Tues, January 5: Full day workshop; (dance and music class from 9:00-12:30, lunch from 1:00-1:45, pedagogy and lesson planning from 2:00-3:00, Western repertory 3:00-4:30) visit to orphanage

Wed, January 6: Full day workshop (see above) Kasubi tombs

Thurs, January 7: Full day workshop (see above) visit to orphanage

Fri, January 8: Full day workshop (see above) dinner out in Kampala

Sat, Jan 9: Trip to Jinja, forest hike, boat trip at the source of the Nile River

Sun, Jan 10: church/shopping/Sheraton options, N’Dere Troupe performance in evening

Mon, Jan 11: meeting day with children, greeting games, discuss workshop LIA visit

Tues, Jan 12: children’s dance workshop (NYU students and Ugandan teachers co-teach lessons developed in prior week to children from orphanages in the morning, lunch with the children at the café ballet, rehearsal in afternoon), dinner party at Fang Fang

Wed, Jan 13: children’s dance workshop, evening TBA

Thurs, Jan 14: children’s dance workshop, Faculty dinner/meeting, students on own

Fri, Jan 15: dress rehearsal at KBMDS for her Royal Highness, Nnabagereka, Queen of the Buganda Kingdom. Performance in evening at the National Theatre

Sat, Jan 16: Shopping at National Theatre, Dinner with the Queen, Storytelling Koi Koi

Sun Jan 17: reflection, final meeting, pack and go to Entebbe airport 10:55pm flight ☹

Mon Jan 18: arrive JFK 10:55am