Advanced Dance Practicum: Uganda
E892077.095: Spring 2009
Winter Intersession Study Abroad

**Days:** January 3-19

**Points:** 3

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

**Phone:** w.212. 998.5865

**e-mail:** Deborah.Damast@nyu.edu

office hours by appointment:
244 Greene Street, room 404

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
- fill out exit slips at the end of each day
- 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 N’Dere center 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)

**Sat, January 3:** Fly from JFK to Entebbe, Uganda  
**Sun, January 4:** Arrive in Entebbe, visit to Wildlife Sanctuary, escorted to Kampala to Fang Fang Hotel for Orientation

**Mon, January 5:** half day workshop with Ugandan teachers in traditional Ugandan dance at Makerere University, Kampala Museum in afternoon

**Tues, January 6:** Full day workshop; (dance and music class from 10:00-12:00, lunch from 12:00-1:00, pedagogy and lesson planning from 1:00-4:00), dinner at hotel

**Wed, January 7:** Full day workshop (see above) Bitone performance in afternoon (?)

**Thurs, January 8:** Full day workshop (see above) group reflection meeting in evening

**Fri, January 9:** Full day workshop (see above) Kabalagala school visit(?)

**Sat, Jan 10:** Trip to Jinja, boat trip at the source of the Nile River

**Sun, Jan 11:** Kasubi tombs N’Dere Troupe performance in evening

**Mon, Jan 12:** children’s dance workshop at KBMDS (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)

**Tues, Jan 13:** children’s dance workshop shop/visit to Life in Africa (?)

**Wed, Jan 14:** children’s dance workshop, dinner party for all at Fang Fang

**Thurs, Jan 15:** children’s dance workshop, Faculty dinner meeting

**Fri, Jan 16:** dress rehearsal at KBMDS for her Royal Highness, Nnabagereka, Queen of the Buganda Kingdom. Performance in evening at the National Theatre

**Sat, Jan 17:** Lunch with the Queen, shopping at National Theatre

**Sun Jan 18:** reflection, final meeting, storytelling at Grace’s house

**Mon Jan 19:** fly back to NYC

*KBMDS = Kampala Ballet and Modern Dance School*