

Programs and Services

La Troupe Makandal serves the public with performances, recordings, and instruction. Through the magic of the stage we bring the history and the spirituality for which Haiti is famous to audiences everywhere. We conduct classes, workshops, residencies, and lecture-demonstrations in schools (K-12, colleges and universities), museums, libraries, and community centers. Our recordings include *A Trip to Vodou*, *Èzili*, *Drums of Vodou*, and *Prepare*; we contributed tracks to the compilations *Rhythms of Rapture* and *Global Beat of the Boroughs* (both on Smithsonian Folkways); and Jonathan Demme wove our music into the soundtrack of his film *Beloved*.

Makandal artists have created the following repertory:

Rising Sun: A Vodou Drama of Death and Rebirth. This three-part series honors the Vodou spirit Gede, and highlights his role in winter rituals. We begin with *Day of the Dead* in November, continue with *Night of Fire* near the winter solstice, and end with *Carnival Dawn* at the first appearance of Carnival bands after Three Kings Day. The regenerative power of Vodou song, dance, and drumming underscores the enduring cycle of death and rebirth.

Bwa Kayiman. Since 1999 the Troupe has celebrated the spiritual roots of Haiti's revolutionary impulse. In August 1791, on the eve of the general insurrection that precipitated the Haitian Revolution, enslaved people met in the forest of Bwa Kayiman to pledge solidarity and tap into their spiritual strength. The Troupe has represented Bwa Kayiman in Brooklyn's Prospect Park in mid-August, bringing new understanding to the event with each performance.

Divine Grooves. This collection of instrumental pieces showcases the compositions and arrangements of award-winning Master Drummer Frisner Augustin. Our maestro knows close to thirty different drum ensemble patterns and has trained his musicians to carry on conversations among the parts and provide a steady foundation to his outstanding breaks. Mr. Augustin's style pays special attention to tone color and dynamics.

We offer these educational programs:

Krik! Krak! This workshop integrates instruction in drumming, song, and dance. We currently offer it to children and adults at sites in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Haitian Drum Workshop. In conjunction with the Department of Music of Hunter College, we have offered Hunter students this workshop in drumming since 1983.

Drummer, Give Me Your Song. This project includes lecture-demos, residencies, and professional development for all grade levels. We are conversant with the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts. University of Florida in Gainesville and the Carnegie Hall Global Encounters program have recently worked with us to produce successful residencies.

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La Troupe Makandal offers these programs in various formats in theatrical and educational contexts. Interested contractors may reach us at 718-953-6638 or makandal@verizon.net.