Drumming Up African Culture

Curriculum Relevance: **LOTE HSIE SOSE - African Culture Music**

Sam Coleman introduces students to a world and culture very different from the one they enjoy in Australia today. Long before Spiderman there was Ananse, a spider from the folklore of the Ashanti people of West Africa. His stories with their messages of "co-operating can solve problems", "learning is important and fun" and "we all have similar needs and fears" are interspersed with music, drumming and songs. There are also stories and facts about Sam's many instruments, how and what they are made from, what they are used for and how he learnt to play them.

There are numerous opportunities for students to participate in the singing, dancing and drumming and Sam carries a number of drums of different sizes, pitch and uses.

The Dondo or Talking Drum, changes pitch as you squeeze it and is great for imitating various forest sounds and the human voice. The Djembe is arguably the best sounding and most widely used African drum of all.

With his many other African percussion instruments and his colourful Ghanaian traditional clothing, Sam holds his audience from beginning to end leaving students with a lasting impression of his African culture.

Born in Ghana in the latter half of the last century, Sam studied African Literature before turning his love of piano and percussion into a full time career. For over 20 years Sam has been performing in schools and kindergartens across both Australia and New Zealand, combining his music and storytelling skills in Drumming Up African Culture.

What others have said:

Excellent. Very impressed. Samuel shared his Culture, Song and Story in the most delightful way. He engaged the children from the start, before he emerged from behind the screen, with a simple metallic, rhythmic tap. The pace and range of performance material was varied and transitioned from one scenario to the next in a timely manner. Sam knows children and maintained their focus with body breaks, call and response songs and chants. A true children's storyteller and entertainer. *Megan Turner. K-6. Manilla Central School Primary. NSW.*

Engaging, Age Appropriate, Interesting Stories. Combination of music, storytelling, singing, and question and answer time was great. Presenter Sam Derchie was engaging, warm and kind and encouraged the children so they were all interested in everything he said.

Rebecca Sini. K-6. Gundagai South Public School. Gundagai South. NSW.

Price: $6.50 per student (No GST applies). **Suitable:** Preps, K to Year 6.
Minimum Audience Size: 130 students. **Times:** Performance 50 minutes duration.
Set up 30 minutes. Pack up 30 minutes. **Requires** an indoor performing area 6 x 5 metres wide.

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