



## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

**OPEN DAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 2-6 PM FREEDOM SQUARE, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

### **“HAKUNA MATATA”**

Way back in 2010, it was time for the Norwegian University College of Dance (NUCD) to internationalize its programs and expose students to cultures unique to those in Norway. We wanted to learn more about the origins of music and dance and Africa was definitely the destination. Our hopes to connect with Africa were raised when we met Dr. Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza, who had come from Uganda to visit Norway. Sylvia introduced us to the Department of Performing Arts and Film (PAF) at Makerere University. From that day, we decided to enter into a collaboration with Makerere University and partner with PAF. We have never left!!!

In 2011, the first group of students from Norway came to Makerere, which crystallized the North/South and South/North mutual collaboration.

In what started as an adventure, a small sprout began to grow; indeed, everything grows so easily in a land on the equator. PAF had the academic weight but lacked a little thing in our journey, a Bachelor of Arts in Dance degree. The starting point had to be enhancing the human capacity in teaching dance and NUCD offered two scholarships for undergraduate degree in dance in Norway.

From 2012 to 2016, we decided to bring Makerere University to the community. Norwegian and Ugandan students reached into the communities of children in a number of inspirational dance projects for children. We also presented another of collaborative performances with Norwegian students performing Ugandan traditional dances and Ugandan students performing Norwegian folk dance. These projects received sponsorship from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kampala, which gave a whole different dimension; trust was built!

While training was going on in Norway, it was important to offer scholarships for students majoring in dance at Makerere. The three-year Norum Dance scholarships were established to support talented students realise their dream for dance education.

From 2016 to 2019, the NUCD-PAF marriage moved to another level. It was time to bring the community to Makerere University. Every year, Makerere University opens its gates to performing arts groups, potential students, parents and the general audience to present snapshot of what is happening at PAF and the progress of the collaboration. On this special day, the Makerere University Freedom Square is the meeting space for music, drama and film exhibitions and dance festival. The Dance Festival is a dialogue between the community artists, PAF and NUCD students. Potential students also receive information regarding admission into the Performing Arts and Film programs.

2019 presents the next step in the PAF-NUCD marriage; the need to make concrete steps. It is time for the Bachelor of Arts in Dance program. We cannot wait any longer, we have capacity to move on!! Lots of interest nationally and internationally; more students interested in dance studies after understanding the potential job opportunities. More interested international collaborators as well.

Now, we need to work even harder to jump onto this opportunity!! The first step in this direction is a Center for Performing Arts (CEPA), which will provide a state of the arts facilities for the performing arts programs. The architectural plan and design is almost done and will soon be shared on our website.

Through **"HAKUNA MATATA"** "No worries", this year's production, this hard work is told through choreographies and sounds of unity; we do not give up, we scrub and wash together when needed.

Two cultures meet each other for a common goal, a better place to be for arts. We work to overcome limitations; Africa's art will continue to grow even at the international space, where Norway is only a small part in the bigger context.

**Hakuna Matata's happy ending is our prediction of the future of the arts in Uganda,  
the Pearl of Africa!**

**Contacts:**

Dr. Sylvia A. Nannyonga-Tamusuza  
**Associate Professor of Music  
Chair, Performing Arts and Film**

**Mobil: 0777495212**  
**Mail: [ethnomusic@gmail.com](mailto:ethnomusic@gmail.com)**

Professor Ann Kristin Norum  
**Rector  
Norwegian University College of Dance**

**Mobil: 0773780541**  
**Mail: [ann.k.norum@ndh.no](mailto:ann.k.norum@ndh.no)**