

Isaac Allotey is an award winning Ghanaian traditional African, hip hop and freestyle dancer and choreographer. In 2002 he won the title of National Dance Champion in Accra, Ghana. In 2005 he and his group, Ultimate Dancers, became the Malta Guinness National Boogie Down Dance Champions, for which he was lead dancer and choreographer.

## **Career**

Isaac began his dance career in 1992 where he was crowned Greater Accra High School Dance Champion his freshman year in high school. From there he went on to become the lead dancer for the Dance Factory at the National Dance Theatre, Accra from 1995 to 2005. Isaac won his first of two dance championships in 2002 as National Dance Champion then in 2005 as Malta Guinness Boogie Down Dance Champion with his group, Ultimate Dancers. He went on to form the dance troupe, The Dance Warriors of Africa. Between 2000 and 2009, they won five dance titles.

After winning the dance competitions, Isaac began traveling internationally, performing and teaching dance and sharing the Ghanaian culture in thirteen countries. In 2006 he performed at the New Orleans Jazz Festival in the United States, sharing the stage with Paul Simon and Lionel Ritchie, The Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia with Jimmie Cliff, and Miriam Makeba aka Mama Africa along with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. He also danced at the Canberra Warehouse Winter Music Festival, near Brisbane, Australia.

While in Ghana, he was chosen by world renowned stadium producer Penny Jones of South Africa under the creative direction of Godwin Kotei, Ghana's leading mass display choreographer and Professor Nii Yartey, one of Africa's leading cultural dance choreographers to choreograph and teach dancers for the production of the opening and closing ceremonies for the CAN 2008 Africa Cup of Nations.

Isaac serves as an ambassador for the Ghanaian culture and travels the world teaching dance and workshops to students at prestigious studios around the world including Levi Studio and The Dance Mission Theater both in San Francisco and Mid City Arts Center in Los Angeles.

## **Film**

In 2009, Isaac was the choreographer for the dance sequences and was also cast as a dancer in the film, Raj the Dancer in which the lead actor, Van Vicker, was nominated for Best Actor by the African Movie Academy Awards. Isaac's role was uncredited.

## **Television**

2019 and 2021 Bumper to Bumper Realty Dance Competition, televised on TV Africa. Isaac served as a special guest judge in 2019, then became a permanent judge in 2021.

2022 Di Asa Reality Dance Competition, Isaac served as choreographer of a contemporary piece and trained the dancers for the opening ceremony of the grand finale, televised on Atinka TV.

## **Publications**

In 2005, Isaac authored and published "Learn More About African Dances", which Highlights the history and origin of cultural dances from throughout Africa.

In 2015, Oxford University Press featured Isaac and his group The Dance Warriors of Africa in a series of books "Mosaics" which teach international students the English language.

## **Awards**

### Individual Titles

- 2005 Malta Guinness Dance Champion
- 2002 Overall National Dance Champion of Ghana
- 1998 Joy Show Bizz Dance Champion
- 1995-2005 Lead Dancer for Dance Factory at the National Theatre
- 1992 Greater Accra High School Dance Champion

### Dance Warriors of Africa Group Titles

- 2009 Best Traditional Dance Group, Opening Ceremonies, Africa Cup of Nations
- 2008 Malta Guinness Street Dance Competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- 2007 Quiet Storm Entertainment Limited "Save the Dance" Champions
- 2000, 2002 and 2003 Kidafest Freestyle and Hip Hop Dance Champions

## **Philanthropy**

Allotey is Cofounder and Artistic Director of Dancefrica, a US 501c3 Non-Profit formed to fulfill his dream to invest in the future of the children of Ghana by providing a solid foundation of financial, academic, and humanitarian support to disadvantaged kids at no cost to them or their family. To further his dream, in September 2023, Dancefrica Ghana Institute of the Arts opened in Accra, Ghana, providing a safe haven for free dance training and education for kids under the age of seventeen.

Isaac envisioned, sponsored, organized, and promoted *Save the Dance*, a dance competition featuring dancers under the age of seventeen. The competition aimed to shine a spotlight on the youth of Ghana, showcasing their talents and aspirations. The event consisted of five phases, building up to the grand finale where the champion was crowned in September 2023.

## **Organizations**

From 2019 to 2022, Isaac served as Treasurer and Lead Choreographer for the Alliance of Ghana Dance Professionals, whose mission is to assist dancers, at no cost, who have fallen on hard times, physically, emotionally, or financially.