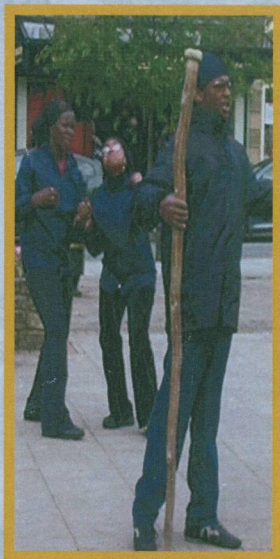


SUGAR BEAT SKANK

triangular tales of trans-atlantic trade

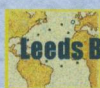
Regeyshun
Dance
Theatre



A 20 minute
upbeat reggae-
theatre
presentation

Exploring
African antiquity
and the spirit of
abolition

For outdoor and
indoor events.



Leeds Bi-Centenary Transformation Project



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Sugar Beat Skank ...

... a 20 minute upbeat reggae-theatre presentation - telling triangular tales of trans-atlantic trade – with an original pulse - to grace outdoor and indoor events.

SYNOPSIS

The Romans tried to find the source of the River Nile - a fertile river that spawned many of the world's greatest civilisations - in an Africa that also kept future empires running with its rich and ancient resources.

In 1520, The Congo was a thriving structured state that complied with requests for enslaved Africans; the King's son was made an Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church in Portugal, but died before returning. Three hundred years later, The Congo would become depopulated and disease ridden - leading to further dark-hearted exploitations for its immensely valuable minerals.

The word 'factory' was first used in the Caribbean sugar-making of the 1600's. Manufacturing then moved to Europe and was at the heart of the 1807 Yorkshire election to Parliament; the most expensive contest ever, at the time. Manufacturing in Yorkshire profited hugely from the new markets of the 'new' world.

In commemorating the Bi-Centenary of the Abolition of the Trade in enslaved Africans - *Sugar Beat Skank* acknowledges the role played by Yorkshire abolitionists and pays tribute to Africans who contributed to the wealth and democracy of modern Britain... all in a 20 minute presentation of skanking-vibes!

Commissioned by the Leeds Bi-Centenary Transformation Project in 2007 - **Sugar Beat Skank** uses live original music, drama, songs and soulful dance to present bitter-sweet snap-shots of a shared heritage... skillfully weaving untold tales - of ancient knowledge, local wealth, resistance to enslavement and the spirit of abolition - into an informative, inclusive and emancipating Yorkshire experience.

Sugar Beat Skank

Devised and performed by
Regeyshun Dance Theatre

Regeyshun Dance Theatre specialises in the use of reggae music and culture in a theatrical way - with dedicated performers. The company is artistically directed by its creator - David Hamilton (founder of Phoenix Dance Company).

Performers

Pauline Mayers
Annette 'Judah' Morris
Calder Stapleton
Chris Campbell (Musical Director)

Original choreography

David Hamilton

Project Director and Writer:

Joe Williams

Set & Costume

Carol Sorhaindo

Original music and effects

Chris Campbell and Simon Howarth

Original songs

Written and performed by Annette 'Judah' Morris

Props

Fosuwa Andoh@Monkeybread Arts

Special thanks

LBCTP staff; Leeds Diasporian Stories Research Group;
Space2; Leeds West Indian Centre and The
Lodge@Nassau Place

Sugar Beat Skank ...

Commissioned by

Leeds Bi-Centenary Transformation Project (LBCTP) LBCTP would like to build on successful arts and education projects in 2007 to create annual productions to inform communities of a shared heritage - narratives will explore links between the factories, countryside and canals of Yorkshire, to the bittersweet beauty of the Caribbean and the antiquity of Africa.

All shows are well researched and will weave African British stories - through the lives of individuals with connections to Yorkshire, Africa &/or the Caribbean - into creative narratives and presentations:

As part of our Education Series - we will explore -

Olaudah Equiano

Father of Abolition: best-selling writer in 18th century Britain

Pablo Fanque

Circus Proprietor: Brit African, society horse trainer & acrobat, b.1796

Ira Aldridge

African American Tragedian: knighted in Europe, b.1807

Sarah Parker Remond

African American abolitionist in 1860 Leeds & Doctor in Italy

Prince Alamayu

Abyssinian student in Leeds, buried at Windsor Castle, 1879

As part of our Community Series - we will use outdoor summer performances & Autumn indoors (Black History Month) - to present annual 20-minute up-beat theatre productions on –

A REVIEW of Sport,

Literature/Entertainment, Business, Explorers & Scientists

Entertainment/Literature

Business/industry/manufacturing/economy

Explorers/Scientists & Ancient Wisdom

Sport (Olympic Year - Sheffield's Arthur Wharton/19th c. record breaking sprinter & footballer - etc...)