

Music, Dance, and Mobility in the Lives of Four Ivorian Immigrants in Africa

The Power of Rhythm and Movement

Music and dance have long been intrinsic parts of African culture. They serve as a means of expression, storytelling, and preserving traditions. When carried by immigrants to different lands, music and dance take on an even more vital role in connecting them to their roots and fostering a sense of belonging. This article explores the powerful connection between music, dance, and mobility in the lives of four Ivorian immigrants living in Africa.

Meet the Four Ivorian Immigrants

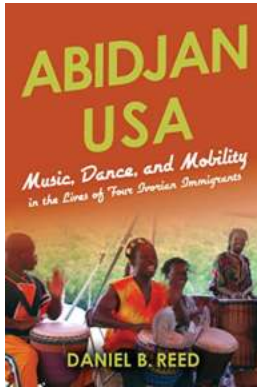
In order to fully understand the impact of music and dance in their lives, it is important to get to know the four individuals at the heart of this article. They each have unique backgrounds and experiences that shape their relationship with their culture and the role of music and dance within it.

Jean-Luc: The Traditionalist

Jean-Luc was born and raised in Côte d'Ivoire and grew up within a community that cherished traditional music and dance. He is a skilled djembe player and enjoys participating in traditional ceremonies and celebrations. Through his music and dance, Jean-Luc is able to maintain a strong connection to his Ivorian heritage while living in Africa.

Abidjan USA: Music, Dance, and Mobility in the Lives of Four Ivorian Immigrants (African Expressive Cultures) by Daniel B. Reed (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5



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Dimensions	: 6.14 x 0.23 x 9.21 inches



Amara: The Fusion Enthusiast

Amara, on the other hand, is a young Ivorian immigrant who grew up in a modern city. When she moved to Africa, she found herself drawn to the fusion of traditional African music and contemporary sounds. As a talented singer and dancer, Amara blends various styles together to create her own unique performances that speak to her multicultural background.

Ibrahim: The Street Performer

Ibrahim is a street performer who left his village in Côte d'Ivoire in search of better opportunities in Africa. He uses his skills in music and dance to entertain passersby on the busy streets of his new home. For Ibrahim, music and dance are not only a way to make a living but also a means of connecting with others and sharing the joy he carries from his homeland.

Amina: The Dance Activist

Amina is an Ivorian immigrant who uses dance as a form of activism. She believes that dance has the power to challenge societal norms and spark

conversations. Amina organizes workshops and performances that address pressing issues faced by migrants in Africa, using movement as a tool for social change.

The Role of Music and Dance in Adaptation

For each of these individuals, music and dance have played a significant role in their process of adaptation. These art forms serve as methods of communication, self-expression, and connecting with others. They become vehicles for preserving their cultural heritage while also forging new identities within their adopted homes.

The Impact of Music and Dance on Well-being

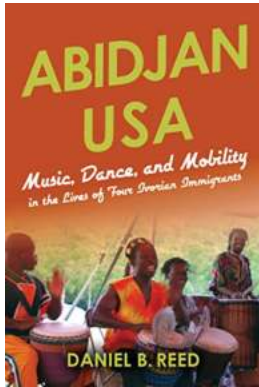
Music and dance have also proven to have profound effects on the mental and emotional well-being of these immigrants. The rhythmic beats and physical movements provide a cathartic release, reducing stress and anxiety. Engaging in music and dance activities also fosters a sense of belonging and community, helping them feel more at home in their new surroundings.

The lives of four Ivorian immigrants in Africa exemplify the transformative power of music and dance. From preserving traditions to fostering adaptation and well-being, these art forms are essential elements in their journeys. They connect them to their roots while also enabling them to create new identities within their adopted homes. Through music and dance, these individuals reclaim their narratives and find a sense of belonging in a foreign land.

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“Studies of four musicians . . . and a broader discussion about diaspora and migration provides an important study of African music in the United States.” — Alex Perullo, author of *Live from Dar es Salaam*

Daniel B. Reed integrates individual stories with the study of performance to understand the forces of diaspora and mobility in the lives of musicians, dancers, and mask performers originally from Côte d’Ivoire who now live in the United States. Through the lives of four Ivorian performers, Reed finds that dance and music, being transportable media, serve as effective ways to understand individual migrants in the world today. As members of an immigrant community who are geographically dispersed, these performers are unmoored from their place of origin and yet deeply engaged in presenting their symbolic roots to North American audiences. By looking at performance, Reed shows how translocation has led to transformations on stage, but he is also sensitive to how performance acts as a way to reinforce and maintain community. *Abidjan USA* provides a multifaceted view of community that is at once local, national, and international, and where identity is central, but transportable, fluid, and adaptable.

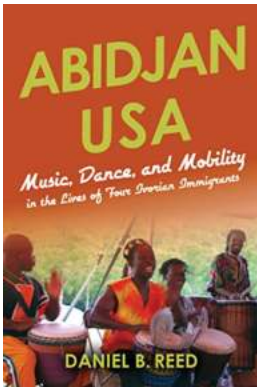
“Daniel B. Reed’s scholarship is solid and his writing style is thoroughly engaging. The topic is novel; there are fascinating twists and turns throughout.” —Eric Charry, editor of Hip Hop Africa

“This study’s attention to the intersection of lived experiences with wider historical events and social formations, as well as the author’s careful analysis of Ivorian ballet and the dances and drum rhythms that constitute the genre, make *Abidjan USA* an important intervention in ethnomusicology and folklore.” —Journal of American Folklore



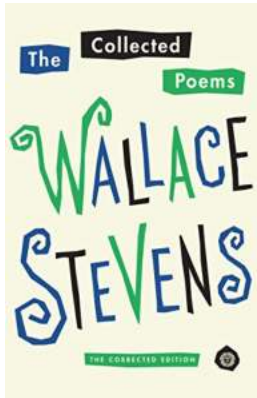
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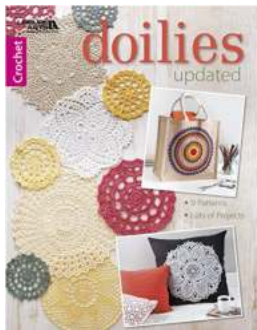
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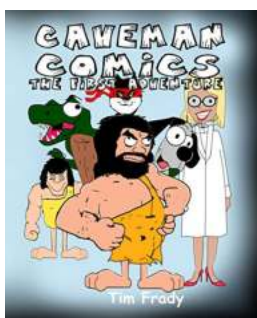
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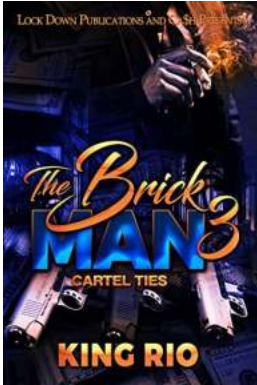
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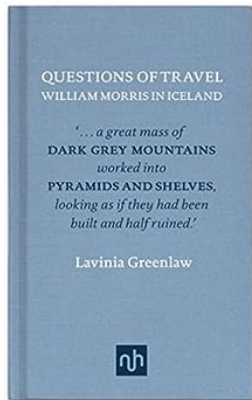
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