



JEAN APPOLON EXPRESSIONS

BOSTON'S HAITIAN CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

JAE is Boston's premiere Haitian contemporary dance company, directed by Jean Appolon. Combining Modern technique, Haitian folkloric dance and live percussion, JAE brings a new artistic language to its audiences. With its dynamic repertoire, JAE educates audiences about Haitian culture, traditions, history and current issues. JAE fulfills its mission to preserve Haitian folkloric culture while constantly pushing the art form forward to remain vital, accessible, inspiring and educational.

JAE and Jean Appolon can be booked to perform and/or teach at public or private events at a variety of locations including colleges/universities, schools, gala and community events, and festivals. In addition to the options described here, JAE can tailor its programming to accommodate the specific needs of an event or host venue. Jean Appolon can also be commissioned to create choreography to be performed by JAE, and/or by other dance companies or student groups. Inquiries can be directed to JAExpressions@gmail.com.



LIVE PERFORMANCE

JAE offers a dynamic and engaging 60 minute performance that can be designed for any audience and features signature JAE repertoire performed by JAE Company dancers and musicians. JAE inspires audiences with the beauty and excitement of live theater, including dance, music, spoken word and vivid costumes. The performance is also designed to educate audiences about Haiti—and its folkloric dances, culture, history and people—through an engaging and contemporary format. The performance can be followed by a Q & A with Jean Appolon and Company dancers and musicians, as desired.

Minimum requirements for performance:

- › Marley dance floor preferred, wooden floor acceptable, with a minimum area of 20' by 20'
- › Sound system and microphone

MASTER CLASSES & RESIDENCIES

1. Master Class by Jean Appolon with or without live accompaniment (60 or 90 minutes)
2. Dance residency packages (a minimum of five hours) with Jean Appolon, with or without live accompaniment

Classes and residencies are designed for a maximum of 50 students (over the age of 18) at a time. For students under age 18, classes are designed for a maximum of 25 students at a time. For larger groups, JAE Company dancers are available as additional support.

Classes can be tailored to beginning or advanced students of any age. Classes can focus on Afro-Haitian folkloric dance, Horton (Modern) technique, ballet, or any combination of the above. Jean Appolon's approach, combined with live drumming, makes the class irresistible, fun and educational. Whether the class focuses on Haitian folkloric dances, Horton technique or ballet, students will be enriched with new knowledge in body, mind and spirit. Jean is also a skilled choreographer and can set choreography on any group, as desired.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASSES:

A dance studio with a marley or wooden floor is preferred but a large, open space, clear of furniture with a clean floor (such as a gym), is acceptable.

A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL NOTE ABOUT AFRO-HAITIAN DANCE

Afro-Haitian dance has greatly influenced the Modern dance world, largely through the research and exposure of Modern dance icon Katherine Dunham. Haiti captured Dunham's heart in the 1930s, when she arrived as a dancer and anthropologist to study the country's culture, history and, particularly, its dance. Dunham, in turn, captured the hearts of Haitians by making the dances of Haiti and the Caribbean internationally known. Now, the "folklorization" of Haitian dance allows both religious and social dances to travel and be performed in the secular context of the proscenium stage. Jean Appolon Expressions is not strictly a Haitian folkloric company, but rather seeks to preserve Haitian folkloric dance and music through contemporary interpretations.