WALA

When the power of percussion meets dazzling vocal harmony in the dance of life.

A dynamic fusion of drumming, dance, percussion and soaring vocal harmonies. Three passionate, exuberant and talented performers present audiences with an exciting display of Ghanaian culture.

With 15 hand-made African drums, flutes and stunning costumes, WALA engage their audiences in a call and response song, invite them to try out different instruments and to join in the dance. Their enthusiasm is utterly contagious as they rejoice in the live sounds and rich heritage of their people.

WALA means “life” in their local language and the perfection of the name becomes clear as they explode into their breathtaking celebration of the Ghanaian Spirit.

Odai: To see Wala’s spirited lead-vocalist Odai perform is to witness a genuine love of expression through song. He has performed as vocalist, flute player and percussionist since the age of 8 and won the prestigious National Cultural Award in Ghana in 1984.

Ago: is a vital and awe-inspiring master drummer from Nungua in Southern Ghana. He describes his music as 'soul food' and it is impossible not to be touched by his passion and impressive talent. To see him perform is to witness a display of invigorating power and vitality

Abli: has been playing music for 17 years, joining local Teshie group ‘Gye Nyame’ when he was still in primary school as an apprentice to the master drummer! He honed his talent before joining the ‘Wassa African Ensemble’ and touring with them to Côte d’Ivoire in West Africa, France, and Italy where they featured at festivals in Catania and Canicatti.

“We absolutely loved them! Brilliant musicians and dancers, lovely warm appropriate MCing from Odai. Girls and staff all had a ball.”
- St Margaret’s College, Christchurch NZ

“The group had such energy and really connected with the children. The way the performers motivated the children was very special.”
- Whangarei Heads School, NZ

“Their happiness and enthusiasm were infectious!” - Kaitaia College, NZ

For more information see WALA’s website: http://www.walaislife.com

and check out a sneak peek on their show reel:
http://www.nexusarts.com.au/view_performer_details.php?id=82

NEXUS ARTS

Suitability: Kinder - Year 12. **Duration:** 50 - 60 minutes.
Cost: NZ$4.50 per student for both Primary & Secondary (no GST).
Minimum audience: 140 per performance.

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:
Website: www.nexusarts.com.au
Ph: +61 3 9528 3416 Email: nexusarts@netspace.net.au

WALA – Feedback from Primary Schools

“The best show Hampton has ever had! Amazing, awesome, great and unusual. Fantastic, fabulous, sensational, lots of fun. Outstanding!” - *Hampton PS, VIC*

“WICKED! The children loved the show – from prep – year 7. All teachers said the performance was great and could lead into future activities. A great cultural experience - totally mesmerising!” - *Baldivis PS, WA*

“Our students absolutely loved it and were amazed at the skill of the performers. Teachers were also totally blown away. Many said it was the best we’ve had in years. Thank you for an electric, totally involving, highly enjoyable and educational experience.” - *Black Rock PS, VIC*

“As soon as WALA began, the children’s jaws dropped, the eyes were popping and the bodies were wriggling to the rhythm – no-one could sit still! There were cheers of delight from the audience, teachers revelled in the interactive show, everyone wanted to go on stage…the show was perfect.”
- *Wanniassa School, WA*

“It brought Africa into the hearts and minds of 160 children – and about 90 families who would have heard about it endlessly that night. As they said, ‘if we just learn the name of one drum, we are expanding our horizons.’ It was wonderful.” - *Our Lady of Fatima, QLD*

“Once again, we were blown away. This group was just wonderful and spot on for our children. They related very, very well to our children and their special needs – the children couldn’t have been more involved…marvellous to see!” - *Belmore Specialist School, VIC*

“Children were ecstatic! They were completely enthralled, wildly enthusiastic and loved every minute of it. Fantastic!” - *St Brigid’s Bridgetown, WA*

“This was one fantastic day. What a joy to have four artists with their drums, rhythms and vocal excellence at our school. I love these days – drums banging, voices singing, bodies swaying…the school ROCKED!”
- *St Thomas PS Sale, VIC*

“The students were entranced, awed, thrilled and inspired by the performers. Very keen to be part of the action. Even the “cool” grade 6 boys were reeled right in!” - *Lang Lang PS, VIC*

“There was complete engagement of ALL age levels, excitement, energy and JOY! We loved the power and beauty of their music and dance and the joy that they communicated.” - *Mt Nelson PS, TAS*

“The children were so excited they were nearly bursting. They loved it all.” - *Queen of Peace, VIC*

“Captivated by the performers. Our African students were so proud of their heritage – they beamed. A meaningful supplement for Harmony Week in our school. It was brilliant!” - *Warriapendi PS, WA*

“Wow! Sensational! Excellent! Kids loved it; they were fascinated with the instruments, loved joining in and were keen to get onto the website to find out more.” - *Sandringham PS, VIC*

“Students were enthralled and captivated. I have never seen our secondary students so engaged in any performance. Amazing – the energy, skill and professionalism of all performers was world class.”
- *Herberton SS, QLD*

“Absolutely awesome! The students can’t stop talking about it – neither can their teachers in fact! It’s honestly the best incursion for music our school has ever had…and we’ve had loads!” - *Armadale PS, WA*

“Many children and teachers thanked me for organising this wonderful performance. What an experience for the children! Thank you.” - *Noranda PS, WA*

“Amazing, passionate! THEY LOVED IT! Wala’s energy was infectious. It was a privilege to experience WALA. BRILLIANT! BRILLIANT!!” - *Brunswick South PS, VIC*

“Overwhelmingly positive! Totally captivated!! Didn’t want it to end!! I have had 40 years experience in Theatre In Education and this is the BEST performance I have EVER seen!” - *Salisbury Heights, SA*

WALA – Feedback from Secondary Schools

We would just like to say what an amazing job the Wala group did for our students, The vibe and energy was overwhelming with students getting up and dancing in their seats. Thanks so much!
- Timaru Boys' High School, NZ

Students were enraptured – loved the student/teacher interaction. It was a fabulous performance.
- Faith Lutheran College Redlands (Secondary), QLD

They were awesome!
- Geraldton Grammar School, WA

Their natural rhythm simply oozes from within. It was an engaging performance which captured the attention of the students and held them in awe. Loved the “Playstation” trick!
- Thomas More College (Secondary), VIC

Students were absolutely delighted. A fabulous show – inclusive, educational and fun.
A very high level of performance and musicianship.
- Viewbank College, VIC

Excellent. Energetic. Enriching! It engendered great involvement… the students appreciated not only the entertainment value, but also the cultural aspects displayed.
Highest recommendation given – We will see them again.
- The Height Secondary College, QLD

Sensational! Vibrant! WALA is an accessible, lively and outstanding cultural experience…
an absolute pleasure!!
- Lucindale Area School (Secondary), SA

Absolutely fantastic! All the staff and students were talking about WALA for days. ☺
- Bendigo Special Developmental School, VIC

Excellent – Students kept raving about it! We can’t wait to get hold of some of the merchandise.
- Chaffey & Merbein Secondary Colleges, VIC

Students love it! The instruments, dancing and costumes really grabbed their attention.
WALA involved staff and students beautifully.
- West Moreton Anglican College (Secondary), QLD

A pulsating and breathtaking cultural experience. The energy, passion and friendliness of the presenters was totally engrossing. It was definitely one of the best performances I have booked for a school and personally been privileged to see. A must see!!
- Koonung Secondary College, VIC

This was an aural and visual feast. Wala had exceptional audience control and the students responded. The high energy performance left us breathless.
- Cooloola Christian College, WA