



# 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 an exciting display of Ghanaian culture.

With 15 hand-made African drums, flutes and stunning costumes, WALA engage children 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.

Performances will be either **trio or duo** (two OR three performers). Drumming or dance workshops are also available with one or more presenters.

**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 over 20 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.

*"Brilliant... Sensational... I was constantly thanked for organizing such an inspirational performance" - Le Fevre Peninsula PS, SA*

*"Students were enraptured. It was a fabulous performance." - Faith Lutheran College Redlands, QLD*

*"This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time we have had 'Wala'. Every time I get asked when they are coming back." - Assumption College, VIC*

*"They were awesome" - Geraldton Grammar School, WA*



**Suitability:** Kinder      **Duration:** 30 - 45 minutes  
**Cost:** \$450.00 +GST (or \$10.00 +GST per head for more than 45 children)

**BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:**

Website: [www.nexusarts.com.au](http://www.nexusarts.com.au)  
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# 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*

“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*