

## **Akosua Abdallah Short Biography**

Akosua Abdallah is currently the Director for the Community Youth Cultural Centre (CYCC), a cultural agency of the National Commission on Culture (NCC) under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts. Akosua is an actress, Theatre Director and a passionate development communication practitioner. She has worked extensively with the National Theatre of Ghana for many years and served in the Capacity of the Deputy Executive Artistic Director. She is also the current President of International Theatre Institute (ITI) in Ghana. She holds a PhD Degree from the University of Education, Winneba (UEW) in Ghana, where she has worked as a lecturer with a focus on theatre for performing arts. During her leisure, she loves to watch comedies and action thrillers. She is married with three daughters and also has two dogs and two cats.

# **DR AKOSUA ABDALLAH**

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## **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

An artistic director with over twenty years of work experience in administration and management, as it pertains to the promotion of arts and culture, corroborated by a doctorate degree in arts and culture.

## **SKILLS**

- Pioneering innovation and championing the cause of innovative approaches to theatre practice and modern performance.
- Developing strategies and systems using theatre for development to cause immense change in the way communities and their leaders solve their societal issues and advance positively.
- Facilitating and brokering training in cross-boundary artistic disciplines.
- Communicating effectively through teaching and advanced creativity in drama and new media.

## **EDUCATION**

- 2019-2020 UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION WINNEBA, POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TEACHING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION.
- 2015-2018 UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA. PhD (ARTS AND CULTURE)
- 2003-2006 UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, - LEGON. M.F.A (THEATRE ARTS)
- 1982-1986 UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, - LEGON, DIPLOMA IN THEATRE ARTS,

## **CAREER EXPERIENCE**

National service was done in two-fold; one year was served with the Ghana Education Service (GES) in the Northern Region as the coordinator of drama in second cycle institutions. The second year of service was at Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) as the Production Assistant for TV Theatre and Living Arts – A cultural magazine program. The opening of the National Theatre brought to the fore, the National Drama Company, the National Dance Company and the National Symphony Orchestra to the Theatre as its resident companies. As an actress, she endeared herself as a multitasked individual who helped in various departments such as PR and Marketing and rose through the ranks to become the Deputy Executive Director. As part of the restructuring of the Marine Drive Project under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, there was the need to boost the Community Youth Cultural Centre. Akosua was selected to spearhead that agency.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP**

- (2017 - present) Director, Community Youth Cultural Centre.
- (2014 - 2017) Deputy Executive Director, National Theatre of Ghana.
- (2014 - present) President, International Theatre Institute – Ghana.

## **CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS ATTENDED**

- A Panelist on the 18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Ouagadougou International Theatre and Puppet Festival: Theme of Publishing and the Regional Workshop on the Transmission of the Art of Puppetry in West Africa. 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.
- The Coordinator and Co-Director of the Ghanaian team; Ulysses from Ghana, a docufiction on Slavery. August 2021.
- A Panelist on the Webinar Celebrating African Month with The Inspiration of Charlotte Maxeke 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
- Facilitator for the 210<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Cultural Committee for GNATCOM (Ghana National Commission on UNESCO)18<sup>th</sup>, June 2020.
- A webinar Presentation on Corona Virus "Covid 19: The Impact of Digital Space and Innovation on Public Health Education " 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
- Ozoza Lifestyles, history of Yaa Asantewaa (African Queen Series) November,2019.
- Workshop facilitation for benchmarking a three-member delegation from Uganda Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities.20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, October 2019.
- UNESCO Regional conference on governance of cultural diversity, 10<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup> October, 2019, Accra- Ghana.
- Review of Scheme of Service for National Commission on culture, 12<sup>TH</sup> -13<sup>TH</sup> September, 2019.
- DAAD Conference the Role of Artists in the Process of Transformation, February 2019.
- 70th Anniversary of International Theatre Institute in Hainan China, 22nd-28th November,2018.

- Emerging Arts Scenes in Africa Conference. Burkina Faso "Bringing Arts to the People" May, 2018.
- International Theatre Institute 35th Congress in Segovia Spain July, 2017.
- International Theatre Institute workshop in Ouagadougou, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.
- 2012 Paper presented on the Historical perspective of film in Ghana, February, 2012.
- Workshop and familiarization of theatre practitioners in Koln, Krefeld, Hagen and Mulheim, April ,21<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2012
- Recreatrales Theatre Festival in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November, 2012
- Seminar on designing, implementing and evaluation of the creative industry, September 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 2011, Accra.
- Strategic workshop for Administrators of community cultural development. Hannover, Berlin and Essen in Germany, April 2011.
- Workshop on Cultural Policy of Ghana, challenges in the implementation of the cultural policy. Coconut Grove hotel Accra. 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
- Spielberg Theatre Workshop for "Theatre for Community Development Motivators".
- Düsseldorf, Berlin, Essen and Hanover in Germany. 6<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008
- 1<sup>st</sup> Interfaith Conference on ICT in Faith Administration & Ministry, M-Plaza Hotel, Accra, 9 November, 2006.
- Training on Gender Advocacy session on Gender and Reproductive Health, Wa-Upper West, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.
- Intermanagement meeting on Population and Development, GNAT hall, 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> October, 2006.

- Media co-ordinator for Coalition of Muslim Organisations in Ghana (COMOG) for annual work plan on Population and Development, GNAT hall Accra, 2006-2007
- National Conference on Parenting, Accra International Conference Centre, 24-25 October, 2005.
- International Faith-Based Organization Conference on Population and Development (COMOG), Ravico Hotel Accra, 2005.

## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION**

*Nyatuame, P. & Abdallah, A. (2021). Youth theatre and community empowerment in Ghana. Amfiteatre-Journal of Performing Arts Theory, Paper/Article (published)*

*Abdallah, A. (2020). COVID-19 and creative artists: The impact of innovation and digital space on public health education, COVIDD-19: Multidisciplinary perspectives. OIA, UEW Press Book Chapter (published)*

*Abdallah, A. & Nyatuame, P. (2019). "In tongues of their own": Performing multilingualism multiculturally in Ghana. (On-going paper/article project)*

*Abdallah, A. (2019). Puppety in basic school education: The case of community youth cultural Centre in Ghana. (On-going paper/article project)*

## **RESEARCH AND FUNDING**

Ohio University: Global Arts Festival 2020 in Ohio, USA. 1<sup>st</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

Sharm El-Sheikh International Theatre Festival for Youth (SITFY) in Cairo, Egypt. 1<sup>st</sup> April – 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

Scholarship and support for CYCC has been realized from local banks, spouses of Ambassadors, Turkish

Entrepreneurs, Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA), Year of Return Secretariat and other benevolent organizations.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Numerous Theatre for Development skits on topical issues (such as sanitation, human rights and disease control) in the Nima-Maamobi-Pig Farm-Ridge- 37- Airport Catchment Area.

## **OTHER EXPERIENCES**

Organized, Hosted and supervised Dramatic Workshops and Performances.

- Pan African Heritage World Museum Sod-Cutting Ceremony (2021)
- Ghana-Texas Exchange Program (2019)
- World Cup 2014 Brazil Performing Arts and Logistics Committee (2014)
- Iran Family Well-Being Conference, the Islamic Perspective (2012)
- UNESCO: Environment Sanitation for 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle Institutions (2008)
- Sketch on Malaria, its prevention & treatment with emphasis on the use of Insecticide Nets (2007)
- Ministry of Health: Public Education on insecticide nets (2003, 2007)
- Ministry of Education & Ghana Education Service: FCUBE and Capitation Grant (2005/2006)
- International Needs, Ghana: Exploitation of Child Labour in Commercial Sex and Fishing (2005)
- Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs: Sketch on three- year Development Plan (2005)

## **MEMBER OF ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS**

- A Board Member of the Obokese Foundation (2021)
- Member of the Governing Council of African University College of Communications (2021).
- President of International Theatre Institute of Ghana chapter.
- Secretary General of Africa Bureau of International Theatre Institute.



## REFEREES

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