

# African Community Night showcases music, dance

The event featured songs and dances from Lucky Moyo, a Zimbabwean musician visiting Eugene

By Lennon Bergland  
Freelance Reporter

A packed Gerlinger Annex experienced a slice of Zimbabwean culture Saturday at the African Community Night.

Headlining the event were performances by Dance Africa, Cedric Weary and the UO Gospel Singers, the Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center and about 50 third-grade children from the Village School and Irving Elementary.

The audience clapped and shouted with the performers, who learned the original dance pieces and traditional songs from Zimbabwean musician Lucky Moyo.

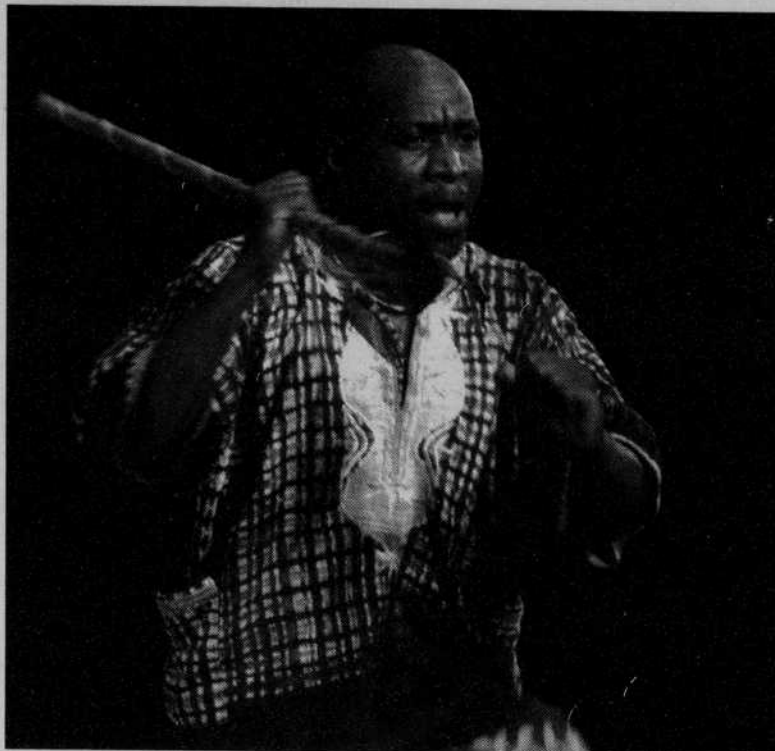
"If there is ever to be an understanding in this world, it must surely come through cultural exchange," Moyo said. "Only in this way can people begin to understand each other a little better."

Moyo's stay in Eugene was hosted by the Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to the teaching of Zimbabwean music. Moyo shared Zimbabwean culture with more than 300 children through games, singing and stories.

"He told stories, and he made jokes," said Village School student and performer Elliana Tessler. "We danced, and we learned a song and played a bunch of games."

The majority of seats were reserved for families of the performers. Brothers and sisters squirmed in their chairs as their siblings paraded on stage, singing "Away... away to Zimbabwe."

Many of the students' parents



Tim Kupsick Freelance Photographer

Lucky Moyo performed dances and songs at the African Community Night celebration Saturday. He also used games to share Zimbabwean culture with the children in attendance.

shared their pleasure that Moyo could visit the schools.

"I am very happy with the work that Lucky has done with my company," said Rita Honka, director of the University Dance Department's Dance Africa. "His greatest gift was offered joyously and accepted joyously by my company."

Dance Africa jumped and stomped on stage to the beat of hand drums in a dance that demonstrated the different roles of men and women in traditional Zimbabwean culture.

The UO Gospel Singers sang two

songs in Zimbabwean style with expressive voices and powerful solos.

"I want you all to be humming these songs in your car on the way home," Moyo said.

Kutsinhira Arts Center organizer Erin Ely said she was excited about the African Community Night and thankful to have Moyo's talents in Eugene.

"It is a showcase of Lucky's visit," she said. "It's a cool culmination of all that he has done here."

Lennon Bergland is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

## NEWS BRIEF

### APASU Spring Fling draws nearly 170 people

Asian Pacific American Student Union members and a few others strutted their stuff Sunday at the APASU Spring Fling '04 fashion show, which also included a talent show and date auction.

APASU put on the event, which drew nearly 170 people, primarily to publicize the organization.

"It's just something... to get exposure for our union," junior and APASU Programs Coordinator Clarissa Chan said.

The fashion show featured sportswear, formal wear, sleepwear, clubwear, beachwear and business attire. Participants also modeled traditional clothing from India and China. Freshman Nicole De Lancie modeled her University cycling uniform.

"I wanted to show APASU that I was involved and that I cared about APASU," she said.

ASUO Student Senate President Ben Strawn displayed his University Crew



Tim Kupsick Freelance Photographer

Kit Myers (left) and Diana Aguilar (center) auctioned off Sam Mao for \$30 at the Asian Pacific American Student Union's Spring Fling on Sunday night.

warmups by unzipping his jacket and throwing his hat into the crowd.

Sophomore and APASU Office Manager Becky Leung said the organization actively recruited non-Asian students to participate in the event.

"I wanted to see more diversity in this event because APASU isn't just for Asian people," she said.

The show commenced with a Spanish rap and Tagalog. Students

also wowed the crowd with their performance of a Korean and English rap song. The event concluded with a date auction to raise money for the organization.

Sophomore Erin Fanshier said the event is important "to increase awareness that there's an international community on campus."

— Moriah Balingit

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