

AKLOWA

proudly present an African folk legend

The Story of Anansi



11 - 12 DECEMBER 1980

in the

Commonwealth Theatre

Featuring the songs, dance, drum music
and rituals of Africa, and magnificent
traditional costumes

Performed by the
Aklowa Dancers & Drummers

Directed by
Felix Cobbson

PROGRAMME

The Aklowa Dance Company

present

THE STORY OF ANANSI

**a new dance drama based on the
West African folk tale**

Time: - In the ancient days

Place: - In a remote village in Africa

CAST

Kweku Anansi Richard Holomah

Akonole Yawa Christine Ahiagbede
(wife of Anansi)

Kwakute Daniel Hammond
(Anansi's son)

Villagers etc:

Jerry Johnson, Joyce Samuels, Beatrice Okine,
Robert Asafoatse, Isaac Tagoe, George Ankrah,
George Fiawoo, Samuel Ashalley

Narrator Joseph Mydell

Designed and Directed by Felix Cobbson

Additional Direction by Kenneth Fortescue

Script by Robert Tei Asafoatse

Choreography by Daniel Hammond

Lighting designed by Peter Evans

THE STORY OF ANANSI

One of the world's great folk epic tales, the stories of Anansi are prevalent throughout West Africa originating with the Ashanti peoples of Ghana ("Anansi" is the Ashanti word for "spider").

The stories were carried to the West Indies and America by the slaves and preserved. Many people will know the story of "Br'er Rabbit and the Tar Baby" which has a direct connection with the present production.

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The story begins with three impossible tasks, set by the village elders, which defeat all comers until Anansi, by cunning, succeeds and takes the position of Chief of the village of Nyamekrom (*Enstooling Ceremony - Akan*).

He beseeches the people to grow more food and become self-sufficient, but, at harvest time, the message from the village is that there may not be quite enough food to go round (*Nandom - Harvest Festival Dance*).

Ever cunning, Anansi plots to fake his own death requesting that he is buried on the farm. The efforts of the village healer (*Voodoo Ceremony*) are unsuccessful, and Anansi "dies" and is buried – together with his cooking utensils!

INTERVAL

The village is surprised by raids on their food stores, which cannot be accounted for. The efforts to guard the store fail when the guards fall asleep, but then they hatch a plan to catch the thief

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FOR THE AKLOWA DANCE GROUP:

Leader	Richard Holomah
Deputy Leader	George Fiawoo
Company Secretary	Joyce Samuels
Costume and Drum Maintenance	George Ankrah
Assistant (Drums)	Samuel Ashalley
Scripts	Robert Asafoatse
Dance Tutor	Daniel Hammond
Catering	Christine Ahiagbede
Hairstyling, Costumes	Beatrice Okine
Music Librarian	Jerry Johnson
i/c London Classes	Isaac Tagoe
i/c Schools Programme	George Fiawoo

FOR THE AKLOWA ASSOCIATION:

Founder, Artistic Director	Felix Cobbson
Director	John McKenzie
Secretary, Treasurer	Helen Parrish
Accountant	Charles Mensah
Administrator	Richard Austin

For further details about Aklowa and their African village in Essex contact:

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