



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



Nomsa Burkhardt

Nomsa Burkhardt has been teaching and performing Zulu dance, drumming, and singing for the Center for World Music since 2019. She is an extraordinary dancer, singer, and percussionist of Zulu heritage. Born in Soweto, South Africa, she spent most of her formative years in KwaZulu, Natal, a region famous for its rich Zulu heritage and culture. There, she studied various traditional dance styles with master dancers such as Indlamu, ukuQhobosha and, ukuSina. Upon immigrating to Philadelphia, she co-founded the African dance troupe HIMOSHA. Her artistic skills and passion for dance propelled her into becoming the director and lead choreographer for the troupe for seven years. She worked with the well-known Philadelphia-based South African multi-instrumentalist and artist Mogauwane Mahloele at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. While performing and conducting workshops annually for the Philly Dance Africa Project, Nomsa also taught and performed at the Walt Whitman Cultural Arts Center and local universities and K-12 schools

In 2000 Nomsa returned to South Africa to study at the University of Pretoria with the accomplished ethnomusicologist Prof. Meki Nzewi. Upon her return to the United States in 2004, she joined the Grammy-nominated South African band Sharon Katz & The Peace Train. As part of the Peace Train Project at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia, she helped develop a teacher-training program on South African history and also conducted a series of related educational performances. Nomsa has toured throughout the United States, South Africa, Israel, Italy, and Germany. She recently relocated to San Diego and is the co-founder of IZINDE, an Afro-fusion band composed of artists from around the world.