

Southeastern Community College presents...

The African American Dance Ensemble

PEACE



Stafford C. Berry Jr., above, in the opening dance presents drums and rhythms to Osei Appiagyei, above right.



The top piece of the above costume is adorned with shells like those once used as currency. Below, grass costumes provide colorful sights and soothing sounds during performances.



LOVE



Ensemble founder and artistic director Dr. Chuck Davis explains traditions and dances.



Photographs
by
Mark
Gilchrist

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Dancers use rhythm sticks, common instruments in African performances.



Dancers perform Judge Ye Not!, a lesson in tolerance.

By **MARK GILCHRIST**
Chief Photographer

An exciting and powerful performance by the African American Dance Ensemble in the Southeastern Community College auditorium February 7 was both entertaining and enlightening.

Five dancers and three musicians filled the stage with a thrilling spectacle of beautiful costumes and inspiring dance and music, sharing traditions and messages from the African continent.

Ensemble founder Dr. Chuck Davis

hosted the event, explaining the meanings of the dances and motivations of the dancers. Davis began his performing arts career nearly five decades ago and directs the Durham-based troupe.

The overall message between the footsteps and drumbeats was revealed throughout the evening. The group sees itself not only as entertainers, but as an “agency of positive social change,” and woven into the music and movements was its mantra; “Peace, love, respect for everybody.”



Musicians play hollowed-out logs, some of the oldest musical instruments known to man.

RESPECT FOR EVERYBODY