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ADAWE's Six Women Musicians to Energize IWU

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ADAAWE's Six Women Musicians to Energize IWU

ADAAWE is "something truly wonderful ... these women, these different faces from all over the world, this music is what will bring us all together."

- Babatunde Olatunji, African singer and drummer

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center will resonate with energy when ADAAWE, a group of six dynamic and diverse women takes center stage. Various instruments are incorporated into ADAAWE's high-energy performance including, bells, congas, gourd, clave, djembes, djun-djuns, kpanlogos, ocean drum, rain stick, shekeres, tama talking drum and a trap set..

The event, on Friday, March 2 at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center, located at 104 E. University St., Bloomington, is a part of IWU's Underground Series.

According to the Adaawe tradition, under the moonlight in Ghana, West Africa, women gather to create music and sing about the happiness and sorrow of life.

In addition to the traditional music of Ghana, ADAAWE combines traditional music from America, Cuba, Ghana, Jamaica, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa with original contemporary music. The women describe their music as "a healing force, propelled by the power of women's voices and the communication of the drum."

The Santa Barbara Independent reported, "The six-woman-strong African musical group, ADAAWE, transformed [the theatre] into an international kaleidoscope of sights and sounds utilizing an extensive array of African drums and percussion instruments accompanied by multilingual vocals and a capella exclamation of ancestral joy."

Members of the group include:

- Joselyn Wilkinson, the founder of ADAAWE, hails from Montana. She has studied at the University of Ghana, ULCA, the Academy of African Music and Art, Ltd. and the Conservatoire Nacional of Dakar, Senegal. A writer and recorder of original music, Wilkinson has performed with Makina Loca, the African Brazilian Connection and Circle of Rhythm.
- Anindo was born and raised in Kenya and became known in Europe as Kenya's "singing sensation." She has performed with Babatunde Olatunji, Leon Mobley's Da Lion and

DWAAD Company, Mystique D'Afrique, Katherine Dunham, Foday Musa Suso and Rhythm Slam.

- Bridget Graham, originally from North Carolina and New York City, trained as a classical vocalist, actress, filmmaker and photographer. She has appeared in several films, commercials and television programs.
- Dañya calls Los Angeles home, but has spent the greater part of her life traveling the world to study music and dance at City College of New York, the Universidad Comutense de Madrid in Spain and privately in Bahia, Brazil and Habana, Cuba.
- Monique Afenjar grew up in Israel where music was a part of her everyday life and her talent has led her to record with several world music artists. She has studied the bendir (Egyptian tambourine), darabukah, Doumbek, Djembe, guitar and bass.
- Phylliss Bailey Brooks, previously ADAawe's original vocal director, now serves as a featured vocalist. She also comes from Los Angeles where she has become known as an accomplished director, producer, sound engineer, pianist and vocalist.

ADAawe's debut CD "Six Women Strong" is in production at Fresh Squeezed Records with a release date set for the summer of 2001.

For more information on ADAawe's performance, contact Kevin Clark, Underground coordinator, at 309/556-3850.