

ACHÉ BRASIL

TEACHER'S STUDY GUIDE

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Aché Brasil has played to enthusiastic audiences and critical acclaim from all over North America receiving a recent nomination for "Live Performers of the Year" at the West Coast Music Awards. Originating from Pernambuco, by founder and director, Mestre Eclilson de Jesus, the group has received international acclaim, performing in thousands of shows, festivals and special events such as, The Vancouver International Jazz



Festival, the 2001 World Figure Skating Championship, Toronto's Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, Vancouver International Children's Festival, Kosh International Children's Festival in Minnesota, Frostbite Festival in Whitehorse. Television appearances include *Vickie Gabareau*, *Much Music*, and *The Knowledge Network*.

ECLILSON DE JESUS: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, MASTER OF CAPOEIRA

Brazilian-born, Mestre Eclilson was influenced at an early age by the folkloric musical atmosphere of his birthplace, Recife. Known for his sinuous agility and breathtaking acrobatics, he was invited to perform for children's festivals throughout North America in 1990 and decided to make Vancouver his new home. With over 20 years experience, he runs a capoeira academy with two schools in Canada and one in Brazil. He works periodically as a stuntman in various films.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE



Aché Brasil represents the culture, the traditions, the beliefs, the music and movement of the people of Brazil. Equal parts dance, music, and spectacle, the group's performances include such dynamic forms as Samba, Maculele, Afoxé, and the famous Brazilian dance martial-art *capoeira* - a display of acrobatics, performed to the rhythm of the berimbau. The word "aché" stems from Yoruba, meaning, "all things positive" and it is with this spirit in mind that Aché Brasil is proud to bring the traditions and culture of the Brazilian people to Canadian audiences.

THEMES:

- Brazil
- Capoeira
- Culture
- Dance
- Geography
- Language
- Movement
- Music
- Rhythm

"Capoeira is much more than a martial art. Capoeira is art, it is culture, it is history, and it is dance and music. A true visual feast, watching Capoeira can evoke feelings of pure exhilaration. It is an experience that must be seen (and heard) to be truly appreciated"

- Bruce Fontaine, on Aché Brasil, *The World of Martial Arts*, April 1999



THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE

Brazilians are, perhaps, one of the most racially mixed peoples in the world.



Europeans, of mostly Portuguese descent, make up a large percentage of the population. The black population are descendants of Mican slaves (mostly from Yoruba and Quirmbundu origin) brought to Brazil before the 1880's.

The majority of the black population live in the northeastern provinces such as Bahia and Pernambuco, where the Dutch and French also settled. The Northeast is,

today, a region rich in folklore and traditions that have succeeded in blending the legends and beliefs of the early colonizers and slaves.

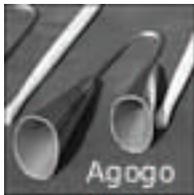


In the 19th century, groups of German, Italian and

Japanese immigrants settled in the southern region and still maintain ethnic communities. Most of the native Indians (only 1% of the population) inhabit the Amazon region.

Many people all over Brazil have some Indian heritage through inter-marriage. All groups, however, have had a significant influence on the Brazilian's culture through religion, food, festivals, music and dance.

BRAZILIAN MUSIC



The native Indians with their reed flutes, the Portuguese with their singers and viola players, and the Africans with their many thrilling rhythms make-up what Brazil is today: a country rich with musical tradition. From the classical compositions of Villa-Lobos, to the soft sounds of bossa nova, to the driving beat of Samba, Brazil has developed music of striking sophistication, quality and diversity. In general, Brazilian rhythms are divided into two main groups, traditional and modern.



Among the more popular traditional rhythms are the orixas, capoeira, samba, afixé, maculele and maracafu. Most of these rhythms are played on the atabaques, pandeiro, agogo, shequere, and the surdo. The rhythms of the capoeira are always accompanied by the berimbau (a bow like instrument) as well as the atabaque, and agogo. The traditional samba known as Samba de Roda, is also played with pandeiro, congas, agogo and surdo. The Moxe and maculele are

played mainly with congas, shaqueres and agogos. The rhythm of maracatu, although is played with modern instruments such as a snare drum is still considered to be a traditional rhythms because its roots derive from the African slaves. The most popular modern rhythms are the samba, pevo, bossa nova, baião, samba-raggae, timbalada, and are played on both traditional instruments as above and also contemporary combo of keyboard, guitar, bass, and drum kit.



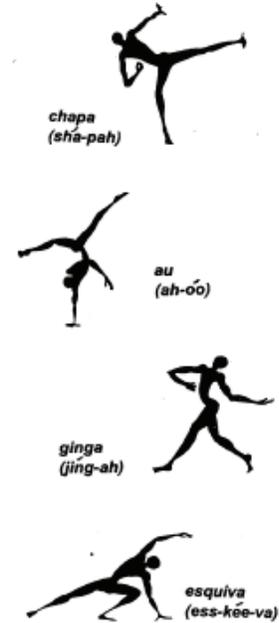
CAPOEIRA

In the late 1500's, men and women from the West Coast of Africa were captured by Portuguese slave traders and brought to what is now known as Brazil. Almost immediately, they began dreaming of ways to gain their freedom and so developed a martial arts style that would eventually become known as "Capoeira" (kah-poo-AIR-ah). In order to hide this fighting style from their masters, the African slaves combined dance, music, ritual, acrobatics and martial arts into what appeared to the slave owners to be a harmless

game - a game that would eventually help the slaves gain their freedom.

While dancing, leaping, spinning and striking at each other, two players move effortlessly within a circle of people who clap and sing. The music of drums and berimbau (an ancient, sacred, bow-like instrument) provide a haunting, hypnotic background for the action that is unfolding. Is it some sort of dance? Is it a game? Is it a fight? It is all of these, and more - it's Capoeira.

Since its creation at the hands of the African slaves over four hundred years ago, Capoeira has evolved into one of the most hypnotic and interesting art forms to come out of Brazil. With its fluid movement, flashing kicks, and spine twisting acrobatics, Capoeira continues to win fans all over the world. Today, it can be seen in places as diverse as Israel, France, Japan, England, Argentina, Portugal, America, and of course, in Canada.



BRAZILIAN DANCE

Maculele - Originally created in the sugar cane fields by the slaves while they were cutting the cane; this dance utilizes sticks and machetes (sharp, large knives). Hailing from the interior of Pernambuco and Bahia, Maculele imitates the movements of cutting cane, intricately choreographed to a special rhythm especially for this dance.

Samba de Roda - The most traditional form of samba. The name comes from the Angolan dance, Semba, brought by the slaves to Brazil. It is danced by women inside of a circle made by the public and

musicians. The women improvise their steps with a variety of hip movements and wear big skirts of the traditional Bahian dress.

Caboclo - Amazonian Native dance and sounds of the Amazon forest. This choreographed dance is preserved by the Caboclo Amazonian Indians. this shows the importance of Native.

Afoxé - Rhythms and dance from Candomblé (an Afro-Brazilian religion) popularized and played on the streets where all becomes carnival

or mardi gras. This dance from Bahia was created to bring peace between all races.

Maracatu - A traditional rhythm of Pernambuco symbolic of the Black Kingdom. It has become a popular rhythm throughout Brazil.

Colheita - This dance is a representation of the slaves working in the bean plantations. The dance uses large baskets imitating movements derived from collecting and sifting beans.

Coco De Roda - This is a dance and rhythm originally from northeast Brazil symbolizing the breaking of coconut fruit. The dance involves feet movements imitating the sounds of the coconut when it breaks. It has become a popular rhythm throughout Brazil. Coco de Roda means, "Coconut circle."

Orixás - Celebration dances from Afro-Brazilian mythology derived from the Yoruba religion. The dances are in honor of the deities of the sun, the ocean, thunder, lightning.

Gangazumba - Named after a powerful warrior and leader in the Quilombo Dos who fought for the freedom of his people. This is a dance in honor of him.

Frevo - This frenetic rhythm and dance originated in Pernambuco, and is now popular during carnaval. Its vibrant rhythms push the dancers to make sharp and acrobatic movements while holding an umbrella.

Samba - The most popular music of Brazil is the captivating rhythm of the samba which personifies the carnival. The dance uses many hip and foot movements, and the dancers wear bright, colorful, costumes with huge feathered headpieces.



LANGUAGE

In Brazil, we speak Portugese

Alo !/Ola !	ah-low / oh-la	HELLO!	Um	oom	ONE
Adeus!	ah-day-oos	GOOD BYE!	Dois	doh-ees	TWO
Obrigado!	oh-bree-gah-doo	THANK YOU!	Tres	trehz	THREE
De nada	juh nah-dah	YOU'RE WELCOME	Quatro	kwah-tro	FOUR
Escola	ess-koh-la	SCHOOL.	Cinco	sink-oo	FIVE
Casa	kah-zah	HOUSE.	Seis	sehzh	SIX
Menino	meh-nee-noo	BOY	Sete	setch-eh	SEVEN
Menina	meh-nee-na	GIRL	Oito	oetoo	EIGHT
Canadense	kah-nah-den-say	CANADIAN	Nove	noh-veh	NINE
Brasileiro	brah-zee-lair-roo	BRAZILIAN	Dez	dehz	TEN
verde	ver-deh	GREEN	Segunda-feira	say-goon-da feh-rah	MONDAY
azul	ah-zool	BLUE	Terca-feira	tehr-sa feh-rah	TUESDAY
amarelo	ah-mah-rell-oo	YELLOW	Quarta-feira	bar-tah feh-rah	WEDNESDY
vermelho	ver-mel-ee-oh	RED	Quinta-feira	keen-tah feh-rah	THURSDAY
laranja	lah-rahn-jah	ORANGE	Sexta-feira	sex-tah feh-rah	FRIDAY
castanho	cas-tan-yoo	BROWN	Sabado	sah-bah-doh	SATURDAY
preto	preh-too	BLACK	Domingo	doh-meeng-go	SUNDAY
branco	bran-coh	WHITE	aniversário	ann-i-vers-ar-i-oo	BIRTHDAY

ACIVITY SUGGESTION— CAPOEIRA CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, AND RESIDENCIES

People of all ages study capoeira for both fitness and as a way of better understanding Brazilian Culture. The Aché Brasil Capoeira Academy in Vancouver is located at 341 East Broadway and holds classes everyday. There are Kid's Classes for the young ones, and beginner's classes for the not-so-young. All are welcome, and the first class is free!

If you don't reside in the Vancouver area, Capoeira classes can come to you! Residencies and workshops can be arranged for schools and community groups in any area outside the Lower Mainland.

For more information visit the Aché Brasil website: www.achebrasil.com



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