

Communiqué

MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL

CASIMIRO NHUSSI & JAY STOLLER

Artists in the Schools Residency

DECEMBER 6, 2010 – ETHELBERG SCHOOL



The Manitoba Arts Council (MAC) is pleased to announce that Casimiro Nhussi & Jay Stoller will be in residence at Ethelbert School in Ethelbert from December 6, 2010 to December 10, 2010, as part of the Artists in the Schools Program.

Casimiro and Jay began working together in 1998 and have not looked back. Although coming from different parts of the world, they soon found their mutual interest in African music and dance would lead to a highly complementary partnership in this field.

They co-founded the African Ensemble Bafana and have staged numerous performances and workshops across Canada. Their Artists in the Schools program has run since 2000. Jay holds a BPE, B.Ed and a Diploma in African Music from the University of Ghana, where he studied music for four years. Casimiro was the Artistic Director of the Mozambique National Dance Company for six years and currently leads Winnipeg's NAfro Dance Productions.

This team offers an excellent African music and dance program incorporating elements of music, physical education, and social studies curricula. The music component of the program will focus on instruction in African drumming and traditional percussion instruments. The dance component will introduce students to African dance and movement. They will also learn basic elements of choreography through improvisation. Students will be introduced to the importance and function of music and dance in traditional African societies as well as the diversity of styles present in Africa. They will learn how African people use dance, music, and stories as an integral part of life. On the final day, students will provide a demonstration of their skills in drumming and dancing for the school population and parents.

The Manitoba Arts Council is an arm's-length agency of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and Tourism that offers grants to professional Manitoban artists and organizations.

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