


5-2018

Afrobeat

Elfreda Hoff
Roger Williams University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.rwu.edu/nadi>

 Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [Sociology of Culture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hoff, Elfreda (2018) "Afrobeat," *New and Dangerous Ideas*: Vol. 1 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://docs.rwu.edu/nadi/vol1/iss1/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at DOCS@RWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in New and Dangerous Ideas by an authorized editor of DOCS@RWU. For more information, please contact mwu@rwu.edu.

Wavering, unwillful
Blue.
My grandfather is
Blue.
I too am like my grandfather,
Blue.
I am floating.
I am sinking.
Higher and higher,
Deeper and deeper.
My grandfather put on
A uniform everyday for twenty-five years.
As a child my grandfather was the ideal
America; he was just and mighty.
Now I can see the shimmer,
Behind his aging, shaking hands of blue
Two of his three sons followed in his footsteps,
A family filled with blue.
My mother,
A mirage of a brown paradise,
Did not dream in color.
As a child; her nights were black,
She trembled at the thought of blue; She lived on the streets
Where my grandfather's uniform
Worked.
She hid behind bushes, cars, and broken fences
When my grandfather's
Boots began to pound the concrete.
She wept when my grandfather
Took hold of the items in his belt,
Knowing that soon her street would
Be painted red.
My mother, met my grandfather's
Middle son and found herself in the
Midst of the white American dream.
My mother taught me how to love
And I love my grandfather.
My mother taught me how to mourn
And I mourn everyday
I am drenched in blue
But I find myself at times soaked in sweat,
Breathless from terrors. In these moments
I am void of blue, I am a ghost
Watching my brothers and sisters
Die at the hands...
In these moments I try
To apply freewill to objects
That gun murdered my loved ones not... I am sinking.
I am floating.
Those hands...
Higher and higher, Deeper and deeper,
Those hands are blue. And I am blue too.

Blue - L. Lawlor

AFROBEAT

Elfreda Hoff



My dance is called Afrobeat. You may ask, what is Afrobeat? Afrobeat is a unique style of dance and popular music that embraces elements of African music, jazz, soul, and funk. I used a mixture of African songs that focus on romance, self-love, and acceptance. My dance ends with a powerful song about always pushing through no matter how difficult. The power of Afrobeat rests in the different styles and movements that are incorporated in the dance. This kind of music also plays a huge role in social justice for Africans, as it allows them to express their voice through lyrics and dance. Afrobeat has become popular all around the world and has finally given African culture a stage to showcase the storytelling nature of these songs and dances. When it comes to race or ethnicity, anybody can relate to the mixture of songs I used in my performance.

Two of the most important songs I used in my choreography are Tumbum and Malonogedede. Tumbum talks about self-love and womens empowerment. In this song, Yemi Alade uses the game Tumbum as a metaphor for the way men play games with women. She is confident in her lyrics and uses it to empower other women to always voice their opinion when fighting for their rights. On the other hand, Malonogedede is a song by a male artist who talks about his experience fighting against anything that has tried to prevent his success. Through his faith in God, his lyrics express that nothing could ever bring him down. This is a very important message to both Africans and anybody else going through struggles. That is, to accept that there are going to be challenges in life and people will be against you, but to always power through and stay positive. Overall, Afrobeat has empowered and brought together people from different parts of the world and that is why I chose this dance.