

Artist Statement

My dance is called Afrobeat. You may ask, what is Afrobeat? Afrobeat is a unique style of dance and popular music embracing elements of African music, jazz, soul, and funk. I used a mixture of African songs that focus on romance, self-love, and acceptance. I ended my dance with a powerful song that talks about always pushing through no matter what the struggles and hard times will be.

Afrobeat is a powerful style because it unites and connects different people from different parts of world. Through these dance moves, people from different cultures can relate to one another. What makes this dance so special are the different styles and movement that are being used within the dance. People of different nationalities come together and dance to Afrobeat because of the vibe and tempo of the beat/music. This kind of music also plays a huge role in social justice for Africans, as it gives them back their voice through lyrics and dance. Afrobeat has become popular all around the world and has put African cultures on a platform. When it comes to race or ethnicity, anybody can relate to the mixture of songs I used in my choreography. Two of the most important songs I used in my choreography are Tumbum and Malonogedede. Tumbum talks about self-love and women empowerment. In this song, Yemi Alade uses the game “Tumbum” as a metaphor for men always playing games with women. She is self-spoken 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 is talks about his experience with fighting against anything that has tried to bring him down. Through his faith in God, he tells his audience in his lyrics that nothing could ever bring him down. This is a very important message to both Africans and anybody else going through struggles, 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 this is why I chose this dance for this particular day.