

YELEMBBA « la grande lumière »

The company [Yelemba d'Abidjan](#) founded in 1994 by Lassina Coulibaly, an artist born in Korhogo, Ivory Coast, has been considered throughout the world as one of the best art companies in West Africa performing traditional dance and music.

From 1996 to 2003, in collaboration with Planète Tam Tam, a French percussionists association in Nantes, Yelemba d'Abidjan has performed in many different countries (France, Spain, The Canary Islands, Italy, Great Britain, Ireland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxemburg, Germany, Tunisia, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Sud Korea, Guadalupa, Réunion...).

Since 2012, after several years of absence, due to the civil war which has torn apart the Ivory Coast for about 10 years, Lassina Coulibaly has drawn inspiration from his long experience as a company director as well as an artist on stage, and has dedicated himself to the re-formation of his company, that now includes several young new members.

With the aim of diffusing the Ivorian culture and traditions into the world, Lassina transmits his knowledge and ideals about life, based on the profound and universal values of respect, interdependence and tolerance, which he practices since his initiation years in the "Poro" (the traditional initiation practices of the Senoufo people).

In March 2014, the company's new music and dance performance "Reconciliation" has been transmitted at the [MASA](#) (Marché des Arts et Spectacles Africain, Market for African Performing Arts) at Abidjan. A five-title LP, "Djassa-Djassa" has been recorded on stage and produced by [Adjololo System](#). It is available on the internet at yelemba.bandcamp.com

Today, thanks also to the financial help of French and Italian friends, the company has its own land in Akeikoi, a neighbourhood of Abidjan, and has started from 2013 to build there a new art school and a residence for artists.

<http://adjololo.com/artistes/collectif-dartistes/yelemba-d-abidjan/>

Discography

- Album « *Hommage* » Buda Musique / Universal (2000)
- Compilation « *Djembe 3* » – Buda Musique (2002)
- Compilation Festival « *Tour de scènes* » - Musica / Angers (2004)
- Compilation « *Master of Percussion 2* » - Follow Me Productions (2004)
- Compilation « *Master of Percussion 3* » - Follow Me Productions (2005)