



Who's Performing

AFRIFEST™ 2008 PERFORMERS

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS AND SCHEDULES](#)

Thursday August 14th

Presented By



• Pan African Business Expo 2008

Featured Guest Speakers

- [Yvonne Cheung Ho](#), President & CEO-MEDA (Metropolitan Economic Development Association)
- [Richard T. Venegar](#), President & CEO-Milestone Growth Fund
- [Martin Mohammed](#), Executive Director of African Chamber of Commerce
- [Kwaku Addy](#), President & Owner of The Pan African Mall

Friday, August 15th

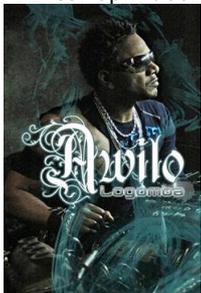
Presented By



•Afrifest 2008 Gala...A Night With the Stars Featuring [AWILO](#) with special guests [E.G. Bailey](#), [Blade Brown](#), [A Pan African Fashion Show](#), and Hosted by Comedian [Boima Freeman](#)

-Venues: [EPIC EVENT CENTER](#)

-Times: 8pm doors / 8:30pm show time



Longomba was born in Kinshasa (formally, Léopoldville). His father was from the Mongo region of the Ecuador and his mother was also from the Ecuador region of Ngombe and Congo Brazzaville. His father, Vicky Longomba, was the famous lead singer and founder of "Tout puissant OK Jazz" during the golden age of Congolese rumba, had a big influence on our artist. Since childhood, Awilo spent every waking moment in the music scenes attending his father's rehearsals. Very quickly his passion for music grew, and instead of going to classes, he started drumming for various groups of Kinshasa, including "l'orchestre de Lita Bembo. He joined the orchestra "Viva La Musica" led by the great Papa Wemba as a drummer, and Awilo had his real first taste of live performance on his first international tour in Europe and to Japan in 1985 and 1986.

[CLICK HERE FOR AWILO'S FULL BIO](#)



Comedian [Boima Freeman](#)....Actor, Host,

Boima Freeman has been seen and heard on TV and Radio. Described by all as a ball of talent, personility and charmed with the energy and mind to match.

Commercial Actor, Comedian, Voice Character specialist, Improv, Model, and everything in between.

Boima Freeman has been performing comedy since birth, he popped out and had the doctor laughing before he could snap the cord.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island USA, he has traveled and lived in many places including: Liberia (West Africa), New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Texas & Minnesota. As a performer, Boima is the best at what he does, he is definitely an up and coming star not to be ignored.

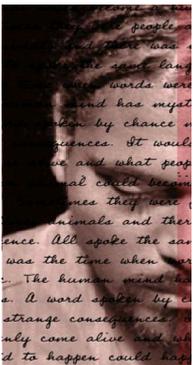
His comedic charm brings the stage alive with his energy and wonderful improvisational skills. By incorporating these skills with current events & life experiences into his show, he truly engages an audience and entertains them like no other.

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Blade Brown or as his fans and friends call him "The African Prince" is probably the most versatile artist of the next generation of Hip-Hop Music. Many predict he is The Future of That Next Hip Hop Platinum Sound. Infusing Hip-Hop with Bongo Flava, Dance Hall Reggae and R&B he was able to create this new unique sound that can revolutionize Hip-Hop Music. He is originally from Monrovia , Liberia in West Africa and he is currently residing in Minneapolis Minnesota . You can look forward to hear great music and big things coming from Blade Brown in a very near future. He is currently in the studio working on his debut album produced by the man himself Kwame "KP" The African Boy of KLAG Productions.

[CLICK HERE FOR BLADE'S FULL BIO](#)



Multidisciplinary artist, e.g. bailey, is an actor, spoken word artist, filmmaker, playwright and producer. Born in Saclepea, Liberia, he has lived in the United States since 1979. Since '95, he has co-founded and co-produced Write On RaDio!, an award-winning weekly literary radio program on KFAI Fresh Air Radio; co-founded @rkology, a spoken word and music collective, which was chosen in the City Pages' Picked to Click" Best New Band Poll in 1998 and 1999; e.g. co-wrote and co-produced blues for nina: a poetic interpretation of the life and music of nina simone, for SASE: The Write Place and the Twin Cities Black Film Festival; was commissioned by Pangea World Theater to adapt Chinua Achebe's novel No Longer at Ease to the stage; produces Words Will Heal the Wound: a celebration of community through poetry, a spoken word radio series for KFAI Fresh Air Radio in celebration of National Poetry Month, now in its third year; and inaugurated two new spoken word radio show, Tehuti: The Art of Spoken Word on KFAI.

[CLICK HERE FOR E.G. FULL BIO](#)



Besides being the founder of Universal Dance Destiny (UDD), Edna is also the artistic director and instructs various classes at UDD. These classes include all levels of Hip Hop including Reggae Dancehall (for kids, teens, and women), Summer Dance Camp Latin (for teens), West African dance (intergenerational), and basic-intermediate Ballroom. Edna also conducts private lessons and wedding preparations with her colleague, Mr.Brutus for UDD. Edna's love of dance inspired her to study various dance genres in order to connect to people of diverse cultures. Her unique African and Hip Hop choreography and performances have captivated audiences nationally.

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Saturday, August 16th

•**Afrifest 2008 Grooves & Jazz...Featuring [Yohannes Tona Band](#) with special guest [Incognita](#)**



Kevin Washington: drums...played with world-class artists

Kenn Wannaku: from Cameroon, singer guitarist; the founder of the band Sun Plugged

Robert Coleman: on keys...worked with gospel and hip hop/ R&B artists including his current tour with Just Live.

Young trumpeter: Traveris from Cuba

Tona was born and raised in Shashmane/Awassa, a town in Southern Ethiopia. He grew up around music; his father was a church organist, his mother a vocalist. After finishing high school in Awassa, he moved to Addis, the capitol of Ethiopia, to further his musical education. He moved to the US in the late 90's, attending Berklee College of Music in Boston on a scholarship. He moved to Minneapolis 5 years ago; in addition to his own group Tona also performs with several artists such as Nachito Herrera, Dr. Mambo's Combo, Bruce Henry, Darnell Davis & the Remnant Gospel Group and Seven Steps to Havana, to name a few.

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The music of Incognita is in a lot of ways the reflection of the blending of sounds and rhythms that results when different cultural sounds are expressed as songs.

Having one foot in one culture and the other in another culture gives an unconnected yet universal feel to the music so that initially hearing it, it is difficult to categorize, to put in a box. The style of music always has a rich rhythm that builds on its African roots. The soulful vocals and steady rhythm always side step interestingly with the music.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL BIO](#)

Sunday, August 17th

• **Showcase Africa 2008**

Afrifest 2008 Closing Celebration Gala & Talent Show...Hosted by [Michael Blackson "The African King of Comedy"](#)

-Venues: [ENVY NIGHTCLUB](#)

400 First Ave North -Minneapolis, MN 55401 | 612.673.9694

- Times: 9pm to 2am

9pm doors / 10:00pm show time

-Age: 18+

Tickets: \$10 Before 11pm/ \$15 After 11pm



MICHAEL K. BLACKSON
"THE AFRICAN KING OF COMEDY"
You Modasucka!

He has been called one of the most original stand-up comics in the country, and his performances leave audiences laughing in tears. Michael Blackson, aka, 'The African King of Comedy', has been entertaining audiences all across the country and around the globe for more than a decade. Inspired by the stand up comedy of Eddie Murphy, Michael began to develop his comedic talent in 1992 in the unkind comedy clubs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Michael's comedic appeal grew from his involvement with BET's Comicview series, HBO's Def Comedy Jam, Showtime at Harlem, and Live in Hollywood.

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[Nextainment, LLC](#) is the producer of AFRIFEST™ in partnership with our non profit partners and we work with all our sponsors, local government agencies, community organizations, and the general public to make AFRIFEST™ a very unique and worthwhile festival for the Twin Cities. This festival continues to define the Twin Cities as a cultural mega and destination location.

If you have any questions, would like to perform, or would like to inquire about a media, corporate, non-profit sponsorships and/or vendor packages, please feel free to contact us at 612.281.6318 or email info@afripest.org Thanks!