

Country: *Rwanda*

Name: *Rwandan Folk Tale Project*

Artistic Medium: *Theater*

Partners: University theater group and the School of the Deaf

Outside contributo: Judd Hardy

Judd Hardy is a graduate of New York University/Tisch School of the Arts' Experimental Theatre Wing. He is a playwright, composer and performer, and has taught theater workshops in throughout the United States, Africa and the Caribbean. He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Main Contributors: Quo Vadimus Arts in New York City

http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archivefiles/2006/12/mother_africa_1.php

Objective: *Address issues like reconciliation and forgiveness with Rwandan artists by helping them deconstruct and recreate old parables in their own voices.*

After initial problems in Butare like the language barrier and setting up meetings with University theater students, things started working smoothly. However, soon there was a solid group of actors and everything was debated between them. The method was based largely on physical experimentation, which meant that the body was used to tell the story. Often, traditional dance moves were also incorporated into the story telling which added additional symbolism to the story telling.



The audience, which was mainly Rwandan, grew daily as their interest in their yoga warmups and traditional song singing attracted them to watch the performances.

The group then worked with children from the School of the Deaf, a group that really was on the fringes of their own cultural society, and helped them create their own stories about simple things, a shoe or a box. The group bonded and created theater together which was all « memorable in their own ways, each creative body diving, weaving, recreating and deconstructing their reality ». The connection between the university theater group and the School of the Deaf continued even into 2004.