



EWÉ (meaning leaf in Yoruba) is an Afro Brazilian dance retreat located on a family ranch in São Gonçalo dos Campos, Bahia, Brazil. EWÉ was created to expand and strengthen our connection with the art forms we love, and the ancestral technologies that surround them, to deepen our knowledge and give us the tools to emancipate our bodies from previously held constraints. Our faculty were chosen carefully as teaching artists who we believe are beautifully qualified to guide this discovery.

This first edition of EWÉ will include classes and activities to give a diverse look at Afro Brazilian dance and arts culture: Orixá Symbology, Forró, Samba no pé, Samba de Gafieira, Samba de Roda & Maculelê-- as well as music history and body percussion.

Evening activities will give more of a look at Brazilian festivities as a whole, and daily social life in a small town as the retreat takes place during the country June harvest festivals. Our ranch is located walking distance from the village and includes expansive trails, a small waterfall, meditation and herb gardens, pool, and more: a place of reflection and return to self.

Three beautiful meals will be served a day, often inspired by Bahian traditional cuisine and the local organic produce of the farm. Accommodations will be shared rooms with multiple single beds.

FACULTY BIOS AND CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Alysson Bruno



Alysson Bruno is a musician who studied extensively in the group Abaçáí Cultura e Arte (2000 to 2014) with guidance from Ari Colares and Toninho Macedo. He studied popular percussion for two years at Instituto Tom Jobim ULM. He performed with Orchestra HB, the show “AGÔ! Sacred Songs of Brazil and Cuba” and recorded the album “Xirê Reverb”, performed in the show “Baile dos Orixás”, both featuring jazz characteristics with traditional Candomblé musicality.

He acted as Co-Musical Director of the show “Raízes” by Nação Maracatu Oju Oba in Paris in 2010. In 2014 he was co-Musical Director of the show “Terra Brasil ” by Cia Dance Migration on tour in Holland, where he is currently musical director. In 2018, he was assistant musical director of the dance company Gumboot Dance Brasil in their shows “Yebo” and Subterrâneo, also musical director and composer of the soundtrack for the show “Arquivo Negro - Passos largos em Caminhos Narrows” by Cia Pé No Mundo and in 2020 of the documentary “Inside My Skin”. In the last eleven years he has taught courses in Europe, Asia, Latin America, North America, addressing the musicality of Candomblé and its reinterpretation in a new instrumental universe. In 2020 to 2022 he taught classes in the Postgraduate Course in Popular Percussion at Faculdade Santa Marcelina.

Since 2010 he has been on tour in Europe as a musician for choreographer and dance teacher Rosângela Silvestre, and choreographer and teacher Irineu Nogueira.

He is currently a musician of the following groups, bands and collectives: Batucada Tamarindo, Duo AfroAquarela, Aláfia.

Conductor of Charanga do Afoxe Ile Omo Dada since 2004, conductor and arranger of Bloco Afropercussivo Zumbiido.

Music of Candomble Class Description

The musicality of Candomblé is an experience in the universe of this African tradition in Brazil, which incorporates songs and musical expressions using the body and instruments. Using as a starting point the understanding of rhythmic structures and their musical connection with the Itan's, tales of the Orixas, where music expresses history through rhythm. And from this experience, the understanding of a particle of this vast world of possibilities as inspiration for compositions or relationship with movement from these structures.

Cissa & Jaguar



Born and raised in the city of Salvador, Bahia, Cissa & Jaguar have formed a dance partnership for seven years based on their mutual passion for Samba de Gafieira and its roots.

This partnership has, as one of its evolutionary bases, the study and deepening of the Afro languages that permeate and support the samba body without leaving aside the popular cultural experiences of their city and that are part of the Bahian DNA.

Cissa, with a degree in Physical Education and Jaguar, with a BA in Design, unite their academic knowledge as a basis for their didactics in the classroom. They have already taught classes at renowned events in Rio De Janeiro such as Samba Maníacos and Encontro de Ginga– at SambaKana in Montreal, Canada– workshops & residencies in European cities such as Paris, Geneva, and London, multiple editions of SambaZouk Feira (BA) the largest Samba event in Gafieira in the state and in several regional events.

They believe that everyone can become Samba de Gafieira dancers, regardless of their origin, if there is passion, discipline, study and guidance.

Samba de Gafieira Class Description

During our samba de gafieira classes, we will connect with the elements that constitute the core of the gafieira, the principles that precede thinking about samba as a couple, thus learning the reasons and sensations for which one chooses to move in that way in samba (with vibration, fluidity, liquidity) building bases to dialogue and connect with oneself, with others, and with the culture and history of samba. As we dance alone and as a couple, we will learn the basic elements that constitute the formal language of samba de gafieira but always with room for improvisation, as the dance is alive and is created by those who dance.

Kellyn Rosa



Kellyn Rosa: dancer, artist. She was part of prestigious companies such as Cia de Dança Carlinhos de Jesus and Cia Dom. She worked in large samba schools in Rio de Janeiro, as a dancer at Salgueiro for 5 years, in front of commissions Estação Primeira de Mangueira and Portela. She has appeared in major shows and TV shows at Rock in Rio, performed on the Sunday program “Domingão de Faustão and the Meeting with Fátima Bernardes”. She was a dancer in the Brazilian show “Ginga Tropical”. Currently, Kellyn develops art-educational works, teaches classes, workshops and workshops (online and in person). It is also an integral part of the teaching and artistic staff of the largest Brazilian dance and culture congresses and festivals

around the world. Kellyn has traveled all over the United States, as well as Asia (China & Japan), Australia, Argentina, and multiple countries in Europe & Africa performing and teaching samba.

Samba no pé Class Description

In Samba no pé we will deepen our understanding of technique, musicality, and sensuality in our samba as we walk through its rhythmic sensations and their possibilities.

Rosangela Silvestre



Rosangela Silvestre is a choreographer, instructor, dancer and creator of the Silvestre Dance Technique. Silvestre, a native of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, graduated with a bachelor's and post-graduate degree in dance from the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA). She has researched dance and music in Brazil, India, Egypt, Senegal and Cuba as part of her ever-evolving and eclectic repertoire of movement. She trained in diverse techniques like Martha Graham, Limón, Horton, Floor Bar, Classic Ballet, Dunham Technique, and has performed and choreographed for a number of companies. Silvestre has traveled internationally teaching, training dancers, performing, facilitating lectures and demonstrations, consulting, attending seminars and residencies at universities and dance festivals in Contemporary, Afro and Indigenous Brazilian Folkloric, as well as traditional dances of Africa and other continents. In 2011, Silvestre completed an album called, "Voices of Nature." She continues to use her voice as an integral part of her work in dance.

Symbology of Orixá & Silvestre Technique Class Description

Symbology: This class process offers possibilities to dive into open channels that allow one the ability to experience the expression that we have innate access to; the body presence in connection with the Elements of Nature - Earth, Water, Air, Fire - inspired by the Symbology of Movements, History and Archetypes of Orixá and the Afro Indigenous Ancestral Memories present in Brazil. Allow yourself to discover how sacred symbolism inspires the body to express its own memory; the activation of symbols and Codes of Movement as traditional foundations in artistic expression and interpretation.

Technique: Invitation to experience the fluidity of Silvestre Technique with its creator, Rosângela Silvestre. Silvestre Technique is a body training system that connects the three triangles of energy within the body with the elements of nature symbolized by the dynamic movements and gestures of the Orixá dances within artistic expression. The technique works to create a dialogue with the body that builds form and intention with the elements and energy centers, while making way for personal expression. By giving attention, significance, and space for each action, by being open to guidance and possibilities for all participants to improve and discover how dance technique can be accessible for those who want to experience, practice and improve.

ACTIVITIES & AMENITIES

Tuesday: Barzinho na Praça

Enjoy the quaint and intimate setting of a small town vibe! The downtown is walking distance (5 min walk) from the ranch. Roam the central Praça (square) where you can find local restaurants and pubs and at times live music and dancing!

Wednesday: Samba de Roda & Maculelê with Raízes de Santo Amaro

Experience the roots of samba with one of the most traditional groups in the Reconcavo region of Bahia. Originally “netos de popo”, founded by the sons of Mestre Popo, Raízes de Santo Amaro have traveled the world sharing their profound knowledge of traditional Afro Brazilian dance and music. Like capoeira, Maculelê’s roots are African, in fact, the word Maculelê comes from the name of the tribe, **Makua** which is the largest ethnic group in northern Mozambique, and also have a large population across the border in the Masasi District of Mtwara Region in southern Tanzania. Lelê are the sticks used to fight, hence Maculelê. In the early twentieth century with the death of the great masters of Maculelê of Santo Amaro, this art was long

forgotten, until in 1943 the Master Paulino Aluisio de Andrade, known as Mestre Popo do Maculelé, considered the “father of Maculelé” gathered friends and family teaching them the dance based on his memories, with the intention of raising again Maculelé at religious festivals. His daughter in law, the recently deceased master sambadeira Nicinha do Samba was who later introduced samba de roda to the group in the late 1970's.

Friday: Festa Junina with live Forro Music

It's June in the northeast which means a month of harvest festivals including music, dancing, food, and licor! Our festa junina will have a live forro trio as is traditional in the interior, bonfire and traditional food and drinks. Typically Sao Joao is a time where Brazilians from the cities travel to the countryside to celebrate with friends and family. Plaid uniforms are highly recommended.

Amenities:

-Horseback Riding

-Pool

-Fireplace

-Massage & Reiki (additional fee- Thursday & Friday only)

Payment /Payment Plans/ Cancellation Info

All participants must pay a non-refundable deposit of \$500USD that will be used towards the full retreat price.

Payments may be made by credit card in person, or over the phone at BrasArte (510) 528 1958

Early Bird Payment - \$2,000USD

First 10 registered participants receive this early bird price

General Payment - \$2,250USD

Any Additional participant after the first 10 will pay this amount. Space is limited.

Payment Plans:

1. payment in full
2. 50% now/ 50% June 1st
3. monthly payment plan (first of every month, value based on when participant start it)

Cancellation Policy

- \$500 deposit is non-refundable
- cancellations made thirty (30) days prior to the date of departure, total payments made minus the non-refundable \$500 deposit will be refunded.
- cancellation between 30 and 8 days before the date of departure BrasArte will retain 50% of the program fees
- cancellation 7 days or less before the date of departure BrasArte will retain 100% of the program fees