

VIVER BRASIL

VIVER BRASIL, a Los Angeles based company founded in 1997 under the artistic direction of Linda Yudin and Luiz Badaró, honors Brazil's African legacy through bold contemporary dance theatre that increases awareness of the rich history and culture from which Afro-Brazilian dance and music emerged. Through performances, arts education, community engagement, and cultural exchange between Los Angeles County and Salvador, Bahia, Brazil the company establishes a portal through which communities experience and share the beautiful, mythic and vibrant stories of Afro-Brazilian culture. Viver Brasil has toured throughout the United States, South Africa, Mexico and Canada. Dedication to rigorous research, continuous dialogue with living masters of Bahian culture and the vitality of the company's most creative voices as choreographers and musicians and composers fuels and empowers Viver Brasil's dynamic and powerful artistry as it addresses 21st century African Diasporic issues of art and humanity, race, equity, memory, resistance, and resilience.

Viver Brasil is a living bridge between its home, Los Angeles, and its sister city, Salvador, Bahia, with *Dancing at the Source*, its signature international cultural immersion program to Bahia. The company also produces *Celebrating Samba* (formerly called *Cooking Samba*) youth and family programs, and *Samba in the Streets* residencies, which are vital, dynamic arts education and community engagement programs for all ages and for all audiences.

As a Los Angeles-based dance company, Viver Brasil reflects the vitality of its global home, with members hailing from LA to Chicago, to Salvador, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro. Company members embody a deep mastery of a number of Afro-Brazilian dance forms; Silvestre and Dunham contemporary techniques; capoeira; and the social dances of Northeastern Brazil. Company musicians have been trained in equally diverse music traditions, including Afro-Brazilian and Afro-Cuban, West African, jazz and orchestral.

In February 2018, Viver Brasil toured its nationally recognized *Samba in the Streets* program to the birthplaces of the civil rights movement in the state of Alabama, celebrated the LA Philharmonic's 100th anniversary with its Bloco Afro Motumbaxé and recently celebrated its 6th season at Disney's California Adventure Park in the Viva Navidad Street Party Parade. In August of 2016, Viver Brasil premiered *Motumbaxé* at LA's Hollywood Bowl, featuring 28 dancers and 10 musicians with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, as part of "An Olympic Carnival featuring Sergio Mendes & 50 Years of Brasil '66." in two sold out evenings. The company also created a site specific work, *Revealed* for the Music Center's, Moves After Dark Series, receiving critical acclaim from the Los Angeles Times. In 2017, Viver Brasil celebrated its 20th Anniversary at the sold out Ford Amphitheatre. Viver Brasil collaborated with Brazilian choreographers Marina Magalhães to create *Cor Da Pele (Color of Skin)* a dance theater piece set exposing the toxicity of anti-blackness and premiered *Pra Onde O Samba Me*

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Leva/Where Samba May Take Me, choreographed by Vera Passos featuring the company's unique samba chula style.

PROGRAMS

Celebrating Samba, Viver Brasil's signature family program takes audiences on a cultural journey with electrifying Afro Brazilian dance and music to venues where audiences experience a jolt of joyful color, thrilling rhythms, and communal celebration. This performance is a narrated 45-minute show that includes the royal orixa dances, riveting capoeira, joyful samba and Bahian carnaval with live music and an interactive dance workshop. We offer this interactive performance as a culminating event after a residency, masterclass or as a performance in community spaces.

Arts education programs offered by Viver Brasil include residencies for K-12 in partnership with LA's Best and has served at least 1,500 students through a 20 weeks residency throughout 36 LA Best partner sites. In addition, Viver Brasil performs community workshops through the Ford's JAM Series and as residencies and masterclasses upon request, How many other times, who other program have we done in the life of VB?

Samba in the Streets, our free community engagement program began in 2015 and has served at least 750 people in Leimert Park in Partnership with KAOS Network since it's conception.

Community Class, has met every Tuesday since 2000 at Dance Arts Academy, teaching Afro-Brazilian technique dance classes for 1,000 each year led by founding artistic directors Linda Yudin and Luiz Badaro with special guest from Bahia through the Viver Brasil Institute.

Dancing at the Source, a 15-day cultural immersion to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, began in 1997. This program has provided over 500 travelers with daily dance, music, and Afro-Brazilian culture classes taught by experienced faculty, and curated cultural tours.

Viver Brasil Institute, has hosted at least 12 pioneering masters and contemporary virtuosos from Bahia who join Co-Artistic Directors Yudin and Badaro and provide scholarly and informational Afro Brazilian history, dance, music and culture workshops. This program began through the support of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations to develop robust economic opportunities for these artist to share their practice with its sister city, Los Angeles.