



**International Theatre Institute ITI**

World Organization for the Performing Arts

**ITI Newsletter**

International Dance Day



**Gregory Vuyani MAQOMA - South Africa -**

# Gregory Vuyani MAQOMA / South Africa International Dance Day Message Author for 2020

Dear Members of ITI, dear Friends of ITI, dear Readers

It is our great pleasure and honour to announce to you that Gregory MAQOMA, dancer, choreographer, dance educator and actor from South Africa has written the official message for International Dance Day 2020.

The Executive Council of ITI, in agreement with the International Dance Committee of ITI and the World Dance Alliance, were convinced that Gregory MAQOMA is the right author to write a message for dance professionals and dance lovers / dance aficionados alike. If you read the message that he has sent us, you will feel the warmth of the message author, his passion for dance and his dedication to bring dance and his humanistic viewpoint to his fellow beings in his neighbourhood and all over the world.

Please read the message, use the message, translate the message into your country's language(s) and help us to promote the art of dance all over the world – for the sake of a culturally rich world, for a world that honours culture and dance, that honours those who create dance for others, the include you in their dance – and that ignite in all of us the spiritual fire that may be inherent in the dance art and all arts which will help to make this world a better place to live in.

Please stay safe and healthy in this troubled times.

With very best regards

Tobias BIANCONE  
Director General ITI

CHEN Zhongwen  
Deputy Director General ITI

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*Below the following general information, you will find the full Message of Gregory MAQOMA for the International Dance Day and his biography.*

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## **Please publish the Message as soon as possible**

Attention: Unlike in other years, you may publish the message and its translation from now on. The reason for this is: In those countries where the message was distributed to theatres, interested groups and media/press very early the circulation and promotion of the message was the strongest. And that is the goal of the message: To reach and inspire with the message as much people as possible.

## **Translation of the Message into Your Country's Languages**

If you would like to translate the message into your language, please contact the ITI Centre of your country ([www.iti-worldwide.org/centres.html](http://www.iti-worldwide.org/centres.html)) or the General Secretariat of ITI to [idd@iti-worldwide.org](mailto:idd@iti-worldwide.org), to find out if there is already a translation being prepared.

If there is no ITI Centre in your country feel free to translate the message and send the translation to [idd@iti-worldwide.org](mailto:idd@iti-worldwide.org), Please mention at the end of the message the name of the translator. After receiving it, it will be put on the ITI and International Dance Day website for further use.

## **How and Where to Use the Message**

Important: The Message (original or translation), biography and photos are for use for dance venues, theatres, dance groups, dance professionals, dance aficionados, dance universities and schools. It should be published, circulated, sent to press & media, be part of an event, read in front of an audience, etc. Many of the ways of its use can be found in the attached PDF: "How to Celebrate International Dance Day"

### **Creation of an International Dance Day Celebration**

If you create an event for International Dance Day, please send the information about time, location and programme of your event, to [news@iti-worldwide.org](mailto:news@iti-worldwide.org)

### **Attachments**

- [International Dance Day Message 2020 by Gregory MAQOMA in English \(original\) in PDF](#) and [Word](#)
- [Message de la Journée Internationale de la Danse 2020 de Gregory MAQOMA en français \(traduction\) en PDF](#) et [Word](#)
- [Biography Gregory MAQOMA in English as PDF](#) and [Word](#)
- [Biographie Gregory MAQOMA en français \(traduction\) en PDF](#) et [Word](#)
- [Photo Gregory MAQOMA](#) (jpg)
- [How to Celebrate International Dance Day in English in PDF](#)
- [Comment célébrer la Journée Internationale de la Danse en français en PDF](#)

## **International Dance Day Message**

International Dance Day Message 2020

## **Gregory Vuyani MAQOMA, South Africa**

Dancer, Choreographer, Actor, Dance Educator

It was during an interview I had recently that I had to think deeply about dance, what does it mean to me? In my response, I had to look into my journey, and I realized that it was all about purpose and each day presents a new challenge that needs to be confronted, and it is through dance that I try to make sense of the world.

We are leaving through unimaginable tragedies, in a time that I could best describe as the post-human era. More than ever, we need to dance with purpose, to remind the world that humanity still exists. Purpose and empathy need to prevail over years and years of undeniable virtual landscape of dissolution that has given rise to a catharsis of universal grief conquering the sadness, the hard reality that continues to permeate the living confronted by death, rejection and poverty. Our dance must more than ever give a strong signal to the world leaders and those entrusted with safeguarding and improving human conditions that we are an army of furious thinkers, and our purpose is one that strives to change the world one step at a time. Dance is freedom, and through our found freedom, we must free others from the entrapments they face in different corners of the world. Dance is not political but becomes political because it carries in its fibre a human connection and therefore responds to circumstances in its attempt to restore human dignity.

As we dance with our bodies, tumbling in space and tangling together, we become a force of

movement weaving hearts, touching souls and providing healing that is so desperately needed. And purpose becomes a single hydra-headed, invincible and indivisible dance. All we need now is to dance some more!!!

## International Dance Day Message Author

### Biography International Dance Day Message Author 2020

# Gregory Vuyani MAQOMA

Dancer, Choreographer, Actor, Dance Educator

Gregory Vuyani Maqoma became interested in dance in the late 1980s as a means to escape the political tensions growing in his place of birth. He started his formal dance training in 1990 at Moving Into Dance wherein 2002 he became the Associate Artistic Director. Maqoma has established himself as an internationally renowned dancer, choreographer, teacher and director. He founded Vuyani Dance Theatre (VDT) in 1999 when he was undertaking a scholarship at the Performing Arts Research and Training School (PARTS) in Belgium under the direction of Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker.

Maqoma is respected for his collaborations with artists of his generation like Akram Khan, Vincent Mantsoe, Faustin Linyekula, Dada Masilo, Shanell Winlock, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Nhlanhla Mahlangu and Theatre Director James Ngcobo

Several works in his repertoire have won him accolades and international acclaim. This includes FNB Vita Choreographer of the Year in 1999, 2001 and 2002 for Rhythm 1.2.3, Rhythm Blues and Southern Comfort respectively. He received the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Dance in 2002. Maqoma was a finalist in the Daimler Chrysler Choreography Award in 2002 and in the Rolex Mentorship Programme in 2003. He is the recipient of the 2012 Tunkie Award for Leadership in Dance. In 2014 he received a "Bessie", New York City's premier dance award for Exit/Exist for original music composition. He served as a nominator in the 2016–2017 Rolex Arts Initiative as well as curating the 2017 Main Dance Program for The National Arts Festival. His current works 'Via Kanana' and 'Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero' are currently touring in Africa and Europe.

In 2017 Maqoma was honoured by the French Government with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Arts & Literature) Award. In 2018 was honoured by the South African Department of Arts & Culture with the inaugural Usiba Award for dedication to dance teaching. In 2018 Maqoma is one of the selected visiting artists at the Virginia Commonwealth University Dance Department as well as a visiting teacher at Ecole De Sables - Toubab Dialaw - Senegal. Maqoma is part of the selection committee for Dance Biennale Afrique Festival to take place in Marrakech in 2020.

In 2018 Maqoma collaborated with William Kentridge as a choreographer and performing in Kentridge's opera 'The Head And The Load' which premiered at The Tate Modern Gallery in London in July and toured to Germany, Austria, Holland and New York.

In 2019 Maqoma Collaborated with Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah in the production "Tree" produced by Manchester International Festival and the Young Vic.

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Did you miss an ITI Newsletter? Do you search for information that you found in an ITI Newsletter and cannot find it anymore? Well, that should not be a problem for you. There is a section on the ITI website where you can find the past ITI Newsletters: [>>Here is the link to this archive](#)



[>>ITI Website](#)



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