



Casimiro Nhussi
The Founder, Artistic Director and Choreographer

Casimiro Nhussi is a professional African dancer, choreographer, dance instructor and musician based in Winnipeg. Born in Mozambique, Africa, he has been a dance professional since 1982. Starting his career as dancer, Casimiro then became the principal dancer, and then the Artistic Director of the Mozambique National Song and Dance Company. Currently Casimiro is the Artistic Director and Founder of Winnipeg's only African contemporary dance company; NAfro Dance Productions.

Casimiro's choreographic journey began in Mozambique. His first full-length dance work was "*Ode A Paz*" which toured throughout Mozambique and it's success is a bench-mark for that company. The second full-length dance work was "*Arvore Sagrada*", and was supported by The Ford Foundation. His choreographic style has evolved from almost purely African to one marked with Contemporary Dance influences. This style was solidified after Casimiro attended the Alvin Ailey American Dance Centre in New York. His choreographic style can now be described as a fusion of African and Contemporary Dance. Since coming to Canada in 1997, Casimiro has produced and choreographed 16 evenings dance works both as an independent choreographer as well as Artistic Director of NAfro Dance. These works were supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council, and Canadian Heritage, as well as a commissioned work by the Saint Norbert Arts Centre. In addition, Casimiro choreographed *Rafiki* in 2000, for the Compagnie N'est-ce Pas in Zurich, Switzerland, and Lykumbi, the full-length work for the Mozambique National Dance Company's 30th anniversary Gala in 2009.

Aside from his duties with NAfro Dance Productions, Casimiro has worked as a dance instructor and choreographer for the Professional and the General program of the School of Contemporary Dancers and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's recreation program. He has performed and led African dance workshops in, Austria, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Russia Brazil, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, US, Macau, Lithuania, Portugal, Bulgaria, Reunion Island, Tanzania, South African, Namibia, Angola, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In Canada, Casimiro has led workshops in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto; and Montreal.

Casimiro is also an accomplished musician. He is leader of the Kalahari drumming group, NAfro Band, a member of Bafana drumming group, and the Million Civilian Band. He has composed music that has been played on Radio Mozambique and CBC Radio in Winnipeg. He was commissioned by the Canadian National Film Board to compose music for the animated short "Mind Me Good Now". Casimiro was nominated for the 2010 Western Canadian Music awards for his first CD "Makonde". In 2011 Casimiro had the opportunity to perform in front of 9,000 people for the Opening of the 2011 African Games. In April 2013 he released his second album "Gweka" and once again this album was nominated for the 2013 Western Canadian Music awards. In November 23rd 2013 he will be releasing his second album in Maputo Mozambique.