



GROUP

Profile

**WORLD'S FAMOUS ACAPPELLA AND DANCE GROUP
FROM ZIMBABWE**



*Black Umfolosi live in
Rainforest International
Festival
(Malaysia)*

WHO IS BLACK UMFOLOSI

Black Umfolosi is a wholly owned indigenous Zimbabwean Company formed and registered by citizens from diverse backgrounds of Matabeleland, Zimbabwe for the purpose of participating in the country's economic growth. Black Umfolosi Productions (Pvt) Ltd aims at growth from a small and medium enterprise to a corporate level.

The idea of Black Umfolosi came about in 1982 when a group of school mates started improvising their own means of entertainment, while at a ZIMFEP Institute. With a gentleness of spirit, a joy of singing and exuberance in dance, Black Umfolosi has touched audiences of all ages locally and internationally since then, and hence having done sixteen recordings.

Black Umfolosi Productions (Pvt) Ltd is equipped with the capacity to achieve vertical growth, take part in Global economy ownership, and competitively handle international deals.

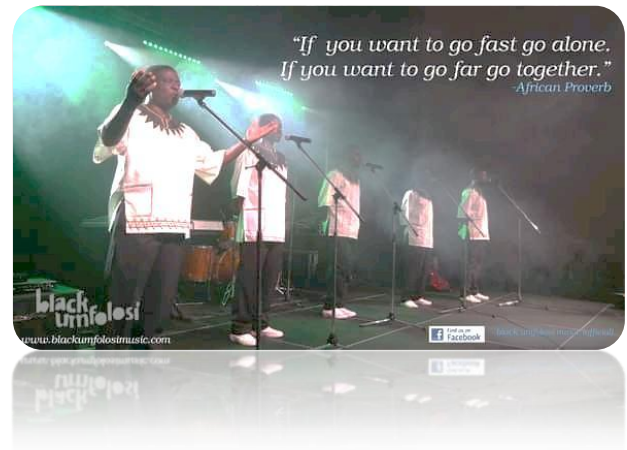
HISTORY

Black Umfolosi is an award Winning Acappella singing and traditional dance group that was formed in 1982 by students who wanted to develop themselves and contribute to their communities, in a positive way. The main reason for this initiative was to preserve and revive the Imbube Culture which was at the time invaded by Break Dance and Western Culture, in which it was now facing elimination from African Dance Culture.

Black Umfolosi is the best travelled Group in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, hence having toured extensively nationwide and internationally; Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and Asia. They have represented Zimbabwe at International events such as Universal Expo 1992 in Spain, Universal Expo in Portugal 1998 and the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada among many more.



Black Umfolosi afternoon family show in Estonia



Black Umfolosi soon found the need in the visited communities for people to see and learn about Zimbabwean Traditions. The group made it their obligation to demonstrate and teach others around the world (including other African countries) about the Zimbabwean and most Southern African traditional dances and music.

To achieve this; Black Umfolosi music group had to become Black Umfolosi Performing Arts Project. This expansion involved:

- Lifting up high the Zimbabwean flag as cultural ambassadors to the International Arena since 1987 till today
- Mentoring newly formed groups in the performing arts fraternity
- Promoting other local artists who do not have the funds and facilities to promote themselves
- Allowing the use of equipment and facilities by other performing art groups
- Hosting foreign artists and visitors
- Providing training in singing, dancing, technical management in performance art projects and various discipline capabilities

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

- To promote, preserve and perform Zimbabwean Traditional Music and Dance, while creating associations with international, contemporary and traditional performing Art Groups.
- To achieve this mission; Black Umfolosi has established six goals

(1) To create employment for its members

(2) To use the Arts in addressing various social, economic, cultural and topical issues

- (3) To use the Arts as the drive for promoting social harmony and understanding amongst people of different backgrounds



*BU sharing song with other International Acts
(Bear Creek Festival)Canada*

- (4) To assist the community through education and awareness for various issues affecting their lives, such as gender equality
(5) To assist the underprivileged and mentor youths in developing their abilities using Arts
(6) To provide an environment where traditions and religions may compromise basic and necessary women's rights and freedom of choice in marriages

LEGAL STATUS/ AFFILIATIONS

Black Umfolosi performing Arts Project is registered as a company. It is also registered with the Zimbabwe Ministry of Sports and Culture, as well as the Zimbabwean Arts Council. It is affiliated to various associations, including the Zimbabwe Music Rights Association.



A diversified Black Umfolosi with some youths coming onboard

COMPETENCIES

A † Black Umfolosi Productions (Pvt) Ltd :-

- We are conversant with all Zimbabwean Laws affecting business
- We are fully compliant with Government economic policies and the Indigenization Act
- We know and respect cultures of all communities across the National divide in Zimbabwe and we are equipped to constructively relate to them for the well-being of business.
- We understand and have an appreciation of the Political, Social Security and Economic dimensions in Zimbabwe

*Black Umfolosi live in
North Pole
(Yellow Knife Canada)*



Our Business Models

Company Corporate Administration

Foreign Investors Capital and Skills in Business Activity

SWOT ANALYSIS

We are trained in matters of corporate governance

We are trained in the application of several international standards (ISOs)

We are ready for public partnerships with private or government sectors

Strengths

- Managerial experience
- Knowledge of ownership at corporate level
- Philosophy of ownership
- Compliance Indigenization Act
- Indigenization Zimbabwean
- Knowledge of Zimbabwean Business Environment

Weaknesses

- No capital to set pertinent infrastructures for the company
- Started too small due to lack of resources and necessary support

Threats

- So much competitors on educational institution
- Cheap quality products flooding the market (piracy)

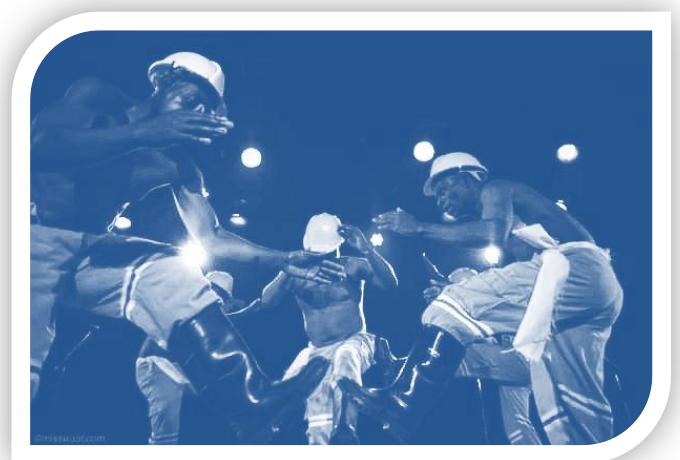
Opportunities

- Supportive legislative framework
- Entertainment is the food for the soul
- Education is key to success and a necessity
- Black Umfolosi known of High Quality Products
- Black Umfolosi has a market all over the world



1994 in Victoria, Canada

Her majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth II shaking hands with former Black Umfolosi member Thomeki Dube after a splendid performance at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria. Watching the proceedings is the Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, standing from behind her Majesty is the Duke of Edinburgh and in spectacles is the Master of Ceremony while in the background are leaders of other cultural groups from the commonwealth countries



WORLD TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Black Umfolosi (Best World Travelled Group in Southern Africa)

- 1987-** Swaziland International Tradefair (Manzini)
- 1988-** Maitisong Theatre, Gaborone, Botswana
- 1990-** Zimbabwean 10th Anniversary Celebration, Glasgow, Zimfest, London, Birmingham, Coventry, Nottingham
- 1991-** Australia and Europe (Denmark, Switzerland, Germany and Holland)
- 1992-** Europe Tour (UK, Germany, Switzerland and Holland)
North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- 1993-** European Tour (Germany, Holland)
North American Tour (USA, Canada)
Southern African Tour (Botswana, South Africa)
- 1994-** European Tour (Holland, Switzerland, France, Hungary, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Slovenia, Germany, Italy and UK)
- 1995-** European Tour (Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain)
North American Tour (USA and Canada)
- 1996-** Europe (UK and Germany)
North American Tour (USA and Canada)
Southern African (Botswana and Zimbabwe)
- 1997-** North American Tour (USA and Canada)
Europeans Tour (Sweden, Finland, Germany and UK)
- 1998-** North American Tour (USA and Canada)
European Tour (UK and Portugal)
- 1999-** North American Tour (USA and Canada)
European Tour (Spain, Ireland and UK)
African Tour (Morocco and Zimbabwe)
- 2000-** European Tour (Netherlands and UK)
Asian Tour (India)

2002- The Rainforest International Music Festival (Sarawak, Malaysia)
European Tour (UK)
North American Tour (Canada)

2003- European Tour (Netherlands and UK)
North American Tour (Canada)

2004- Asian Tour (Malaysia)
Europeans Tour (UK)
North American Tour (Canada)

2005- The Rainforest International Music Festival (Sarawak, Malaysia)
European Tour (UK)

2006- African Tour (Botswana, Zimbabwe)
European Tour (UK and Canada)

2007- Malaysia, Italy, Canada and UK

2008- European Tour (UK and Barbados)

2009- European Tour (UK and Italy)

2010- European Tour (UK and Norway)

2011- European Tour (UK)

2012- European Tour (UK, Estonia and France)

2013- European Tour (UK and Ireland)

2014-2018- UK, Canada, USA

2020-2021- COVID 19 restrictions

2022 – UK, USA, Canada (40th Anniversary Tour)

VENUE HIGHLIGHTS

Schools, Colleges, University of Zimbabwe
Natal International Folk Festival (Durban SA)
Expo 92, Seville Spain
Royal Festival Hall, London, UK
Ronnie Scotts, London, UK
JF Kennedy Center, Washington DC, USA
Womad Festival Reading, UK
Marcombe Bay UK
HIFA, Harare
Commonwealth Games, Victoria, Canada
Symphony Space, New York City, USA
Duke University North Caroline, USA
All Africa Games, Zimbabwe
Image of Africa, Copenhagen, Denmark
SADC Music Festival, Harare, Zimbabwe
Bumbershoot Festival, Seattle, USA
Houston International Festival, USA
Festival de Louisiana, USA
Opera House, Paris, France
University of California C.A. USA
The Globe (Royal Shakespeare Theater) London
UK, Schools, Colleges
The Rain Forest Festival, Sarawak, Malaysia
Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, UK
Expo 98 Lisbon, Portugal
Honolulu University, Hawaii, USA
Vancouver International Folk and Children Festival, Canada
Museum of Civilisation, Ottawa, Canada
Sidmouth International Festival, UK
Albuquerque Festival, New Mexico, USA
Brisbane International Folk Festival, Australia
Oxford Town Hall
Café Graffiti, Edinburgh
The Millennium Dome, London
Lemon Tree, Aberdeen, Scotland (Twin City with Bulawayo)
Voices of God, Marrakech, Morocco

10. RECORDINGS

- Unity World Circuit Label, 1990 (WCD020)
- Festival-Umdlalo, World Circuit, Label 1993 (WCD037)
- Soze Sifike Vibrant Label 1993 (WCD1601)
- Zilungisele-ZMC Label 1995 (L4BU001)
- Stofotofo-ZMC Label Label 1996 (ZBU02)
- Xoxani-Lixolelane One Voice BU Label 2001
- Shosholoza-BU Label 2003
- Amen Amen-BU Label 2003
- Konyana-BU 2006
- Khulumalami (Talk to me BU Label) 2008
- Summertime (the best of BU) Arc Music Label -2010
- Washabalal' Umhlaba (Earth Song) 2020
- Reason to Believe -2021
- A Thousand Ways to love the careless moon - 2023



11. TV AND RADIO EXPERIENCES

- ZBC Ezomgido and various other programs
- BBC generation game, blue peter, latter with Jools Holland, strictly African dancing world service
- City TV Toronto various appearances
- Canada AM
- CBC commonwealth games closing ceremony
- ITV Bracknell Festival
- Greater London radio various interviews
- NB –various media calls in USA, Botswana, South Africa, Germany, India, Spain
- Hungary, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Zimbabwe, Malaysia and Croatia
- Voices of God (Austrian television)



*Collaboration with Canadian country musician Lennie Gallant
'Christmas day on planet earth'*

AWARDS



ZIMA

2014: Best Acapella; Summertime



TGSA

2017: Appreciation by Welsh
Community in Wales, UK



ROIL

2018: Lifetime Achievement



TAF

2022: Imbube Legends Recognition

- **NAMA Awards** : Lifetime achievement
- **Ibumba Awards** : Cultural Ambassadors Honour

BLACK UMFOLOSI VISUAL PORTRAITS



(Barbados Caribbean Islands)



2023 – 2024 CAST



WORLD CLASS ACT DROP INTO YORKSHIRE VILLAGE!

Top international artists **BLACK UMFOLOSI** from Zimbabwe are to make a rare visit to East Yorkshire when they will stop off at Yorkshire Wolds Heritage Centre (St James Church) **Warter** near Pocklington on **Wednesday 25th July**. The group are on a special 30th Anniversary tour and will be en-route from Scotland to London, where they will continue their tour in Estonia, France and more UK dates.



The group normally perform as a 5 piece but have expanded to a full 8 strong line up for these selected dates. The popular entertainers combine unaccompanied harmony singing with lively dance inspired by life and work in Southern Africa. They have been favourably compared to the better known Ladysmith Black Mambazo, who accompanied Paul Simon on his "Graceland" album. Their set will feature the classic songs from their time together including the title track from their newly released 'Summertime – The Best Of Black Umfolosi' plus the famous gum boot –and Zulu dances that audiences everywhere adore. In this "World Music for a Summer Evening" concert, they will be supported by a new band Hase Waits, who recently appeared at Beverley Folk festival playing music from round the world on 30 instruments and Shiftipig, an 8 piece band, who play traditional tunes and songs from England Scotland and Ireland and their own compositions on a wide range of instruments.

Profits from this concert will go to registered charity 'Malaria No More' in memory of Philip Halkon (1982-2011), the nephew of a member of Shiftipig who died in Tanzania in 2011.

Doors open 7.30pm, and there are 'summer' refreshments available.

Tickets £12.50 - are available from www.WeGottickets.com (ref 173815) or can be reserved from Adastra 01377 217662 (office hours) and bought on the door subject to availability.

Registered Name	Black Umfolosi Productions (Pvt) Ltd
Date of Registration	20 April 2023
Registration Number	1415/2023
Sector (s)	Performing Arts & Education
Directors	Mr. Austin Chisare Mr. Sotsha Moyo Ms. Boitumelo Phuti Miss Luzibo Tabona Moyo

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