

# Viver Brasil

**VIVER BRASIL** was founded in Los Angeles in 1997 by Artistic Director Linda Yudin and Co-Director/Choreographer/Musician Luiz Badaró. The award-winning dance company is rooted in the traditional and contemporary forms and techniques of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and embodies the beautiful and complex stories of the orixá, African sacred energies of Afro-Brazilian culture. Viver Brasil's innovative stage presentations explore Brazil's racial, social and political history, and are living extensions of the history of Afro-Brazilian dance on stage. The choreography highlights Candomblé ceremony and Bahian carnival. Viver Brasil's repertory reflects artistic excellence, rigorous research and continuous dialogue with living masters in Bahia and younger virtuoso musicians and choreographers. Viver Brasil produces dance concerts, works with community organizations, and sponsors educational programs on campuses from elementary school to colleges and universities. The company's unique blend of the traditional and the contemporary has diversified the company's palette, which speaks to a growing audience in the U.S. and around the world. Viver Brasil highlights the choreography of Rosangela Silvestre, whose signature technique combines orixá dances, gestures and symbols with a contemporary movement vocabulary. The company sponsors annual trips to Bahia and has performed at major venues in L.A., including an annual concert at the Ford Amphitheatre. In 2007, Viver Brasil performed before sold-out houses during a 10 city tour of New Mexico including the National Hispanic Cultural Center and Lensic Auditorium. Summer 2009 marked the company's 7th premiere at the Ford with a performance of *Feet on the Ground/Aiyê*.

Viver Brasil has received prestigious awards and recognition from media and peers in the dance world. The company's directors, Linda Yudin and Luiz Badaró, received the prestigious "excellence in teaching" award from the board of directors of Dance Resource Center of Greater L.A./Lester Horton Dance Awards 2009, as well as the Lester Horton Dance Award in 2000 for outstanding achievement in a company performance for non-western dance. The company was nominated for a Brazilian Press Award for best representation of Brazilian dance in the U.S., and Lester Horton awards for best achievement in music, dance, costume design, and company performance from 2003-2008. Viver Brasil received the New England Foundation for the Arts/National Dance Project Award in 2007 and again in 2009 for the new work, *Alaafia*.

Since its inception, Viver Brasil's list of credits has grown impressively to include performances in a myriad of venues and creative collaborations. In 2009, Viver Brasil performed at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Brazilian Carnival at the Hollywood Palladium with the Nation Beat Band; the Afro-Latino Festival at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach; the California African American Museum; and Celebrate Dance at the Alex Theatre. The summer 2009 performance at Ford Amphitheatre was Viver Brasil's 7<sup>th</sup> premiere at the Ford. *Feet on the Ground/Aiyê* was also performed at the Levitt Pavillion Summer Concert Series in Pasadena, CA, and at the Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival in Redlands, CA. In the fall of 2008, Viver Brasil performed in the World Festival of Sacred Music; the Museum of Latin America Art in Long Beach; the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center in Santa Monica; and at the "Honoring the Sea" event, where the company performed with Candomblé griot, dancer and singer, Dona Cici of Salvador, Bahia. Viver Brasil was commissioned by the UCLA Fowler Museum to create a piece and a community procession for *Mama Wati: Arts for Water Spirits in Africa and Its Diaspora* in April 2008. Guest artist and Candomblé priestess, Maria de Lourdes dos Santos from Salvador, Bahia, also performed with the company. In 2007 Viver Brasil performed at the University of Oregon; Lincoln Center, Fort Collins, CO; and the Egyptian Theater, Ogden, Utah. Other key Viver Brasil performances have included: World Festival of Sacred Music (2005, 2008); the Hollywood Bowl's Summer Sounds

(2005) and with the Basement Jaxx (2005); Walt Disney Concert Hall with Pink Martini (2004); the World Dance and Music Festival in Chico, CA (2004); Paradise Performing Arts Center, Paradise, CA (2004); the Brazil-Africa Connection Festival at Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, FL (2002); Riverside Community College's World Dance Festival (2002); Santa Monica Festival (2001); the L.A. Dance Invitational (2001); the California Choreographers Festival (2001); the Getty Center Family Festival (2000-2001); and the World Music Festival/Brazil Nights at the Hollywood Bowl (1999).

Viver Brasil has received significant financial support from a variety of philanthropic organizations and corporations, including an Irvine Foundation "Dance: Creation to Performance" program grant for 2007-08; and an Inter/Arts grant from the L.A. County Arts Commission in 2004 to bring distinguished Brazilian artist Nancy Souza e Silva (aka Dona Cici) (Pierre Verger Foundation) to collaborate with the company in L.A. Viver Brasil has received major support from Alliance for California Traditional Arts Mentoring Program; from the L.A. County Arts Commission since 2003; from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department since 2006; and from the Durfee Foundation (Artist Resource for Completion Grant). Corporate sponsors have included: Heineken USA, AeroMexico, Varig and TAM Brazilian Airlines, and O.N.E Natural Experience. Viver Brasil also receives sponsorship from the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations with support from the Consulate General of Brazil in Los Angeles to bring Bahian artists to Los Angeles.



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