

## **San Bernardino Public Library Presents West African Dance Workshop/Performance**

Makeda Mumasi will be appearing at the Feldheym Central Library to present a West African Dance Workshop for families on Saturday, March 19 at 3:00 PM. She will be bringing a member of her Umoja Ensemble for a drum accompaniment. Mumasi will also be doing a reading of her new picture poetry book, "*I See Hip Hop Afrika*". She says, "My vision was to create a nonfiction book for young readers and adults alike that allows them to travel along with me on my recent twelve-day sabbatical through the rich cultural country sides and cities of Senegal. In this book, I return to my craft as a spoken word artist, poetically capturing the beauty, intrigue, and joy of Africa."

Makeda Kumasi is the founder of The Umoja Ensemble of the Inland Empire and Co-founder of WE 3 PRODUCTIONS. Currently she teaches West African Dance at the University of California, Riverside. She has a M.Ed. from the University of Phoenix and a MFA from the University of Southern California. Kumasi received numerous awards, recognitions and scholarships including the Phyllis E Williams' Artist Grant 2006, Top Spoken Word Artist Black Business Expo Urban Idol 2004, Ida Mae Holland Playwrights Award 2001, and California Art Scholar for Dance in 1993. Kumasi is a featured Spoken Word Artist and West African Dancer who has performed across the nation including, The World Stage in Leimert Park Village, Los Angeles; the Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood, CA; and the Ogdensburg Theater in NY. As a poet she has also been featured on MTV's *Starting Over* and BET's *Fly Poet*.

This free program will take place in the Bing Wong Auditorium at the Feldheym Central Library at 555 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information call the library at 909-381-8238, visit our website [www.sbpl.org](http://www.sbpl.org), or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SBPLfriends/>