



### The Embodiment and Transmission of Ghanaian Kete Royal Dance

From Palace to Academy  
By Emmanuel Cudjoe

**Pub Date:** 01 October 2024    **BISAC CATEGORY:** PERFORMING ARTS / Dance / General, PERFORMING ARTS / Dance / History & Criticism, PERFORMING ARTS / Dance / Regional & Ethnic  
**Binding:** Hardback  
**Price:** £80.00 / \$110.00  
**ISBN:** 9781839991820  
**BISAC CODE:**  
**BIC CODE:** ASD

**Extent:** 250 pages    **RIGHTS**  
**Size:** 153 x 229 mm /    **Exclusive:** WORLD  
6 x 9 inches

**Provides a significant and valuable contribution to the field of African dance scholarship, particularly in the context of Ghanaian dance research.**

The Kete dance form, once exclusive to royal courts, carries intricate movements, symbolic gestures, and rhythms that mirror Ghanaian history and values. It embodies storytelling, often depicting tales of bravery, unity, or significant historical events. These dances were traditionally reserved for specific occasions within the royal setting, symbolizing prestige, honor, and tradition.

With the passage of time, the transmission of Kete royal dance has transcended its original palace context, finding its way into academic domains. Universities and cultural institutions now extend the legacies of this dance form and even act as custodians of this art form, where scholars, dancers, and enthusiasts collaborate to study, preserve, and teach Kete dance.

Through meticulous documentation, research, and practice, the academy endeavors to honor the Kete dance while making it accessible to a broader audience. This transmission from palace to academy serves as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of cultural traditions. It ensures the continuity of Ghanaian heritage and allows future generations, both within and beyond Ghana, to appreciate and learn from this profound dance form from an Afrocentric perspective.

#### Key selling points

- Heritage preservation and academic impact
- Impact on Dance Education and decolonization of African dance forms
- Significance of royal dance in identity formation
- Afrocentricity and cultural anthropology

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr. Emmanuel Cudjoe is an assistant professor in dance, a researcher, dancer, educator, cultural consultant, and African dance scholar hailing from Ghana.

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