

# GLOMUS 2015

Kuching, Malaysia

Regional Presentations 1  
January 10<sup>th</sup> 2015

**STORYTELLING IN GHANA**

# INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE FROM GHANA

- **The School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana, Legon:**

Dr. Awo Mana Asiedu, Ms. Vivian Abgovi and  
Mr. Felix Tetteh

**Department of Music and Dance, University of  
Cape Coast, Cape Coast:**

Mr. Reginald Sackey, Mr. John Doe Dordzro and  
Mr. Amos Asare (Currently a GLOMAS Student  
in Finland)

# STORYTELLING IN GHANA

- A firm part of the oral tradition in Ghana, storytelling is found in most ethnic groups of the country and is known by different names by different ethnic groups. For example:
  - *Egli-* by the Ewe
  - *Ananse sane* by the Ga
  - *Anansesem-* by the Akans

# ANANSESEM

- Anansem means Ananse's stories or stories about Ananse
- Kweku Ananse is the main stock character of these stories.
- He is a spider but is often given human features
- He is a trickster character and may be either bad or good depending on the tale.

- Often he gets away with his trickery but sometimes he is caught in his own web.
- He has been described as an 'everyman' representing our human foibles and triumphs.

# THE FORM OF STORYTELLING

- All stories teach moral lessons
- The Storyteller tells the story in collaboration with the audience.
- The audience actively participate by singing, dancing or even by a member of the audience taking over the telling of the story, if they feel the storyteller is not doing a very good job.

- It is not just a narration, but also;
- Mime
- Music/singing
- Dancing
- Acting/role play

- There is an opening formula which acknowledges the participation/collaboration of the audience.

An example In Ewe:

- Storyteller: ***Mise gli, mise gli looo!*** (Listen, listen to this story!)
- Audience: ***Egli ne va!*** (Let the story come/Go ahead with the story!)

# Some Simple Songs

Fa mpaboa beshia me oooo2x

Odo yewo eeee

Fa mpaboa beshia me oo

Na menan yi kyi abosea.

Mea wiezoo  
Mea wiezoo looo  
Mastu ni maye ee  
Eee wiezoo  
Mastu ni maye  
Eee wiezoo  
Mastu ni maye  
Mie wiezoo looo  
Mastu ni maye  
Eee wiezoo

Kweku eeeeeee Kweku

Kweku Kweku Ananse 3x

Obetuni onntumi 3x

Thank You!

Akpe!

Medase!