



WeARE : ADAAWE

A theatrical, multi-media high-octane hour of drumming, singing, storytelling, and dance, with all-women band from Los Angeles

Directed by Stephanie Vlahos

At The Just Festival, at Edinburgh Fringe 2018
UK Premiere



Skin on skin. Wood on wood. Voices on air. The first heartbeat. Put your ear to the earth and listen!

Elevating and energetic fusion of voice and drums... LA Times

WeARE is a celebration of the women of many cultures who have inspired, changed, and healed our world - the personal choices of the band members, which include Miriam Makeba, Helen Keller, Malala Yousafzai, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou and female Egyptian Pharoah, Hatshepsut. The show is based on a tradition called **Adaawe** (from which the band take their name) where women in Ghana, West Africa, meet under a full moon to drum, sing, and tell stories to heal their communities. The musicians of all-women band Adaawe bounce hip multiculturalism off their own ethnic roots from Africa to the Middle East to Morocco to Panama to USA.

Directed by former opera singer Stephanie Vlahos, WeARE is a multimedia theatrical experience, which will include singers, drummers and dancers from in and around Edinburgh who will add their voices and stories in the true Adaawe tradition.

The main show, taking place in the main church at St John's, will be a theatrical multi-media experience, with atmospheric lighting and specially created video. There will also be a shorter, "unplugged" run in the more intimate Hall at St John's, which will encourage more audience interaction and sharing of stories and experience.

Founded by musical director Anindo Marshall, ADAAWE (the band) has headlined performing arts venues, festivals, colleges and clubs across the US, and opened for artists including James Brown, Michael Franti and Spearhead, Michelle Shocked, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Mickey Hart, Los Lobos and a host of others. ADAAWE has supported benefits including Human Rights Watch, with Annette Benning, and appeared at the Urban Peace Awards with Harry Belafonte and Rickey Minor. ADAAWE's robust sound has been featured in The World Festival of Sacred Music, The Americas documentary (Catchlight Films), The World Festival CD release (Bindu Records), as well as in numerous films and commercials.

They have recently released a new album, *Passage*, which is dedicated to the memory of their original kit drummer, Dayna Franklin, who passed away in 2008 after a long and valiant battle with breast cancer. Proceeds from *Passage* will benefit a foundation in her honor. The CD is available on Amazon, iTunes and online music stores.

Director **Stephanie Vlahos** is graduate of Yale University, and a former, professional opera singer with a crossover edge. She has worked with a wide range of respected musicians including Pierre Boulez, Andre Previn, Van Dyke Parks, John Adams, Ry Cooder, Sir Peter Hall, Peter Sellars, and Don Was. A recipient of the *Chanel Diva Award*, Stephanie has sung in opera houses internationally in addition to her direction of and performances in cabaret-influenced performance art devoted to the music of European cabaret. Her hybrid production of the opera Carmen (*Carmen High*) performed at Edinburgh Fringe in 2016, to 5 star reviews. Originally from LA, she is now based in Edinburgh, and among a number of planned future projects is a collaboration with Pulitzer Prize nominated playwright, Willy Holtzman.

LA's answer to Zap Mama... LA Weekly

Video preview <https://vimeo.com/268400622>

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s etc,
please call Morag Neil on 0771 288 0965 (email info@scarybiscuits.com)

Adaawe website www.werglobal.show

Just Festival www.just-festival.org

Church at St John's - WeARE

7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25 Aug, 21:00 (22:00)

Hall at St John's (WeARE unplugged)

8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 Aug 21:00 (22:00)

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