

# Dumisani Maraire, Jr

## Vocalist/Musician/Story-teller

Seattle, WA

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Forging a new path in contemporary world music, Zimbabwean griot and hip hop artist *Dumisani Maraire, Jr* (aka *Draze*) blends African traditional styles with contemporary spoken word and hip hop. Performing since the age of five as musician and story-teller, Dumisani was raised in a premier musical family of Zimbabwe. As international touring artists, his parents Dumisani Maraire, Sr and Lora (Sukutai) Chiorah-Dye gave their son opportunities to perform on national and international tours. Dumisani attracts a diverse following through his soulful music and authentic connection with each audience. On the strictly hip hop side, he is currently riding a national wave of positive response to his video release *The Hood Ain't the Same*, which targets the issue of gentrification in the Central District of Seattle, WA (USA). Now bringing Zimbabwean mbira, marimba, and Shona language vocals into a hip hop mix, Dumisani creates a unique experience for audiences of all kinds.

## Achievements/Awards

- As member of *Sukutai Marimba & Dance*
  - Performed at the 2002 'Welcoming for Desmond Tutu', Seattle, WA
  - Opened for major artists such as Janet Jackson at The Gorge; and Miles Davis, Macklemore at the 2014 Madaraka Festival, and Wale at the 2014 Sundiata Festival, Seattle, WA
- As *Draze*
  - Opened for Snoop Dogg, Outkast, Fat Joe, Young Buck, Mobb Deep, and many others.
- Video *The Hood Ain't the Same* released in 2014 at the 40/40 club in NY owned by Jay Z, with party hosted by National Football League Most Valuable Player Sean Alexander
- Featured performer at 2014 '50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act', Seattle, WA
- Music recently used on ESPN television show
- Press coverage including:
  - Live performance on 'The Art Zone' television show
  - King 5 television news coverage of video *The Hood Ain't the Same* with a ride through the Central District of Seattle discussing gentrification
  - Features in The Seattle Times, the national blog The Grio and other popular hip hop media

## **Selected Experience**

### ***Teaching***

2014 – Lecture and performance at Seattle University (Hip hop and African), Seattle, WA  
Seattle Urban Academy (Hip Hop)

2010-2011, Mentor for Seattle Theatre Group's Songwriter's Lab for youth

2006-present Instructor in African songs, games, music, and story-telling in hundreds of schools throughout the Northwest, including Tacoma School of the Arts, and in African and hip hop arts at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute

### ***Performance***

- Toured the world performing African music and hip hop; e.g., Canada (Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria), eight European countries, Korea, Guam, Kwajilan Islands and Japan
- National U.S. tours (Washington DC, New York, Denver, California, San Francisco, Montana, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii)
- 'Dance This' at the Moore Theatre for Seattle Theatre Group
- 'The Evolution of Gospel Music'
- 2014 NW Folklife Festival in 'The Sound of Africatown' show at Sky Church, EMP Museum
- Bumbershoot and NW Folklife Festival since childhood (*Sukutai Marimba and Dance*; *Maya Soleil*, and other groups)
- World Expo 86 Festival
- Zimbabwean Music Festival
- 'Roots of Hip Hop in Ancient Cultures', a Seattle Next 50 production at Intiman Theatre
- Performed at the 5th Avenue Theater, Moore Theater, Paramount Theater, and other large venues

## **Discography**

- 'Safarini' CD - played marimbas, mbiras, and sang as member of *Sukutai Marimba and Dance*
- 'Notorious: Life after Death' mixtape movie
- 'Scarface' mixtape movie