Abadza / Akwadja / Atrikpui

WAP-pages / Paul Nas / Last updated on 17 May 2012

Abadza is a derivative of the very old dance before the end of a war *Atrikpui* at the *Ewe* in Ghana. Because *Atrikpui* was only danced after completion of a battle, a derivative dance was born. The *Atrikpui* could only be danced when the soldiers were on their way home and in the suburbs the people met the returning soldiers. This was also exclusively danced by men. Only if a woman was on the throne at that time or was the successor to the throne, was it permissible for other women to dance with. *Atrikpui* is still being danced and many songs remind us of the military tradition in which the rhythm arose and the time in which the *Ewe* people migrated from Benin, to the Niger, to Dotsie and - even later - the coast of present-day Ghana. (From Studies in Afrikan Music by A.M. Jones (Volume I, p.162 and Volume II, p.166, according to Linsay Rowlands) Hilde Gams indicates that it is now also being played at funerals.

Ghana has its own drums, which are often strung with Antilope-skin. Like the ton-shaped drums that are closed at the bottom, and have (decorated) openings in the sides; in order of big: *Atsimevu, Sogo, Kidi, Kaga(n).* In addition, drums with an open bottom; the *Kpanlogo* (also barrel-shaped) and the *Kroboto* and *Obrente*. The drums are played with sticks and hands. Also metal bubbles are used the *Dewr* (*Akan* name for banana shaped bell) and the *Dewrnta*; the twin bell that is called in *Ewe Gankogui*.

Legend: Words and Signals for the chosen strokes:
The words come from the *Ewe* language and are therefore not standard for Ghanaian, but for *Ewe* rhythms. But not for *Kpanlogo*, for example. The slap is not a word in this 'language'.

dè	●	open stroke on skin (After the *'ga'* has been played also named 'zè')
to:	❍	open stroke muffled with hand just before stiking
...	z	muffeld stick-stroke on skin (stick pushes on skin)
ka	H	wood
ga	B	open stroke in the middle of the skin (bass) ("pull the tone from the drum")
gè	T	open stroke on side of the skin
dzji	t	combination 'ge' left (side) and wood right.
dzja	ß	combination of bass left (centre skin) and wood right
oink	■	open stroke with wood (right), followed muffle on left, causing the rissing of this tone. (Oink is a word made up by Hilde)
gi		muffled stsroke (mute)
?	d	stick or hand (left) on skin before a muffled stoke by stick or hand right.

Gankogui-bel	l		h		h	h		h		h		h
Axatse	l		l	h	l	l	h	l	h	l	h	l
Sogo												
Kidi A	z	z	z	z	●	●	z	z	z	z	●	●
Kidi B	●			●			●			●		
Kagan		●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●

Sources
Lessons from Hilde Gams.
Written material: Linsay Rowlands Studies in Afrikan Music by A.M. Jones (volume I, p.162 en volume II, p.166)