

# African themes for Bates Dance

While the Bates College Museum of Art will focus on China for its summer exhibition, the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, which opens its 26th season July 15, will focus on work from Africa.

The festival will present dance concerts featuring artists from Africa, and will host African dancers to provide them with an opportunity to work on new pieces.

Bates Dance is a founding member of the African Contemporary Arts Consortium, a new group designed to foster the exchange of ideas and work among artists, arts organizations and the public in the United States and Africa.

"There is some really extraordinary work coming out of the continent right now," said Bates Festival director Laura Faure. "There is an incredible amount of activity and interesting work."

The consortium is set up to make it easier to exchange work between America and Africa, and to make it easier for African artists to present their work in America.

The consortium also provides U.S.-based artists and arts groups the chance to learn from their African counterparts, who often present work in difficult conditions and often with limited resources.

"We want to partner with them and learn from them," said Faure, who recently attended



## **Nora Chipaumire**

from Zimbabwe performs in the "Africa/NOW" program at the Bates Dance Festival July 25-26. Chipaumire is known for multimedia dances that explore human identity in a global world.

*Courtesy of  
Bates Dance Festival*

an all-African showcase in Tunisia.

This summer, Bates will present several programs related to Africa and international art:

■ **"Movement (R)evolution,"** 8 p.m. July 24, Olin Arts Center Recital Hall, 75 Russell St. – A film by Joan Frosch explores the contemporary dance scene in Africa and features nine choreographers from Senegal to South Africa. Frosch will be at Bates to discuss her movie.

■ **"Africa/NOW,"** 8 p.m. July 25-26, Schaeffer Theatre, 35 College St. – Features the work of South African choreographer Gregory Moqoma and Zimba-

bwean performer Nora Chipaumire. Moqoma will perform an excerpt from his solo work "Beautiful Me." Chipaumire is known for multimedia dances that explore human identity in a global world.

■ **"Global Exchange: Sharing Across Culture,"** 8 p.m., July 22, Olin Arts Center Concert Hall – A panel discussion with artists from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Japan, moderated by Joan Frosch.

For a complete list of Bates Dance Festival events, visit [www.batesdancefestival.org](http://www.batesdancefestival.org)

– Bob Keyes