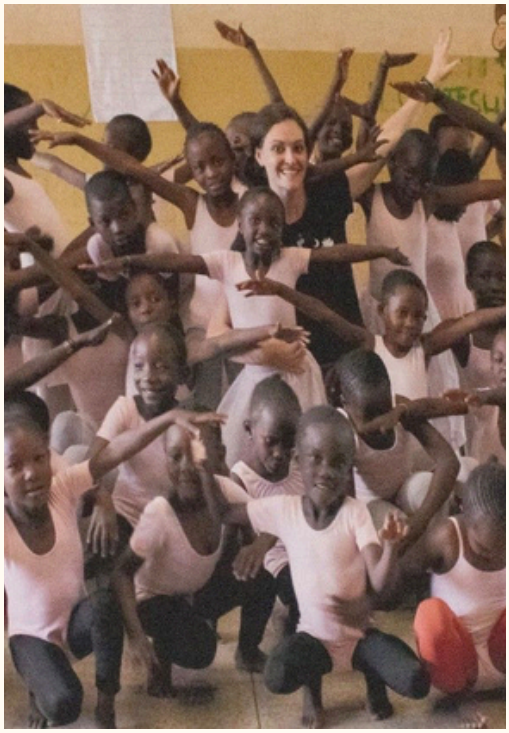
WELCOME TO THE

A4A MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT



Executive Director's Message:

Artists For Africa is proof that even in difficult times, there is goodness and kindness in our world. This collaboration between the artistic world, the business community and generous donors makes it possible to change the lives of the young people we encounter. From the younger children who attend the arts classes in multiple genres to those who teach them, the passing of an artist's love for what they do goes beyond socioeconomic boundaries and the resultant effect is seen in the opportunity given to young people to **dream** and to **hope.** They become "a dancer" or "an artist" or "an actor", giving them an identity all on their own as well as providing them with a tribe of those who share their love for their chosen art form. As I watch our students rise from the most impoverished circumstances to dare to set lofty goals, to dare to dream of a successful future and to work toward success, I am constantly inspired by their strength.

Arts Teacher of the Month:

Meet **Eric Wanderi**, our **New Head Teacher**, who joined A4A in 2021 and started as a substitute teacher. He was interested in using his gift of art to inspire these kids.

"I can say A4A found me when I was lost and gave me a purpose. My best moment is when I see these kids get to share platforms with the best schools in Kenya. Witnessing students build their esteems, become creative and use their imagination in theatre & film as well as their classrooms is a dream come true for me."

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIC ON HIS PROMOTION TO HEADTEACHER!

A4A Family Member of the Month:

Meet **Mitchellel Mulari!** A 12th grader at West Nairobi School, Mitchelle joined the Artists For Africa family when she was only 9 and was living in the Kibera impoverished settlement. She began her dance path as a student of the UK charity Anno's Africa but came to us at the recommendation of her dance teacher Mike Wamaya. An honors student, Mitchelle has selected the College of Charleston in South Carolina for her next step in her academic career where she has already been awarded academic scholarships. Although not 100% sure where her journey will lead her, she is considering a major in International Studies. "Being part of A4A has opened doors that would seem impossible, providing me with endless opportunities."

Highlights of the Month!

DRAMA FESTIVAL QUALIFIERS

Help us congratulate **A4A's** talented and incredible girls: Naomi Siteya, Terry Musimbi, Elizabeth Nashipae, and Annastancia Wambui from Life Springs Children's Home. They have proceeded to the next level of **DRAMA** in the **Kenya National Drama and Film Festival** which is the **Regional Levels** with the help of their drama instructor & new Head teacher Eric Wanderi.

Wish the girls the best of luck!!

ROMEO AND JULIET

February brought the return to the Kenya National Theatre of the neoclassical ballet **Romeo and Juliet** presented by Artists For Africa partner Dance Centre Kenya. Dancing the lead role of Romeo was **Eugene Ochieng**, A4A sponsored student who is currently a high school sophomore in Winston Salem, NC at the prestigious University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Also returning to Nairobi was **Keri Yamane**, who is currently in a pre-professional ballet training program in Belgium.

Coming Up!

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE EXAM(RAD EXAMS)
DATES: MARCH 11TH -20TH 2025

DONATE TODAY

Would you love to **DONATE** and help us spread the magic of arts through our children?

Visit our website : www.a4ausa.org or reach out via

Email : info@artistsforafricausa.org

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ARTISTS FOR AFRICA

"The purpose of art is washing of the dust of daily life off our soul "
-Pablo Picasso