

URBANGATEWAYS

GAME OF WARRIORS: BRAZILIAN CAPOEIRA GINGARTE CAPOEIRA CHICAGO



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

This exciting performance introduces audiences to the history and meaning behind capoeira, a Brazilian cultural art form that beautifully combines dance and music with the acrobatic skills of martial arts. Learn about Brazil's cultural history and how through the creation, preservation, and use of various art forms, Africans fought against slavery and contributed to social equality and justice in Brazil.

MEET THE ARTIST

Mestre Marisa Cordeiro is the founder and executive director of Gingarte Capoeira and a shining symbol of the Brazilian community in Chicago. Born in Curvelo, Brazil, Marisa trained at the prestigious Cordão de Ouro Capoeira Academy in São Paulo with top instructors such as Mestre Suassuna, Mestre Canguru, and Mestre Urubu Malandro. She is one of the highest-ranking female capoeiristas in the world. Mestre Marisa first came to the United States in 1989 as a performer with the renowned international group Oba Oba.

They performed throughout the United States and Latin America. Two years later, she returned to Chicago and established Gingarte Capoeira in 1991.

More information can be found at www.gingartecapoeira.org.

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art that combines dance, acrobatics, and music. It started during the slave trade in Brazil in the 16th century as a way for individuals experiencing enslavement to practice self-defense. They disguised it as a dance by incorporating music and instruments. The origins of capoeira have been passed down orally as historical documents from Brazilian during 16-19th centuries are scarce.

In the 16th century, Brazil was a colony of Portugal and like many European colonists, the Portuguese used slavery as the foundation for their sugar cane economy. Africans from different cultures and speaking different languages were forced to live and work together. From this mix of African cultures came a melding of traditions, language, rituals and slowly, a new Afro-Brazilian identity was born. It was in these harsh conditions that capoeira was developed as a tool to create a sense of community and a practical tool of self-defense against colonizers and slave owners. Eventually, escaped slaves banded together to create settlements called quilombos and it was in these communities that capoeira grew from a form of survival to a culture tradition now referred to as the art of liberation.

In the 1890s, Brazilian Republic, now an independent nation, banned the practice of capoeira. In 1937 capoeira was decriminalized due to the efforts of Mestre Bimba. Since then, capoeira has evolved over the decades and is now Brazil's national sport and is practiced all over the world.

The music that accompanies the martial art style movement is created using the berimbau, pandeiros, and atabaque and lyrics sung in Portuguese.



RESOURCES

The History of Capoeira
capoeirabrasil.com/the-history-of-capoeira/

Free Printable Berimbau Coloring Page
<https://goo.gl/9ohcTY>

Ginga (basic step in capoeira) Video Tutorial
[youtube.com/watch?v=WV-Sf5-aCcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WV-Sf5-aCcc)

Capoeira Roda Demonstrations
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKDd_RpU_U4

Illinois Arts Learning Standards

Interpretation & Evaluation:

Listen and Describe (IL 25A, 26A, 27A; Nat'l 6)

- Identify and exhibit appropriate audience behavior for listening to music.
- Analyze the uses of elements of music in musical selections representing diverse genres and cultures.

Making Connections

Cultural (IL 26B, 27A; Nat'l 9)

- Distinguish styles of music in various cultures and periods and identify unique features.
- Identify and describe in simple terms music from other cultures of the world, using the elements of music.

Dance Literacy

History and Culture (IL 27B; Nat'l 5):

- Discuss and explore the role of dance in celebrations or events.
- Investigate aspects of dance in various cultures or historical periods.
- Describe similarities and differences in dance movements from various cultures.

VOCABULARY

ATABAQUE

Drum used in Capoeira

BERIMBAU

One-stringed percussion instrument originally from Central Africa

GINGA

The basic or foundational movement of Capoeira

MACULELÊ

A traditional stick fighting or warrior dance that comes from the practice of self-defense and over time transitioned into a performance

MESTRE

The title given to a master Capoeira teacher

MESTRE BIMBA

A famous deceased Capoeira mestre; Father of Capoeira regional

PANDEIRO

A tambourine

RODA

Circle/wheel, this is the circle of people in which the Capoeira game is played

SALVADOR

Capital city of Bahia; birthplace of Capoeira as we know it today

SAMBA

Popular form of Brazilian music and dance traditionally seen during Carnivale

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Ask students what they know about Brazil, what language do they speak, do they know any cities. When they hear Brazil, what comes to mind? If students do not already know, explain why Brazilian speak Portuguese and not Spanish like many other South American countries.
2. For younger students, print off the coloring page listed under Resources.

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Have students practice ginga, the basic step of capoeira movement. Use the video listed under Resources to remind students of the steps, clip is only a few minutes and is a great way to get kids energized and moving!
2. Have students' free write (or have a class discussion) about the importance of music and dance in society. Why do cultures often times have their own unique music and dance traditions? Why is it important? Where do they see music and dance in their lives?