

# Pape Cisse

[www.waawafrica.com](http://www.waawafrica.com)  
[www.mamaafricajkl.tk](http://www.mamaafricajkl.tk)  
[www.myspace.com/mamaafricajkl](http://www.myspace.com/mamaafricajkl)  
[pape.cisse25@gmail.com](mailto:pape.cisse25@gmail.com)



## Personal details

- Nationality: Senegalese
- Birthplace: Dakar, Senegal

## Education

- Ballet National Sorano, Dakar, Senegal 2001-2002
- Blaise Senghor – art school, Dakar, Senegal 1999-2000
- Ecole Des art – art school, Dakar, Senegal 1998-1999
- Doudou Ndiaye Rose, Sabar course, 1997

In Senegalese art schools I mainly studied African music and dance. My other studies include rhythmic and didactic of music, singing, African dance, and playing of djembe, sabar, dundun and tama.

## Language skills

- Native languages: Wolof and French
- Other languages: English and Finnish

## Hobbies

- Building Djembe- and Sabar drums

## My work in Mama Africa group

- Mama Africa was established in Senegal in 1990. Its purpose is to spread West African music and dance tradition around the world. Every member of the group who has moved abroad has set up a new group in their new home country. At the moment there are members in Japan, Germany, Belgium, France, Finland etc. The first Finnish Mama Africa group was established in 1997.
- I established my own Mama Africa group in Jyväskylä in 2004. The group has many weekly dancing and playing classes for children and adults. I work as an artistic director, playing instructor, accompanist and a musician.

## Performances

With my Mama Africa group, I have performed in many different events, such as music festivals in Finland, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, France, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Spain and Portugal. We have played in charity concerts, theatre projects, in schools, day care centres, sheltered homes, workplace events, culture festivals, concerts and in the well-known Finnish children's program *Pikku Kakkonen*. I have performed for influential politicians such as the former Finnish president Tarja Halonen and her husband Pentti Arajärvi. With Mami Wata group I have performed for the former Finnish president and nobel-prize winner Martti Ahtisaari. I'm also a character in a children's video game called *Petran Planeetta*.

## My work as a musician / accompanist

2004 - 2011

I worked as a playing- and singing instructor and cultural teacher in several different schools (primary school, upper comprehensive school, upper secondary school, university) and in day care centres.

2008

I was granted a scholarship from Suomen kulttuurirahasto (Finnish culture fund) to teach djembe playing and tolerance to children and adolescents between 1 October and 31 May. In 2008-2009 I worked with Kuokkala youth orchestra in a project of Kulttuuriaitta-organization called "Afrikan taivaan alla" (Under the African Sky). We made exotic new arrangements out of traditional Finnish tunes and turned them into a show. We performed our show in Finnish schools and in Pärnu, Estonia.

2010

In 2009-2010 I taught in homes for the elderly and worked with people with disabilities and mental health problems. I also worked in Sytyke-project where we created music and choreographies with immigrants. The project consisted of multicultural workshops, aimed to help young immigrants find their place between two different countries and cultures.

2011-2012

I worked with Kompassi-project, instructing in different workshops. We went through the basics of djembe building and different playing techniques. Through singing and dance training, we explored the rich and eclectic West African culture and the different roles in dance and music. I instructed people with mental retardations in Jälkkäri-tour and in an integrated physical exercise group.

2013

The Mama Africa-Jälkkäri tour continued throughout the spring. Afro dancing for people with disabilities with Jyväskylän physical exercise service. Collaboration with Jyväskylän libraries and bookmobiles.

I have worked as a musician and an accompanist in various events around Finland, such as classes and shows of Jyväskylän Dance Institute, classes for an adult education centre, physical exercise centres, various workshops, youth camps, children's events, private events and in missionary festivals. In 2010 I performed in multicultural independency day event held by multicultural centre Gloria. In 2011 I organized the Tule tanssimaan – Nieweul Fecc – afro-latino-festival. I perform annually in Yläkaupungin yö-, Jyväskylän kesä-, Fest Africa and International African Culture –festivals. Since 2008, I have organized an annual festival called Waaw Africa.

In my work I aim to get people do things together and get feelings of success. I want to create new experiences and give opportunities to cross cultural boundaries in a safe environment. With my cheerful positive attitude I get even the doubters to participate. As an instructor I am patient and thorough, but humour also plays a large role in my lessons. From my previous work I have received feedback praising my positivity and my ability to get children and young people to think positively and believe in themselves.