

CAN08: Ghana to surprise the world

A cast of almost two thousand, five hundred (2500) people made up of students, professors and lecturers from the University of Ghana, professional dance organizations and groups from across Ghana, acrobats, cultural troupes and primary school children, have been assembled by Global Media Alliance (GMA), Executive Producers for the Opening Ceremony for the Ghana 2008 African Cup of Nations Tournament. The opening ceremony will be watched by 4.5 billion TV homes worldwide.

According to the Executive Producers of the show, "this opening ceremony will be the best opening ceremony, ever staged for an African Cup of Nations tournament". The show will entail the use of thousands of performers to tell an unfolding story of the culture of Ghana, the story of football and Ghana 2008 by creating massive colored shapes, patterns and images on the central field of play. Supplemented by beautiful Ghanaian music, specialized props, spectacular aerial and Calvary displays and the interactive participation of the audience, the producers hope to create a truly multidimensional and cultural show. There will also be a special Stephen Appiah display.

Together with their partners CAP Events of South Africa, GMA has assembled some of the best professional teams in Ghana and from South Africa, Nigeria, USA, Thailand, Taiwan and China to produce, engineer and choreograph the show.

The show will be stage directed by world-renowned stadium theater producer Penny Jones of South Africa under the creative direction of Godwin Kotei, Ghana's leading mass display choreographer and Professor Nii Yartey, one of Africa's leading cultural dance choreographers. Mr. Kofi Ansah, one of Africa's leading and a world-renowned fashion designer will be providing all the costumes for the cast. The props for the event are being designed and built by Mr. Mike Amon-Kwafo, Ghana's foremost stage and props designer.

Professor Mike Anku, Dean of the School of performing Arts in collaboration with Nat Brew will provide the music for the 40-minute extravaganza. Under the engineering direction of Sammy Helwani, Maternix Studios will be providing almost fifteen thousand (15,000) tones of musical equipment for the show. The Ghana Armed Forces will also participate in an aerial and Calvary display.