



# Testimonials

## PERFORMANCE ARTIST REVIEWS

### *History, Dunham and Dance- Unwrapping the Legacy: A Multimedia Experience*

Mariama's presentation for the 2015 Charles D. Tenney Lecture on the campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale was both inspiring and thought provoking...served as a powerful conduit to understand Katherine Dunham's life and work, Dr. Mariama's life and work and the "place" of SIU in the 1960's and 1970's. The presentation ended with a crescendo of group dance; providing those who engaged in it a glimpse of the transcendent nature of artistic performance."

**Laura M. Morthland, Associate Professor at the School of Architecture in Southern Illinois University, Carbondale**

"This "one-woman" show was everything an homage to Katherine Dunham should be ...The choreography, the philosophy and the vocation of teaching others the significance of knowing one's heritage and the joy in performing beauty and joy for the delight of the observer - these were the gifts of both Dunham and Mariama on display in this multimedia experience. Marguerite Mariama honors her mentor and angel-elder by this thoroughly captivating evening."

**Joseph A. Brown, SJ; Ph.D., Professor, Africana Studies at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale**

"I am still "high" after one of my all-time favorite programs in Pop's Honor. He would have loved it. I am so jealous of honors students who get to spend more time with that wonderful special lady! I LOVED her spirit and enthusiasm, a too rare quality these days. She is an inspiration to everyone. (I call it "sparkle plenty!")...I thank her for doing honor to herself, my family, and SIU. I am so proud that she is a Saluki."

**Helen Tenney Naumer, Southern Illinois University Charles D. Tenney Distinguished Lecture Series (daughter of series namesake)**

"Dr. Mariama's multimedia tribute offers a deep and personal look into the world, mind, sensibilities and contributions of artist Katherine Dunham. Mariama is a powerhouse performer whose singing and dance come from a deep place. The audience has the occasion to look into the soul of a woman of power, passion and purpose. Those not familiar with Dunham's work will certainly leave wanting to know more.

Dunham's legacy lives on-in and through Marguerite Mariama. It was a sheer delight..."

**Lori Merrill Fink, Director, Honors Program at Southern Illinois University**

## MUSIC REVIEWS

### CD - *"Wild Women Never Get the Blues"*

"Marguerite Mariama...knows what she's talking and singing about...she's one of the most exciting blues belters on the scene...she's equally comfortable with a moody ballad...boasts an enviable range with confident intonation to display her 'straightahead' jazz chops and her infectious sense of musical humor.

**Harvey Siders, JazzTimes**

"Marguerite Mariama's first recording...is a smashing success right from the opening gate. Her gifted and versatile voice coupled with a wonderful array of songs, serves notice that this is a talent to follow."

**Eric Frazier, Jazz Improv**

"Her sultry timbre lined with bluesy intonations immediately demands attention...She swings effortlessly...her sincerity is ever present as a warm sensitivity drawing you into the heart of each song. She turns songs into life experiences."

**Ron Scott, New York Amsterdam News**

"Her voice greets you like a hug from a longtime friend. Take this one home to mama."

**Rahsaan Clark Morris, Creativity Magazine, Chicago**

"Marguerite's vocal sound is rich and warm and she embraces her material with a measure of confidence rare in newcomers...Clearly, this is a singer to look out for in the future."

**Bruce Crowthers, Online Music Critic**

"The first thing that stops you in your tracks is the great jazz vibrato jazz singer, actor, educator, & choreographer Marguerite Mariama contains. This is a jazz singer we must immediately reckon with...Marguerite is a singer's singer with the concept, chops & vocalese and an intuitive gift for melodic maturity. Also, she possesses a loose & innate delivery...achieving a soft, warm tone."

**George W. Carroll, Musicians' Ombudsman**

Wonderful compilation of material, beautifully produced, elegant vocal style with tremendous artistic and technical command of the voice. Collaborations with top jazz artists a highlight. A vibrant, energizing, classy musical experience – rivaling any "famous name" artists. Buy this record!"

**Lisa Johnson, Dean - Mannes College of Music**

"Wow! What a Talent!" Marguerite Mariama is beautiful, bright, communicative, and possesses one of the most richly beautiful voices coupled with an instinctive sense of rhythm and phrasing. She not only sings her songs, she interprets them and embellishes them with the quality of the best of jazz vocalists. Pay attention here, music lovers. Marguerite Mariama is a brilliant talent and this CD is one of the best vocal jazz albums in years!"

**Grady Harp, Amazon**

"Mariama's vocal talents ...bring back memories of great singers like Sarah Vaughan who really knew how to deliver a ballad...swings like a breakaway pendulum... Mariama delivers in high style."

**Richard Bourcier, Jazzreview.com**

## **ACTING REVIEWS**

### ***A Little Night Music***

...Bravos were echoing throughout the Theatre...Marguerite Mariama playing the role of Mme. Armfeldt (in A Little Night Music) was amazing...her poise, her grace, her delivery impeccable. Her voice touched our hearts. Mme. Armfeldt made us laugh, sigh and believe. It was a great evening indeed...

**Carmen Smith, VP of Creative Development at Walt Disney Imagineering**

The Armfeldt matriarch, Desiree's mother and grandmother of Fredrika is played with just the right touch by Marguerite Mariama...

**Albert Williams, Around The Town, Chicago**

As magisterial Madame Armfeldt, a woman with a dozen "pasts," Marguerite Mariama delivers no flinty northern Lady Bracknell. Even without the usual wheelchair, she incarnates Wheeler's wistful, life-proof dowager-courtesan with all her rueful survivor wisdom and a sly smile. Her fully felt "Liaisons" is a sex novel bathed in redemptive nostalgia and minus a single regret...

**Lawrence Balmer, Theater Chicago**

Madame Armfeldt (an imperious Marguerite Mariama), a woman whose expertly played youthful trysts netted her a country manse and a Belgian Duchy, among other things...

**Caty Sullivan, Chicago Sun-Times**

Madame Armfeldt's "Liaisons," too, is an homage to the past tinged with regret, and Mariama is perfect as the regal matriarch reminiscing...

**Karen Topham, Chicago OnStage**

## **EDU-CULTURAL SPEAKER/CONSULTANT TESTIMONIALS**

### ***Image and Beauty from the Inside Out · A Hip-Hop Journey to History and Culture***

"We were fortunate to have Marguerite Mariama come to work with us on...self-esteem, which is a model for dealing with image from the inside out. The work that she has done in the two short years she has been with us is phenomenal in terms of the outcomes. A student who feels good about herself goes to class with that feeling and that feeling permeates other kinds of things as everything is interconnected and interrelated."

**Safiya Bandele, Director of the Women's Center at Medgar Evers College**

"With Marguerite I know that each time that I go for my upliftment which consists of spiritual as well as physical that what will happen is, eventually I can take these tools and apply them. Through that strength, everything started to revolve around me. I'm not confused, I feel secure within myself. I don't operate in terms of self-destruct. I like myself better; and, people actually look at me and say you're beautiful, there's something beautiful it's from the inside out, it's inside...."

**Pat Arnold, Psychology Student at Medgar Evers College**

"The end result was young people...who were able to stand up and deliver not only to their peers but to the school and to the administrators in the school...It was really a magnificent process to observe to be a part of, to see young people who go from not caring very much about themselves or what's going on around them, to a place where not only do they care but they can articulate and express that and begin to plan their involvement...a sense of agency...a sense of efficacy."

**Patrice Leach, Director of the Star Program at Roosevelt High School Institute for Student Achievement (ISA)**

"Dr. Mariama has been a tremendous asset to the program. I've even had some students since the 7th grade very resistant to reading out loud, speaking out loud - and through her lessons of employing different learning styles using things such as music, literacy, critical thinking - she's been able to open these same students up so much so that they've volunteered actually to become MC's for different programs. They've written phenomenal works of art - poetry and even songs."

**Tiffany Ward, College and Career Counselor (7th - 12th) of the Star Program at Roosevelt High School Institute for Student Achievement (ISA)**