

THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE EDITION

CONCEPT NOTE: "ECHOES & ENCORES"

The African Renaissance Edition Senior High School Drama & Spoken Word Competition (Eastern Region Pilot Phase)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "**African Renaissance**" is the central pillar of the **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**. To move this vision from diplomatic halls into the hearts of the next generation, we must empower the youth to become the continent's primary storytellers.

"**Echoes & Encores**," an initiative by the **Arise Center for Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (ACACE)**, is a strategic arts-in-education program. By engaging over **1,000 students** across 40 Senior High Schools, we are using the power of the stage and the spoken word to catalyze a creative movement centered on Pan-Africanism, identity, and leadership.

2. THEMATIC FRAMEWORK: THE RENAISSANCE PULSE

The competition is anchored in **Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063: *An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values, and ethics.***

The "Echoes & Encores" Methodology:

- **ECHOES:** Students must research and honor African history, ancestral resilience, and pre-colonial genius.
- **ENCORES:** Students must project bold, innovative solutions for a prosperous, united Africa in the year 2063.

3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE: THE TWO TRACKS

To ensure technical excellence, the competition is divided into two distinct, specialized categories:

Track 1: The "Griot" Spoken Word Championship

- **The Concept:** Reclaiming the West African tradition of the "Griot" - the historian, advisor, and orator.
- **Format:** Solo or Duo performance (3-5 minutes).
- **The Brief:** Original poetry that bridges the gap between African heritage and the future.
- **Focus:** Intellectual depth, rhythm, vocal authority, and metaphorical brilliance.

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Track 2: The "Renaissance" Drama Shield

- **The Concept:** Using ensemble theatre to solve modern continental challenges.
- **Format:** Ensemble of 8-15 cast members (15-20 minutes).
- **The Brief:** A short play depicting the journey toward the "Africa We Want."
- **Focus:** Scriptwriting, character development, and symbolic costuming that blends tradition with futurism.

4. THE 2026 PILOT TIMELINE

Phase	Timeline	Key Activities
I: Launch	Sept 28 - Oct 9	The competition opens. Schools register, officially welcomed into the pilot and connect with the ACACE Team online
II: Virtual Roadmap and Manual Distribution	Oct 7 - Oct 19	The exclusive Renaissance Roadmap Manual is sent virtually to every registered school
V: Grand Finale	November 14	The Regional Championship (Koforidua). The 5 pilot schools from the Eastern Region bring the maiden edition to its climax with a final battle for the trophy.

5. THE "RENAISSANCE ROADMAP" MANUAL

Unlike traditional competitions, every participating school receives a comprehensive manual. This serves as a curriculum guide for teachers, containing:

1. **Summarized AU Agenda 2063 Aspirations** for student research.
2. **Techniques in "Ethical Storytelling"** and script structure.
3. **Vocal and Physical Training Exercises** for performers.

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6. IMPACT & PARTNERSHIP VALUE

For the Schools:

- Develops critical thinking, literacy, and public speaking skills.
- Provides teachers with modern tools to integrate history into the arts.

For the Sponsors (The GTV Value Proposition):

- **Youth Engagement:** Direct access to a dynamic demographic of students, parents, and educators.
- **Brand Alignment:** Positioning as a champion of African heritage and the AU's developmental goals.
- **Media Reach:** Partnership with GTV for regional and national broadcast of the "Renaissance Diaries."

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For partnership inquiries and school registrations:

- **Email:** director.acaceyoutharise@gmail.com
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8. CONCLUSION

"Echoes & Encores" is more than a competition; it is a call to action. By focusing on the Spoken Word and Drama, we are equipping the next generation with the tools to write the next chapter of the African story. We invite you to join us in making the "Renaissance" a reality.