



"FEELING THE RHYTHM"-DRUMMING & A PICNIC

Tutor: Mike McElya

Sunday July 3rd

12.30 -4.30 pm

£50.00

(Children - half price)

Mike McElya, originally from Chicago, founded the Sunshine Drumming Company in 1994. He has studied with African drum masters from Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Nigeria. Mike has a lifelong background in theatre. Over the years Mike has mastered the ability to combine professionalism and fun, earning him the reputation as one of the most innovative rhythm workshop leaders in the country.

This workshop is designed for anyone who has an interest in working with the power of the African drum. "Feeling the Rhythm" will be an exciting afternoon starting with a 'bring your own picnic', followed by an unforgettable afternoon to uplift the spirit with deep warm drumming sounds.

We begin with the basics of the tones, introducing the many different sounds and personalities of the African Drums from the big sounds of the Dundunba, to the soft warm sounds of the Bougaraboo. We work with traditional Djembe drums and a wide variety of percussive instruments initially, working with the natural pulse - the "heartbeat" - then adding traditional rhythms that are simple or complex depending on the experience of the group. We have time to stretch, relaxing into the sounds and moving to the beat, sculpting rhythms as we improvise while supporting each with the structure of the drums and percussion. Together we can create an African culture on the Mendip Hills!

Don't forget your picnic!



Art for everyone

