

International Educational Project: *Yirinin – The Light that Connects the World*



The story of Yirinin



Yirinin was an albino child, born in the small village of **Manoufla**, in the heart of the **Sinfra** district (Ivory Coast).

From birth, his moon-like pale skin aroused curiosity and fear.

In this village where everyone looked alike, he was different and the other children rejected him for it.

They called him ‘sun child’ with contempt, sometimes nicknaming him ‘little wizard’.

Every day, **Yirinin** endured their mockery and stifled laughter when he passed by them.

These cruel words hurt him deeply.

He often wondered if he was an unwanted child, dropped from the sky by mistake.

One evening, with a heavy heart, he went to see his mother.

‘Mum,’ he asked in a trembling voice, ‘why is my skin different? Why do the others reject me?’

His mother embraced him tenderly, stroking his hair, which was as blonde as ripe wheat.

‘My son,’ she said softly, ‘don’t believe a word they say. You are a wonderful child, a gift from heaven.

She then explained the meaning of his name: **Yirinin**, which means sun ☀

*‘You bear this name,’ she continued, ‘because, like the sun, you shine light on those around you.
Your light may be dazzling, but it is essential to the world.’*

Then, to soothe his heart, she sang him a gentle, metaphorical song.
Her voice echoed in the small hut, like a breath of hope:

*Morning sun, you who burn and warm
Do not fear gazes or shadows.
Your light is a gift, your brilliance is a force.
For without you, life would be nothing but darkness.*

That evening, Yirinin understood that difference was not a curse, but a treasure.

He decided to walk tall, proud to be the sun of his own story.

And through his smile, little by little, others also learned that beneath every skin cooler, the same human light shines.

1. Project Origin

The project was born from a story — the tale of an albino child from West Africa who, rejected for being different, discovers through his mother's love that his uniqueness is a **shared light**, not a curse.

This story symbolizes the **richness of human diversity** and the **power of tolerance**.

From this tale arises a deep conviction:

Art is a universal language — a bridge between cultures, a shared light.

This is the spirit of *Yirinin*: a pedagogical project that invites children from all over the world to discover the beauty of artistic and intercultural dialogue.

2. Vision and Philosophy

We believe that every child, wherever they come from, can learn to dance to the rhythms of another continent, to sing in a new language, and to recognize a part of themselves in someone else's movement.

Art thus becomes a **tool for education in peace, empathy, and global awareness**.

Through *Yirinin*, children learn — just like the hero of the story — that they can **transform difference into light**, both their own and that of others.

3. Educational Objectives

For the ear:

Develop musical and rhythmic listening skills.

Discover traditional rhythms from West Africa and other cultures around the world.

Explore improvisation and the shared human pulse that unites all music.

For the body:

Use dance and movement as universal languages of expression.

Learn traditional steps and gestures while encouraging creativity and self-expression.

Work on coordination, rhythm, and body awareness.

For oneself:

Build self-confidence through artistic expression.

Strengthen body-mind connection and emotional balance.

Celebrate individuality and understand that difference is a source of richness.

For others:

Encourage teamwork, mutual respect, and listening within a group.

Discover the beauty of world cultures through their arts.

Create together a shared artistic language that transcends borders.





4. Workshop Content

The program is designed as a series of interconnected workshops:

- **Percussion and rhythm workshops** (djembé, dunun, calabash, body percussion)
- **Dance and movement workshops** inspired by West African traditions and other global cultures
- **Vocal workshops** — traditional songs, harmonies, and original compositions on the theme of light and difference
- **Storytelling and performance workshops** leading to the creation of a collective show inspired by *Yirinin*

All these artistic practices come together in a **final performance** — a celebration of cultures and of the shared light that unites us all.

5. Intercultural and Universal Dimension

This project is designed for schools, cultural centers, and educational programs around the world. Each local edition of *Yirinin* can be adapted to the host country, inviting children to contribute their own dances, songs, and stories. Through the dialogue between world arts, we weave a common thread —
A thread of encounter, respect, and human unity through art.

6. Final Message: Art as Shared Light

Like **Yirinin**, every child carries within them a unique light.
By letting that light sing, dance, and resonate with others, they learn that the beauty of the world lies in its diversity.
For art knows no borders, no colors.
It is a common breath, a universal heartbeat.
And within that rhythm, every child discovers a reflection of themselves in the other.

By Sellou Blagone