

## Profile

International Master Drummer and griot from the west African nation of Burkina Faso, and was soon recognized as a musical child prodigy at age 3 of the famous Koné griot lineage, educated in the ancient drumming traditions of West Africa. At 14 Dramane Koné started his professional career, teaching djembe and African music to visiting Europeans and Americans for 3 years, then performing with ballet as lead drummer playing djembe for an additional 3 years. Winning national contests starting in 1996, Dramane traveled widely in western Europe in from 1997 to 1998.

Dramane formed his group *Djelia Kadi* in 2001, and continues to record, perform, and teach African music through djembe, balaphon/xylophone, dunun, kora (African string instrument), talking drum, singing, and dancing. In the United States, Dramane has performed at hundreds of venues including convention centers, large theaters, small clubs, private colleges and public universities from 1999 to 2010. Dramane joined Drum Café West, California in 2006 and continues to entertain and perform at corporate and special events year round in the United States and abroad.



## Professional Highlights

### 2001 to Current - Performing Musician / Band Leader

Santa Cruz, California

Dramane formed his group, *Djelia Kadi*, in Santa Cruz, with fellow djembefolas, consisting of instruments from West Africa including: djembe, dununs, balafon, and kora, and is also accompanied by dancers.

The group's initial *raison d'être* was as an educational seminar and performances at theaters, schools, festivals. As Koné taught each of the members their parts and basic west African rhythms and playing techniques on djembe, dunun and balafon, it evolved into a musical, entertainment performance and recording ensemble playing San Francisco, Berkeley, and other northern Californian cities.

### 2006 to Current - Performing Musician / Drum Cafe

US, Canada, Mexico

Dramane joined Drum Cafe in 2006, delivering interactive corporate team building events and corporate entertainment and is currently a highly respected member of their high-energy performance team.

### 2013 - Performing Musician / The Zeitgeist Media Festival

Avalon Hollywood, Los Angeles, California

Dramane performed on djembe with **Unit E** band during the Zeitgeist Media Festival

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-zeitgeist-media-festival>

### 2012 - Performing Musician / Heineken Commercial

L.A. Theatre, Los Angeles, California

International Heineken commercial, '*Open Your World*' recorded for the New York club scene

### 2010 - Performing Musician / Shakira Music Video

2010 Sony Music Entertainment

Music Video with **Shakira** performing *Waka Waka 'This Time for Africa'* - Official 2010 FIFA World Cup Song

### 2010 - Performing Musician / G'DAY USA

Lowes Hotel, Hollywood, California

G'DAY USA/ Australia Week, Los Angeles Black Tie Gala, performed with his band, *Djelia Kadi* along with actors **John Travolta**, **Nicole Kidman**, **Keith Urban**, **Toni Collette**, and **Cameron Diaz**

[www.australia-week.com/spotlight/10th-anniversary-retrospective-2.html](http://www.australia-week.com/spotlight/10th-anniversary-retrospective-2.html)

**2010 - Performing Musician / Concert**

Culver City, California

Organized and performed at Benefit concert at Motherland Music for flood victims and orphans in Burkina Faso, raising thousands of dollars for the 2009 crisis.

**2009 - Recording Artist**

Recorded CD and DVD movie 'Dramane Kone and Djelia Kadi' with his group, *Djelia Kadi*

**2009 - Music Teacher / Master Class**

Toronto, Canada

Taught a special public Master Class at the Toronto Centre for the Arts on djembe and dunun, sponsored by the Burkina Faso consulate and a private association of Burkina Faso expatriates to benefit flood victims

**2008 to 2011 - Drum Leader / Dance Class**

Los Angeles, California

Drum Lead, University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) for Dance Department's dance class

**2008 - Performing Musician / Band Leader**

Los Angeles, California

Opening Act for **Salif Keita**, famous Afro-pop singer-songwriter/guitarist from Mali, West Africa

Lead Soloist with the *Djelia Kadi* group at The Conga Room

**2006 - Performing Musician / Band Leader**

Los Angeles, California

Opening Act for **Femi Kuti**, Lead Soloist with the *Djelia Kadi* group at The Hollywood Bowl

**2006 - Performing Musician / Band Leader**

Santa Monica, California

Main Act, Dramane and his band, *Djelia Kadi*, perform on the Santa Monica Pier

**2005 - Performing Musician / Band Leader**

Hollywood, California

Dramane and his band, *Djelia Kadi*, perform an impromptu jam session with piano/composer legend **Herbie Hancock** at Bang A Drum Music and Recording Studio, a highlight of the many Drum Cafe performances

**2005 - Performing Musician / Band Leader**

Los Angeles, California

Dramane and his band, *Djelia Kadi*, perform with guitarist, **Chris Harley** at The Greek Theater

**2004 - Performing Musician / Band Leader**

Santa Barbara, California

Dramane and *Djelia Kadi* perform with percussion luminary **Luis Conte**, at Soho Restaurant & Music Club

**1998 to 1999 - Performing Musician / Lead Soloist**

France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland

Toured Europe with the **National Ballet of Burkina Faso, Lanaya Kadi**, performing as a djembefola (djembe drummer). The following year **Lanaya Kadi** recruited Dramane as lead soloist for another European tour, playing djembe, dunun, balafon and ngoni

**Professional Instruction**

Dramane is an active music teacher, teaching drum workshops from 2004 to current day in various studios in Southern California. His talents also include building and repairing various types of drums.

**Professional Associations**

2012 Joined American Federation of Musicians, Local 47, Los Angeles, California

### Discography / Film / Video

- 2009 CD/DVD **Ballet Djelia Kadi with Dramane Koné, Master Drummer**, produced by David Hilal and Miro (24 tracks: 12 audio, 12 video)
- 2003 CD *Djelia Kadi's* self-titled recording, **Djelia Kadi**, English translation, *It's Good to be a Griot*. Traditional West African drumming includes 8 tracks of Dramane's arrangements of West African drumming classics as Djelidon and Mendiani as well as several of Dramane's original compositions featuring himself on balafon and lead djembe with the entire ensemble (minus dancers and acrobats)
- 1997 DVD/VHS Documentary Film 'Great Great Grandparents Music' produced and directed by Taali Laafi Rosselini, U.S. [www.africanfamily.org/films/grandparents](http://www.africanfamily.org/films/grandparents)

Rising to prominence via his appearance, studying balafon, singing, dancing, and playing djembe in the award-winning Taali Laafi Rosselini epic documentary film (20 years in the making) 'Great Great Grandparents Music' featured young Dramane's musical education and vignettes of Dramane Koné's griot family life in west Africa. The film presents an intimate portrait of the remarkable Koné family, three generations of Jeli, West African musicians-singers-dancers and carriers of collective knowledge and culture.

About picture to the right: Dougoutigui Koné teaches his son Dramane, to play the bala xylophone. At age 4, Dramane already speaks three languages: Bwamu, Jula and Moore.



### Musicality

A master creator of rhythms, African singing and dancing performance, and highly proficient in the following instruments: djembe, dununs, balaphon/xylophone, guitar, kora (African string instrument), piano, drum set, n'tamani (small talking drum)

### Nationality and Family Lineage

1999 Dramane became a naturalized American citizen, permanently residing in the U.S., while retaining citizenship in Africa's Burkina Faso.

Dramane is the son of well-known musical griot and master drummer Dougoutigui Koné. He is also the brother of notable griot and master drummer Mamadou Koné, and the two Koné brothers and their father played together in various traditional and popular music ensembles in Burkina Faso and elsewhere. Their griot lineage extends many generations.