

**ENVIRONMENT:**

Very important to the ROP is creating a safe space for our young men to thrive. The ROP is a tough love environment. Our young men sometimes struggle to meet our high demands, but soon learn that if there was ever a place to practice falling, dusting up and trying again – the ROP is the place. The ROP’s physical and mental space is non-judgmental and free of prejudice. Staff and mentors model our “Safe Space and Total Acceptance” philosophy. Our young men must see and believe that less or more is not expected of them because of their past or present conditions. When they come to sessions, they MUST leave “cool” outside and step into a “Brothers-only Safe Zone” where we roll up our sleeves and search for solutions to issues that confront us as a family.



*“We meet our boys*

*where they are, we engage them, we challenge them, we help them believe again and most of all we “ritualize” their passage in a community celebration thus, placing a memory marker for their journey ahead.”*

Chike C. Nwoffiah,  
Program Director



We are a band of brothers; committed and dedicated to lifting our community up by helping our youth begin, so they can continue their journey to greatness.



*“Just a quick moment to tell you again, that there is a difference in the kid I brought last year and the one I live with now. He is more focused on his goals now and seems determined to do better in most all aspects of his daily life. Sometimes he requires a reminder, but the attitude is gone and there is more maturity there. Thank you for making a difference in his life.”*

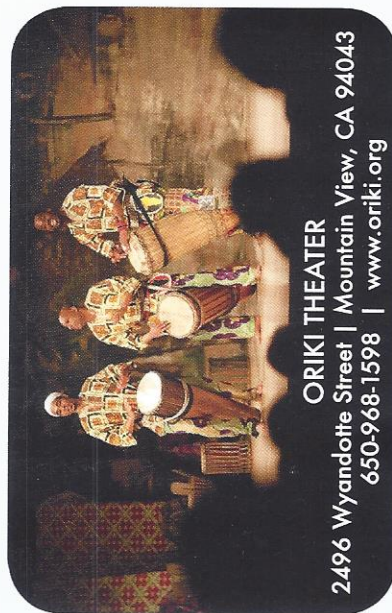
Ms. G (Parent, Class of 2009)

Oriki Theater’s Rites of Passage program is presented by Oriki Theater, Inc. in partnership with the Eta Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and California Alliance of African American Educators (CAAAE).

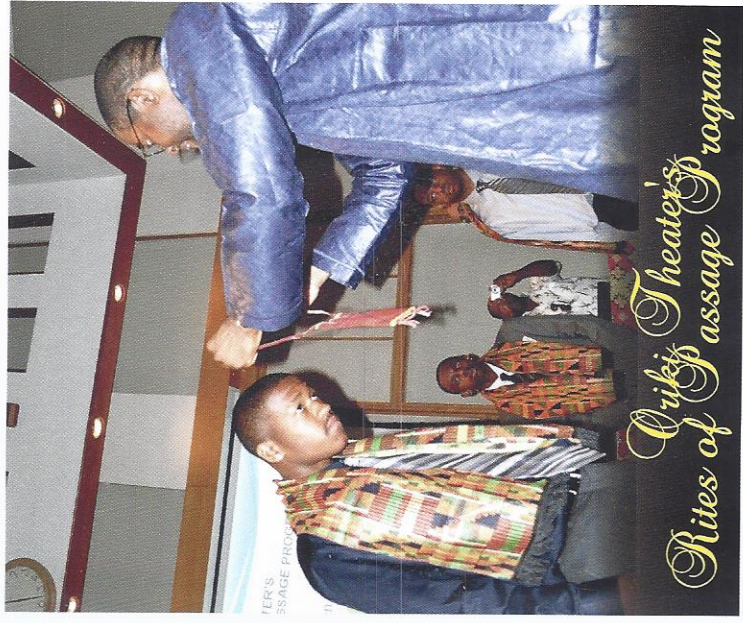
**MITES OF PASSAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Wilbur Jackson | Rufus White | Harris Ginyard  
Donald Clark | Gus Bowman | Henry Burton, Jr.  
Chike C. Nwoffiah - Program Director

For more information:  
[www.orki.org/ritesofpassage](http://www.orki.org/ritesofpassage)



**ORIKI THEATER**  
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650-968-1598 | [www.orki.org](http://www.orki.org)



*Oriki Theater's*  
*Rites of Passage Program*

**BOYS will COME**  
**MEN will RETURN**



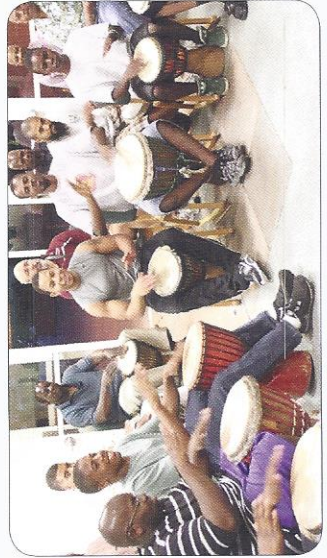
### BACKGROUND:

Most African peoples have rites and ceremonies to mark a child's stages of growth and development. The rites of birth and childhood introduce the child to the corporate community, but this is only an introduction. A boy must grow out of childhood into manhood physically, socially and spiritually. This is a change from a passive to active membership in the community.

Presented in partnership with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Eta Sigma Lambda Chapter and California Alliance of African American Educators, Oriki Theater's Rites of Passage (ROP) program is designed to lead African American teenage boys socially and spiritually into manhood: a status of responsibility, earned rights and privileges with corresponding duties and obligations to society. The axis on which this program pivots is a set of eight principles borrowed from traditional African rites of passage ceremonies, namely:

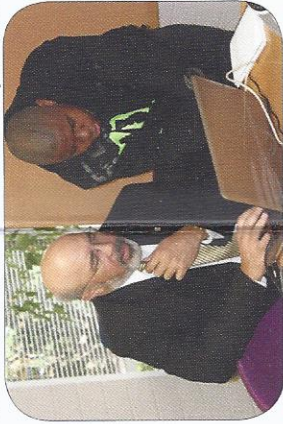
- Love for Self and others*
- Respect for Self and others*
- Honor for all that God has made*
- Strength to soar above distractions*
- Wisdom to know what is right*
- Courage to stand up for what is right*
- Patience to take your turn*
- Pride in who you are*

The goal of the Rites of Passage program is to provide teenage African American boys the tools to seek, find, keep and cherish these qualities of manhood.



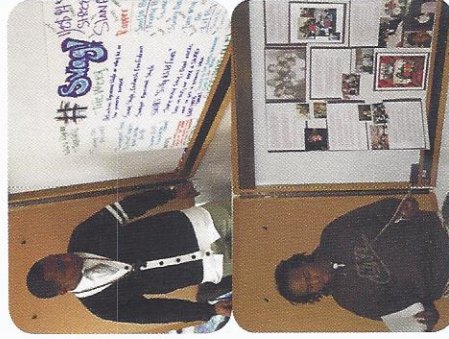
### MODEL:

The Rites of Passage program is a manhood training program with a process that is meticulous. The rules and code of conduct are strict, graduation requirements are demanding and, sessions are rigorous, fun, practical, participatory, honest, and confidential. We believe that by setting high standards and EXPECTATIONS coupled with a safe and supportive ENVIRONMENT, we will EMPOWER our young brothers to unleash their potential. We aim to graduate young men with heightened sense of SELF, armed with a rich array of SKILLS, and ready to make positive and phenomenal contributions to society.



### STRUCTURE:

Each participant is assigned a mentor to coach him through the program. Notable leaders in the African American community facilitate the series of interactive workshops. The curriculum features: team building and leadership development, community service, assigned reading and discussions; individual projects and presentations; alliances with other youth-oriented programs; career planning, college preparedness; financial responsibility; and a formal passage ceremony for graduates. Our stellar faculty and mentor team comprises a diverse group of professional African American men.



*"A lot of my friends at school say I've changed a lot, they say I've become more mature."*  
AG (Class of 2007)

*"These are my brothers*

*I grew up without a father and now I have a new family of brothers to support me on my journey."*  
RW (Class of 2011)

are plugged into a community of committed African American professionals in the Silicon Valley region concerned about their well-being. Many graduates become more active in their communities or high school organizations, pursue college education, develop better relationships with the adults in their lives including parents, teachers, coaches, etc., and share lessons learned from the program with their peers.



### PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Location:

First AME Zion Church,  
95 South 20th Street, San Jose, CA 95116

Time:

9:00AM - 1:00PM

Dates:

April 25 | May 16 | June 6

July 11 | August 29 | September 19

October 17 | November 21 | December 12

January 16 | February 13

\* dates are subject to change

*"My views changed in life. I had more pride during the weeks I was here. I have become wiser in more situations."* CG (Class of 2005)