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**Los Angeles' Viver Brasil Afro Brazilian Dance and Music ensemble**  
**Wins Lester Horton Dance Award**  
for Outstanding Achievement in World Dance

Los Angeles – Continuing its run of recognition by the organization that supports “community-based professional dance activity,” Viver Brasil recently won the Lester Horton Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in World Dance at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Dance Resource Center award ceremony. The award honored Viver Brasil’s *Feet on the Ground/Aiye* concert, which premiered in 2009 at the company’s seventh consecutive show at LA’s John Anson Ford Amphitheatre. *Feet on the Ground* has been adopted as the title of the company’s 2010-2011 season, which features a national tour beginning in the fall of 2010. The company’s 2010 show at the Ford, *Alaafia/Harmony*, takes place on July 31, 2010.

Founded in 1997, the award-winning Viver Brasil is rooted in the traditional and contemporary dance forms and techniques of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and is dedicated to exploring and preserving the passion and theatricality of Afro-Brazilian dance. The company specializes in Afro-Brazilian culture from the Northeastern region of Brazil, (where the African presence is most prominent). Dancers and drummers bring to life the epic, tantalizing stories of the *orixa*, African deities or spirits that are the pulse of the culture, plus present ecstatic samba, contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance and carnival choreography.

“We are thrilled and humbled that our dance community has honored our work with this beautiful award,” says Linda Yudin, who accepted the award on behalf of co-artistic director Luiz Badaró, choreographer Rosangela Silvestre, and guest composer Jose Ricardo Sousa. In 2009, Yudin and Badaró received the prestigious “excellence in teaching” award from the board of directors of Dance Resource Center and Badaró and company member Mario Pallais, with Sousa, won best achievement in music for dance. The company also won the Horton Award in 2000 for outstanding achievement in a company performance for non-western dance.

The award-winning show *Feet on the Ground/Aiye* was a full-length dance concert featuring five pieces and intoxicated the Ford audience with an inspiring cultural journey through Brazil, featuring African *orixás* (deities), ceremonial celebrations, the Brazilian martial arts/dance form of capoeira with samba and contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance and Carnival with choreography by Rosangela Silvestre and Luiz Badaró. The *Feet on the Ground Tour* will begin in November with a performance in Scottsdale, Arizona, and continue to the Midwest. In 2011, the tour will take Viver Brasil to the Eastern Seaboard.

See recent feature stories on the company in the L.A. TIMES: <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/arts/la-ca-viver-brasil28-2009jun28,0,3149357.story>  
<http://www.latimes.com/travel/la-tr-dancing-20100322,0,3260467.story>

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