BROOKLYN

BROOKENYA!
brooklyn ny meets kisumu kenya

KENYA!
HMM...THE HARRISBURG COMMUNITY THEATRE--BACK IN 1968--

THE CITY AND COUNTRY WERE SO POLARIZED OVER RACE AND POLITICS--

BUT MAKING THEATER TOGETHER, PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE WOULDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER BECAME GOOD FRIENDS!

SINCE THEN, I'VE SECRETLY DREAMED OF BUILDING A COMMUNITY THEATRE--

WHERE ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE CAN COME TOGETHER AND CREATE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL AND POWERFUL.

WHY NOT NOW? WHY NOT RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK CITY? WE COULD USE SOME SOME OF THAT.

HEY!

WITH INTERNET AND VIDEO--WE CAN DO IT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TOO!

WE COULD CREATE A LOCAL-GLOBAL COMMUNITY THEATRE--

COMMUNITY THEATRE INTERNATIONALE!

NYC--A FEW MONTHS BEFORE 9/11--I HAVE A BRAINSTORM.
I start with my friends and neighbors from Brooklyn, New York City.

I find Kitche Magak.

He brings his friends & neighbors from Kisumu, Kenya.

We create an ensemble stretching 7,000 miles—Brokenya!
--ACROSS RACE AND TRIBE--
ENTWINING FRIENDSHIPS REAL AND IMAGINED.
Disputed Vote Plunges Kenya Into Bloodshed

December 2007

What started out as a political crisis has increasingly turned into a violent ethnic one, fueled by longstanding tensions over land, economic opportunity and access to power.

The Brookenya community springs into action--

We in the United States rally to help. This isn't just news—it's happening to our friends! We quickly raise emergency funds. We send them with Kitche Magak, who is rushing back to Kisumu from a NYC visit.
Kitche comes home to a country and city aflame. The deeply flawed election has set many Kikuyu and Luo Kenyans at each other's throats. In Kisumu, where Luos are the ethnic majority, Kikuyus flee angry mobs. Stranded in police stations, they are suffering--their children and babies starving. The police have no food. No international aid is in sight.

Kitche and another Brookenyan can't sit by. As Luos aiding Kikuyus, they risk their own lives. With courage and local know-how, they navigate the danger. With donated dollars they buy scarce food and feed the desperate refugees.
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