



Tales Alive!
World Folktales Brought to Life

Children's DVD Brings African Folktale to Life

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For Immediate Release

SAN DIEGO, California – *The Lion's Drum* DVD brings to life a magical African folktale. Tales Alive! Publishing has just released this children's DVD, a musical story that tells the origin of the African djembe, the most popular hand drum in the world today. This one-of-a-kind video captures the colorful imagery of the African culture, aided by visually enhanced images adapted from the book *The Lion's Drum*, also recently released by Tales Alive! Publishing. "*The Lion's Drum* has been one of our most popular folktales," says author Steven Gregory. "To be able to bring it to video and to be able to share a bit of African folklore and culture with children everywhere is thrilling!"

In this colorfully illustrated and musical tale, a young African hunter, Ajani, discovers a lion playing a magic tree stump deep inside a jungle alive with rhythm and dance. When he tells the people of his village what he has seen and heard, they do not believe him. How can Ajani make the villagers believe him?

This video is the first of its kind to combine an African folktale with African culture and exciting live performances! Renowned, traditional drummer from Senegal, Papa Malick Faye, gives a dynamic performance of African rhythms on the djembe and sabar drums; beautifully costumed Akayaa Atule, a master dancer from Ghana, performs a lively African dance; and the video includes footage of African lions in their natural habitat along with fun lion facts!

The story is retold on the DVD by Steven Gregory, a popular African-American storyteller featured at multicultural and folk festivals in Southern California. The vibrant colored-pencil illustrations are done by New York-based artist Claudia Obata.

Tales Alive! publishes multicultural folktales to promote cultural awareness and understanding among people. *The Lion's Drum* DVD and book are the first in a series of multicultural folktales by Tales Alive! Publishing. Both the DVD and book are available for purchase at the Tales Alive! website, www.talesalive.com.

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