

(November 1, 2014 – NYC)

Celebrate Hope!

Forest Whitaker to be honored at NYC Gala for Hope North

Mary-Louise Parker will host benefit for Ugandan school offering hope, healing

WHAT

2014 Gala benefiting Hope North - www.hopenorth.org.

The lively night includes drinks, dinner, dancing and features Ugandan music and performances, celebrity stage cameos, and a live auction with real-time online co-bidding. Items will include handcrafted musical instruments and original artwork created by Hope North students. See 2013 Gala highlights [here](#).

WHO

- **Forest Whitaker:** Gala Honoree.
- **Mary-Louise Parker:** Gala Host.
- **Sahr:** Gala Performer. (Star of Broadway's "Fela!" and frontman of FELA aKUsTic.)
- **Okello Kelo Sam:** Hope North Founder. Bio [here](#).
- **Host Committee:** Alec Baldwin, Amanda Fuller, Bette Midler, Eva Amurri Martino, Hunter Parrish, Jeffrey Wright, Keisha Nash Whitaker, Malaak Compton-Rock, Megan Boone, Serinda Swan and Yoko Ono.

ABOUT

Founded in 1998, Hope North is an accredited secondary school in northern Uganda with a dual mission: Educating vulnerable youth living in the aftermath of civil war while empowering them to become voices for peace and development. The 40-acre school has a reputed arts center, vocational training, athletics, library, internet café, health clinic, student housing and a working farm, staffed by 26 dedicated educators. In 16 years, more than 3,000 at-risk youth have attended Hope North; its current enrollment is 328.

WHY

Hope North Founder Okello Kelo Sam is a former child soldier, abducted into a rebel army at age 16. He escaped, earned a college degree in performing arts, married, had a child – and started Hope North. Okello also became a musician and dancer, joining the reputed Ndere Troupe in Kampala. In 2006 he landed an instructing-performing role in the "The Last King Of Scotland", becoming fast friends with the film's star Forest Whitaker. Forest has since been an active supporter of and frequent visitor to Hope North.

WHEN

7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014.

WHERE

City Winery, 155 Varick St., NY.

TICKETS

\$100 to \$500 -
www.hopenorthgala.org.

Okello Sam and Forest Whitaker playing Ngoma drums at Hope North in Uganda this summer. The drums will be among items up for auction at benefit Gala.

