

# Cirque Kalabanté: *Afrique en Cirque*

Jan 23 / Cobb Great Hall

The performance will run approximately 90 minutes, with no intermission.

Media Partner: Michigan Public

Scan for the most up-to-date &  
complete information or visit  
[program.whartoncenter.com](http://program.whartoncenter.com)



**Afrique en Cirque** is a show by Yamoussa Bangoura, inspired by daily life in Guinea. This performance shares the beauty and artistry of African culture. A colorful show beyond its scenery, costumes, and staging, it makes any theatre vibrate with energy and represents the strength, agility, and life's joys of young Africans. The audience will see acrobats perform gravity-defying moves and human pyramids, accompanied by the contemporary sounds of live Afro-Jazz, percussion, and kora. Welcome to the universe of Kalabanté Productions and prepare for an unforgettable journey.

### **About Cirque Kalabanté**

Kalabanté Productions was created by Yamoussa Bangoura, a multidisciplinary artist of Guinean origin. Yamoussa's dream was the founding of a school of circus arts, and to direct his own multidisciplinary company specializing in the African arts.

Yamoussa first became interested in the Circus Arts as a young man growing up in Conakry Guinea in the 1990's. He studied the circus performers he saw on European TV and practiced on the beach and dirt around his home. He also studied the Nyamakala tradition of circus, practiced by the Fula people of West Africa. He eventually joined Guinea's original circus company, Circus Baobab, with whom he toured Africa and Europe.

In the early 2000's, Yamoussa was recruited to come to Canada with Cirque Eloize, a Montreal-based Canadian cirque company. While in Canada, he also performed with Cirque du Soleil and Cavalia (cirque with horses). In 2007, Yamoussa realized his dream and opened his own company, Kalabanté Productions, in Montreal, Canada. He recruited many of his extended family members to join the company, including his twin sisters, brothers, and cousins.

The company began doing shows in Quebec, and over the years expanded to all of Canada, the U.S., and now performs all over the world. In 2018, Kalabanté opened their own studio and school in Montreal, where they offer classes in African dance, cirque, and drumming.

Kalabanté Productions is proud to be able to share their work, achievements, and skills to inspire others and to assist with the humanitarian mission to help the Guinean community from which Yamoussa and many of his company members come.