



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Julianna Raimondo
juliannar@danceplace.org
202.269.1600

KanKouran West African Dance Company presents their 40th Anniversary performance; Niou Bolo Moyo Dolle: The Power of Coming Together

WHAT: [KanKouran West African Dance Company](#)

WHEN: Saturday, January 13th at 7:00pm and Sunday, January 14th at 4:00pm

WHERE: Dance Place Cafritz Foundation Theater 3225 8th Street NE Washington, DC 20017

TICKETS: \$30 - General Admission, \$25 - Seniors (60 and over), \$20 - Artists and College Students, \$10 - Teens & Kids (17 and under)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – KanKouran West African Dance Company’s 40th Anniversary performance, *Niou Bolo Moyo Dolle: The Power of Coming Together*, will be an exciting journey through 40 years of presenting and preserving traditional West African Dance in the U.S. The performance will feature KanKouran’s Senior Company dancers and drummers, their Juniors, the Children’s company, as well as their community class performers.

Learn more and connect with KanKouran West African Dance Company by heading to their [website](#).

This performance is supported by the Dance Place Co-Presentation Series.

Accessibility Services Offered:

- ASL Interpretation
- Large print programs
- Accessible seating
- Accessible restrooms

About the Director/Founder

Assane Konte, a national of Senegal, West Africa, is one of the original founders of KanKouran West African Dance Company. Since the beginning, he has served as the company’s Artistic Director, choreographer, and costume designer. Assane began his dance training at age 12. His career as a professional dancer began at age 15 with “Ballet Africaine de Diebel Guee” of Dakar, Senegal. During his ten years with the company, he electrified audiences with his highly energetic performances, while simultaneously developing his own unique movement style. **KanKouran West African Dance Company** was formed in 1983, in Washington, D.C., by

Artistic Director Assane Konte and former Director of Music, Abdou Kounta, who grew up together in Dakar, Senegal. After many months of recruiting, training and performing at local venues, KanKouran presented its first full-length concert, "A Visit to Africa," in 1985. With that performance, an institution was born. Forty years later, KanKouran is still actively engaged in carrying out its mission and continues to remain committed to artistic excellence in all of its performances, presentations, classes, workshops, residencies, and outreach efforts. Many dancers and drummers have come and gone over the years, and KanKouran's reputation as the premier West African Dance Company rests on the shoulders of all those who have given their time, sweat, energy, and support to this organization.

KanKouran is home to three performing companies: the Senior Company (adults), Junior Company (teens), and Children's company. Weekly classes for adults and children have been a key component to furthering the company's mission and establishing an appreciation for African performing arts in the United States. KanKouran's annual National African dance conference is the largest, longest-running event of its kind in the U.S. The company has also worked extensively to bring African dance and drum to children of all ages through various in-school and extra-curricular programs. As we celebrate 40 years of commitment and service to the community, we are excited to continue our work going forward, utilizing the "Power of Working Together" as our foundation for success and longevity.

[About Dance Place](#)

Rooted in the United States capital, Washington D.C., Dance Place supports movement artists by creating opportunities for creative development, performance, and education. By investing deeply in artists and centering those who have been systemically excluded from such opportunities, we strengthen the dance field.

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