

KANKOURAN

WEST AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT: Dance and Drum Conference (African Dance/World Music)

WHO: KanKouran West African Dance Company presents its
35th Annual National African Dance & Drum Conference: THE SPIRIT LIVES ON!

WHEN/WHERE:

Conference Friday, August 31 - Sunday, September 2, 2018
Conference Site Hilton Garden Inn, 1225 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
Concert Saturday, September 1st, 2018, 8pm
George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium
730 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC

KANKOURAN'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KICKS OFF DC'S AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Washington, DC – Internationally renowned KanKouran West African Dance Company celebrates 35 years of sharing the dance and music of West Africa with American audiences with its 35th Annual National African Dance and Drum Conference: THE SPIRIT LIVES ON! Friday, August 31 - Sunday, September 2, 2018. This Labor Day weekend event also kicks off Washington, DC's African Heritage Month.

With the calling from the drums, KanKouran's *Annual African dance and drum conference* ushers in a NATIONAL CONVERGENCE of West Africa's finest dancers and musicians. Hundreds of professional artists, dance companies, youth organizations, and dance/drum enthusiasts come from the United States, Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, and Africa to partake in three days of dancing and drumming instruction from the best trainers available. More than 20 workshop presenters from the U.S., Senegal, Guinea, Mali, the Congo, and Liberia are set to teach techniques perfected through years of experience, study, and research. **Conference workshops** cater to a variety of dance styles and levels. Instructors are prepared to work with beginners as well as advanced participants. Washington's premier end-of-summer fitness workout promises to help participants feel mentally, physically, and spiritually energized.

This year's **concert** production, *The Spirit Lives On*, will celebrate KanKouran's 35 years of outstanding educational and cultural programming for local, national and international audiences, and fulfilling its mission to preserve and promote traditional West African culture by providing quality entertainment and educational programs to local and national audiences in an effort to facilitate cross-cultural enrichment. Through his meticulous and careful choreography, Assane Konte, KanKouran's Co-founder and Artistic Director, will present a splendid array of celebratory dances that will feature KanKouran's Senior, Junior and Children's Companies and the Adult Community Dance Class.

Founded in 1983, KanKouran is a nonprofit, performing arts organization that has been serving the Washington, D.C. community and national audiences for more than 35 years. *KanKouran is supported in part by:* the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Mayor's Office on African Affairs, George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium, Howard University Department of Theatre Arts-Dance and Howard University Television (WHUT)-media sponsor.

For more information visit www.kankouran.org

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