

KANKOURA N

WEST AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY

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Contact: Eurica or Ali: (202) 518-1213

WHAT: KanKouran's 36th Annual Dance and Drum Conference!
Circle of Praise: Blessings! - A Celebration of the Legacy and Artistry of Dance Legend Dr. Sherrill Berryman-Johnson (African Dance/World Music)

WHO: KanKouran West African Dance Company

WHEN/WHERE:

Conference Friday, August 30 - Sunday, September 1, 2019
Conference Site Hilton Garden Inn, 1225 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
Concert Saturday, August 31, 2019, 8pm
George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium
730 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC

KANKOURAN'S 36TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION KICKS OFF DC'S AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH!!!!

Washington, DC - Internationally renowned KanKouran West African Dance Company celebrates 36 years of sharing the dance and music of West Africa with American audiences with its 36th Annual National African Dance and Drum Conference: *Circle of Praise: Blessings!*, Friday, August 30 - Sunday, September 1, 2019. 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 and physically energized.

This year's concert production is a celebration of the life of Dr. Sherrill Berryman-Johnson (December 5, 1947 – March 24, 2010), a teacher, choreographer, Fulbright scholar, and critical writer on culture, dance, and other social issues. Her profound respect and understanding of African culture, her integrity, and persistence for perfection in the art of dance remains unparalleled. Through his meticulous and careful choreography, Assane Konte, KanKouran's 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.

For more information visit www.kankouran.org



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