CaL PERFORMances



# Program Book



Saturday, November 28, 2026, 2pm
Sunday, November 29, 2026, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

# Cirque Kalabanté
# *WOW (World of Words)*

*This performance will be performed without intermission and last approximately 70 minutes.*

*Cal Performances is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all—one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect. Please see the Community Agreements section on our Policies page for more information.*

Get ready for a vibrant stage experience that transcends language itself! WOW (World of Words) is more than a show—it's an encounter, a bridge between two worlds.

Imagine a stage where ancestral African wisdom captivates the audience. Separated by a symbolic line, one group shares its wisdom through powerful storytelling, hypnotic songs, and ritual initiation, while the other receives and learns—sometimes with fear, sometimes in resistance.



Yamoussa Bangoura

The exchange begins with the obstacle of spoken language, a barrier quickly overtaken by the universal force of gesture, rhythm, and sound. The set and its ropes become a language of their own: double Dutch skipping, bungee straps, and rope-based contortion become pathways of communication, pulsing with dialogue. Three guiding figures—Trust, Respect, and Wisdom—lead the journey.

Through acrobatic contact and moments of mutual support, the dividing line fades. Bodies merge, blending tradition with contemporary movement. The finale erupts into a choreography of unity and collective awakening: the journey itself becomes a revelation.

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

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

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

The company began presenting shows in Quebec, and over the years has expanded its activities to include productions throughout all of Canada, the US, and elsewhere. In 2018, Kalabante opened its own studio and school in Montreal, where the artists offer classes in African dance, circus arts, and drumming.

Kalabante Productions is proud to share its work, achievements, and skills; to inspire others; and to contribute to the humanitarian mission to help the Guinean community from which Bangoura and many of his company members come.