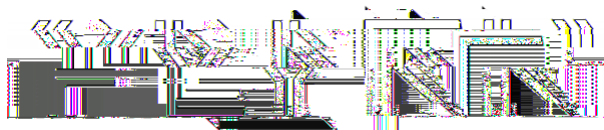


Cirque Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque



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About Cirque Kalabanté

-Yamoussa Bangoura

Kalabanté Productions formed in 2007 under the leadership of multidisciplinary artist Yamoussa Bangoura. The word means “go-getter, ambitious child, with exceptional courage” in Soussou, one of the national languages of the West African country of Guinea, where Bangoura grew up. As a young person, Bangoura was fascinated by the circus performers he would see on TV, and practiced those skills on the beach and around his home. At the age of ten he joined Guinea’s first circus company, Circus Baobab, touring with the company throughout Africa and Europe. In the early 2000s a Montreal-

You'll see acrobats perform acts of contortionism, a physical movement practice which involves the dramatic bending and flexing of the human body. Contortion is often part of acrobatics and circus acts. In general, contortionists have a certain degree of unusual natural flexibility, which is enhanced through years of gymnastic training and physical discipline. **You'll also see acrobats create incredible gravity-defying human pyramids!**

Reflection Questions:

Before the Show:

Have you ever been to a theater before? What are some ways an audience is expected to behave in a theater that are different from how you behave in other places you go for entertainment, like a movie theater?

When you think about West Africa, what comes to mind?

When you think about circus, what do you picture? What kinds of tricks or skills do you think you might see in a circus?

After the Show:

Resources:

[Teaser Trailer: Afrique en Cirque](#)

[Kalabanté Productions: Mission and History](#)

[Documentary: Circus Without Borders](#)

[Fula Fare: A Dance and Rhythm of the Nomadic People of Guinea, West Africa](#)

[Moribayassa Dance](#)

[Video: Circus Baobab Performs “The Legend of the Drumming Monkey”](#)

[Yamoussa Bangoura Playing the Kora](#)