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**Agbedidi Brings together Tradition African and Contemporary Dance
Styles to UF Dec. 2-4**

Gainesville, Fla., Nov. 15, 2016 – The University of Florida (UF) School of Theatre + Dance (SoTD) invites patrons of all ages to *Agbedidi*, SoTD's annual dance experience that merges both African and modern dance styles into one incredible performance. Performances will take place in the Constans Theatre located in the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion on UF's campus Dec. 2-4, 2016. This year's production is co-directed by SoTD faculty members Mohamed DaCosta and Trent D. Williams, Jr, and will feature original compositions by Williams and DaCosta as well as traditional West African dances staged by DaCosta and special guest choreographer, Nafi Diabate. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2-3 and at 2 p.m. Dec. 4.

This year, DaCosta continues to honor Godwin Agbeli, whose last name means "there is life" to promote the life of African-influenced performance around the world. This year marks the 22nd anniversary production and will include performances of traditional West African and modern dance, as well as a collaboration fusing the two styles.



"The theme of the show this year is all about a journey," DaCosta said. "The audience will see the journey of people from Africa crossing the Mediterranean Sea to get to Europe."

The show will feature original choreography by DaCosta and Williams, along with a piece from SoTD's MOD group, directed by Williams. In addition the show will also feature choreography from guest artist, Nafi Diabate. Other components of the performance include readings from *God's Trombones* by James Weldon Johnson, performed by SoTD Professor Dr. Mikell Pinkney and a solo dance piece performed by Williams.

The School of Theatre + Dance's production of *Agbedidi* is supported by UF's College of the Arts, Center for African Studies, Center for World Arts and School of Music.

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School of THEATRE + DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Tickets for the UF production are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for UF faculty/staff and seniors, and \$13 for students. Season and group prices are also available. Tickets are available through the University Box Office located at Gate 3 of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Gale Lemerand Drive (next to the Heisman statues), by calling 352-392-1653 or at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). The University Box Office is open Tuesdays through Fridays 12-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the Constans Theatre Box Office starting 45 minutes prior to the performance.

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located at 687 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611. On-campus parking is available at the Reitz Union garage and the Museum Road parking lot. Guests are strongly encouraged to pick up tickets early, as shows run the risk of being sold out.

About the School of Theatre + Dance

The School of Theatre + Dance is one of the University of Florida College of the Arts' institutionally-accredited schools. Undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting, dance, musical theatre, theatre production—including costume design, lighting design and scenic design—or a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance studies or general theatre. Minors are also offered in dance and theatre as well as certificates in arts in medicine and dance in healthcare. Student organizations, showcase programs and other intensives provide students with invaluable professional experiences. UF is home to three School of Theatre + Dance performance venues, including the Constans Theatre, Black Box Theatre and G-6 Studio. To learn more about the School of Theatre + Dance, including upcoming performance dates and ticket information, visit www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance.

About the College of the Arts

The College of the Arts is one of the 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. The College of the Arts offers baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degree programs in its three institutionally-accredited schools — the School of Art + Art History, School of Music and School of Theatre + Dance. The college is home to the Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for Arts and Public Policy, Center for World Arts, Digital Worlds Institute, University Galleries and the New World School of the Arts in Miami. More than 100 faculty members and approximately than 1,200 students work together daily to engage, inspire and create. The college hosts more than 300 performances, exhibitions and events each year. Faculty and students also exhibit and perform at other local, national and international venues. To learn more, visit www.arts.ufl.edu.

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