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**Agbedidi Celebrates the Merging of African and Contemporary Styles of Dance at
UF School of Theatre + Dance Dec. 1-3**

Gainesville, Fla., November 17, 2017— The University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance invites you to come see *Agbedidi*, a high-energy production that bridges the genres of African and Contemporary dance styles into one incredibly diverse production. Performances will take place in the Constans Theatre located in the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion on UF's campus for one weekend, Dec. 1-3, 2017.

Lecturer Mohamed DaCosta and Assistant Professor Trent D. Williams, Jr. are co-directing the production once more this year, and each will present new compositions to the greater Gainesville area. This year will also feature traditional African dances staged by special guest choreographer Moustapha Bangoura, a world-acclaimed dancer and choreographer from Guinea in West Africa.

This year marks the 23rd anniversary production of *Agbedidi* by the UF School of Theatre + Dance and will maintain performances of traditional African and modern dance.

"The show will feature various dances like 'Gumbe,' a dance when the moon is at its fullest performed for celebration and welcoming, while 'Baho' is a sacred dance presented to nature by people of the forest," DaCosta said.

In addition to the African pieces, the show will also feature an all-male ensemble work by Williams that explores the grittiness of police brutality that occurs in our culture. UF School of Theatre + Dance's MOD group, directed by Williams, will debut a work that is unlike anything they have done previously. Williams described the piece as slow, legato, and quiet.

"It's unlike anything I've set on the students before and it will add another layer to the show," Williams said.

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School of THEATRE + DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Tickets are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for seniors, \$15 for UF faculty and staff and \$13 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the University Box Office, located at Gate 1 of the Stephen C. O'Connell Center. The University Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at (352) 392-1653 or by email at scoc-info@ufl.edu. Tickets will also be available 45 minutes prior to every performance and can also be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com. Group rates are available for parties of eight or more.

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located on the UF campus at 1800 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32603. Parking is available across the street from the UF Bookstore & Welcome Center located on Museum Road.

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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