

Sankofa to present workshops at Alfred University

10/14/05

Starting Wednesday, Oct. 19, the halls of Alfred University will resound with the rhythms of African drumming and dance. Veteran musicians Clyde Morgan and Khalid Saleem will present four world music and dance classes over three days in the Miller Performing Arts Center. Morgan and Saleem are longtime directors of the Sankofa Dance and Drum Ensemble at the State University of New York at Brockport with a combined 35 years of experience in music and dance education. This one-of-a-kind educational experience will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 1 pm with a combined world music and dance class in Miller, room 300. No experience or instruments are necessary to participate. On Thursday, Oct. 20, an African dance class will be presented at 11:20 am in Miller, room 300. At 2:20 pm that afternoon, Morgan and Saleem will lead a world music class in Miller, room 301. (The Performing Arts Division requests that interested students bring their own instruments to this class.) The residency concludes on Friday, Oct. 21, with an open master class at noon in Miller, room 300. The Sankofa Dance and Drum Ensemble at SUNY Brockport is one of the oldest African dance ensembles in the United States. For over 20 years, Sankofa has presented dance and theater works expressing the dynamic presence of African culture in America. Their presentations include both replicas of traditional African prototypes and re-creations employing contemporary themes and movement motifs. Clyde Alafiju Morgan is an associate professor of African Dance at SUNY Brockport and is also Sankofa's artistic director. A graduate of Cleveland State University, Morgan performed in New York with the likes of Louis Falco and Pearl Lang before becoming a choreographer. He is a recipient of a Fulbright Professorship and has been selected as one of "SUNY's Best" on two occasions. Khalid Abdul N'Faly Saleem is Sankofa's music director. A former instructor at Duke University, Saleem has performed on five continents as an instrumentalist with such groups as The Egwen Dancers, The Big Drum Dance Company of Granada, and Les Guidivoir. He is also a former faculty member of the prestigious American Dance Festival.