

## **West African dance/music troupe to perform at Miller Theater**

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An award-winning dance and music group from Ghana, West Africa, will take to the Miller Theater stage at Alfred University on Friday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. The performance is open to students, faculty, staff, and the community free of charge. Led by master musician Bernard Woma, the Saakumu Dance Troupe is dedicated to introducing audiences to traditional and contemporary African dance and music. Their repertoire includes a range of spiritual, ceremonial, recreational, and contemporary African dance forms accompanied by traditional instruments such as the African xylophone, calabash water drums, and the praise singing (talking drums) of the Akan and Dagbamba people of Ghana. Saakumu means traditions, and as the name implies, the company bases its aesthetic on traditional styles combined with contemporary forms, creating a repertoire uniquely its own. They are an artist-founded association driven by a passion to bring innovative dances and world music to their audiences. The group has performed at several governmental functions and at international music and dance festivals throughout West Africa. This year, the Saakumu Dance Troupe has been designated the official performing group at the National Festival of Art and Culture, the largest cultural festival in Ghana.