



The Thioossane West African Dance Institute will be in concert on May 25th and 26th at the Lincoln Theatre. The Institute's Creative Director, Suzan Bradford Kounta will debut, the ballet, *The Master's Drummer*, which tells a story of conflict resolved by traditional values through acting, music and dance. Thioossane will present this through the narrative of playwright and actor, Noble Nkosi, "The creative process has provided total input from all members and has allow hidden talents to immerse and shine, what a wonderful display of generational, family friendly art making" says Noble Nkosi. The ballet will feature colorful dialogue, fiery drumming and rich dancing

The second half of the show, the company will debut combined new works, in another effort to continue Kounta's quest to display cultural similarities rather than differences. An internal collective was developed to share the common denominator of belief and prayer, titled "Circle of Prayer." The opening piece will be a liturgical dance, bridging into the finale' *Djinafolo*, a traditional dance that celebrates one's spirit. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m, both nights.

The Lincoln Theatre will also be the site for Thioossane's annual dance conference. There will be traditional West African dance and music classes taught by master instructors from Africa on May 26th and 27th. All are welcome to participate regardless of dance level and experience.

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