



# WOW

## World of words





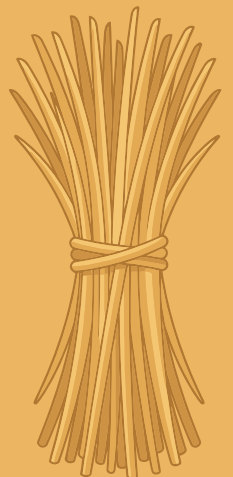
Hello, dear \_\_\_\_\_ !

Welcome to this very special booklet — your travel guide to an incredible universe of circus, music, dance and words!

You are about to discover the show WOW, World of Words, by Kalabanté Productions, a show production company in Montreal whose creations are a fusion of Guinean culture and international contemporary circus. Get ready to be amazed, to laugh, to dream and to learn things you didn't know yet!



This booklet is yours. Fill it in however you like, write your real thoughts, draw, color, cross things out if you want! There are no wrong answers here — only great ideas.





**WOW: World of Words** is a unique circus show that blends spectacular acrobatics, singing, dance, double dutch jump rope, balloons, contortion, and sometimes even hoop and aerial straps.

The central theme of the show is the power of words, meaning how knowledge is passed down from one generation to the next, verbally, in West Africa.

It also demonstrates that as artists, **words can take thousands of forms**: an acrobatic leap, a beat of the djembe, a pirouette, a song that soars! WOW is also a show that represents inequity and division. But the storyline is positive! It conveys, through its evolution, **the importance of coming together, helping one another and listening to each other.**



"If you ask me what I like about acrobatics, I would answer that I love the challenge. I love finding myself facing something that seems impossible and thinking: I'm going to keep trying until I make it.

Acrobatics requires courage, above all discipline, because no one can become a good acrobat by only working when they feel like it. You have to train, rehearse, fall, start over and respect your body."

-Sory Kourouma, acrobat

Performing in WOW warms my heart at every show. I am part of a troupe that shares its culture and values with the greatest generosity, and it is an honor to be able to pass on knowledge through our art with every audience. I may look quite different from the outside, but we all have our hearts in the same place, beating in unison.

-Alexie Laverdière, aerial artist

It saddens me to see the world so divided. I am convinced that with W.O.W, people will reach out to one another. This show brings us together, no matter where you come from, and that is true diversity: the kind that is born from a deep love of the circus arts. Let us accept living together, with respect.

-Yamoussa Bangoura, director.



## The griot — the voice of memory

The griot (also called yéli in Susu\*\*) is a key figure in West African culture. They are at once a musician, a historian, a storyteller, a genealogist and a messenger. The griot memorizes the history of their community and passes it on orally, from generation to generation, through songs, stories and music.

\*\*Susu is one of the languages of Guinea, spoken by most of the artists on stage in WOW



Who in your family or circle tells you stories?  
What is your favorite story that someone has told  
you?

What story, tradition or recipe has your family  
passed down to you? Was it told to you orally  
or did you read it somewhere?



Now is the time to capture your memories, impressions and emotions before they slip away...



Which acrobatic move, scene or moment impressed you the most? Why?

How did the artists communicate without saying a single word?

What did you feel during the show?

If you were an artist in WOW, what would your discipline be? Why did you choose that one?

