**OKAIDJA AFROSO TO TOUR 6 STATES WITH ARTS MIDWEST**
Residencies and Concerts Aim to Foster Culture Exchange in Small Communities

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN:** Since 2003, Arts Midwest World Fest has been offering small Midwest communities once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to learn about the world from musicians inside and outside the US. This October and April, World Fest continues with a six-state tour featuring Ghanaian musician Okaidja Afroso.

Okaidja Afroso follows his family’s tradition of storytelling by creating genre-defying music that calls back to his upbringing in a village on the western coast of Ghana. His music speaks to a spectrum of experiences deeply connected to the traditions of the African diaspora. He is devoted to bringing together diverse modes of expression in pursuit of global harmony through his signature performances that blend percussion and dance.

Over the course of two visits to the Midwest, Okaidja Afroso will tour through Virginia, MN; Minot, ND; Custer and Hot Springs, SD; Portsmouth, OH; Sullivan, IN; and Albion, MI. He will perform concerts and participate in residency events embedded in each community.

**Watch: Okaidja Afroso Promotional Video**

https://youtu.be/cLgIDApisDo

**Download Okaidja Afroso Press Kit**

<https://www.artsmidwest.org/programs/worldfest/presskit>

“This tour gives us the rare opportunity to connect with Midwestern communities,” said **Okaidja Afroso**. “We are delighted to meet with them to promote global cultural awareness through Ghanaian music, dance, stories, live performances, and educational outreach.”

"We’re so excited to finally get to make Okaidja’s World Fest tour happen,” said **Torrie Allen**, President & CEO of Arts Midwest. “His musicianship will provide such a unique opportunity for our Midwestern community to experience the art of the African Diaspora through his concerts and workshops across our region."

Residency Schedule

**October 2 – 8, 2022: Virginia, Minnesota**

Presented by [Lyric Center for the Arts](https://www.lyriccenteronline.org/)

**October 9 – 15, 2022: Minot, North Dakota**

Presented by [Minot Area Council of the Arts](https://minotarts.org/)

**October 16 – 22, 2022: Custer, South Dakota and Hot Springs, South Dakota**

Presented by [Custer Area Arts Council](https://www.custerareaarts.com/) and [Chautauqua Craftsmen & Artisans of the Black Hills](https://www.chautauquablackhills.org/)

**April 9 – 15, 2023: Portsmouth, Ohio**

Presented by [Vern Riffe Center for the Arts](https://vrcfa.com/)

**April 16 – 22, 2023: Sullivan, Indiana**

Presented by [City of Sullivan](https://www.cityofsullivan.org/)

**April 23 – 29, 2023: Albion, Michigan**

Presented by [Bohm Theatre](https://bohmtheatre.org/)

A program of Arts Midwest, the 2022 World Fest artist tours are generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. World Fest is also made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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Arts Midwest believes that creativity has the power to inspire and unite humanity. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest grows, gathers, and invests in creative organizations and communities throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six nonprofit United States Regional Arts Organizations, Arts Midwest’s history spans 35 years. For more information, visit artsmidwest.org.