

Papa Diarra Zumana is from the Bobo people of Burkina Faso and is a descendant of a long line of African Griots. Prior to moving to the United States, he was the principal djembe and balafon (African Xylophone) player in Ballet Djolem and Lakimado, world renowned Ivory Coast drum and dance companies. With both companies, he toured Europe, South America and West Africa and received many awards including the first rank of the competition of dances at the 3rd Francophonie Olympics in Madagascar, Le Prix de le Meilleure Troupe and Le Prix de Festival National de la Creativite. Since moving to the states in 1999, Papa has enjoyed teaching residencies with Columbia University and the Brooklyn Arts Council. He has also toured and performed with Sogbety and Vado Diomande, Feraba African Rhythm Tap Company, Fatien Ensemble, Hermano Vasquez Mexican Circus, Kotchegna Dance Company, and Gboze Drummers, to name a few. In addition, Papa spent 7 years performing at Disney World's Animal Kingdom as well as Universal Orlando Citiwalk. Papa moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2014 and is currently performing at private parties and events, teaching, and composing music for a wide variety of African Drum and Dance Ensembles.