Call for Papers:
Georgia College Department of Theatre and Dance Symposium
Transformational Arts
“Performance of the African Diaspora as Social Change”
Keynote Presenter: Pearl Cleage
Artist in Residency: Ayikodans of Haiti

DATES: April 7-11, 2016
LOCATION: Georgia College, Milledgeville GA

The Department of Theatre and Dance at Georgia College is seeking panel/roundtable proposals, papers, workshops and presentations from scholars and professionals based on the theme, “African Diasporic Performance as Social Change.” Presentation topics that focus on a particular part or culture of the African Diaspora are encouraged and topics can include but are not limited to:

- Theatre/Dance/Music of the African Diaspora as resistance
- Theatre of the African Diaspora as Social Change
- The history of cultural, spiritual and religious expression of the diaspora as performing art, survival, social change, etc.
- The history of protest in performance of the African Diaspora
- The idea of all African Diasporic performance as social change, anti-oppression etc.
- New practices in African Diasporic performance
- Pedagogy and curricula
- Contemporary approaches and the presence of the African descendant in contemporary performance
- New works (Development, presentations, readings)
- Community centered production and performance as social change

Submission info:
Applicants should submit abstracts and panel proposals (250 words or less) no later than Wednesday, November 28, 2015.

Presentation and workshop applications must include the applicant’s name, professional affiliation, status, postal address, email address, phone number, presentation format (workshop, lecture, performance etc.), the title of the session and a description of the presentation or workshop.

Paper proposals should include a 200-250 word abstract with paper title, author’s name, institutional affiliation, status, postal address, email and phone number at the top of the page.

Panel proposals should include a copy of each panellist’s 200-250 word abstract with paper title, author’s name, institutional affiliation, status, postal address, and email and phone number at the top of the page and a succinct, 50 word rationale for the grouping of the papers.

All submissions should include specific technology needs for your presentation.

Proposals and questions regarding the symposium should be directed to Conference Chair, Professor Kristi Papailler, Acting, Directing and Theatre for Social Change faculty, Department of Theatre and Dance, Georgia College at ivakristi.papailler@gcsu.edu.
ABOUT KEYNOTE PRESENTER PEARL CLEAGE:

An award winning playwright, bestselling novelist, published poet and popular newspaper columnist, Pearl Cleage has earned praise from critics and from her peers for her passionate writing across several genres. An incredibly multi-faceted talent, Cleage offers a fresh perspective on the universal themes of cultural enrichment, social identity and the power of love. With the rhythms of Black life as her muse, she focuses on the experiences of love, sex and female empowerment that she sees as vital to the African American community. As the New York Times said: “Cleage writes with amazing grace and killer instinct.”

Cleage has a way with both character and language. Widely regarded for her collection of plays, her play *Flyin’ West* was the most produced new play in the country in 1994 and has enjoyed multiple productions every year following its world premiere. She is also the author of many best-selling books, including *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, *Seen It All and Done the Rest* and *Just Wanna Testify*. Most recently, Cleage published her memoir, *Things I Should Have Told My Daughter: Lies Lessons and Love Affairs*, giving readers an insight into her world and personal journey.

An important advocate for women, Pearl’s work speaks to women from all walks of life. Her poem, “We Speak Your Names,” co-authored with husband, Zaron W. Burnett, Jr., provided the centerpiece of Oprah Winfrey’s Legends Weekend honoring 25 extraordinary African American women. At Cleage’s invitation, this “praise poem” has frequently been adapted for sisterhood celebrations across the country. Cleage’s 1990 collection of essays and performance pieces *Mad at Miles: A Black Woman’s Guide to Truth*, is a classic among those working to end violence against women. Making the personal unapologetically political by sharing her own experience of domestic violence, Cleage issues a passionate call for community wide, gender integrated responses to a problem too often hidden in the shadows or relegated to simply a “women’s issue.” *Mad at Miles* has been adapted for the stage and is frequently performed around the country.

With a quiet, straightforward tone, Cleage speaks honesty and with creativity, blending truth and humor to fully charm audiences. Cleage connects with audiences of all kinds, bringing her powerful and inspirational energy to each of her artful presentations. Conveying a deep
understanding of the grace and perils of the human condition, she endlessly strives to get to what the real truths are in life and shares how we can all live them to the fullest.

ABOUT ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE JEAN GUY SAINTUS AND AYIKODANS:

JEAN GUY SAINTUS:

Dance is a way of life for Jeanguy SAINTUS. As the founder of Ayikodans, he has continuously pushed the limits of modern dance over the past decades. In 25 years of passionate research he has mastered a cross cultural body language that speaks with the power of remote times and places.

To expand the local pool for dance, Saintus founded Artcho Danse a dance center and training program for children and adults in Port-au-Prince. He also provides a scholarship program called Dansepyenu (Dance Barefoot) for talented young dancers unable to afford tuition. Saintus organizes cultural exchanges by inviting guest artists from around the world to teach at Artcho Danse, and takes his unique technique globally by teaching master classes.

AYIKODANS:

The Ayikodans have been hailed as the premiere professional dance company of Haiti, and with good reason. The award-winning, internationally acclaimed company presents a new, contemporary Haitian aesthetic that is rooted in tradition while reflecting a modern Caribbean culture. Through riveting, dynamic performances, the group challenges assumptions about disaster and poverty while leading audiences in an exploration of cross cultural movement styles and dialogue. Founded by internationally renowned Haitian born choreographer, dancer, and educator Jeanguy Saintus Riché, Ayikodans company members have danced on stages throughout Latin America, Europe, the United States, and Asia.

For more information, visit www.ayikodans.com