



Kampala International Theatre Festival 2014 Catalogue

KAMPALA
INTERNATIONAL
THEATRE FESTIVAL
2014

26th - 30th November 2014
National Theatre
Kampala, Uganda

WELCOME

By Festival Co-Directors

It's a pleasure to welcome you all to this very first Kampala International Theatre Festival!

This is a very special moment for us: not only are we kick-starting a new festival specifically dedicated to the arts discipline of theatre; we're also celebrating a good decade of presence of Sundance Institute in East Africa.

During the past 13 years, Sundance Institute, through its Theatre Program, has invested in exposure and exchange activities with artists from East Africa. With our traditions of storytelling, rituals and folklore, this festival promises a space where theatre artist can share with audiences contemporary and new forms of theatre, among others.

By offering a dedicated platform to upcoming talents in the theatre industry to showcase their work, we hope that the Kampala International Theatre Festival will contribute to the further development of theatre, in all its forms, in the region. With this special theatre festival, we reckon that Kampala will become an important hub of theatre creativity and creation.

Over the course of the 5 days of the first festival edition, you can discover eight original productions by some of the best upcoming and established playwrights from East Africa, enjoy a guest performance from South Africa and join for some interesting and important discussions.

We're excited about this very first edition and we're thrilled to work with the many amazing playwrights and performers. We invite you, theatre lovers and curious audience member that are in for a surprise to join us in our excitement!

We thank our supporters, artists, staff and volunteers for their unwavering dedication to make this first edition happen. We're grateful to Sundance Institute for being a lead partner in this venture, to Alliance Francaise Kampala, USA for Africa, the Norwegian Embassy in Uganda and DOEN Foundation for their additional contributions, to the Uganda National Cultural Centre for hosting this festival, and to Proggie.Ug, Guide2Uganda and The Pearl Magazine for their publicity efforts.

Let the journey begin!



Deborah Asiimwe
Sundance Institute East Africa



Faisal Kiwewa
Bayimba Cultural Foundation

Shot from rehearsals of Maria Kizito in New Orleans (screening at KITF2014)



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KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL 2014

PROGRAMME #KITF2014

DATE	PRODUCTION	SPACE	TIME
26th November	Opening Cocktail	Theatre Foyer	4:00-4:45pm
	Ster City (South Africa)	Main Auditorium	5:00-6:30pm
27th November	Desperate to Fight (Ethiopia)	Round Hut	6:30-7:40pm
	Cocktail Party for Sundance	Tbc	8:00-9:30pm
	Alumni and Bayimba Staff		
28th November	Radio Play (Rwanda)	Main auditorium	2:00-3:30pm
	Black Maria (Kenya)	Green room	2:00-3:00pm
	Strings (Uganda)	Main auditorium	4:00-5:00pm
	Wimbo Wa Nyonga (Tanzania)	Green room	4:00-4:30pm
	Desperate to Fight (Ethiopia)	Round Hut	8:00-9:10pm
29th November	Dechirement (Burundi)	Main auditorium	2:00-3:30pm
	DJ Lwanda (Kenya)	CICP	2:00-2:40pm
	Africa Kills Her Sun (Tanzania)	Main auditorium	6:00-6:50pm
	Black Maria (Kenya)	Green room	6:00-7:00pm
	Desperate to Fight (Ethiopia)	Round Hut	8:00-9:00pm
	Strings (Uganda)	Main auditorium	8:00-9:30pm
	Wimbo Wa Nyonga (Tanzania)	Green room	9:00-9:40pm
30th November	Guest Lunch	Tbc	12:00-1:00pm
	Desperate to Fight (Ethiopia)	Round Hut	2:00-3:10pm
	Africa Kills Her Sun (Tanzania)	Main auditorium	2:00-2:40pm
	Screening of Maria Kizito (UG/USA)	CICP	4:00-5:00pm
	Radio play (Rwanda)	Main auditorium	6:00-7:30pm
	DJ Lwanda (Kenya)	CICP	7:00-7:40pm
	Desperate to Fight (Ethiopia)	Round Hut	8:00-9:10pm
	Dechirement (Burundi)	Main auditorium	9:00-10:30pm
	Closing event	Dance Floor	10:40pm-12:00

CHRISTOPHER HIBMA

Producing Director, Sundance Institute Theatre Program

Tubasanyukidde!

"It is a good thing to place different civilizations in contact with each other; that whatever its own particular genius may be, a civilization that withdraws into itself atrophies; that for civilizations, exchange is oxygen."

-Aimé Césaire, African poet & political theorist

"Exchange is oxygen". That elemental concept has been the foundation for Sundance Institute's support for East African theatre-makers since 2002. It has been our distinct joy to partner with hundreds of East African artists over the last 13 years. And this inaugural Kampala International Theatre Festival (KITF) is a celebration of these relationships. Friendships and collaborations have been nurtured annually in various locales around the world, and our gathering here in Uganda, at this very special moment, is a profound reflection of the power of theatre.

The productions and readings that you will experience this weekend have had the benefit of time and space; away from the hustle and bustle of the city, with vibrant communities of artists, over a period of years. Deep, long term, meaningful engagement. It takes a long time to make a great piece of theatre. All of the artists that you will meet here at KITF have committed themselves to the joy of exploration and discovery.

In 2010, as we prepared to welcome East African artists to our first Theatre Lab on the island of Manda off the coast of Kenya, Philip Himberg (Artistic Director, Sundance Institute Theatre Program) wrote this in our Lab Book:

"There are things we know and much we have yet to discover. Over the last 30 years, the Sundance Institute Theatre Lab has crafted a flexible method of supporting new theatrical forms and storytelling. We know that artists deserve and need a place to retreat, away from their busy and oftentimes urban lives. And we know that

"EXCHANGE IS OXYGEN"

bringing together talented and courageous theatre artists makes for a creative community that oftentimes explodes with discovery, opens our hearts, and allows us to dig deeper than we thought we could as we explore text, music, movement, and in what we wish to say to the world. I am honoured, humbled, and excited to be among you, to create a space for exposing my heart and my mind to you, and to hopefully create a community for three weeks that will surely have resonances for years to come."

And I am truly honoured, humbled and excited to be present at the first-ever Kampala International Theatre Festival. I am thrilled that our colleagues at Bayimba Cultural Foundation continue to push the boundaries of art that is offered in this community. We are grateful for their partnership in this endeavour. I would be remiss without recognizing the contributions of other key people. I first thank the alumni of Sundance's East Africa initiative, many of whom you will meet this weekend. Their imagination and creativity continues to have resonance both here in East Africa and around the world. Second, I wish to thank Roberta Levitow, who along with Philip and me, has worked tirelessly on behalf of the East African theatre community for over a dozen years. Her passion for intercultural exchange has inspired us all. Next, I acknowledge the spirit and heart of Deborah Asiimwe, my friend and colleague. It has been a joy to work alongside her as we created Labs, workshops and visits to support East African artists. Her devotion to her playwriting and her commitment to her fellow artists will inspire generations to come.

Finally, I gratefully acknowledge you... the audience. Without you, the theatre is not a complete artform. You complete the creative circle. Thank you for your support of this Festival. Mwebale.

AFRICA KILLS HER SUN

Adapted by Mrisho Mpoto, Elidady Msangi and Irene Sanga
(Tanzania)

AFRICA KILLS HER SUN is a short story that was written by Ken Saro-Wiwa (1941-1995). Saro-Wiwa was hanged by the Nigerian dictatorship in 1995 for his activism on behalf of his Nigerian Ogoni people. The original text is a condemned man's last letter to his loved one. Mpoto, Msangi and Sanga adapted this text and use poetic style in Kiswahili, combine it with slam poetry and storytelling to talk about corruption and abuse of power in contemporary Africa.

Saturday 29 November
Main auditorium
06:00 - 06:50 pm

Sunday 30 November
Main auditorium
02:00 - 02:40 pm



BLACK MARIA ON KOINANGE STREET

A play by Sitawa Namwalie (Kenya)

A young African woman from a privileged upper middle-class family comes of age learning how to survive in an African country at the time of the dictatorships of the 1980s. She has to navigate life away from the safety of her family and learn how to survive in university away from her privileged secure life in a world of ordinary people. An encounter with the police and other night creatures exposes the underbelly of her charmed existence when she discovers the harshness and precariousness of life on the city streets of Nairobi at night.

Friday 28 November
Green Room
02:00 - 03:00 pm

Saturday 29 November
Green Room
06:00 - 07:00 pm



DÉCHIREMENT

Performed by Freddy Sabimbona (Burundi)

DECHIREMENT is the story of a troubled man, a man torn in two pieces as the image of a strife-torn nation over half a century already.

A man alone on stage for an hour will revisit the country's history: the arrival of the first white fathers, Christianity, the royal monarchy, ethnic division ... etcetera. ... etcetera.

As he speaks, we realize that the past and present become a mixture, as beyond history there is this latent anxiety of a father who asks himself about "the legacy he'll leave to his son."

"Déchirement" is an autobiographical story through which everyone can reflect himself. A common story made of death, blood, tears, but mostly ... misunderstanding.

Story filigree one "black" year, 1972, a year when the Hutu intelligentsia was decimated. Through fear, fear of the other that is not other than self ...

In a country that is still recovering painfully twelve years of civil war, "Déchirement" calls that part of humanity buried within us and that is often ignored, so it bends under the rubble of our own experience. It shows us that a man can have more vile in him, more treacherous with just a single statement at the end, marked in blood letter: "Never again."

A rotating loop.

Saturday 29 November	Sunday 30 November
Main auditorium	Main auditorium
03:00 - 03:30 pm	09:00 - 10:30 pm

Performance in French with English Translation



DESPERATE TO FIGHT

By Meaza Worku Berehanu. Directed by Aida Mbowa (Ethiopia)

Marta has been divorced three times, and now she's not sure if she wants to give marriage a fourth try. Tormented by the sounds of a newly and seemingly happily-wedded couple living next door, she wrestles with her past and the memories of her former husbands. How can Marta reconcile her principles and justify those extreme feelings of love and fury that come with marriage? DESPERATE TO FIGHT is a sophisticated, witty and paradoxical story about relationships, love and marriage from the heart of the gender-struggles in contemporary Addis Ababa.

27 November	28 November	29 November	30 November
Round Hut	Round Hut	Round Hut	Round Hut
06:30 - 07:40 pm	08:00 - 09:10 pm	08:00 - 09:10 pm	08:00 - 09:10 pm



DJ LWANDA

By Eric Wainaina (Kenya)

DJ LWANDA is a story of the forgotten people of Kwa Maji, a slum in Nairobi, at the time of the General Election. The impending election is stirring all too familiar tribal differences and conflicts. DJ Lwanda, the local community radio DJ strives to stir the community to action and unity against the destructive political powers.

Saturday 29 November

CICP

02:00 - 02:40 pm

Sunday 30 November

CICP

07:00 - 07:40 pm



RADIO PLAY

Text by Elizabeth Senja Spackman (US)

Directed by Ruzibiza Wesley (Rwanda)

RADIO PLAY is a new theatre piece by Amizero Kompagnie, in collaboration with Rwandan artists. When a young woman finds herself on the night watch as host of late night call-in show, the secrets of others— stories of the unsaid, failed relationships, secret diseases and affairs start to infect her life and imagination as she tries to stay awake. When she signs out, the Morning DJ comes in. His job is to turn the raw facts into cheery messages of hope, but his skills at spinning nonsense come back to haunt him as the stories from the night watch collide with the morning facade. As the news from this troubled anonymous central African country becomes aggressively pleasant, the stories of the night collide with the relentless sunniness of the daily news, we realize every character has a secret, even the radio hosts themselves.

Friday 28 November

Main Auditorium

02:00 - 03:30 pm

Sunday 30 November

Main Auditorium

06:00 - 07:30 pm



STER CITY

By: Jean-Paul Delore

With: Dominique Lentin, Lindiwe Matshikiza, Nick Welsh
(France/South Africa)

During a burlesque conference, two exceptional South African actors share events of their own stories and ardent bits of the history of South Africa, from the prehistoric to date and with some dreams too ...

STER CITY is a huge, old, abandoned movie theatre in the centre of Johannesburg. This luxurious multiplex which in the 70s and 80s, was whites only is now closed and devastated but all around, life bustles with movement, trade, traffic ... Thousands of men, women and children from across the African continent and the surrounding areas are settling-in or passing through this part of the city. It is a lively port without an ocean.

For ten years we have been staging all our shows in major cities worldwide. We decided to call these 'mobile homes' the SOUTH/NORTH DIARIES (LES CARNETS SUD/NORD). When I met Nick Welsh and Lindiwe Mitshikiza, the two South African actors of the show, I felt that we had found a few principles that shape these diaries in which the travelling artists move guided by their common love for abstraction of certain literary and musical forms either written, oral or improvised by applying their curiosity for image processing (photo, video, web) or by their almost organic relationship with the visual arts (human body / living matter). We must also add to these the desperate discerning and ironic view that the artists of the diaries possess of their respective situations as foreigners and their shared desire to speak directly to the audience and the insider as one who sometimes has to be looked for where least expected.

Since the beginning of the SOUTH/NORTH Diaries adventure, there has been an attempt to describe the individual child, woman or man as a hero of the civilization of the disaster. They have also been described as sensual and victims of the chaos. In STER CITY, the highlights of South African history, from prehistory to the present day told to an audience aged ten+ makes up most of the framework of the story. It should be added that this false historical conference is acted by two young brilliant improvising and unconventional actors; they share their own stories and ardent fragments of South African history; they are straight-necked towards the future, hence emblematic of South African modernity.

Performance made possible with
support of:



Wednesday 26 November
Main auditorium
05:00 - 06:30 pm



STRINGS

Written by Angella Emurwon, Director Rogers Otieno (Uganda)

STRINGS plays with the different character responses to the 20-year absence and now return of Maama's distant husband, Baaba, from Kyeyo, where he was seeking work and a better fortune abroad for the family left behind. Maama has created a family myth that helps her two children, Baaba, and her lover maintain normalcy. Uncle Lokil, brother to Baaba and on-again, off-again lover to Maama, seeks to regain his rightful place in Maama's life that was usurped by his young brother during their teens.

Friday 28 November
Main auditorium
04:00 - 05:00 pm

Saturday 29 November
Main auditorium
08:00 - 09:30 pm



WIMBO WA NYONGA

By Asha Salimu Mshana (Tanzania)

WIMBO WA NYONGA is a Kiswahili Stage Play about Tumaini, a woman, who is a representation of an "African woman" who for a longtime has been suffering from traditions that perpetuate patriarchy.

Tumaini fights against the patriarchy system adhering to the will given to her by her late mother. Her quest for equality makes her go through unimaginable challenges. Nevertheless, she fights on and even competes for a leadership post in her village.

Friday 28 November
Green Room
04:00 - 04:30 pm

Saturday 29 November
Green Room
09:00 - 09:40 pm



SCREENING OF MARIA KIZITO

By Erik Ehn, Directed by Emily Mendelsohn

Maria Kizito is a play by Erik Ehn, one of the most experimental American playwrights. His play will be staged as an American-Ugandan production in the course of November 2015 in New Orleans, United States by ArtSpot Productions and Soulographie, directed by Emily Mendelsohn, designed by Jeff Becker, composed by Sean LaRocca with a cast from the US and Uganda (Tonny Muwangala and Esther Tebandeke).

The play is about benedictine nun Maria Kizito who aided the massacre of 7,000 refugees at her convent during the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. The play imagines her prayer life, mediated by an American nun who attends her trial in Belgium. It blends poetry and document, sculpture and everyday object, live music and heightened gesture to bear witness to the events that took place at the convent. The play is an act of witness and an act of empathy, imagining our own capacity for violence.

A screening of this staged play will follow during the Kampala International Theatre Festival, which will then be followed by a moderated post-show discussion.

Sunday 30 November
CICP
04:00 - 05:00 pm

For more information see www.mariakizitoneworleans.org



8TH BAYIMBA SEASON (2015)

Sneak Peak

Bayimba Regional Festivals

Gulu // April 2015

Fort Portal // June 2015

Mbale // July 2015

4th ed. DOADOA | East African Performing Arts Market

Jinja // 6th - 9th May 2015

8th ed. Bayimba International Festival

Kampala // 18th - 20th September 2015

Arts Education Programme

Practical Musician training

Youth and Hip Hop programme

Arts Journalism training

Live Event Coverage training

For more information visit:

www.bayimba.org

www.bayimbafestival.com

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