

KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

Re: 6th EDITION OF THE KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

“On self-identity, love, and the effects of war and displacement”

Tebere Arts Foundation and the Bayimba Foundation proudly announce the 6th edition of the **Kampala International Theatre Festival (KITF) to be held at the Ndere Cultural Center and the Uganda Museum from the 26th to 30th November 2019**. The festival brings together renowned playwrights, directors and celebrated actors, costumes and stage designers from all over the world. This year’s edition invites productions and workshop readings from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Palestine, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

This edition of the festival is led by the Tebere Arts Foundation, under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director, Asiimwe Deborah Kawe. Alongside her is Karishma Bhagani, Associate Artistic Director of Tebere Arts Foundation, Associate Producer Aganza Kisaka, and Faisal Kiwewa of Bayimba Cultural Foundation.

KITF was born out of an exciting relationship with the Sundance Institute East Africa and its support of playwrights and other theatre makers from Eastern Africa through annual ‘lab’ residencies in East Africa and elsewhere. Over the years, KITF has become a space that encourages performances and post-performance dialogue that are about forging and holding connections, challenging taboos, and celebrating differences. The 2019 edition of the festival explores new genres from musical theatre to puppetry, to discuss the complex themes of war, displacement and self-identity.

TICKET INFORMATION

Full festival passes: 70,000 UGX for adults and 50,000 UGX for students

Daily passes: 20,000 UGX for adults and 10,000 UGX for students

FEATURED PRODUCTIONS 2019

Nairobi Musical Theatre Initiative (Kenya)’s mission is to develop and support new musical theatre works by African artists performed in Africa and beyond. The 4 Projects: *PANI PURI*, a bitter-sweet tale of an Asian-Black romance; *WEAVER BIRD*, a visionary re-examination of Kenyan historic and gender equity; *KABASEKE*, a testimonial about war, child soldiers and the healing power of music; *THE GOSPEL OF APOSTLE DENNIS*, a call to conscience about corruption in the church.

The Children of Amazi (Rwanda) – In the region of the great lakes, where there is widespread nature and water, one dark evening, all the rivers stopped flowing and the gardens stopped blooming. What happened? What caused this and why did the water desert the land? The trees stopped bearing fruit, and there was no greenery. And the world was all on the verge of destruction. How do we live in a world that is distraught? The ensemble of the *Children of Amazi* will explore this through their piece (curated in French)

Far Gone – (Uganda / UK) a one-man show that explores complex issues of race through the story of a Ugandan child soldier and how the West manipulates specific narratives of 'Africa', often using "legitimate" aid organizations like 'Invisible Children,' in a way that directly impacts people of African heritage in the UK and beyond. Inspired by real-life experiences of nearly being kidnapped by the guerrilla rebel group The Lords Resistance Army (LRA) led by Joseph Kony in Uganda, it draws on the contrast between my experiences as a child in Uganda and the experience of being a young black man in the UK, and how perceptions of 'Africa' effects my own narrative.

My Father and Other Superheroes (UK/Uganda) - This is one man's honest revelation of how pop culture raised him in the absence of his father. We follow Nick's journey as he discovers what it takes for a man to become a hero, and how a hero can be just a man. *My Father and Other Superheroes* is a moving and powerful story about the journey from childhood to fatherhood. Set across continents and eras, it follows one man's struggle to come to terms with the responsibilities of being a parent and his confrontation with his own father's absence.

Les Larmes de Crocodile (Burundi) - The performance is made up of a number of scenes that on the one hand visualize social problems and on the other show the power of Burundian culture. An allegorical performance in which the crocodile from Lake Tanganyika is a recurring "character" as the Outsider and the Conscience. Gender, violence and reconciliation are, among other things, witnesses of the human condition in a country with a loaded past and present. In a landscape of humor and emotions the spectator is confronted with questions regarding daily life. The performance integrates dance and theater as a natural unit, fusing play, rap, contemporary, urban and traditional dance.

The Last Day of Spring (Palestine) - Inspired by Sophocles' Antigone "*The Last Day of Spring*" explores the brute force of the nation state, familial grief and strife, and the meaning of religious and spiritual law. Although the story of "*The Last Day of Spring*" is a personal one, it is founded on the universal theme of loss.

Hard Stuff: Happiness (Kenya/Germany) - Happiness is a frequently used term and charged with much emotional energy. And like any cliché, the happiness cliché gives the impression that everyone knows what it is and everyone means the same thing with this word. The pursuit of happiness is part of the American Declaration of Independence and due to the confusion with success, the American Dream of life was born. This collaboration between a German and Kenyan artists, explores the question of what happiness really is through the use of puppetry.

The 6th Edition of Kampala International Festival is supported by principal partners; Tebere Arts Foundation, Sundance Institute, Bayimba Cultural Foundation, DOEN Foundation, The British Council, The European Union and Africalia. Other sponsors and supporters include: USArtists for Africa, Ndere Cultural Center, The Bistro and Kardamom and Koffee.

For more information, contact Kenneth Kimuli, Tebere Arts Foundation info@tebere.org or 0772912512

