



SAMOSA FESTIVAL 2018

P O Box 32843- 00600, Nairobi, Kenya: email: info@samosafestival.com

[Tel: 0722 344900](tel:0722344900) / [0702 712277](tel:0702712277)

EVENT SUMMARIES FOR THE SAMOSA FESTIVAL:

SAMOSA FESTIVAL is being held from 10 June – 7 July 2018.



The SAMOSA festival (www.samosafestival.com), established in 2005 as the cultural arm of Awaaz Magazine (www.awaazmagazine.com), is a cross-cultural festival. The samosa, a popular staple of Asian and African cuisine, much loved for the endless variety of tasty mixes within it, was chosen as the name and symbol of the festival for its distinct triangular shape. The three points of the samosa represent the Asian/African/Fusion of cultures to enhance inter-ethnic understanding and foster nationhood. The festival uses all elements of culture i.e. music, art, performance, theatre, films and discussions to generate and promote interaction among Kenyans of all walks of life, towards cohesion and integration. It is now in its **8th edition**, the previous ones being held in 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and

2016.

FILMS



NEWTON:

Director: Amit V Masurkar.

Excerpt from Director's Statement: *'.....As Newton tries to find order in chaos, we find underlying elements of humor and absurdity. I have structured the film around Newton's three laws of motion -- the film begins with inertia, sets into momentum in the middle act, and ends with an equal and opposite reaction'.*

THIS WILL BE A PREMIERE SCREENING IN KENYA

Drishyam Films *Country:* India *Language:* Hindi with subtitles *Duration:* 104 mins: 12 June 2018

Venue: The Alchemist Time: 7.00 pm **Entry: FREE**

SYNOPSIS

As India, the world's largest democracy, braces itself for another general election- with 9 million polling booths, more than 800 million voters, and costing nearly \$5 billion. Newton Kumar, a rookie government clerk finds himself entrusted with a task that appears deceptively simple: conducting elections in a remote village in the jungles of central India. The bushes teem with Communist guerrillas, who have been waging a decades old war against the state, even as the indigenous tribals live without any access to mainland amenities. Conducting 'free and fair' elections in a minefield like this is no child's play, as Newton learns over the course of this eventful day. Unfazed with the cynicism and danger all around him, Newton is determined to do his duty. But, as they say in the jungle, 'The more things change, the worse they will get'.



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The film will be followed by a conversation between two people who engage with Bollywood films regularly.



PEARL OF AFRICA:

Director: Jonny von Wallström

Country: Uganda

Country: Sweden | Kenya | Thailand | Uganda

Language: English

Duration: 92 mins

Date: 20 June 2018

Venue: The Alchemist

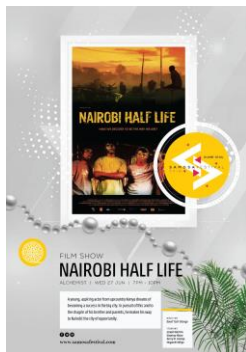
Time: 7.00 pm. **Entry: FREE**

SYNOPSIS:

A film about love, hate and being transgender in one of the world's most transphobic places. Uganda, a small land-locked country in East Africa. Once named THE PEARL OF AFRICA by Winston Churchill. A country blessed with its diversity in ethnicity, gender, flora and fauna. Yet in all this richness it struggles to recognise & appreciate this diversity. Enter the life of Cleopatra Kambugu, a 27 year old Ugandan Transgender Woman. She's biologically born male, but against all odds transitioning into the woman she knows she was born to be. In the film we get to follow her as she questions gender expression and identity, reshape attitudes and uncover the realities of a people whose existence has been shrouded in myth and prejudice.

In a feature length documentary we embark on a life changing journey. We follow Cleo who seeks to shine light on the intricate concepts of her gender identity. She rewrites the story of a transgender woman that has for long been shrouded in darkness and misunderstood.

The film will be followed by a Q&A session with one of the actors



NAIROBI HALF- LIFE:

Director: David 'Tosh' Gitonga

Production Companies: One Fine Day Films and Ginger Ink Films

Language: Swahili | Kikuyu | English

Duration: 96 min

Date: 27 June 2018

Venue: The Alchemist

Time: 7.00 pm

Entry: FREE



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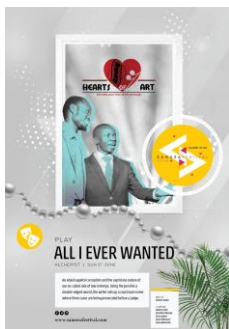
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'Nairobi Half Life does not boast an original premise. A young kid from rural Kenya with dreams of moving to the city (Nairobi) and becoming an actor.

What immediately differentiates it from other local films and a lot of international films is how it casts an unforgiving realistic eye on the protagonists' life and actions. The movie does an excellent job of examining the underbelly of suffering and desperation in the country, from personal struggles of the youth to larger hurdles the nation is trying to leap; all the while narrating a story that will take you through a full range of genuine emotions before leaving you somewhat inspired and in some form of reflection.

The actors are commendable in their performances and ... the storytelling is superb.' *Diasporadical*

The film will be followed by a Q&A session with one of the actors.



PLAY – ALL I EVER WANTED

Created and Written by: Walter Sitati

Performed by: Hearts of Arts: 13 Cast members

Duration: 90 mins

Language: English

Event partners: INUKA AND MASKANI

Date: 17 June 2018, Venue: The Alchemist, Time: 4.00 – 7.00 pm

Entry: FREE

"All I Ever Wanted" is a contemporary socio-political satire about a headstrong judge whose high sense of duty causes him to spurn the only woman as his equal as he seeks to weave the torn culture in his society by cleaning the messed up lives in his courtroom. As he challenges longstanding traditions in his quest to simply help people, he must contend with his personal failings and super forces that threaten his own survival as well as that of his family.



PUBLIC LECTURE I:

Topic: **The Handshake – the people speak.**

Event partners: KHRC and the Mathare Social Justice Centre

Date: 14 June 2018

Venue: The Mathare Social Justice Centre, Juja Road,

Opposite the Moi Air force Base

Time: 6.30 – 9.00 pm

Entry: FREE



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The bolt that shook Kenya when President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Right Hon. Raila Odinga 'shook hands' and declared a truce is still reverberating. The question now arises – 'So what does it mean to the people'? After all the people made enormous sacrifices both in terms of life and property as they campaigned for their respective candidates. What now happens to their dreams and aspirations as the ideals of a 'New Kenya' are espoused by the two leaders? What will this 'New Kenya' look like and do they have any stake in it? This forum will bring together leading lights from the Civil Society and social movements to debate these questions and reflect on these troubling times.



PUBLIC LECTURE II:

Topic: **Gender Based Violence – The Persistence of FGM**

Date: 21 June 2018

Venue: Eastleigh Mall, General Waruingi Avenue, Eastleigh

Time: 4.30 – 6.30 pm

Entry: **FREE**

'FGM refers to all procedures that involve the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is incredibly painful, traumatizes girls and results in numerous negative health consequences that last decades. It can even cause death. It is also a form of violence against girls, exacerbating a vicious cycle of oppression and poverty that prevents them from fully participating in their country's long-term progress. Globally, it is estimated that over 140 million girls and women have undergone some form of FGM. Currently, more than three million girls, the majority under 15 years of age, undergo the procedure each year. In Kenya, even in 2014, FGM is an all too painful reality for generations of women and girls' Siddhartha Chatterjee, *United Nations Resident Coordinator to Kenya*

This '**Women's only**' Forum will have panelists from leading Women's organisations in Kenya who fight for women's equality and empowerment in Kenya.



PUBLIC LECTURE III:

Topic: **Constitutional and Governance Principles:**

Date: 11 July 2018

Venue: To be confirmed

Time: 4.30 – 6.30 pm

Entry: **FREE**



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The recent 'Handshake' has provided a unique constitutional moment to revisit the 2010 Constitution. Do we need to amend the constitution and what are its wider implications? And if so what aspects do we need to revisit and IF necessary amend? It also provides opportunities to re-set the national agenda in rebuilding governance institutions in Kenya. The forum will bring together constitutional and governance experts to debate these important national issues.



BOOK LAUNCH – ACTIVITY I: FRIDAY, 22 JUNE 2018

Launch of a book by Karen Rothmyer titled 'Joseph Murumbi – A Legacy of Integrity'.

Venue: The Alchemist

Time: 4.30 – 6.30 pm

Entry: FREE

The Murumbi interviews represent one of the few acutely observed, personal accounts of Kenya's independence-era politics. As such, they are of value not only to historical researchers of the future but also to individual Kenyans, especially younger Kenyans, who want to know more about how their country came to be. After the publication of *A Path Not Taken* shortly Karen Rothmyer and Wendy Karmali both of whom had lived in Kenya through portions of the Murumbi years—agreed that the interviews were fascinating. But in order to appeal to a wide audience, they needed to be significantly edited and provided with context. This book is a product of this effort.



BOOK LAUNCH – ACTIVITY II: SATURDAY, 23 JUNE 2018:

TIME: 9.30 – 11.30 AM

Venue: Murumbi Peace Memorial, Nairobi City Park, Off Limuru Road

In a final symbolic act of devotion and love for each other Joseph and Sheila Murumbi lie next to each other at the Murumbi Peace Memorial. The Murumbi's became national icons as they devoted themselves to the collection of African Art and archiving of Kenyan culture. They indeed pioneered this noble act which is today represented in their collections at the Kenya National Archive and The Nairobi Gallery. We shall visit this historic site in a pilgrimage to pay homage to these two great Kenyans.

1.00 – 3.00 pm: Tour of the Nairobi Gallery, Kenyatta Avenue.

3.00 – 5.00 pm: Conversations with the Author Karen Rothmyer at the The Alchemist

All these events are FREE to the public.



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BOOK LAUNCH – ACTIVITY III: SUNDAY, 24 JUNE 2018: TIME: 9.30 AM – 4.00 PM

A day visit to the beautiful and scenic African Heritage House, overlooking the Nairobi National Park which is designed by American Alan Donovan, co-founder of the African Heritage Pan African Galleries and is a combination of the mud architectures from across Africa.

This will be a **PAID** event. Prior registration will be required.

OPEN MIC:

Time: 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Date: 28 June 2018

Entry: FREE

The **open mic** will be a live show where audience members who are amateur performers or professionals will be given the opportunity to perform onstage. We shall have poetry and spoken word by 5 well known Kenyan artists followed by a performances from members of the audience.
Venue: The Alchemist



“BETWEEN US” - A PUPPETRY PERFORMANCE ON GENDER, RACE, IDENTITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Venue: The Alchemist

Time: 7.00 – 10.00 pm

Date: 28 June 2018

Entry: FREE

Puppetry is a form of theatre or performance that involves the manipulation of puppets – inanimate objects, often resembling some type of human or animal figure that are animated or manipulated by a human called a puppeteer. Such a performance is also known as a **puppet play**. The puppeteer uses movements of her hands, arms, or control devices such as rods or strings to move the body, head, limbs, and in some cases the mouth and eyes of the puppet. The puppeteer often speaks in the voice of the character of the puppet, and then synchronizes the movements of the puppet's mouth with this spoken part. The actions, gestures and spoken parts acted out by the puppets are typically used in storytelling.

Kenya Institute of Puppet Theatre (KIPT) will present a 45 minute to an hours performance titled **“Between us”** which will explore the complex issue of discrimination through the eyes of victims of abuse, torture, stigma and oppression. Through an audio visual display, using puppets, masks,



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spoken word and music, the show follows in the footsteps of men and women who triumph in the face of hardship.

KIPT is a dynamic, innovative and creative community based institution that uses creative research, interactive media, puppetry, participatory educational theatre and folk media in life skills promotion, community education and cultural communication that engages people into interactive discourse

CONCERT NIGHT:

Venue: The Alchemist, Time: 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Date: 30 June 2018. **ENTRY - FREE**



Curtain Raiser: Murphy's FLaw is a Kenyan alternative rock band based in Nairobi, Kenya formed in 2007. The band consists of 6 members': Vocalist Reema, lead guitarist Number 9, Pianist Jojo, Bassist Jozie and Drummer Vicky. Punky Monkey, the original rhythm guitarist, and songwriter, left the band and was replaced by Mukasa.



Main Performance by Ghetto Classics and two musicians from the Indian genre: A 45 minutes performance by 15 youth and adults of a mixture of African pieces, classical and pop music. The fusion performance between Orchestra music and sounds from the Indian flute and the tabla (drums) will create a night of magic and sheer joy