

**Kayd Somali Arts and Culture Presents
Somali Week Festival 2009
Oxford House
Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG**

Friday 23 October to 31 October

Kayd Somali Arts and culture in partnership with REDSEA-ONLINE.COM, and a range of national, international and local community organisations is pleased to present the Somali Week Festival as part of Black History Month.

The SWF is an established festival within the Somali community in London, nationally and internationally. It celebrates and explores the uniqueness of Somali art and culture. The festival will showcase this year mix of poetry, prose literature, plays and music which will be presented by artists, while also allowing ample time for discussions between artists, professional guests and audiences. SWF will present and celebrate Somali arts and culture by featuring international and UK-based artists of the highest calibre in a vibrant programme of events. This year's Somali Week Festival will focus on Censorship.

For more information about the festival programme visit www.kayd.org or call 07903 712 949 and for stalls please email ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org

Programme of Events

Friday, 23rd October 2009 - Launching of the Festival

Opening by the Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes

Chaired By Mahamed Mohamud | 6-10pm | Fee £5

Somali Week Festival 2009 will explore the theme of arts censorship and creative freedom of expression throughout the extensive programme of events. The festival will be launched by **Ahmed Saleebaan Bidde** and the theme of the festival will be introduced by **Rashid Sheekh Abdullahi**. Whilst the festival's programming aims to celebrate the artist's creativity, it will also discuss the important role that art can play within society. We will hear from artists such as Ali Banfaz who will recite some of his work and will be joined by the renowned scholars and artists Sheikh Mahamoud Sheikh Dalmar, Ahmed, Warsan Osman, Sa'id Jamac, Suad Armiye and Maxamed Hasan "Alto". There will also be performances and recites from our visiting artist such as **Baarleex, Mohamed Jama kayd, Amina Abdilahi, Boon hirs, Kinsi H Adan**, but also London based artists **Hudaydi, Dararamle, Shukri Sha'ni, iyo Jaango**.

Saturday, 24th October 2009 - A day of pure poetry

Chaired By Ali Seenyo |

2-6pm | Fee £5

This day of Somali poetry will feature four renowned visiting poets and composers: **Baarleex, Banfaz, Mahamed Jama Kayd, and Ahmed Saleebaan Bidde**. **Baarleex** is one of the greatest Somali poets; his style of recital is unique as he can recite by heart poems of extraordinary length.

Banfaz is a teacher and political poet, who was imprisoned during **Siyad Bare's** regime for six years. **Ahmed Saleebaan Bidde** is extremely respected and prolific as a romantic songwriter, poet and playwright. **Mahamed Jama Kaid** also a visiting artist, teaches at Hargeisa University, well respected poet, playwright and song writer for celebrated artists such as **Khadra Daahir**.

Saturday, 24th October 2009 - Performance by Kinsi Haji Adan

With London based talents

6-10pm | Fee £10

Kinsi is one of the famous talents living in Hargeisa, beloved for her beautiful, feminine voice. She will be joined by UK-based artists **Nimo Degan, Gaadaco and Abdifitaah yare** - expect an unforgettable evening promising a smooth blend of melody and harmony.

Sunday, 25th October 2009 - Family Day: Storytelling day for children and their parents

2-6pm | Fee £2.50

Hasan Abdi Madar will be reading traditional Somali folklore to children and their parents. He will also be available to discuss with parents the best way to read to children. He will be followed by **Ismail Aw-adan**. **Ahmed Abdillahi** will also read from his new children's Book "Bakayle Fariid Ah" and a new cartoon film by **Abdalah Shafey** will be shown. Don't miss this opportunity for your child. The **101 Performing Arts Group** will also provide a "have-a-go" circus, where children can join in and participate.

Sunday, 25 October 2009 - Performances by Amina Abdullahi and London based Artists

Chaired by Su'ad Armiye | Women's Voices; Music, poetry and discussion

6-10pm | Fee £10

This event aims to encourage female artists to present their work publicly and to celebrate female creativity, a performance from **Amina Abdilaahi** will follow. **Amina** is one of this year's visiting artists. **Amina Abdilaahi** and **Maryan Mursal** are successful members of one of the biggest Somali artists groups "Waaberi band". The

second half of the evening will be dedicated to showcase women's poetry by artists such as **Aisha Lul** and **Warsan Shire**. **Warsan** is also a stand-up comedian mainly known on the university circuit.

Monday 26 October 2009 - Young People and citizenship

Chaired By Prince Abdi

Opening by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Cllr Ahmed A. Omer.

Speakers include Somali young artist: Warsan Shire, Abdi Bahdoon

1-5pm | Fee £5

This event is to promote citizenship, personal responsibility and human rights from the young person's perspective. We want to engage, encourage and support young people to think about citizenship and the control they have to change their lives. Speakers will be from Tower Hamlets, Somali Young People and Artists **Abdi Bahdoon**, **Abdiraxman Abees**, **Warsan Shire** and university students and Amnesty International. We will close this event with **performances from Mustafe TITI**.

Tuesday, 27 October 2009 - BME involvement in public bodies

1-5pm | Free

The Asian Health Agency's BME Leadership Engagement and Involvement Project, in partnership with the Tower Hamlets Somali Communities Network want to promote Refugee BME involvement in public bodies. The speakers at this event are **Aymero Gebremeskel** from TAHA (introduction), **Fazil Kawani**, Refugee Council Head of Development, **Lynn Fredriksson** from Amnesty International, and **Isman Warsama** from Tower Hamlets Somali network.

Wednesday, 28th October 2009 – "Baqayo Roged" (One-act play)

6-10pm | Fee £5

This is the second time we are putting on 'Baqayo Roged', a drama produced by **Abdirahman Yusuf Arten**. Kayd is pleased to be working in partnership with **Chisendale Dance Space** on this drama. This one-act play will deal with some of the core principles of the festival which are gender, equality and tolerance. After the play there will be a short discussion the issues raised by the writer with **Abdallah Haaji**, **Ali Ahmed Rabi Seenyo**, and **Su'ad Armiye**, **Beeldaaje**, **Baarleeh**. There will be also a performance from **Aar Band**.

Thursday, 29th October - Film night and Djibouti artist evening

Chaired By Ahmed Ali Rabi "Seenyo"

6-10pm | Fee £5

Cabdalleh Xaaji from Djibouti national TV will show a short film on about Djibouti Somali Theatre, **Cabdalleh** will also give a presentation on the work that Djibouti is

doing with regards to the revival of Somali culture. There will be also performances from London-based Djibouti artists such as **Kaltun Bacado, Anab Ismail** and **Yusuf Dheere, Jookhle**.

Friday, 30th October - Comedy Night -Boon Xirsi, Prince Abdi, Abdi Bahdoon & others

6-10pm | Fee £5

This comedy night promises to be an exhilarating mix of old and new. **Boon Xirsi** is one of our visiting artists, an amazing performer and a great comedian. **Boon** will be performing with our own London-based **Prince Abdi**, the only established Somali stand-up comedian and **Abdi Bahdoon**, a young poet.

Saturday, 31 October - Festival Books presents

Chaired by Jama Musse Jama

2-6pm | Free

This afternoon will be organised with our partner organisation **Redsea-online.com**. **Redsea-online** promotes literature, writing and reading. There will be book presentations from authors who have published books in Somali language and Somali books will be available for sale, among these are:

Abdi-aziiz Ali Ibrahim Xildhibaan author of *Sooyaalkii ssuugaanta Abdaleh Raag*,
Abdilahi Awed Igeh, author of *Ladh*

Ahmed Abdilahi Cawale, author of *Bakayle Fariid ah*

Cabdalle Cismaan Shafey, producer of Somali Cartoon Films

Cabdiraxmaan Maxamed Abtidoon, author of *BAXAAR - Boqorkii webiga*

Cumar Xaaji-Bile Aadan, author of *Mabaadi'da, Salaynta iyo kala dhigdhigga Afka Soomaaliga*

Jama Musse Jama, editor of *Sheeko iyo Shaahid short stories*

Mahamed Baashe H Hassan, author *Hal aan tabayey: Xaaji Adan Afqalooc*

Rashiid Sh Abdilahi, author (with Ismail Aw Adan and Ahmed Awgeedi translated by Martin Orwin) of *Suugaanta Nabada iyo Colaada*

Saciid Cali Shire, author of *Hoggaamiye*

Sayid Maxamed Yuusuf, author of *Somaliland: lixdankii iyo xilligii ka horreeyey*

Xasan Cabdi Madar, author of *Riyaaq, Barbaarsame; Nabaaddiino*

Other Somali books will be available for display and might be features by the authors.

Saturday, 31 October - Final event featuring all visiting and local artists

Chaired By Suldaan

6-10pm | Fee £10

The final SWF event will bring all visiting artists together in a showcase of their work along with UK-based artists sharing the floor. Abdurrahman "Abees" Durta, Faysal Aw Abdi Anbalash, they will be joined with some of our famous visiting artist, **Ahmed Saleebaan Bidde, Baarleex, Ali Banfas and Mahamed Jama Kaid** and more, this will be a great opportunity for London's Somali youngsters and older audiences alike to share in the enjoyment of listening to these artists' works and the event will undoubtedly prove to be a fitting conclusion to this year's festival.

The international aspect of the festival is an important continued development and partnership work with artists and organisations in Somali speaking territories. For more information about the festival programme visit www.kayd.org or call 07903 712 949 and for stalls please email ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org



101 Performing Arts Group and KMC



redsea-online.com
Library Books