

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

**Friday 23 October to 31 October 2009**

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

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. This year's festival will showcase a mixture 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 caliber in a vibrant program of events. The overarching theme for this year's Festival is Censorship.

For more information about the festival programme visit [www.kayd.org](http://www.kayd.org) or call 07903 712 949. For stalls, please email: [ayan\\_mahamoud@kayd.org](mailto:ayan_mahamoud@kayd.org)

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**Programme of Events**

**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 - Launching of the Festival**

**Opening by the Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes and Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Clrr. Ahmed Omar**

**Chaired By Mohamed Mohamud | 6-10pm | Fee £5**

Somali Week Festival 2009 will explore the themes of arts censorship and creative freedom of expression throughout the extensive program of events. The festival will be launched by **Mohamed Jama Kaid** and the theme of the festival will be introduced by **Rashid Sheikh Abdullahi**. Whilst the festival's programme aims to celebrate the artists' 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, Warsan Cismaan Saalax, Sa'id Jamac, and Maxamed Hasan "Alto". There will also be performances by singers and visiting artists such as **Mohamed Jama kayd**, and also by London based artists such as **Abdirahman Ibrahim Abees, Aisha luul Mohamoud, Ahmed Mohamoud "Hudaydi" and Ahmed Ali Harun "Dararamle"**.

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

**Chaired By Mohamed Bashe**

**2-6pm | Fee £5**

This day of Somali poetry will feature the visiting poet and composer, **Mahamed Jama Kaid**, and UK based poets such **Ali Ahmed Raabbi Seenyo, Beeldaaje, Ismail Aw Adan, Mohamed-Keyse Yusuf Abdi**, and **Mahamed Hassan "Dhagles"**

**Kaid** teaches at Hargeisa University and is a well-respected poet, playwright and song writer for celebrated artists such as **Khadra Daahir**.

**Ismail Aw-Aden** is a modern Somali lyricist, poet and play composer

**Mohamed-Keyse** is a poet and writer on Somali culture. During the 1980s, while working at the Somali Academy of science and culture, he produced his first poems. Since then he has written many poems and several essays on Somali culture, including one on traditions of Somali camel rearing.

**Mahamed Hassan "Dhagles"** is a London-based poet and song-writer.

## **Saturday, 24th October 2009 - Performance by Nimo Degan, Gaadaco, Farhan Hidig and Abdifitaah yare**

**Chaired By Arisaq Socoto**

**6-10pm | Fee £5**

**Gaadaco** is one of the most famous vocalists living in London; he will be joined by artists **Nimo Degan, Farhaan Xidig and Abdifitaah yare**. Expect an unforgettable evening that promises a smooth blend of melodies and harmonies.

## **Sunday, 25th October 2009 - Literature & Storytelling**

**Chaired By Abdilahi Awed Igeh**

**2-6pm | Fee £2.50**

**Said Salah Ahmed** 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**. Afterwards, 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 Saynab Ige, Nimo Yasin, Ikraan Arale**

**Chaired by Nimo Ahmed | Women's Voices: Music, poetry and discussion**

**6-10pm | Fee £5**

This event aims to encourage female artists to present their work publicly and to celebrate

female creativity. We will start with a performance from Saynab Igge and Nimo Yasin. The second half of the evening will be dedicated to showcase women's poetry by artists such as **Aisha Lul and Ikraan**

### **Monday 26 October 2009 - Young People and citizenship**

**Chaired By Mahamed Mahamud**

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

**Speakers include young Somali artists Prince Abdi and Abdi Bahdoon,**

**1-5pm | Fee £5**

This event aims 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 are Michael Newman, Global Citizenship Schools Project Worker from Tower Hamlets council, **Lynn Fredriksson** from Amnesty International, Somali Young artists **Abdi Bahdoon, Abdiraxman Abees, Hodah Ismail**, and the final performance will be from **Mustafe TITI**.

### **Tuesday, 27 October 2009 - BME Leadership & Engagement Project**

**1-5pm | Free**

**Shaping the Future: Shaping Strategies & Engaging Refugees & Migrant communities with public & civic institutions across London**

**Shaping the future: Delivering equality for Refugees & Migrant communities**

The Asian Health Agency in partnership with Tower Hamlets Somali Community Network & Kayd Art & Culture is organizing this seminar on this important issue that will bring leading refugee organisations, policy makers, voluntary organisations, service providers and members of the refugee communities together to discuss how to improve the representation of refugees through community involvement and engagement.

**Speakers include Aymero Gebremeskel, TAHA BME Leadership and Engagement Project, Fazil Kawan, Head of Development, Refugee Council, Ermias Alemu, Community Development Coordinator, South West London & St George's Mental Health Trust, Isman Warsama, Tower Hamlets Somali Communities Network; Jan Shaw, UK Refugee Programme Director, Amnesty International. We will**

## **Wednesday, 28th October 2009 – “Baqayo Roged” (One-act play) and Aar Maanta**

**Chaired By Mohamed Bashe**

**6-10pm | Fee £5**

This is the second time we are putting on ‘**Baqayo Roged**’, a drama produced by **Abdirahman Yusuf Arten**, the first time being in Hargeisa this past July. Kayd is pleased to be working in partnership with **Chisendale Dance Space** on this one-act play that deals with some of the core principles of the Festival, namely gender equality and tolerance. After the play there will be a short discussion about the issues raised with **Ali Ahmed Rabi**, **Rashid Sheekh Abdilahi**, and **Martin Orwin**. In addition, there will be a performance from **Aar Band**.

## **Thursday, 29th October – Film night and music evening**

**Chaired By Ahmed Ali Rabi “Seenyo”**

**6-10pm | Fee £5**

Two films will be screened in one night. The first is a short film about Djiboutian Somali theatre By Mohamed Bashe. The second is from **Adam Dirir**, Editor of Somali Eye Magazine and a documentary maker. His film is about street boys in the heart of Somaliland. The documentary focuses on their way of life and their voices. There will also be performances from London-based Djiboutian artists such as **Kaltun Bacado**, **Yusuf Dheere** and **Jookhle**

## **Friday, 30th October - Comedy Night - Prince Abdi, Abdi Bahdoon & others**

**6-10pm | Fee £5**

This comedy night promises to be an exhilarating mix of old and new. Appearances will come from **Prince Abdi**, the established Anglo-Somali stand-up comedian, **Joleed Farah**, the young poets **Abdi Bahdoon** and **Ahmed Ismail**, and **Mohamud Jama**, an up-and-coming comedian known on the university circuit.

## **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**, which promotes literature, reading and writing. There will be book presentations from Somali-language authors and Somali books will be available to buy. Appearances will come from:

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*

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

**Chaired By**

**6-10pm | Fee £5**

The final SWF event will bring all the visiting artists together with our UK-based artists and will include **Abdurrahman "Abees", Durta, Faysal Aw Abdi Anbalash, aisha Luul Maxamuud, Beeldaaje, Maxamed-Kayse, Cali Seenyo, Mahamed Jama Kaid**, and more. This will be a great opportunity for young and old alike to share the joy of listening to these artists' work. This final event promises to be a fitting conclusion to this year's festival.

The international aspect of the festival is important and grounded in partnership and work with artists and organisations in Somali speaking territories.

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