



Kayd Somali Arts & Culture
and Partners

Present

Somali Week Festival 2015



Friday 23rd October - Sunday 1st November 2015

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2 6HG





Somali Week Festival 2015

Kayd Somali Arts and Culture, in collaboration with partners is proud to present Somali Week Festival (SWF) 2015. This year's festival will run from Friday 23 October to Sunday 1 November at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG and various other venues.

Somali Week Festival is an integral part of Black History Month and offers the best of Somali arts and culture, both old and new. The festival offers a mix of events including poetry, literature, panel discussions, documentary film screenings and music. Through these different artistic forms, Somali Week Festival has explored a variety of themes in past years and has become a widely recognised and anticipated annual event in the UK.

Theme of the Year: **Space**

This year's festival is centred on the theme of 'space'. It's about experimenting with innovative and emerging spaces for Somali arts. It's an opportunity to reflect on the spaces we have inhabited and carved out for the arts over the years, and the spaces that are being eroded or are currently under threat, while looking forward to developing, expanding and enriching new spaces. Festival participants will be invited to explore what it means to inhabit, create, move between and beyond different artistic spaces, be they physical or psychological, public or private.

This festival is an opportunity for artists to continue to explore alternative creative outlets for their work while also looking at ways of reviving traditional spaces that are vastly disappearing. Furthermore, the festival will be a space to investigate creative forms of collaboration amongst artists of different ages and



levels of experience; it will provide a platform to share practices and to discuss, interact, and work together. This year, we are delighted to welcome international guests – artists, writers, scholars, journalists and activists; Maxamed Abdi Said 'Maxamed BK', Daud Ali 'Masahaf', Sahra Ilayis, Anab Guleid Mahamud, Mataano, Ladan Osman, Mohamed Adow, Ugaaso Boocow, Professor Cawo Abdi, Dr. Sada Mirre, Ibrahim Hersi Hurre 'Dayrwaaf', Abdidhuh Yusuf, Abdirahman Farah 'Guri Barwaaqo', Dr Rasheed Farrah, Safia Aidid,



Dr Siham Rayale, Rashiid Maxamed Shabeelle, Farah Gaamuute, Said Salah Ahmed, Dr. Abdirasid Ismail Mohamed, Abdilahi Hassan Ganey, and Abdi M Dahir.

Sheikh Mohamoud Sheikh Dalmar, Yasmiin Ibrahim, Yasmin Abdalla and many more.

These guests will be sharing a platform and collaborating with UK artists and guests; Prince Abdi, Nadifa Mohamed, Aar Maanta, Mahamed Mahamoud Haykel, Abdirahman Mohammed Abtidoon, Autumn Sharif, Nimco Degan, Ridwan Osman, Firdos Ali, Elmi Ali, Hannah Mohamed, Amaal Said, Hibaq Osman, Zainab Dahir, Nimco Yaasin, Kaltuun Bacado, Macalow, Mohamud Omar 'Walaalaha Sweden', Said Hussein, Dr Martin Orwin, Maryan Mursal, Asha Luul Mohamed, Laila Osman, Laila Duale, Rashid Sheikh Abdillahi, Dr. Idil Osman, Mohammed Abdullahi Artan, Farxiya Fiska, Lul Hassan Kulmiye, Farah Ahmed Hassan,

For the first time, Somali Week Festival will migrate around various venues. We will launch the week at our usual venue at Oxford House and hold events at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Institute of Education and Centre North. In addition, two of the festival days will run in partnership with the Black South West Network and local Somali organisations in Bristol.

If you would like further information about Somali Week Festival, book tickets or a stall, or volunteer, please email info@kayd.org. For the latest news and updates, follow us on Twitter [@somaliweekfes](https://twitter.com/somaliweekfes).



The Programme

Friday 23 October

**Somali Week Festival 2015 launch,
Friday 23 October
6pm-10pm | £10.00
Chaired by Mohamed Adow, Al Jazeera**

This year's launch event will be opened by a representative of her Majesty's Government and Tower Hamlet's Member of Parliament, **Rushanara Ali**, together with **Sheikh Mohamoud Sheikh Dalmar**.



We introduce Somali Week Festival with the best of Somali arts and culture through an exploration of 'space'. Somali Week Festival 2015 gets into gear at its well-established venue in Bethnal Green.

The evening will bring forth guests such as archaeologist **Dr.Sada Mire**, **Professor Cawo Abdi** and activist **Ladan Osman**. This year's festival theme is 'space' - the spaces Somali arts and culture have carved out over the years, the spaces that are being eroded, and the new spaces that are being expanded and enriched.



Dr. Sada Mire is the Director of Horn Heritage Charity and the only active archaeologist working in those regions. She presses on the significance of preserving Somali heritage, both in the places where Somali heritage was born and also new spaces that it has reached.

Prof. Cawo Abdi is a professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota. She specialises in migration, human rights and gender. Prof. Cawo Abdi will open a conversation that looks at the importance of creating tolerant cultural spaces where intellectual discussions can take place with specific reference to the Diaspora Somali society.



Ladan Osman a Somali-American poet and a teacher. Her published work include her full-length collection *The Kitchen-Dweller's Testimony*, which won the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, and her chapbook, *Ordinary Heaven*, appears in *Seven New Generation African Poets: A Chapbook Boxed Set*. Osman will read some of her fantastic poetry.



Translated work in partnership with Poetry Translation Centre

The second part of the evening will be introduced by **Dr. Martin Orwin**, scholar and writer, specialising in languages and cultures and Senior Lecturer in Somali and Amharic at the School of Oriental and African Studies, who has co-translated the work of **Anab Guleid** and **Asha-Luul Mohamoud** with **Sarah Maguire** also from the Poetry Translation Centre.

Anab Guleid is a visiting artist and one of the few Somali women renowned for reciting the gabay. Anab breaks the boundaries placed upon women's artistic freedom, opening doors for the younger generations. As an advocate for the preservation of culture and the environment, her poems often carry the theme of social justice.



Asha-Luul Mohamoud is one of the leading poets in Somali language in the UK. A lot of her work has been translated by **Said Hussein** and **Mohamed Hassan Alto** in collaboration with **Clare Pollard**. She has previously worked for different Somali television outlets and now has her own art show, *Abwaanka iyo Ereyga*, on the Somaliland National TV.



We will conclude the event with a live performance by **Maxamed BK!**



Saturday 24 October

**Awaking the Somaliland potential - a conversation with
Somaliland Professionals
2pm-4pm | Oxford House
Free**



Somaliland Professionals was set up by four young professionals who reside in the UK. The intention behind this networking forum is to connect Somalis in the UK and across the world who work in a professional setting.

This is an active group that is endorsed by **Edna Aden**, who attended the first meeting. Since then the team has been working tirelessly to bring together likeminded individuals and kick-start a movement to give back to Somaliland. In this gathering, we will discuss the different avenues available when contributing, our roles and responsibilities as young professionals, our identity and where we belong in the current Somaliland society, and how to avoid language barriers that prevent us from giving back.

The team will also discuss their latest trip to Somaliland and their experiences with other young professionals working there.

Speakers: Farah Ahmed Hassan, Founder of Somaliland Professionals, **Yasmiin Ibrahim**, Forensic Senior Sister at King's College Hospital, **Yasmeim Abdalla**, Entrepreneur and Co-Founder of Somaliland Professionals.



In-Kind Donations as Positive Artistic Expression

4pm-5pm | Free

Presenters: **Barlin Ali** Program Coordinator, USAID CIDI and **Dilafruz Khonikboyeva**, Deputy Director, USAID, CIDI

When a disaster strikes, the Diaspora generously offer assistance to those in need. From decades of experience and through hundreds of disasters, we have learned that the best way to help those affected is to make a cash donation to reputable relief and charitable organisations on the ground. These aid workers understand the needs of the civilians and are therefore in the best position to support with their recovery.

What happens when you've already collected clothes, shoes, and other useful items? We have examples of the diaspora turning inappropriate in-kind donations into fashion, art, and other positive reflections of culture while also leveraging these creations fundraise for the relief effort. How can you turn something as simple as a donation into a beautiful reflection of culture? Find out at this panel.

Saturday 24 October,
Reviving Traditional Spaces
Oxford House | 6pm-10pm | £6.00
Chair: Cabdillaahi Cawed Cige

The Horn of Africa is often referred to as the 'nation of poets'. As the Somali culture is predominantly and historically an oral one, most of its history and storytelling has been narrated through poetic art forms. Somali poetry is hugely diverse; some are traditionally recited by men such as gabay, and others, like buraanbur, are recited by women. This evening will celebrate and showcase the best of Somali poetry, presenting the work of artists who are creatively reviving and reworking these traditional art forms.

Writer and scholar **Rashid Sheikh Abdillahi** will be in conversation with poet **Ibrahim Hersi Hurre 'Dayrwaa'**.



Ibrahim Hersi Hurre 'Dayrwaa' is a well known contemporary poet in the Horn of Africa and beyond. Born in the suburbs of Hargeysa in 1958, he spent his early youth as a nomad, which enabled him to acquire a great deal of traditional folklore. His poetic talents had developed long before

moving to Hargeysa. He has produced well over 80 poems on various subjects. Most notable are those that embrace political issues and are mainly directed against the military dictatorship of the Siad Barre regime in the 1980s. Yet many others deal with pertinent social issues, which have gained wider popularity including his acclaimed *Damal*, *Aardoon*, *Buufis*.

Concert: Life performances with **Daud Ali Masahaf**, **Nimco Degan**, **Nimco Yaasin**, and **Said Hussein**



Daud Ali Masahaf is a visiting artist, lute player and vocalist from Mogadishu who now resides in Djibouti after fleeing the Somali civil war. Masahaf is one of the greatest Somali lute players who had the privilege of performing with legends the likes of **Magool**,



Khadra Daahir, and **Mandeeq**. With 40 years of experience under his belt, he has upheld the tradition of lute playing prior to and following the collapse of the state in 1990. Said Hussein is prominent lute players and drummers. He will play for **Nimco Degan** and **Nimco Yaasin**, a famous vocalist living the UK.



Sunday 25 October

Art at the Margins

Oxford House | 6pm-10pm | £6.00

Chaired Jama Musse Jama

This event is dedicated to art forms and art spaces that are at risk of being lost or pushed to the margins.

Writer and scholar **Barwaaqo** and Theatre Director **Abdiduh Yusuf** will engage in a conversation on the topic of space, reflect on their work and what the future holds for the Somali language, music and theatre.



Abdirahman Farah 'Guri Barwaaqo' is a connoisseur of the Somali language, an art critic and he's currently the Head of Department of Culture and Language at Hargeysa University. Among his books are *Magac Bilaashoo Ma Baxo* (Nicknames Don't Lie), *Mahaadhooyinkii Gaariye* (a biography of Gaariye) and *Hal-bixinta Ereyada Kumbuyutarka* (a book on Somali terminologies for technical items).





Abdiduh Yusuf is the Director of the National Theatre, Mogadishu, which was originally inaugurated in 1967 but closed down during the civil war. Re-opened in 2013, it has repeatedly been a target of Al-Shabaab militants over the last couple of years.

An Evening with Aar Maanta **Oxford House, 9pm-10pm**

The evening will close with a concert by Aar Maanta, the voice of the new generation of Somali musicians here in the UK. He will perform with his band.



Aar Maanta is a Somali-British singer-song writer and instrumentalist. He's proven to be popular with younger Somalis as he fuses modern music with traditional Somali rhythms to produce an eclectic sound.

Monday 26 October

Claiming the Somali- a two part panel discussion
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

6.30pm-10pm | £6.00

(Somali Week Festival in partnership with SOAS, Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies and UCL)

Panel 1 - Dealing with diversity in the Somali culture **Chair: Dr. Idil Osman**



This evening will be dedicated to exploring themes surrounding the voices, history, culture of Somali society in the Horn and the Diaspora. Social and political movements have emerged from the Horn that show multiple claims to power, diverse social relations and in some cases changing landscapes. In a two-part discussion this session will address some enduring issues. The first panel will provide perspectives on diversity in the Somali culture, approaches, meanings and practices including minority rights. In an attempt to bridge gaps in understanding the panel of experts will highlight these diversities with a focus on the impact the Diaspora has in exacerbating or promoting tolerance in Somali societies.

Prof. Cawo Abdi has recently published a book on Somali Diaspora groups in South Africa, USA and the United Arab Emirates. She's particularly interested in the issue of human rights, especially from a gender perspective.

Dr. Rasheed Farrah's doctoral research analyses the experiences of the Gabooye, Yibir and Tumaal minority groups with emphasis on their experiences of facing discrimination in education.

Abdirahman 'Guri Barwaaqo' is a connoisseur of Somali language, art critic, and currently the head of the Department of Culture and Language at Hargeysa University. Among his books are Magac Bilaashoo ma Baxo (Nicknames Don't Lie), Mahaadhooyinkii Gaarriye (a biography of Gaarriye) and Hal-bixinta Ereyada Kumbuyutarka (a book on Somali terminology for technical items).

Dr. Idil Osman holds a PhD from Cardiff University where she also teaches journalism, media and cultural studies. Her thesis examined Diaspora media involvement in the Somali conflict. She is the author of the recently published article The Somali Media, Diaspora Communities and the Concept of Conflict Re-creation. Idil is also the co-author of Somalia to Europe; Stories of the Somali Diaspora, a book that chronicles the civil war experiences of Somali Europeans and their subsequent migration to the UK. Prior to commencing her PhD, she worked as a journalist for the BBC and the Voice of America, specialising in stories related to the Horn of Africa.

Panel 2 - Somali studies at a crossroads

Chair: Mohammed Abdullahi Artan

The second panel will explore Somali studies in academia and highlight the ongoing marginalisation of Somali scholars and activists in knowledge production. Emerging scholars are contending with the power and privilege of Western epistemes and those that perpetuate the exclusion and marginalisation of Somali voices. With many Somali Diaspora academics engaging more and more with producing knowledge about and for Somali studies as a discipline, what does this mean for the future of Somali studies? Will emerging Somali academic/scholars be able to engage with non-Somali scholars as well as those living in the Horn to challenge hierarchies? How can Somali studies as a discipline work to include as many Somali voices as possible and strengthen diversity in order to foster debate within Somali communities everywhere?

Safia Aidid is a PhD candidate at the History Faculty, Harvard University. She is researching post-World War II Somali anticolonial nationalism and the Ethiopian empire, and was responsible for initiating the debate on #CadaanStudies on Twitter and other media outlets.



Ridwan Osman is a PhD Candidate in the Education Department, University of Cambridge researching civic education in Somaliland.

Dr. Siham Rayale undertook her PhD at SOAS, University of London where she conducted research on women's political participation in Somaliland between 1991-2012.

Mohammed Abdullahi Artan is the founder of two businesses; Nuur Media Productions, a video production company, and Looch Press, a publishing company which distributes books written in various languages including; Somali, English and Arabic.

Tuesday 27 October

Anglo-Somali event: Cultural ties between the UK and the Horn
Oxford House | 6pm-7.30pm

The Anglo-Somali Society is a non-for-profit international friendship society whose objective is to foster friendship and understanding between Somalis and the English-speaking world, and to develop cultural and social relations between them. Every year they organise a discussion or lecture for Somali Week Festival.

Jama Musse Jama is the founder of the Redsea Cultural Foundation, the organisation behind the Hargeysa International Book Fair. After eight successful years, the book fair goes from strength to strength and is increasingly attracting high calibre writers from across the world. Jama will evaluate this year's book fair as well as looking back at past book fairs, and shed light on how the festival continues to grow in popularity.



Abdirahman 'Guri Barwaaqo' is a connoisseur of the Somali language, an art critic and he's currently the Head of Department of Culture and Language at Hargeysa University. He will dig into the historical ties between Britain and the Somali territories, and explore the relations that continue to exist between the two parties.

**In conversation with Professor Cawo Abdi &
Struggle, a play by Firdos Ali**
Oxford House | 7.30pm-10pm | £6.00
Chaired by Idil Osman

Two decades after the start of the civil war, the Somali diaspora has become a site of cultural and artistic production as well as a popular topic of academic and literary work. Sociologist **Professor Cawo Abdi** will launch her recently published manuscript, *Journeys of Hope and Pain: The Somali Diaspora*, focusing on an African Muslim migrant group dispersed around the globe. It poses common migration questions on a comparative broader scale.

Struggle, a play by Firdos Ali

Suuban makes a YouTube video explaining how she is doubly discriminated against: she is black and she is Muslim. When the video goes viral she becomes the voice of her community but her new found fame has unwelcome consequences. MI5 pressure her relentlessly for help in preventing teenage girls from joining ISIS. And some of her community turn against her, digging up secrets from her family's past in Somalia.

Firdos Ali is a playwright living in London. Her plays include *Struggle*, which was part of *Talawa Firsts 2015*, *Stripped Black* part of *Black Lives, Black Stories* and *The Ship's Name* which she co-wrote for the Royal Court Theatre in 2013. Firdos studied Chemical Engineering at UCL before pursuing a career in web development and digital marketing.

Wednesday 28 October

Somali Week Festival Fusion
The Camden Irish centre
6pm-10pm | £6.00



Camden Somali Cultural Centre is excited to host a mix of all things Diaspora and homeland. We will be bringing a fusion of Somali-British spoken word exploring identity, space, time and culture.

Following a week long poetry workshop with Camden school children, poets **Elmi Ali**, **Amaal Said** and **Hibaaq Osman** will perform their personal and powerful poems depicting life as they see it. **Hannah Mohamed**, a sixteen year old writer whose already published in two books, *Young Writers Mini Saga 2011* and *It Always Seems So Simple* in 2015 will share some new pieces with us. We are also honoured to host sensational visiting guests from Somalia and Somaliland showcasing the richness of Somali musical tradition and sound. **Sahra Ilyas** and **Said Salah Ahmed** will bring their unique talent to the Camden Irish centre.

Sahra Ilayis is a talented vocalist and folklore dancer, Sahra began her musical career as vocalist in the iconic band Waaberi, the most popular band in Somali history. Sahra is now an established solo singer as and regularly duets with Mohamed BK. She will be joined by poet and play and songwriter **Said Salah Ahmed**.



Abdillahi H. Ganey is a Somali poet, song writer, and community organiser. He is the son of Hassan Ganey, who is one of the greatest poets in Somali history, and Adar Kahin, a community activist and ex- Somali singer and actress. Currently, Abdillahi lives with his family in Minnesota. Recited in the Somali language his poems and songs focus on wide range of topics such as peace, environment, education, good government and overall social justice.

Thursday 29 October

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated – Fishing in the Territorial Waters of Somalia
Oxford House | 2pm-5pm | Free

This will be a panel discussion on the Illegal Fishing pursuits of foreign countries in Somalia's territorial waters which will be followed by a short video clip highlighting Adeso's Goodwill Ambassador Barkhad Abdis return to Somalia and the scale of illegal fishing in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

In addition to the panel discussion and video clip, Adeso, a Somali-led humanitarian and development organisation, will showcase art pieces from a workshop they facilitated in Camden for Somali children, exploring their ideas of the sea and their attitudes towards it. Adeso is changing the way people think about and deliver aid in Africa; they believe that development must come from within, not outside African communities.

Speaker: Abdi M. Dahir

Abdi M. Dahir is the Program Director of Adeso's Natural Resource Management project, In the last 30 years, he has been published in various journals for works pertaining to the environment, marine resources, plant taxonomy, environmental management, socio-economic development, and the geography of Somalia/East Africa.

Thursday 29 October

Under a Watchful Eye: Somalis in the Media

Oxford House | 6pm-10pm | £6.00

Chaired by Quman Akli

In the latter half of the past decade Somalis have come under strict scrutiny from the international media, which continues to draw on negative stories that fuel the stereotypes associated with Somalis today. This conversation will explore the different ways in which Somalis can challenge the one-sided view currently being offered by the media. It will look at a range of platforms such as national and international media and tools like social media to empower the people to have their voices heard and change their own narrative.

Mohammed Adow is an Al Jazeera journalist based in Doha, Qatar. Over the past 15 years Adow has been a key journalist reporting on sensitive issues such as the Ogaden fighters in eastern Ethiopia, the post election violence in Kenya and the rape culture in Mogadishu's IDP camps.



Nadifa Mohamed is an acclaimed novelist based in London; she was selected as one of Granta's Best Young British Novelist in 2013. Her debut novel, *Black Mamba Boy*, about her father was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and won the Betty Trask Prize. Her second novel, *The Orchard of Lost Souls*, which follows the lives of three women amidst civil war has been described as 'unforgettable' by fellow author Taiye Selasi. Nadifa is currently working on her third novel

Ugaaso Bocoow is a Somali-Canadian comedian and Instagram phenomenon who reached stardom with her comedy sketches of Somali society and culture. She was recently featured on BBC Trending for utilising wit and humour to showcase a light hearted side of Mogadishu, in contrast to the all too-often stereotypical narratives of war, poverty and terrorism.



Quman Akli is a Dutch Somali lawyer. Prior to joining the Max Planck Foundation for International Law as a Research Fellow, Quman helped launch and implement a large scale DFID funded project in Somaliland. Under the Somaliland Justice Sector Project, Quman was responsible for research, project coordination, legal advice and implementation. Quman is a long standing champion of Somali arts and culture. She started as a volunteer with SWF in its inception days and joined the board of directors in 2009.



Live performances: readings by poets **Ladan Osman**, **Asha Luul Mohamed** and **Laila Duale**, and a performance by vocalist **Maryan Mursal**.

Friday 30 October

Breaking Boundaries: Somalis in Mainstream Media
Oxford House, 6pm-10pm | £10.00

This evening will be dedicated to young artists who are becoming increasingly popular in the mainstream arts scene. **Mataano** is a Somali owned designer brand co-owned by twins **Ayaan** and **Idyl Moallim** originally from Texas, USA.

Ayaan and **Idyl** will be in conversation with Instagram phenomenon **Ugaaso Bocoow**, where they'll discuss their journey into creating the biggest Somali-inspired designer company in the West. Somali style may have acted as an inspiration to drive them into the fashion industry, but has the community been the same? Ayaan, Idyl and Ugaaso will explore the need for young artists to break boundaries in order to redefine themselves, and the particular challenges this poses for women.



Mataano embraces a fresh take on modern femininity with an emphasis on silk fabrics. Mataano's goal is to provide the modern women with gorgeously romantic, yet simple silhouettes made to flatter her evolving sense of style.

Established in 2009 Mataano's premier collection launched in New York City and garnered notice throughout the industry, including features in Vogue and the New York Times. Since then, Mataano has showcased several collections during the New York Fashion Week as well as international fashion shows. The Moallim sisters work and live in Brooklyn, New York.



Autumn Sharif is a 19 year old Somali-Dutch singer and songwriter based in southeast London. She recently opened at the O2 Indigo as a supporting act for the British band Lawson. She will be followed by headliner **Farxiya Fiska** and her band.



Saturday 31 October

A Space for Children Oxford House, 2pm-4pm | Free

A fun, interactive and educational session for accompanied 5-10 year olds. **Zainab Dahir**, a Somali storyteller, entertainer and educator will lead the activities which will include Somali story-telling, face-painting, arts and crafts, clowns and more! Zainab is an activist and promoter of the Somali language among Somali children raised in The UK.



Xamar to Bosaso, Hargeysa to Jigjiga 4pm-5pm | Oxford House | Free

Diaspora Dialogue is a social media project which documents the stories of Somali Diasporas from across the world returning to their motherland. The stories shared cover all the regions in the Horn where Somali people reside and are in the form of photos or short written pieces. From Hamar to Hargeysa, Jigjiga to Bosaso, various men and women, old and young share their unique experiences of going back home, many for the first time.

Somali Gender Equity Movement: Unity for Progress

5pm-6pm | Free

Presenter: Lul Hassan Kulmiye, member of the SGEM executive committee

Lul Hassan Kulmiye, a member of the Somali Gender Equity Movement's executive committee will give a short presentation about the group and its mission to sustain Somali women's movements domestically and internationally. The group which was launched in Minnesota hopes to promote social and political equity in the public decision making arena in 2016 and beyond. With a vision to achieve equitable power sharing, gender mainstreaming, the movement aims to empower Somali women and girls, and support their development.

Flourishing Spaces: New Somali Literature Oxford House, 6pm-10pm

A session dedicated to promote the launch of the recently published work in scholarly studies of the Somali language, organised in partnership with Redsea Cultural Foundation.

Rashid Mohamed Shabeelle, a writer residing in the Netherlands will present his revised edition of *Ma dhabbaa Jacalay waa loo dhintaa?*

Researchers at the department of African studies, University of Naples, having been working in collaboration with Redsea cultural foundation on a study led by **Jama Musse Jama** to create a new tool for the linguistic analysis of the Somali language for Hadraawi's classic poem "Gudude" which is a pilot project within the Somali corpus project. **Rashid Sheikh Abdullahi** and **Farah 'Gamuute'** will deliver the first item.



Farah Gaamuute, a writer and poet will share new insights into the use of particular words by revered poets. Gaamuute has spent many years researching the metrical structure of Somali poetry, and his work will provide further insight into the complexity of this art form. Gaamuute will present his short stories which he written in the early 1980s that recently recovered in the archive of Somali Digital Library at Hargeysa Cultural Centre. He revised his work and published it in a collection; his first book length work has been published.

Mohamud Sh. Ahmed Dalmar, Irdho is his first book length satirical work. The book, which contains more than 800 verses poem, is an imaginary fictionalised story about the Somali Language, coming to Europe, and seeking asylum in the UK, with the result of his bid for asylum being refused.

Abdirahman Guri 'Barwaaqo' is an art critic and the head of department of culture and Language at Hargeysa University. He's written a few books such as magac bilaasho ma baxo (nicknames don't lie), Mahaadhooyinkii Gaariye (a biography of Gaariye) and Hal-bixinta ereyada kumbuyutarka (a book on Somali terminology for technical items) and will be presenting them on the day.

During the event, there will also be a number of other guests including Abdirahman M. Abtidoon, who will evaluate the effectiveness of his nationwide rural literacy short film campaign. Mohamed Hirsi Guleid 'Abdibashir' will present some of his books, Zainab Dahir will share her new publications in youth literature, Cinzia Androini and Faduma Maxamuud Diiriye will present their bilingual work "Under the same sky"; Jawaahir Farah will run a workshop on Somali traditional games for children, Said Jama Hussein will present his new edition of Safarkii aan jiho lahayn (travelling without love), and Mahamed Mahamoud Haykal will present his book on abusing khat, Masiibada Cagaaran - Maandooriyaha Qaadka.

Sunday 1 November

Somali Sound
Logan Theatre, Institute of Education
5.30pm-10pm | £15.00

The round-off event will bring together visiting musicians **Maxamed BK, Daud Ali Masahaf,** and **Sahra Ilays** with UK-based artists including **Kaltuun Bacado, Macalow, Mohamud Omar, Prince Abdi, Faisal Salah** and many more for a final night of entertainment at the heart of the city.

Maxamed BK will be headlining this concert with **Sahra Ilays** and **Daud Ali Masahaf**. He is a vocalist, songwriter and music composer, and the lead singer of Xidigaha Geeskar.



Mohamed BK is the son of one of the most popular folklore dancers, **Said Erigawaabi**, and since early childhood he followed in the footsteps of his father learning how to play the oud and developing a passion for the arts and culture. It was when he moved to Hargeysa, he gained widespread popularity. Now a solo artist in his own right, he is a regular feature across Somali televisions and radio stations, and also a firm favourite at concerts.

Sahra Ilays is a talented vocalist and folklore dancer, Sahra began her musical career as vocalist of the iconic band Waaberi, the most popular band in Somali history. Sahra is now an established solo singer as and regularly duets with **Maxamed BK**.

Daud Ali Masahaf is a visiting artist, lute player and vocalist from Mogadishu who now resides in Djibouti. Masahaf is one of the greatest Somali lute players who had the privilege of performing with legends the likes of **Magool**, **Khadra Daahir**, and Mandeeq. With 40 years of experience under his belt, he has upheld the tradition of lute playing throughout the changing faces of the Horn.

Faisal Salah is a young nasheed and spoken word artist whose work is often centred around his Islamic faith. Salah's work reflects his intrinsic enthusiasm for inner peace, love and fulfilling the Islamic way of life in modern society. Salah has showcased his talent on the Spoken n' Heard Tour 2015 and the Ilm Arts Festival 2015.

Prince Abdi is a Somali-born British stand-up comedian and actor. Abdi's comedy work has been describes as being upbeat and infectious. He won the 'Your Comedy Star' competition at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and was also nominated "Best Newcomer" in the Black Entertainment Comedy Awards in 2007.



Kaltuun Bacado, Macalow and **Mohamud Omar** are Somali music starts that will be joining us for the final event.

Photo exhibitions

Throughout the festival we will be showcasing two exhibitions by photographers Kate Stanworth and Kate Hold. Kate Stanworth will exhibit her photos from this year's Hargeysa International Book Fair and photo of her student in Hargeysa, and Kate Holt will exhibit work from her project with UNICEF from school children in Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeysa.





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