

Somali Week Festival 2012

Kayd Somali Arts and Culture, in collaboration with Redsea-online Cultural Foundation and other partners, are proud to present Somali Week Festival 2012. This year's festival will run from Friday the 19th to Sunday the 28th October in London.

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, music and theatre. Through these different artistic forms, Somali Week Festival has explored a variety of themes in past years and has become a widely recognized and anticipated annual event in the UK.



Theme of the Year: Courage

Somali Week Festival 2012 will focus on the theme of 'COURAGE'. Our understanding of 'courage' is not one of gun-toting aggression, but a belief in peace and tolerance as essential principles; about dreaming the seemingly impossible, challenging the status quo in the name of collaboration and fruitful coexistence. In that sense it emphasises empathy, tolerance and personal integrity in a context of uncertainty. The acceptance that this kind of courage must necessarily exist without the security of knowing that 'everything will be all right in the end' is paramount. Tolerance and empathy in the certain knowledge of a positive outcome do not require courage.

We are inviting artists, writers, campaigners, investors and people from civil society, both Somali and non-Somali, from Somaliland and Somalia, as well as from the UK and other European countries and the USA, to share experiences and discuss the concepts of courage, tolerance, identity, peace and development.



We are delighted to welcome international guests, including **Mahamed Ibrahim Warsame "Hadraawi"**, **Said Saleh Ahmed**, **Hussein Sheikh Ahmed 'Kaddare'**, **Hassan Qowdhan**, **Musse Ali Faruur**, **Abdidhuh Yusuf**, **Giorgio Banti**, **Abdallah Mansuur**, **Mohamed Daahir Afrah**, **Evan Christopher**, **Iara Lee**, **Farah Gamuute**, **Ali Hasan 'Banfas'**, **Abdilaahi Awad**, **Ismail Abdi Ibrahim 'Basbaas'**, **Roland Marchal** and more.

Finally, we will be celebrating the 40-year anniversary of the written Somali language and we are very pleased to welcome **Kaddare**, from Mogadishu, Somalia. Kaddare was one of the prominent promoters of written Somali language and he later joined the official Somali Language Committee.

All events take place in Oxford House, Bethnal Green, except the two panel discussions on Friday 26th October which will take place in SOAS University, Russell Square. For more information, please visit our website www.kayd.org. We look forward to welcoming you to Somali Week Festival 2012!



Friday 19th October
Festival Launch
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
6:00pm - 10:00pm
Chair: Quman Akli
Fee: £10
(In Somali and English)



We have invited the **Hon. Rushanara Ali, MP** together with the Mayor of Tower Hamlet, **Mr Lutfur Rehman** to launch the Somali Week Festival 2012. **Said Salah**, a distinguished US-based poet, playwright and teacher will subsequently introduce the theme of *Courage* and discuss the impact of past and contemporary courageous artists, whose work has shaped socio-political change within Somali-speaking territories. Visiting artists along with UK based Artist: **Muse Ali Faruur, Hassan Qawdhan, Abdidhuuh Yusuf** will recite some of their poetry. **James Byrne**, poet and editor of Wolf Poetry Magazine and **Claire Pollard**, poet from the Poetry Translation Centre, will provide the English translations. **Abdilaahi Bootaan** will recite his work with colleague **Rob Inglis**.

The evening will conclude with a talk by the award-winning poet and thinker, **Mohamed Warsame ‘Hadraawi’**.

Saturday 20th October
Oral to written language: celebrating the 40-year anniversary of the Somali script
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
2:00pm – 7:30pm
Chair: Jama Musse Jama
Fee: £5
(In Somali)

In October 1972 the Somali script, based on the Somali Latin alphabet, was standardised and introduced as the Official Somali Language Script. Somali, which had been until then an oral language, could now be transmitted and preserved in textual form. This panel will be chaired and introduced by **Jama Musse Jama**. This will be followed by a talk by **Prof Giorgio Banti** and **Said Salah**, poet, playwright and teacher on “development of Somali language for the last forty years”. We will conclude this panel with a discussion by a group of acclaimed writers, experts and intellectuals including **Abdallah Mansur, Martin Orwin, Said Jama, Mohamed Daahir Afrah, and Saynab Daahir** on the future of Somali language.



Conversation with Hussein Sheikh Ahmed “Kaddare”



In the second part of the evening **Hussein Sheikh Ahmed “Kaddare”** will be interviewed by Said Salah, on his fifty years work on Somali language, poetry and culture. He will also recite some of his famous *Shirib* poetry. This *sooyaal* (classical Somali event) will provide an opportunity particularly for young people to learn about the history of the Somali language and the innovative work of individuals such as Kaddare.



King of Lute Hudaydi meets Lejazzebel, Aar Maanta and Fuad Omar (Walaalaha Sweden)
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
8.30 pm – 10:30pm
Fee: £10



The New Orleans-based clarinetist Evan Christopher and his band, **Lejazzebel**, meet **Hudaydi**, the King of Lute. We are delighted to present this unique fusion of New Orleans Jazz and Somali *Qaraami* music, merging not only two contrasting traditions, but also a number of virtuoso performers from different continents, to forge what will be a creative and experimental evening of music.



This evening we will also commemorate the beloved **Late Faisal Umar Mushteg; Hudaydi, Aar Maanta and Fuad Omar** will play an impassioned set honouring Faisal.

This act will be followed by a performance by much loved band **Aar Maanta**, who will play their original mixture of Somali lyrics, contemporary African beats and American rhythm and blues.



Sunday 21st October
Conversation with Musse Ali Faruur: Heritage and Classical poetry
& Djibouti Fusion
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
6.00pm – 10.00pm
Chair: Mohamed Bashe
Fee: £10
(In Somali)



Somali Heritage and Classical poetry

Muuse Cali Cige “Faruur” will share with the audience his experiences, his penetrating and captivating poetry, and his vast expertise on Somali ‘traditional’ knowledge wisdom and folklore. Faruur will be joined by **Rashid Sheikh Abdilahi “Gadhwayne”** who will be speaking about courage and Somali classical poetry.

This part of the event will conclude with a presentation on the Somali Archives Project in collaboration with Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives.

Djibouti Fusion

The second part of the evening will include a mixture of poetry, traditional dance and music by artists from Djibouti including **Kaltuun Bacado, Xananteeye, Anab Ismail, and Nur Daalacay**. Djibouti has been home to Somali arts since the early 1990s and has been actively engaged in the revival and development of Somali literature. The artists include. There will be music, poetry, and traditional dances.



Monday 22nd October

Anglo-Somali Society Event

Oxford House, Bethnal Green

5:30pm – 7:30pm

(In English)

Entrance fee: £8.50 (£7.00 for students/unwaged) includes dinner

This Anglo-Somali Society event will begin with a talk by **Rashid Ali**, curator of the exhibition *Mogadishu's Forgotten Pasts & Distant Futures*. He will be followed by **Amina Ali**, who will speak about identity issues and the current status of Somalis in the UK. To conclude this session, **Dr. Eleni Palazidou** will make an appeal for a Mental Health Service project in Galkaciyo General Hospital. A Q & A session will follow and dinner will be provided.

Monday 22 October

Investment and Development in Somaliland

Oxford House, Bethnal Green

8:00pm – 10:00pm

Chair: Richard Dowden

Fee: £5

This panel discussion will address the development and investment opportunities in Somaliland, and explore different pathways for a sustainable future for Somaliland. Speakers will include: **Mohamed Yusuf, Chair and CEO of Invicta Capital**, who will provide an insight into the investment climate in Somaliland and the legal and political conditions necessary to attract foreign investment; **Sarah Metcalf** (TBC) who will give a presentation on DFID's work in Somaliland and will focus on the importance of the British - Danish initiative, "Somaliland Development Fund" for Somaliland development and the Somaliland National Plan; **Mahamed Aden**, PhD Candidate at Goldsmith University who will conclude the event with a brief contribution. Finally, **Aly Verjee**, Rift Valley Institute, will discuss potential lessons for Somaliland from recent South Sudan experience of a pooled donor fund.

Tuesday 23rd October

The Muted Cry: activism through theatre

Oxford House, Bethnal Green

3.00pm – 5.00pm



Back by popular demand! We are screening, for a second-year running, the play on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). *Muted Cry* is a short, entertaining and emotive play that underlines the devastating effect of FGM. It is based on information and testimonies gathered from women participating in the project *Community Against FGM*, and is written by Abdirahman Yusuf Artan, a playwright and director renowned for addressing social issues through drama. The play was favourably received when it was first performed in 2011 and commended for its realistic portrayal of family dynamics, gender relations and generational differences. The play will be performed in English with Somali narrations with a diverse cast.

The play will be followed by a discussion panel including **Efua Dorkenoo** from Equality Now and **Dr Fatuma Farah**, psychotherapist and Q & A session.



Cultures of Resistance: Documentary Screening and discussion
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
6:00pm – 10:00pm
Chair: Julia Farrington
Fee: £5
(In English)

This evening will feature the documentary *Cultures of Resistance* directed by Iara Lee. In 2003, on the eve of the Iraq war, director Iara Lee embarked on a journey to comprehend and capture a world increasingly embroiled in conflict and, as she saw it, heading for self-destruction. After several years, travelling over five continents, Iara encountered numbers of people who committed their lives to promoting change. This documentary captures their stories. From Iran, where graffiti and rap became tools for fighting government repression, to Burma, where monks drawing on Gandhi's example took on a dictatorship, all the way to Brazil, where musicians reached out to slum kids to transform guns into guitars. After the screening, there will be a panel discussion to explore role of artistic expression in the battle for peace, justice and development. The discussion will be chaired by Julia Farrington from Index on Censorship and will include **Iara Lee, Said Jama, Abdidhuh Yusuf, and Christine Bacon, Artistic Director of Ice and Fire**. The evening will conclude with a performance by **Abdirazaak Ahmad Faraah 'Gaadaco'**.



Wednesday 24th October
Women's Evening: Leadership, literature, film & music
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
6:00pm – 10:00pm
Entrance Fee: £10



This event will celebrate the contributions of Somali female artists, writers, filmmakers and academics. We will discuss the challenges faced by women as well as the diversity of ways they have thrived and claimed a space for their work in the Horn of Africa and the Diaspora. The evening will begin with a screening of two short films produced by a group of young Somali Canadian women entitled *Gashanti Unity*. The first film relates the journey of three young newcomers to Canada and the second features the stories of three young East African women who write letters to their daughters.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with **Siham Rayaale** who will talk about her research on *Women, Leadership and Political Participation in Somaliland*. **Nadifa Mohamed**, author of the award-winning novel *Black Mamba Boy* will deliver a presentation on the courage of Somali women and will introduce her keenly awaited second novel. Finally, **Baxsan Ahmed Said** who has been in the UK under the Chevening Scholarship Scheme at the University of York will discuss her recently completed research on *Women in conflict and violence*.

Over the last year Somali poet **Asha Luul Mahamed** and British poet **Claire Pollard** have been working together at the Poetry Translation Centre and touring across the UK. On the night, Asha will first recite her own poetry followed by Claire, who will present her English translation.

We will close the event with performances by **Maryan Mursal**, one of the greatest Somali female musicians.



Thursday 25th October
Desiring to Inspire
6:00pm – 10.00pm
Chair: Muna Elmi
Fee: £5
(In English)



This session will present the success stories of three British-Somalis. We will interview three men of Somali origin: **Abdi Guhad**, **Mo Ali**, **Moe Flex** and discuss their life ambitions, career aspirations and the advantages and limitations of being both Somali and British. **Abdi Guhad** is a successful British-Somali actor trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He first appeared in Stephen Frears' *Dirty Pretty Things* and in Norman Jewison's *Rollerball* and Mike Hodges' *I'll Sleep when I'm dead* and *Welcome Home* is his fourth feature film. **Moe Flex** travels around the world teaching thousands of people salsa, hip hop, street funk, reggaeton and other forms of dance. **Mo Ali** is Somali Film maker and Director. We will be screening short films, hearing their stories.

We will conclude this evening with comedy from **Prince Abdi** and music performances from **Abdulkarim Raas & Kuljit Bhamra with Nimco** Degan with exciting and unique collaboration between Somali and Punjabi music.



Friday 26th October
New developments in Somali Studies
Venue: School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square,
London WC1H 0XG
Brunei Gallery, Russell Square
5:00pm – 10:00pm
Fee: £10
(In English)

Panel 1: Somali Studies: Influences of Young Somali Academics on Somali Studies.
Chair: Idil Osman

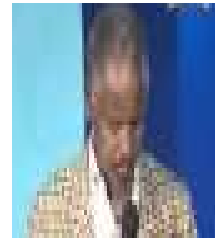
Somali Studies have long been dominated by non-Somali scholars, who have written extensively about history, politics and anthropology. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of scholars of Somali origin, albeit most are based in foreign universities, and often work alongside non-Somalis conducting research in Somali Studies. The subject matters of their work are more diverse and reflect a broader range of issues. This session will discuss the implications for all those involved, and will showcase some of the up and coming research in the field of Somali Studies. Contributors include: **Dr Laura Hammond**, Senior lecturer at the Department of Development Studies in SOAS, **Siham Rayale**, Phd Candidate researching on Women and Political Participation at SOAS, **Dr Michael Walls**, Lecturer in Development Studies at UCL, **Ridwan Osman**, PhD candidate researching Civic Education in Somaliland at Cambridge University and **Dr Martin Orwin**, Senior Lecturer in Somali and Amharic Languages and Head of department of Language and Culture of Africa at SOAS.

Panel 2: Mogadishu: The heart of Somalia crisis for the last 20 years
Chair: Dr Laura Hammond

Mogadishu has been at the heart of Somalia's civil war for decades and there has been great international involvement and effort to stabilize the city. We will screen a short documentary produced by Idil Osman about the aftermath of the drought. We will then discuss the security situation, politics and civil society's initiatives and foreign involvement. We will speak to experts who live in Mogadishu or who recently visited the city such as **Roland Marchal** research fellow at the National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris, **Abdi Dhuh Yusuf**, Director of the National Theatre in Mogadishu, **Mary Harper**, BBC World Service Africa Editor, Idil Osman, Journalist and PhD candidate and **Nick Kay**, Africa Director, the Foreign and commonwealth Office.



Saturday 27th October
Pure Poetry
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
2pm– 7:30pm
Fee: £5
(In Somali)



Poetry is the most prestigious literary art form in Somali culture and has supremacy over all other artistic forms of expression. As an oral society, poetry helps Somalis memorise and transmit their history, culture and philosophy across the generations. This evening of pure poetry will feature the work of visiting artists alongside UK-based artists including Mahamed Ibrahim Warsame “Hadraawi”, Hasan Qawdhan, Said Saalah Ahmed, Hussien Sheikh Ahmed “Kaddare”, Ali Hasan “Banfas”, Abdidhuh Yusuf, Abdilahi Awad Awadgale, and Muse Ali “Faruur”, Adan Muse Haybe will perform.

Hassan Qowdhan is a renowned composer and playwright and will be interviewed by veteran journalist Mahamud Sheikh Dalmar.

This part of the event will conclude with a presentation on Somali archives project by Tower hamlets local history library and Archive.



Literature Day - Redsea Book Fair
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
6:00pm – 11:00pm
FREE

Redsea-online Cultural Foundation, in collaboration with SWF present a day of literature, featuring a series of new books published and distributed by Ponte Invisible (redsea-online.com) that underline the significance of artistic courage. There will be an opportunity to purchase books which are only available via Redsea-online such as the *Curisyo* series and the *Iswaydaarsi* series. Writers will be invited to read short extracts from their books to give a taster to the audiences include Rashid Sheikh Abdillaahi “Gadhwayne”, Farah Gamute, Ahmed I Yuusuf, Jawahir Dahir, Cabdirahman M Abtidon, Cabdalla Shafey, Abdulaziz Xildhiban, Hussein Nur, Zeinab Dahir, Said Ali Shire, Mustafe A Nur, Maxamed Hassan Alto, Sylvie and other authors will present their new literary productions. The event will be coordinated by Cabdillaahi Cawed Cige.

Sunday 28th October
Comedy and Music night - Basbaas and the three Abdis
Oxford House, Bethnal Green
6:00pm – 10:00pm
Fee: £10

Ismail Abdi Ibrahim “Basbaas”, one of the most renowned comedians and actors of Somali theatre will take centre stage on this evening of entertainment. Basbaas is famous for popularising Somali theatre throughout the 1960s; at a time when theatre was largely unscripted he is celebrated for his improvisation skills and his versatility. His performance will be followed by popular London-based young Somali artists, including Abdifatax, Abdi Holland and Abdikhaalq.



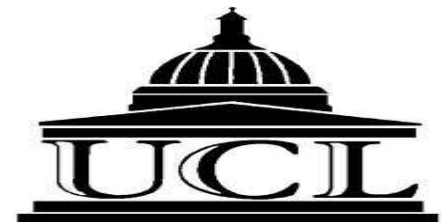


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Kayd Somali Arts and Culture and partner organisations would like thank the following for funding Somali Week Festival 2012:



We would like to also thank our partners and sponsors:



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