

Kayd Somali Arts and Culture,  
Redsea Cultural Foundation with other Partners

*Present*

# *Somali Week Festival 2013*

London, 18-27 October  
Oxford House, Derbyshire Street E2 6HG



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# The Programme



## THE PROGRAMME

Friday 18th October

**Festival Launch: Journeying Through the Arts**

**Oxford House, Bethnal Green**

**6:00-10:00pm**

**Chair: Iman Shabele.**

**Fee: £5 (Somali and English)**



We have invited the Hon. Rushanara Ali, MP to launch, Somali Week with acclaimed poet Mahamed Ibrahim Warsame 'Hadraawi', accompanied by two renowned writers and playwright, Said Salah Ahmed, Bashir Goth and other artists and intellectuals, Hadraawi will explore the theme of journey and its forms, from migration and exile, to isolation and discovery.



Together the artists will share their own personal adventures, and reflect on the impact of their own journeys on their past and present literary works. We will close this launch event with music from the renowned Somali singer Maryan Mursal.



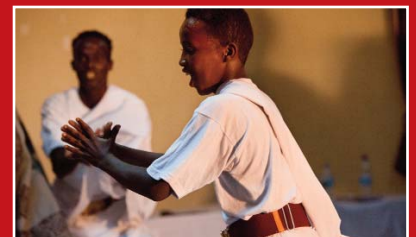
Saturday, 19th October

**Daadah: children's afternoon**

**Oxford House, Bethnal Green**

**2:00-4:00pm**

**(Somali and English)**



It is with great pleasure that Somali Week Festival dedicates an afternoon for children's entertainment. Zaynab Daahir will captivate the audience with popular Somali tales with beautiful illustrations and an interactive word game.



Saturday, 19th October

### Shax Competition: children's afternoon

Oxford House, Bethnal Green

4:00-6:00pm



The afternoon will include SWF's inaugural Shax competition. Shax (pronounced as Shahh) is a two player board game that has been played in the Horn of Africa for centuries. It holds a special cultural place in the Somali region, where it has been a popular pastime, particularly amongst nomadic people, for generations. Shax is the subject of much Somali literature, featuring in many poems and sayings.



In recognition of its significant role in Somali culture and history, Somali Week Festival will be dedicating some of the afternoon to the game, inviting players both accomplished and new. We look forward to much good spirited competition!

We will be also launching new publication of this game.

Saturday, 19th October

### Somali Culture in Flux

Oxford House, Bethnal Green

6:00-10:00pm

Fee: £5 (In Somali)



This evening will focus on Somali theatre and poetry. It will be introduced by Mohamed Dahir Afrah, "the journey theatre and new opportunities", who will take centre stage for the first part of the evening. While Bashir Goth will discuss the ways in which Somali culture has changed and adapted as a result of migration and internal displacement. Rashid sheikh Abdilaahi and Farah Ali Gamuute will share the platform to further examine what this change means with them to further examine what this change means for the culture and the society as a whole.



This part of the evening will be followed by a reading from, Hassan Ganey, Bashir and Farah Gamuute.



Hassan, one of the most renowned of contemporary playwrights, song-writers and experts on Somali folklore and traditions, Ganey has witnessed the gradual decline of the arts in Somali society, and has in recent years been an active campaigner to promote the art within Somali society.

Bashir Goth is an esteemed poet, veteran journalist, a writer, and cultural custodian also known for being an advocate for community based projects. Farah Ali Gamuute, a valued poet, teacher and an intellectual known for his contribution to Somali education.



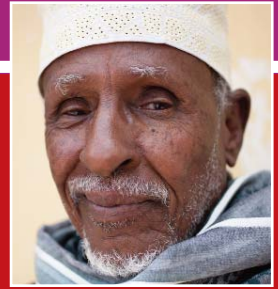
## Sunday 20th October

**In partnership with Poetry Translation Centre:**

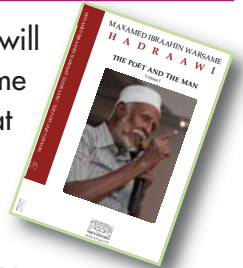
**Devoted to Somali: Hadraawi's translated works**

**6:00-10:00pm Fee: £10**

**Chair: Jama Musse Jama (Somali and English)**



The new publication entitled 'Hadraawi: The Man and the Poet, volume 1', will be launched by W.N. (Bill) Herbert and Mahamed Ibrahim Warsame 'Hadraawi' himself. This is the first publication in an ambitious project that aims to document the life and poetry of one of the greatest living Somali poets. Co-published by Redsea Cultural Foundation, the Poetry Translation Centre and Kayd Somali Arts and Culture, it contains translations of Hadraawi's works by Bill, as well as those by contemporaries, Mohamed Hassan



Alto, Said Jama, Martin Orwin and Ahmed I. Yussuf, with an introduction by Rashiid Sheekh Abdillaahi Xaaji Axmed 'Gadhwayne'. Hadraawi has recently been presented with the Prince Claus Award 2012, which honours the outstanding achievements in the fields of culture and development to individuals or organisations in areas where resources and opportunities for creative expression are scarce. This reward was given in recognition of Hadraawi's work to preserve Somali poetry and heritage and for his use of poetry as a vehicle to promote social justice, freedom of expression, and peace. We will close this launch event with music from Hudaydi, The King of the Lute, who will entertain us with a repertoire of traditional Somali Qaraami music, Nimco Degan and Nimco Yasin, two respected and popular Somali singers.

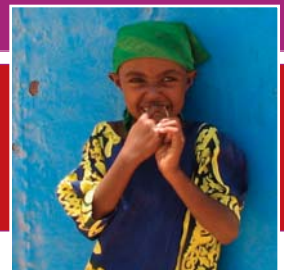


## Monday, 21 October

**In partnership with Oxfam, Adeso and the Royal African Society**

**Somali remittances in the future ?**

**1:30pm-5pm**



Every year, the international Somali diaspora sends approximately \$1.3B to relatives in their home country – a significantly larger sum than the humanitarian aid given to the country. On an individual basis, remittances are usually within the range of \$35-\$300 per month. Recipients of these transfers are dependent on remittances for basic necessities such as food, water, education and healthcare, as well as any crises that may arise. Although a recent report by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that up to 40 per cent of families in Somalia/Somaliland are recipients of some form of remittance, banks in the United Kingdom and the United States are contemplating closing down the accounts of money transfer operators due to strict regulations on money laundering and counter terrorism strategies. As a result, the shutting down of these money transferring accounts threatens the financial lifeline of hundreds of thousands of Somali families. Organised by Oxfam, Adeso and the Royal African Society, and hosted Kayd within Somali Week Festival, the objective of this event is to discuss how to strengthen and maintain remittance transfers to Somalia/Somaliland as this transfer of money represents a lifeline for those in need. This meeting will examine the impact of the decision by banks in the United Kingdom and the United States to discontinue their services to remittance companies operating in Somalia/Somaliland and explore challenges raised by the international remittance sector.

Participants will include academics, NGO's, Somali Money Remittance Companies, Members of UK Parliament and Somali civil society.

Monday 21st October

**Anglo-Somali Society meeting with Matt Baugh & Mary Harper**

**Oxford House, Bethnal Green**

**6:00-8:00pm**

**Fee: £6/£5 (includes supper)**

**(English)**



It is with great pleasure that the Anglo-Somali Society take the stage once more at the Somali Week Festival. As host, the Society gives us an opportunity for open discussion and shared ideas on recent developments in the Somali region and their perspectives on the future.



The evening will begin with a presentation by Matt Baugh, the former UK Ambassador to Somalia. Whilst serving, Mr Baugh was based in Nairobi and travelled to Somalia and Somaliland frequently, gaining a unique insight into this ever-tumultuous period of Somali affairs. He stood down from the post in June of this year.

In the second half of the event, Mary Harper, the Africa Editor, BBC World Service News, and author of 'Getting Somalia Wrong?' will deliver a presentation: The Turkish-Somali Love Affair.

We will hear her views from recent travels to Mogadishu whilst making TV and radio documentaries about Somali student scholarships to Turkey and Turkish humanitarian and business activities in Mogadishu.

The Anglo-Somali Society is a non profit-making international friendship society whose objective is to foster friendship and understanding between Somali and the English-speaking world, and to develop cultural and social relations between them.

The evening will conclude with a Somali finger food buffet served in the bar.

Monday 21st October

**Documentary screening: The Forgotten Soldiers**

**Oxford House, Bethnal Green,**

**8:00-10:00pm**

**Chair:**

**Fee: £5**

**(English)**



Sahan Society Centre is proud to present The Forgotten Soldiers. This one hour documentary pays tribute to all the unsung Somali heroes who fought for Great Britain during the First and the Second World Wars, whose courage, loyalty and commitment to the cause was extraordinary but whose stories have, unfortunately, not always been given the recognition they deserve.

Its central feature is the tale of comradeship and friendship between Captain Eric Wilson and Sergeant Omar Kujoog of the Somaliland Camel Corps regiment serving to protect the British Somaliland protectorate during the Second



World War. Their time together on the battle front forged a bond between the two men and their families which still endures today.

The screening will be followed by a conversation with the film maker and Hamish Wilson, son of Eric Wilson, and himself a man of extraordinary experience of travelling Somaliland and the wider Horn of Africa.

Director of Degmo Centre for Somali Heritage and Rural Life in Wales, a former BBC correspondent, photographer and explorer, Hamish's chronicles embrace heritage, culture and contemporary political history of the Horn of Africa region.



We invite Hamish to share with us his rich photographs and to talk about his views of the enduring friendship between Somali and British people, reflecting on his own time recording the most momentous occasions in Somaliland's political history over the past 30 years.

## Tuesday 22nd October

**Exploring Somali minority issues, rights and citizenship**  
**A SOAS/KAYD Somali Week Workshop**  
**Tuesday 22 October, 6 - 9 pm**  
**SOAS, University of London**  
**(Somali and English)**



Hosted by SOAS Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies, SWF, and Royal Africa Society, this workshop focuses on minority issues. We will examine how changing Somali politics and shifting notions of home, belonging and citizenship shape the construction of minority identities, and the situation of marginalised social groups. Inspired by the academic and activist work of the late Dr Virginia Luling, the aim is to explore what can be done to promote more inclusive policy and practice.



Our panel of specialist speakers includes Martin Hill (Human rights specialist), Nuur Mohamud Sheekh (Rift Valley Institute), Anita Adam (Independent researcher and publisher), Nasir Issa (Gobooye Organisation) and Markus V. Hoehne (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology). Presentations will be followed by open discussion.

Space is limited so please register in advance with Danielle Faye Tran ([dt37@soas.ac.uk](mailto:dt37@soas.ac.uk)) if you are planning to come, sending your name, and email.

**Tuesday 22nd October**

**Fusion – Djibouti – London**  
**Oxford House, Bethnal Green**  
**6:00-10:00pm**  
**Chair: Bashir Goth**  
**Fee: £5 (English)**



Djibouti has been hub of Somali arts since the early 1990s. Creativity and works have played a prominent role in the preservation, revival and development of Somali literature, poetry and music.



SWF is delighted to offer an opportunity to introduce varied and exciting art, culture and literature coming from Djibouti. Authors, poets and musicians will present and share their artistic and cultural work.

We are delighted that amongst our distinguished guests will be Dr. Abdirashid Mohamed Ismail, lecturer at the University of Djibouti. Dr Ismail will present his research on Cilmi Bowndhari, the mysterious history of a perfect lover.



The evening will also feature musicians from Djibouti based in the UK including Kaltun Bacado, Abdirahman Xananteeye, Anab Ismail and others.

**Wednesday 23rd October**

**Tackling Female Genital Mutilation:**  
**Training for professionals working with children and young people**  
**Oxford House, Bethnal Green**  
**Chair:**  
**2:00-5:30pm**  
**Free**  
**(English)**



Female Genital Mutilation is a long established practice in the Horn of Africa and continues to affect young women and their families throughout the region, as well as the global diaspora, today.



This afternoon training session is aimed at professionals working with children and young people, including teachers, social workers, and health visitors.

Two panel sessions will be devoted to the complexity and breadth of FGM related issues: The first panel will introduce participants to medical, child protection, and human rights implications of FGM; the second session will focus on practical ways

in which professionals can tackle and respond to FGM in education, social care and health services. Speakers include representatives from the NSPCC FGM Help Line, the Home Office's Violence against Women and Children unit, and Tower Hamlets Social Services. The event is free but space is limited so please register with Giulia Liberatore ([giulia@oceansomali.org.uk](mailto:giulia@oceansomali.org.uk))

## Wednesday 23rd October

### Women's Trajectories: Book Launch, Discussion and Music

Oxford House, Bethnal Green

Chair: Dr Laura Hammond.

6:00-10:00pm

Fee: £5

(language)



Women, rarely if ever the central antagonists of conflict, often bear its greatest costs. This evening is devoted to exploring the themes of movement, travel and displacement caused by conflict, through the eyes of Somali women.



Siham Riyaale, of Oxfam, will present her research and own knowledge of how women can benefit from peace processes in Somalia and Somaliland. Drawing from her field work, we will also look at what grassroots forms of advocacy Somali women have used to support development and women rights in their communities.

Joining Siham on the panel, Amina-Milgo Mahamoud, Saynab Mohamud and Khadra Elmi will share their views on some of the issues facing Somali women in Somalia, Somaliland and the UK.

This evening we also launch Nadifa Mohamed's second novel, 'The Orchard of Lost Souls'. Based on the journey of three Somali women, it is set in 1988 in Hargeysa, in the lead-up to the overthrow of Siad Barre's dictatorship. The novel revolves around the ordinary everyday experiences of the women who lived through such extraordinary times.

We will close the event with recitals from the amazing Warsan Shire, young Somali poetess, whose works have been translated in different languages, and a performance by Hibo Nuura, a highly esteemed Somali singer whose songs appeal to all generations.





## Thursday 24th October

**Embarking on new journeys: Youth identities, belonging and aspirations**

**Oxford House, Bethnal Green**

**6:00-10:00pm**

**Chair:**

**Fee: £5**

**(language)**



What does it mean to be a young Somali in the West? What role have the arts played for us personally, and how have the arts been influenced by our migration histories and experiences?

This session will provide an opportunity for young artists to engage with questions around identity and belonging, Somali, diaspora and transnational connections.

First we will watch a film directed and produced by a young Somali writer Muse Dalmar, *Tayo-beelka carruurtu waalid buu tebeyaa*. A new Somali film, the production seeks to address and highlight problems faced by Somali families in the West, especially: intergenerational issues; youth crimes; and khat abuse. The audience will have the opportunity to meet and discuss the work with Muse Dalmar himself.



After the film showing Prince Abdi, Ali Goolyad and others will share their experiences as Somali diaspora artists as well as their stories of success and their hopes and aspirations for the future.

We will close this event with performances from, Aar Maanta, a Much loved band well-known for playing Somali lyrics combined with African beats. Their unique style and collaboration in music makes the band much loved by their fans and the Somali community as a whole.

## Friday 25th October

**Literature and Poetry Day**

**6:00- 10:00pm**

**Chairs: Mustafe Aadan Nuur and Cabdillaahi Cawed Cige**

**Fee: free**

**(Somali)**



This year has seen a wealth of new publications and works from aspiring Somali authors. Blending modern and traditional genres that entertain and attract young and elderly audiences alike, our guest list includes recognisable writers as well as new names.

In collaboration with the Redsea Cultural Foundation, this evening will present recently published Somali literature and invite authors to read extracts from their books for the audience.

New books presented and an opportunity to purchase books

Rashiid Sheekh Cabdillaahi "Gadwayne", Cadli doonaha daal Allaa baday, written by Ahmed Sheekh Jama, 2013.

Siciid Saalax Axmed, Lix sheeko murtiyeed, 2013.

Siciid Jaamac Xuseen, Safar aan jiho lahayn, 2013.

Faarax Axmed Cali "Gaamuute", Coming of Age: An Introduction to Somali Metrics, 2014.

Jawaahir Faarax, buugaagta dhallinta iyo barbaarinta carruurta – different titles.

Cabdiraxmaan Abtidoon, AF SOOMAALI - Buugga 2aad, 2013.

Cabdalle Osman "Shafey", Barmaamijka buugaagta garaad korinta, 2013.

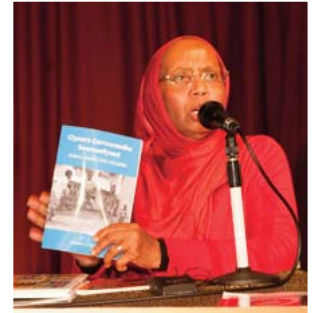
Zaynab Dahir, Daadah 2aad, 2013.

Said Ali Shire, Buug cusub iyo kuwa horeba. Different titles.

Hussein Nur, The Making of Somaliland - Experience of African Nation Building, 2013

Muuse Xaaji Dalmar, works written by members of Somaliland writers in Sweden, 2012.

Jawaahir Daahir and Idil, reading Cabdulqadir Xersi Yam-Yam's poetry, 2013



**Saturday 26th October**

**Somali Language and Literature in the 21st Century:  
Challenges and opportunities, In collaboration with  
AGA (Intergovernmental Academy of Somali Language)  
Oxford House, Bethnal Green  
2:00-6:00pm  
Chair: Maxamed Xirsi Guuleed  
Fee: free (Somali)**



Over the past years, particularly since the civil war in Somalia and the subsequent collapse of the nascent Somali State, the state and prospect of the newly written Somali Language, was being viewed with a real anxiety of going down the slope. Fortunately, however, there has been at the same time taking place genuine efforts on how to meet these challenges. Notable of these, was the huge commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Official Adoption of Orthography for the Somali Language, and consequently the establishment of the Intergovernmental Academy of Somali Language entrusted with the tasks of Somali Language preservation and development. In this session, the debate and discussion of the panelists will focus on the vital significance of the Somali Language, problems facing it and the ways and means

of confronting them. Within this context, will also be examined the role of the Intergovernmental Academy of Somali Language.



The panelists in this session will be Dr. Maxamed Daahir Afrax, Saciid Saalax Axmed, Dr. Cabdirashid Maxamed Ismaaciil Seynab Daahir, Cabdiraxmaan Abtidoon, and Amina Weheliye. They will be joined by London based poets such as Abdirahman Abees, Amran Mahamed and Aisha-luul Mohamed. This will be followed by comments and questions from the floor.

## Saturday 26th October

**An evening with Said Saalah - 50-year journey  
and Book Launch: Guban by Abdi Latif Ega**

**Chair: Zuhur Ahmed**

**6:00-22:00pm**

**Fee: £5**

**(Somali)**



Said Saalah, esteemed playwright, poet and teacher, will recite some of his most famous and intriguing stories. This will be followed by the performance of his one-act play featuring his 50-year journey as an artist, which he has produced specifically for this year's festival.

This 50 year celebration of Said Saalah includes reunion with Iftin Band: Sayid Khalif Osman Abdi, Bashir Ali Hussein, Salah Ahmed (Salah Xariiri) and Aisha Kahiye Guled.

**This will be followed by book lunch: Guban by Abdi Latif Ega.**

**Chair: Baar Hersi**

Abdi Latif Ega is a long-time resident of Harlem, New York. He has a research interest in the history, and contemporary literature of the African continent and is heavily influenced by writers of African descent from all corners of the world.



The evening will launch Guban, his debut novel. 'Burnt' in Somali, the word 'guban' also has multiple meanings and connotations. Literally, it refers to the volcanic region of Somaliland, where the mountains appear physically burnt.

Through his work, Abdi Latif uses metaphor to describe the former Somali Republic between the 1960s and 1991, before its collapse. In so doing, he unpacks the meaning of 'guban' for the people who have had to 'take the fire' of power inequalities, postcolonial modernization, Westernization, and proxy warfare.

The evening will conclude with a conversation and Q & A session with the artists.



Sunday 27th October

Last stop London

6:00-10:00pm

Fee: £10  
(language)



Sure to prove as a historic musical occasion, London-based Somali musicians, including Cabdifataax Yare, Farxiya Fiska, Nimo Dagen will meet Hibo-Nuura Mohamed, female vocalist, and member of Waaberi.

This exciting event will be a point of connection for a creative and experimental fusion of traditional and contemporary music.



Over



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