



THE
KENYA
CULTURAL CENTRE
INCORPORATING THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE



2023 MARCH NEWSLETTER



www.kenyaculturalcentre.go.ke



Theatre Digest

**THE KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE INCORPORATING
THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE
MARCH 2025**


EDITORIAL


EDITORIAL


March is here and your favorite theatre publication “Theatre Digest” is out. Theatre Digest is a monthly newsletter produced by the Kenya National Theatre to provide you with a lineup of upcoming shows at the Kenya National Theatre. It also includes reviews on performing arts, theatre, and entertainment showcased here in February 2025. You will also get to be informed on KCC-NT engagements. We have much more for your reading pleasure.


We are grateful to all the production companies and other stakeholders who have put effort to provide exceptional performances and ensure that the industry is thriving. We would like to assure you of the Centre’s support to keep the theatre scene vibrant.


Delight in the read and let us have your feedback.


 **Twitter:** Culturecentreke

 **Facebook:** Kenya Cultural Centre incorporating Kenya National Theatre -KNT

 **Instagram:** kenya.culturalcentre

 **WhatsApp:** 0742 008 677

 **TikTok:** Culturalcentreke

 **LinkedIn:** The Kenya Cultural Centre



Scan the QR Code to visit our website
<https://www.kenyaculturalcentre.go.ke/>

EDITORIAL

Kevin Kimani Kahuro - Manager Programs and Business Development

Lucy Muthaa Karaya - Communications Officer

Chris Kadima- Assistant Communications Officer

KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE & GREECE EMBASSY IN NAIROBI PRESENTS

MUSICAL WINDS OF **AEOLUS**

BY DIMITRIS CHARLAFTIS

AN ETHNIC JAZZ PIANO TRIBUTE

WELCOME TO THE MUSICAL WINDS OF AEOLUS, A GREEK JAZZ PIANO NIGHT @ KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE. THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF DIMITRIS' ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS, AS WELL AS MUSICAL TRADITIONS FROM GREECE, THE BALKANS AND THE SOUTHEAST MEDITERRANEAN.

SUNDAY, 16 MARCH 2025

TIME: 3PM

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE
(MAIN AUDITORIUM)

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON **KENYA BUZZ**

ADVANCE TICKET: 1,500 KSH

GATE TICKET: 2,000 KSH

VIP TICKET: 2,500 KSH

EARLY BIRD TICKET
1,000 KSH
UNTIL 5TH MARCH 2025



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREECE IN KENYA



THE
KENYA
CULTURAL CENTRE
INCORPORATING THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE

FOR MORE INFO CALL 0742 992 849

WWW.KENYACULTURALCENTRE.GO.KE



The Kenya Cultural Centre Incorporating the Kenya National Theatre (KCC-NT) is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency mandated to provide for the performance of music, drama and dancing. In this regard KCC-NT has partnered with the Greece Embassy in Nairobi for an ethnic Jazz Piano Tribute, titled 'Musical Winds of Aeolus'.

The program consists of Dimitris Charlafti's original compositions, as well as musical traditions from Greece, the Balkans and the Southeast Mediterranean. Dimitris Charlaftis is a pianist, composer and trumpeter. He completed his musical studies in 2003 at the National Conservatory of Athens with grade "Excellent, 2nd prize". He continued his studies to jazz repertoire and modern film music composing and performing.

He is also a trumpeter, with studies at the Philharmonic Orchestra of Chalandri, Athens and he is specialized in the traditional folk music of Greece, the Balkans and the Southeastern Mediterranean. His piano repertoire varies from classical masterpieces to modern ethnic jazz transcriptions, bossa nova, afro-cuban latin music, film music and Mediterranean traditions.

In this regard, we warmly invite you to the Musical Winds of Aeolus concert, set to take place on 16th March 2025 at the Kenya National Theatre from 3:00 PM. Take advantage of our Early Bird tickets, available at Ksh. 1,000 until 5th March 2025. Secure your spot conveniently through Kenya Buzz: <https://kenyabuzz.com/events/event/musical-winds-of-aeolus>

For further questions or information, please contact Ms. Lucy Karaya, Communications Officer via email lucykaraya@kenyaculturalcentre.go.ke or phone: 0742992849.

Your presence at the event will be highly appreciated.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The Kenya Cultural Centre in Partnership with the Kenya International Theatre Festival Trust with support from Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund

Presents

THE COUNTY THEATRE FIESTA 2025

Theatre Capacity Building & Competition Program For Grassroot
Theatre Companies/Groups

THEME: A Decade Of Connecting Cultures

COUNTIES ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER

Kisumu, Siaya, Migori, Kakamega, Mombasa,
Lamu, Kwale, Kiambu, Nyeri, Embu, Machakos,
Nakuru, Narok, Uasin Gishu & Trans Nzoia



Kenya Cultural Centre Incorporating the Kenya National Theatre in partnership with the Kenya International Theatre Festival Trust will be running a theatre capacity building & competition program dubbed County Theatre Fiesta (CTF) for Fifteen select counties in six training centers.

Objectives of the program:

- Train and nurture theatre talents at the county level
- Promote Theatre awareness within counties
- Encourage a theatre-going culture in Kenyan counties
- Select theatre groups from the counties to perform at the Kenya International Theatre Festival (KITFest2025)

The program will train theatre companies with a maximum of 10 individuals per group, by holding a **10 days virtual** training and **10-days physical training** in select training centers before the **Gala Edition**, at the **Kenya National Theatre during KITFest2025**. One outstanding theatre group from each county will be facilitated to represent their county at KITFest2025.

The theme of this year's CTF is "**A Decade Of Connecting Cultures**", which emphasizes the role of theatre in raising awareness about social issues and the need for collective action to address them.

The Program will commence in April and end in November. For this years' program only theatre companies/groups from the following counties are eligible to register: **Mombasa, Kiambu, Embu, Nakuru, Kisumu, Uasin Gishu, Siaya, Migori, Nyeri, Lamu, Kakamega, Kwale, Machakos, Narok and Trans Nzoia.**

Please visit: <https://kitfest.co.ke/county-theatre-fiesta-2025> for more detailed information

For any inquiries, contact us through:

Email; [programs@kitfest.co.ke/](mailto:programs@kitfest.co.ke)

programs@kenyaculturalcentre.go.ke Tel; +254 742992849/

+254 794 785768



UPCOMING SHOWS

UPCOMING SHOWS

BAND WEDNESDAY

Date: Every Wednesday

Venue: Kenya National Theatre:
Wasanii Corner

Band Wednesday is a weekly music event held at the Kenya Cultural Centre every Wednesday. This event showcases a diverse array of musical acts, ranging from emerging talent to established artists. Each week, the stage is set for a fresh lineup of performances covering various genres and styles. The venue provides an intimate setting that fosters a connection between the performers and the audience allowing for an engaging and immersive musical experience.



KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS

BAND

Wednesday

2:00PM - 5:00PM

EVERY WEDNESDAY

WASANII CORNER
(Kenya National Theatre)

THE KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE
INCORPORATING THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE

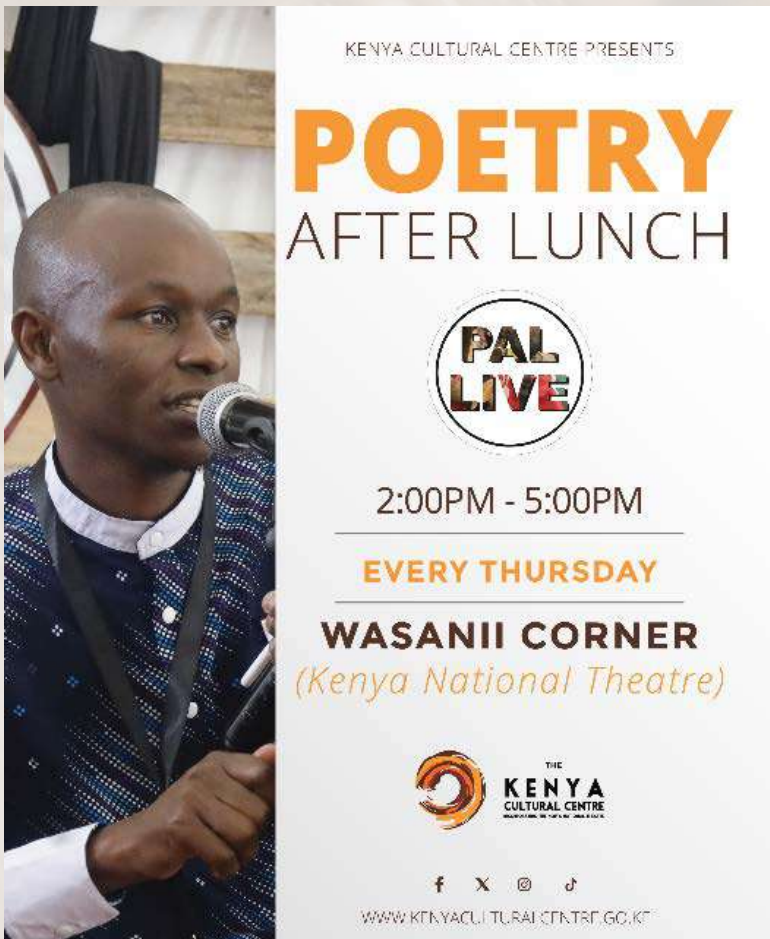
WWW.KENYACULTURALCENTRE.GO.KE

PAL LIVE

Date: Every Thursday

Venue: Kenya National Theatre:
Wasanii Corner

Poetry After Lunch is a platform run by Kenya Cultural Centre incorporating Kenya National Theatre (KCC-NT). The main aim of PAL is to identify, develop and nurture artists' talent through capacity building, networking and partnerships. As a platform, PAL's vision is to develop artists for social-economic stability. It is important to note that PAL not only focuses on spoken word but also integrates other types of performances.



KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS

POETRY

AFTER LUNCH

2:00PM - 5:00PM

EVERY THURSDAY

WASANII CORNER
(Kenya National Theatre)

THE KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE
INCORPORATING THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE

WWW.KENYACULTURALCENTRE.GO.KE

UPCOMING SHOWS

UGA NG'WE!

Date: 28th February, 1st and 2nd March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre

Join us for a Gikuyu Musical Comedy show on 28th February, 1st and 2nd March, 2025 at the Kenya National Theatre presented by Kwa Ndego Productions.

Book your tickets now!!!!



KARAKANA WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

PHOTOGRAPHERS & FILMMAKERS MEET-UP.

Date: 3rd March, 2025

**Venue: Kenya National Theatre
(Cheche Gallery)**

Karakana online is inviting photographers, filmmakers for a panel discussion, networking session, and pop-up photo exhibition themed, "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet" on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Kenya National Theatre, Cheche Gallery, from 5:00 PM. The event will explore the role of financial investments in wildlife conservation.

KARAKANA
World Wildlife Day
Photographers & Filmmakers Meet-up
PANEL DISCUSSION | NETWORKING
POP UP PHOTO EXHIBITION
Monday 3rd March 2025, Kenya National Theatre,
Cheche Gallery from 5:00pm onwards.

Anthony Ochieng Conservation Photographer	Imara Njeri Wildlife Photographer	Gurcharan Gupta Wildlife Photographer	Evans Ogeto Nature Photographer & Filmmaker

Discussion: Demystifying the art and science of wildlife and conservation storytelling through photography and film.
Follow the discussion 'live' on Karakana Online YouTube Channel.

TONY WILD PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION OF KENYA photo kenya THE KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE

UPCOMING SHOWS

KENDZSI TANAKA PIANO RECITAL

Date: 8th March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre
(Ukumbi Mdogo)

New Concert Alert! Renowned pianist Kendzsi Tanaka is back in Nairobi for another unforgettable performance! Experience the magic as he brings to life the works of Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy and more.

Don't miss this enchanting evening of classical brilliance!



THE 6TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN FILM AWARDS

Date: 8th March, 2025

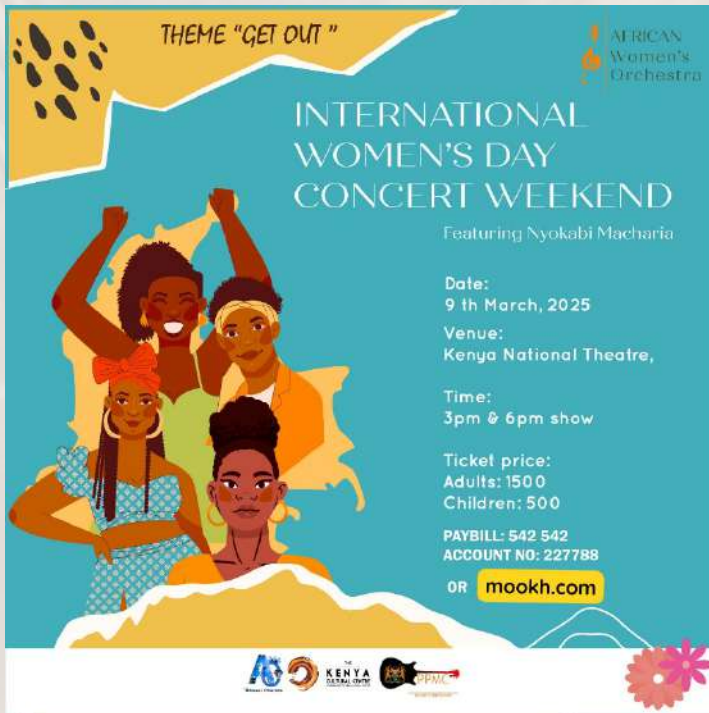
Venue: Kenya National Theatre

The 6th Annual Women in Film Awards will take place on March 8th, marking another year of growth and progress. This annual event aims to celebrate the drive, spirit, and diversity of women in the film industry. As we count down to the day of the main event, we invite everyone to join us in honoring the incredible women shaping the world of film.

The countdown is on!



UPCOMING SHOWS



International Women's Day

Concert Weekend

Date: 9th March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre

Tickets: mookh.com

Join us at the Kenya National Theatre on 9th March, 2025 for the 9th edition of the International Women's Day Concert weekend themed, 'Get Out' and featuring Nyokabi Macharia.



HOUSE OF LIES

Date: 14TH March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre

After an amazing show, 'House of Lies', a comedy play by the Crony Production is back at the Kenya National Theatre.

Reserve your tickets now!

UPCOMING SHOWS

BALLET/ CONTEPORARY MODERN & CULTURAL DANCE

Date: 15TH March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre

The Royal International Ballet Competition is set to take place at the Kenya National Theatre on March 15, 2025. Witness solo, duet, and group performances as talented dancers compete for top honors.

Reserve your spot now!

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL
BALLET
COMPETITION

**BALLET/CONTEMPORARY
MODERN & CULTURAL
DANCE**

Solo/Duet/Group
Charges: Ksh 1,000 per child
Paybill: 4001209

@Kenya National Theater
15 March, 2025
9:00 Am- 3:00 Pm

0703735160
royalinternationalballet@gmail.com

MUCICAL WINDS OF AELOUS BY DIMITRIS CHARLAFTIS

Date: 16TH March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre.

Kenya Cultural Centre and Greece Embassy in Nairobi presents 'Musical Winds of Aeolus', an ethnic Jazz Piano Tribute happening on 16th March 2025 at the Kenya National Theatre. The program consists of Dimitris Charlaftis's original compositions, as well as musical traditions from Greece, the Balkans and the Southeast Mediterranean. Dimitris' prototype works for piano incorporate jazz, latin, ethnic, experimental and film music in a unique multi-color musical grind. Various backgrounds and cultural influences of European and Afro-latin rhythms and melodies are being transformed in the keyboard in a unique musical experience.

Reserve your Early Bird Tickets now!

KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE & GREECE EMBASSY IN NAIROBI PRESENTS

MUSICAL WINDS OF AEOLUS
BY DIMITRIS CHARLAFTIS

AN ETHNIC JAZZ PIANO TRIBUTE

WELCOME TO THE MUSICAL WINDS OF AEOLUS, A GREEK JAZZ PIANO NIGHT @ KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE. THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF DIMITRIS ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS, AS WELL AS MUSICAL TRADITIONS FROM GREECE, THE BALKANS AND THE SOUTHEAST MEDITERRANEAN.

SUNDAY, 16 MARCH 2025
TIME: 3PM

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE
(MAIN AUDITORIUM)

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON **KENYA BUZZ**

ADVANCE TICKET: 1,500 KSH
GATE TICKET: 2,000 KSH
VIP TICKET: 2,500 KSH

**EARLY BIRD TICKET
1,000 KSH
UNTIL 5TH MARCH 2025**

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREECE IN KENYA

KENYA
CULTURAL CENTRE

FOR MORE INFO CALL 0742 992 849
WWW.KENYACULTURALCENTRE.GO.KE

f
X
@
T

UPCOMING SHOWS

AMAZING LOVE CONCERT

Date: 23TH March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre.

The wait is over! Experience an unforgettable evening of soul-stirring music as the Kenya East Territorial Band and All Saints Cathedral Choir bring you the Amazing Love Concert!

Buy your tickets on the link below
<https://kenyabuzz.com/events/event/amazing-love-concert>



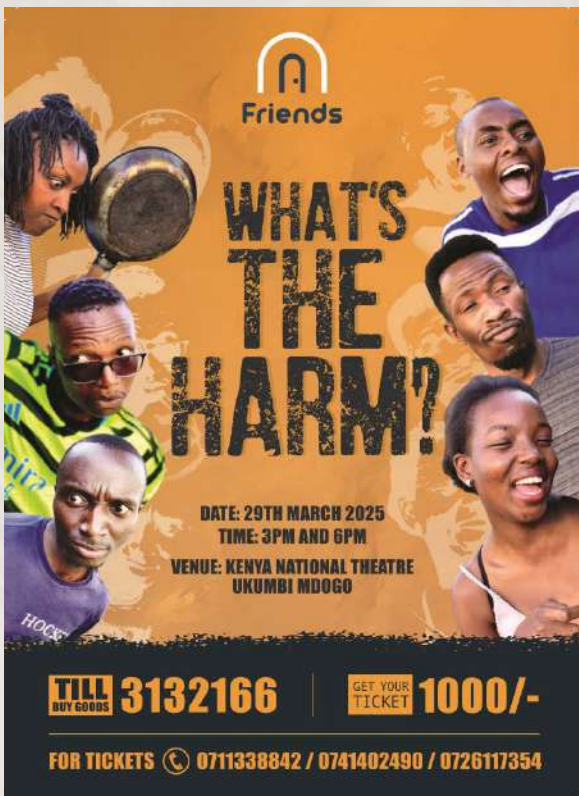
WHAT'S THE HARM

Date: 29TH March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre (Ukumbi Mdogo)

'What's the Harm' will be happening at the Kenya National Theatre on 29th March 2025.

Don't miss out!



UPCOMING SHOWS



MKISII NIGHT OF COMEDY AND MUSIC

Date: 29TH March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre

Mkisii Ni Mkisii presents 'Mkisii Night of Comedy & Music', happening on 29th March, 2025.

Get ready for a comedy night to crack your ribs, more details loading.

The Kenya Conservatoire Of Music

END OF TERM CONCERT

PERFORMANCES BY
CONSERVATOIRE STUDENTS & THE PRELUDE ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH
KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE
3:00PM

Adults: KES 1000
Children & Students: KES 500

MPESA PAYBILL
BUSINESS NUMBER: 316550
ACCOUNT: ETC

For Enquiries Call +254 720962288

The Kenya Conservatoire of Music

END-OF-TERM CONCERT

Date: 30TH March, 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre

Join us for our End-of-Term Concert, a special occasion where our students showcase their musical growth through a diverse and engaging program.

Our Prelude Orchestra has also prepared an exciting lineup, featuring Bohemian Rhapsody, Man in the Mirror, Havana, Afrobeats Fusion by Emmanuel Okali, and many more!



KCC-NT ENGAGEMENTS

KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE HOSTS THE CELEBRATION OF THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION IN IRAN



The Kenya Cultural Centre, in partnership with the Cultural Council of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hosted a cultural event aimed at marking the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The event brought together Kenyans, members of the diplomatic corps, and the Iranian community residing in Nairobi for an evening of cultural exchange, networking, and artistic appreciation.

The highlight of the evening was an enthralling performance by the renowned Iranian traditional music ensemble, Soroush Molana, whose melodies and mastery of traditional Persian instruments took the audience through a rich cultural journey. Their performance blended classical Persian music with poetic themes, offering a rare glimpse into Iran's deep-rooted artistic traditions.

Complementing the Iranian showcase was an electrifying performance by **Kenyan music group, Dhamini Band**, who added a local flavor to the evening with their soulful and rhythmic melodies. Their act underscored Kenya's own rich musical heritage, demonstrating the power of music in uniting cultures.

In his opening remarks, Iran's Cultural Counselor in Nairobi, **Dr. Ali Pourmarjan**, emphasized the historical and artistic ties between Iran and Kenya. He noted that music is central to Iranian culture and expressed his enthusiasm in bringing the Soroush Molana Group to Kenya as part of a cultural exchange initiative. He also extended his gratitude to the Kenya Cultural Centre for hosting the event and facilitating its success, before inviting the CEO of the Centre to address the gathering.





Mr. Michael Pundo, the CEO, Kenya Cultural Centre warmly welcomed guests and reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to fostering cultural exchange and cooperation between Kenya and Iran.

"We are honored to host this cultural initiative, which reinforces our commitment to the development, promotion, and commercialization of the creative arts. This event serves as a crucial platform for cultural exchange between Kenya and Iran, offering artists an opportunity to broaden their perspectives, enhance their artistic expressions, and explore potential partnerships within the industry," he remarked. He further acknowledged the

instrumental role of the Iranian Ambassador, the Cultural Counselor, and their delegation in making the gathering possible.



The **Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kenya, H.E. (Dr.) Ali Gholampour**, also addressed the audience, underscoring the significance of cultural diplomacy in fostering stronger ties between nations. He extended his appreciation to the Kenyan government and attendees for their warm reception and support.

The event not only showcased the beauty of Iranian music but also served as a bridge for artistic collaboration, strengthening diplomatic and cultural relations between Kenya and Iran. It was a celebration of heritage, unity, and artistic excellence; one that set the stage for future cultural engagements between the two nations.

A Grand Celebration of Kenya's Theatre Industry at the 4th Edition of Kenya Theatre Awards



The 4th Edition of the Kenya Theatre Awards happened last evening 20th February 2025 at the Kenya National Theatre. It was a night of celebration, glamour, and theatrical elegance with guests embracing an official dress code theme: "Burlesque & Old Skool Theatre Fashion". Most importantly, it was an event to honor the remarkable talents and creativity that defines Kenya's theatre scene, acknowledging both emerging and seasoned artists who generally contribute to the growth and sustenance of the Kenya theatre arts industry.



In his opening remarks, Mr. Benson Ngobia, Director of the Kenya International Theatre Festival Trust, acknowledged the significant growth of theatre in Kenya. He noted that 2024 saw a surge in productions across the country, including those by grassroots theatre companies, with the average ticket price recorded at KES 1,802.34. He emphasized the increasing demand

for industry recognition and encouraged theatre practitioners to record their performances to allow the Kenya Theatre Awards Jury to assess them in a digital format, ensuring broader participation and fair evaluation.

Ms.Suki Wanza, Chairperson of the Kenya Theatre Awards Jury, highlighted the competitive nature of this year's awards, with narrow margins separating winners from nominees. She noted the rise of professional musical theatre productions, which were previously dominated by school performances. She urged theatre practitioners to invite the Jury to their productions throughout the year, reinforcing the Awards' mission of celebrating excellence in Kenyan theatre.



Mr. Michael Pundo, the CEO, Kenya Cultural Centre, expressed great excitement in hosting the 4th edition of the Kenya Theatre Awards through the impactful partnership with the Kenya International Theatre Festival Trust. He highlighted that at the Kenya National Theatre alone, 321 shows were hosted over the past year, involving at least 1,072 crew members and attracting an audience of 33,790 people. These productions generated a remarkable KES 25,324,600 in revenue for artists. According to Kenya Theatre Awards statistics, theatre activities took place in 63 venues across the country over the last year.

“It is important to note that while these figures reflect performances at the Kenya National Theatre, artists are generating even more income from productions staged in other venues nationwide. This underscores the creative industry's vast potential in generating revenue for artists while significantly contributing to Kenya’s economic growth.” he added.

Recognizing the expansion of theatre activities in other counties and the need for professional theatre productions across the country, the CEO announced the launch of the ‘County Theatre Fiesta’, a capacity-building and competition program. County Theatre Fiesta aims at building

the capacity of upcoming theatre practitioners to create professional theatre pieces and perform theatre production in a professional way hence improve the quality of the productions, economically empower the artists and broaden the entertainment scope for Kenyans.



The evening's Chief Guest, Ms. Umami Bashir, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Culture, the Arts & Heritage, reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting the theatre industry's growth and development. She emphasized theatre's role in shaping Kenya's cultural identity and fostering social cohesion, stating: "In Kenya, theatre has been a significant part of the cultural landscape for many years, providing opportunities for people to come together, share experiences, and build a more connected and harmonious society."

Ms. Bashir, affirmed the government's recognition of the immense value of the arts and its committed to investing in the theatre industry's continued growth and development. "As part of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the fifth pillar emphasizes the transformation of the creative sector into a sustainable industry supporting decent livelihoods. In alignment with this vision, the government champions initiatives such as the Kenya Theatre Awards which celebrate artistic excellence and contribute to the growth of the Cultural and Creative Industries." She encouraged the artists to continue producing exceptional theatre performances as we continue to champion theatre as a vital force in shaping Kenya's cultural and artistic landscape.



The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a KES 8 million cash award to the winners from the 3rd Edition of the Kenya Theatre Awards, delivered by CEO Michael Pundo and PS Umami Bashir.

The Kenya Theatre Awards (KTA) remains one of the most prestigious platforms in the country, recognizing and celebrating outstanding achievements in the vibrant world of Kenyan theatre. The 2024 KTA nominees were selected across 36 voting categories, covering a wide range of disciplines within the theatre arts. These categories include acting, directing, producing, stage management, costume design, and lighting design among others. In addition to the core categories, the awards also include 4 special categories, which provide further recognition for extraordinary contributions to the field, such as the lifetime achievement award.

As the ceremony concluded, it was evident that Kenya's theatre scene is thriving, with artists pushing creative boundaries and elevating performance standards. With ongoing support from the government, cultural institutions, and theatre enthusiasts, the future of Kenyan theatre remains bright, dynamic, and full of promise.

KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE CEO ADVOCATES FOR MOTHER LANGUAGE PRESERVATION DURING THE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT KABARAK UNIVERSITY



Kabarak University played host to the 2025 International Mother Language Day celebrations, bringing together scholars, researchers, and cultural practitioners to discuss the importance of mother tongues in socio-cultural development. The event, held at the university's main campus, featured insightful research paper presentations, a cultural festival, and a keynote address by the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Cultural Centre, who was invited as the chief guest.

In his keynote speech titled *“The Role of Mother Language in Socio-Cultural Development in Kenya,”* the CEO underscored the fundamental role of mother tongues in shaping identity, fostering cultural heritage, and strengthening community cohesion. He applauded Kabarak University for recognizing the significance of this day and providing a platform to engage in conversations around language preservation and multilingual education.

“Language is considered the first cognitive ability the child acquires and in no time, the child starts to communicate in a language mostly understood by the mothers. Imagine a human race without language of whichever form? This reinforces the importance of the relationship between language and social interactions,” he remarked.

The CEO highlighted five key areas in which mother languages contribute to socio-cultural development. First, he noted that language strengthens cultural identity and fosters a sense of belonging within communities. He further elaborated that language is a conduit for cultural knowledge transfer, ensuring that traditions remain authentic across generations.

He also emphasized the urgent need to safeguard indigenous languages, many of which are at risk of extinction due to globalization and urbanization. “The disappearance of a language is not merely the loss of words but the erosion of unique knowledge systems, oral traditions, and ways of life. Preserving and revitalizing mother tongues through education, literature, and daily use is crucial for maintaining cultural diversity,” he warned, calling for collaborative efforts between institutions, policymakers, and communities to preserve linguistic heritage.



Moreover, the CEO pointed out that proficiency in one's mother tongue enhances cognitive development and supports multilingualism, opening doors to greater economic and professional opportunities. He emphasized that literature, music, and theatre thrive when anchored in indigenous languages, citing renowned African writer Chinua Achebe's assertion that proverbs are the palm wine by which words are eaten.

As the head of a government institution committed to advancing the performing arts, the CEO shared the Kenya Cultural Centre's initiatives supporting indigenous languages in creative expression. He highlighted the *Best Kikwetu Production* category at the Kenya Theatre Awards, which recognizes theatre productions in ethnic dialects. Additionally, he introduced the *County Theatre Fiesta*, a program aimed at building capacity among grassroots theatre groups while promoting linguistic diversity.



The event concluded with a call to action from the CEO, urging participants to actively preserve and promote their native languages. "By valuing our mother tongues, we safeguard our heritage and enrich the social, cultural, and intellectual fabric of our societies and transmit cultural values," he asserted.

International Mother Language Day, observed annually on 21st February, was established by UNESCO to promote linguistic and cultural diversity. This year's celebrations at Kabarak University reinforced the necessity of embracing native languages as key pillars of national identity and cultural pride.

British Council Kenya Open Day: A Celebration of Arts, Education, and Cultural Exchange



OPEN DAY

Arts & Culture, Education, and English

Join us for our Open Day, and learn about our programme sectors

The British Council Kenya hosted an **Open Day** on **Friday, 28th February 2025**, at its offices. This event brought together partners, collaborators, and the public to explore the organization's impactful work in Arts and Culture, Education, and English Language Learning.

The Open Day featured an exciting lineup of activities, including engaging panel discussions, interactive exhibitions, and one-on-one networking sessions, providing a vital platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Attendees had the chance to interact with industry leaders, discover funding opportunities, and celebrate the intersection of creativity and education.

One of the event's highlights was a thought-provoking panel discussion titled "Opportunities in the Arts: Understanding the Funding Landscape and the Value of Networks and Collaboration." The panel delved into the opportunities and challenges within the creative sector, offering insights into funding mechanisms, networking strategies, and cross-sector collaborations. The discussion was an eye-opener for artists, cultural practitioners, and stakeholders keen on sustainable growth in the creative industry.

The Kenya Cultural Centre (KCC) played a significant role in the Open Day, reinforcing its commitment to supporting artistic expression and industry collaboration. Through its Poetry After Lunch (PAL) program, KCC provided a platform for talented poets to perform, captivating audiences with their powerful spoken-word pieces.



Additionally, visual artists supported by the Centre showcased and sold their artwork, celebrating Kenya's rich artistic diversity. This participation highlighted the Centre's ongoing efforts to create spaces for artists to thrive while fostering partnerships that ensure the sustainability of the creative sector.

Beyond discussions and performances, the Open Day featured a vibrant marketplace, where artists and creatives displayed their crafts, connecting with potential collaborators, buyers, and industry leaders. Attendees had the opportunity to experience a diverse range of artistic expressions, from paintings and sculptures to handcrafted items and literature.

The British Council Kenya Open Day was more than just an event, it was a testament to the power of dialogue, collaboration, and cultural exchange. By bringing together artists, educators, and cultural stakeholders, the event reinforced the importance of investing in the creative economy and fostering meaningful partnerships.

With continued engagement and support, platforms like this will play a crucial role in shaping the future of arts, education, and cultural diplomacy in Kenya and beyond.

KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE PARTNERS WITH KENYA MUSIC FESTIVAL TO PROMOTE THEATRE CULTURE



The Kenya Cultural Centre (KCC) joined the Kenya Music Festival (KMF) adjudicators and trainers' workshop held at Tom Mboya University. The engagement marked a significant step in developing a collaborative partnership between KCC and KMF under the theme **'Twende Theatre'**, an initiative aimed at revitalizing Kenya's theatre-going culture.

The Kenya Music Festival, an annual event under the Ministry of Education, brings together over 140,000 participants from educational institutions across the country. With its wide-reaching influence, KMF provides a powerful platform for communicating important societal messages through music and performance. Recognizing this, KCC seized the opportunity to introduce the Twende Theatre campaign to trainers and adjudicators, setting the stage for collaboration in this year's festival.

In his address, CEO, Mr. Michael Pundo, highlighted the Centre's key programs, activities, and available spaces that support the performing arts industry. He emphasized that Twende Theatre seeks to encourage a theatre-going culture by boosting attendance at live performances, promoting local productions, and supporting artists' livelihoods. The campaign underscores theatre's significance in storytelling, community building, and national identity while ensuring the sustainability of Kenya's creative economy.



As part of the collaboration, the Twende Theatre campaign will be incorporated into the Kenya Music Festival through music composition that embodies its message. The CEO urged music trainers and composers to create songs that inspire theatre engagement, celebrate Kenya's rich performing arts scene, and promote theatre as a source of entertainment, education, and cultural preservation. This partnership presents a unique opportunity to blend music and theatre advocacy, strengthening the creative industry across the country.

Additionally, to further incentivize participation, KCC and KMF will introduce rewards for outstanding contributions to the Twende Theatre campaign. These include trophies, cash awards for winners at the regional and national levels, benefiting both the schools and their trainers, as well as a special invitation to perform at the Kenya National Theatre.



Furthermore, as part of this collaboration, the Kenya Cultural Centre will host a Winner's Concert at the Kenya National Theatre to celebrate and showcase the best performances from the festival. This concert aligns with the festival's mission to nurture artistic talent and facilitate the holistic development of learners into responsible citizens.



It will provide an additional platform for outstanding performers to gain national recognition and further enhance their artistic potential. The Kenya Music Festival is set to take place from 1st August to 14th, 2025, at Meru School and Kaaga Girls. As preparations unfold, KCC remains committed to driving the Twende Theatre campaign forward, ensuring that theatre continues to be an integral part of Kenya's cultural fabric.

Together, let's make theatre a movement. Twende Theatre!

NOTICES



Looking for space for your talkshow, conference, corporate event or exhibition?

Book our ultra theatre with the state-of-the-art lighting and sound or scenic outdoor space at Mugumo courtyard today!

Book via eCitizen
<http://kenyaculturalcentre.ecitizen.go.ke/>

PARKING SPACE

for your vehicle

Kenya Cultural Centre incorporating Kenya National Theatre has a solution for you.
We have over 250 parking slots available!

Secure, Safe and convenient



Talk to us;

 0742008677

 bookings@kenyaculturalcentre.go.ke or kenyaculturalc@gmail.com