



THE
KENYA
CULTURAL CENTRE
INCORPORATING THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE

2025



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



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**THE KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE INCORPORATING
THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE MONTHLY BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2025**


EDITORIAL


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September 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. 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.


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

EDITORIAL

Kevin Kimani Kahuro - Manager Programs and Business Development

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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.

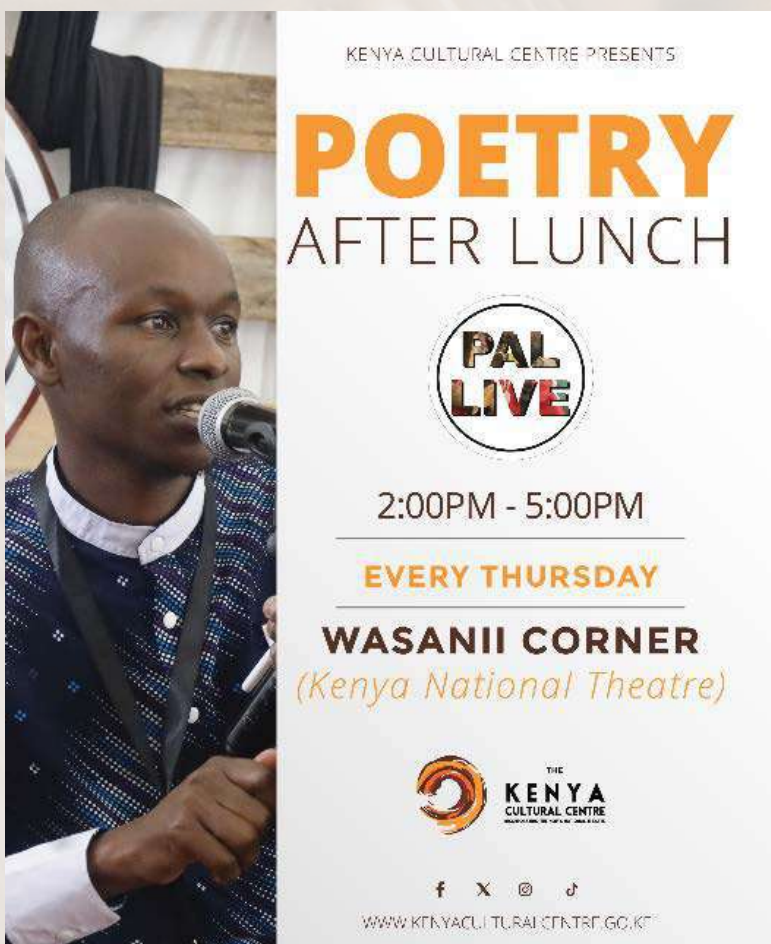


PAL LIVE

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.



UPCOMING SHOWS

UNCAGED.

Date: 4th September 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre: Main Auditorium

Brace Yourself for Laughter Like Never Before! Comedian Mitch is back, and he's coming in hot with his one-man stand-up special, "UNCAGED." A night of wild, witty, and unfiltered comedy!

Don't miss this epic comedy experience that will have you laughing out loud from start to end



PODFEST– 2nd EDITION.

Date: 6th September 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre: Ukumbi Mdogo

Join us on September 6th, 2025, at the Kenya Culture Centre for an electrifying day of live podcast shows, DJ sets, guest artists, and great food & drinks.

Whether you're a podcast lover or just in for the vibes, this is one event you don't want to miss!



UPCOMING SHOWS

GOSPEL JAZZ

Date: 7th September 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre: Ukumbi Mdogo

Experience the Soulful Harmony of Gospel Jazz! Join Jazz Simplified for a spirit-lifting afternoon at Gospel Jazz on 7th September 2025, at Ukumbi Mdogo, opposite the Kenya National Theatre.

Let your Sunday be filled with divine melodies and smooth jazz vibes.



Gospel Jazz
by Jazz Simplified

7th September 2025
From 3pm to 5pm

Featuring
Mwendwa, Mkavita, Maxgocho, Caleb, Peter, Asumah, Adrian, Victor, Faith, Timon and Rono

📍 Ukumbi Mdogo at the Kenya Conservatoire opposite Kenya National Theatre

Tickets

VIP - 3500/=	Advance - 2000/=
Early bird - 1500/=	Gate - 2500/=
Children under 12 - 500/=	Student - 1000/=

Mkavita Music (hustlesasa.shop)

MACONDO LITERARY FESTIVAL

Date: 19th to 21st September 2025

Venue: Kenya National Theatre

Macondo Literary Festival 2025 is here! Join us from September 19th to 21st at the Kenya Cultural Centre, for a powerful three-day experience of storytelling, conversations, and connection under the theme "Chronicles & Currents: Connecting Africa's Histories and Futures Through Literature."

Don't miss this celebration of African voices and narratives!



MACONDO Book Society PRESENTS

SEPT 19-21

MACONDO LITERARY FESTIVAL 2025

CHRONICLES & CURRENTS CONNECTING AFRICA'S HISTORIES AND FUTURES THROUGH LITERATURE

VENUE: KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE, NAIROBI

DAY TICKET [SATURDAY OR SUNDAY]	WEEKEND TICKET [SATURDAY AND SUNDAY]	STUDENT TICKET [SATURDAY AND SUNDAY]
KES. 800 (ADVANCE) / KES. 1,200 (GATE)	KES. 1,400 (ADVANCE) / KES. 1,600 (GATE)	KES. 200 (PER DAY) ▶ AGAINST ID

Logos: Kenya Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Fairmont, IGR, OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

KENYA BUZZ GET YOUR TICKET VIA KENYABUZZ.COM | FRIDAY EVENTS FREE OF CHARGE

UPCOMING SHOWS

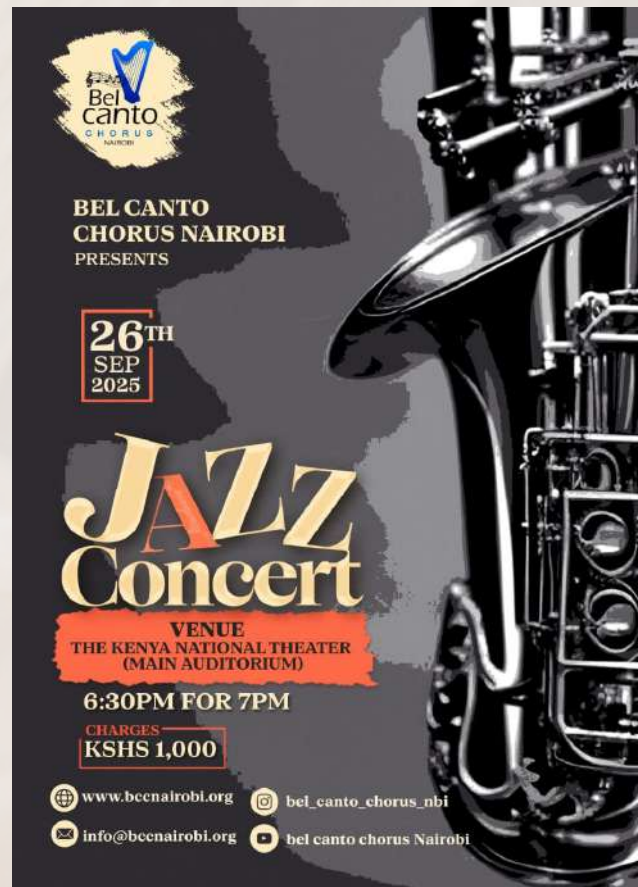
JAZZ CONCERT.

Date: 26th September 2025.

Venue: Kenya National Theatre: Main Auditorium.

Bel Canto Chorus presents the first of its kind Jazz Concert! A night of choral jazz fusion blending the smooth, the soulful, and the sensational! Do remember to practice your music so that we can deliver on our promise of an unforgettable jazz experience!

Mark your Calendars and come enjoy a musical night!



AWINJA

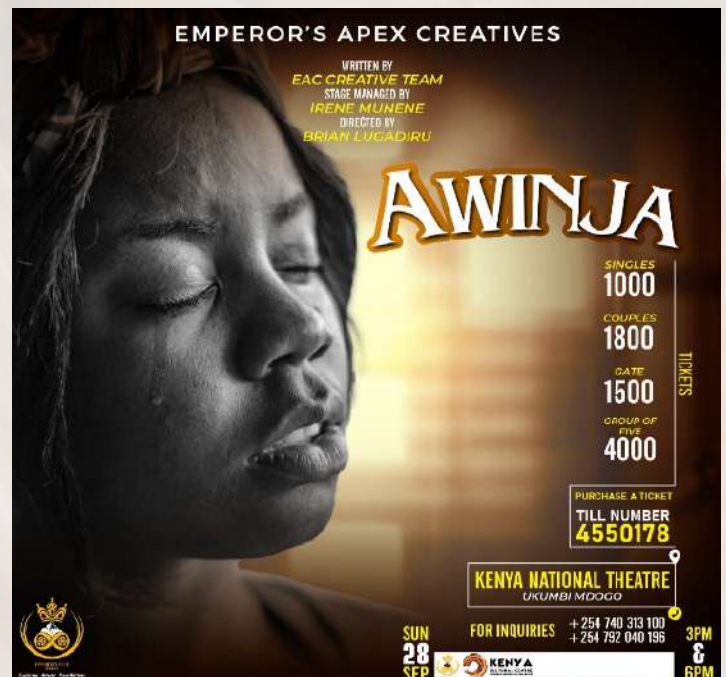
Date: 28th September 2025.

Venue: Kenya National Theatre: Ukumbi Mdogo

Experience the Power of Live Theatre with *Awinja*!

Don't miss "Awinja", an emotional and captivating stage production by *Emperor's Apex Creatives*.

Come and witness storytelling that moves the soul.



KCC-NT

ENGAGEMENTS



THEATRE PRACTITIONERS ACROSS SIX COUNTIES BENEFIT FROM COUNTY THEATRE FIESTA PROGRAM



The Kenya Cultural Centre has successfully concluded the fourth and fifth phases of the County Theatre Fiesta (CTF) 2025, bringing professional theatre training to practitioners in five counties across two editions. The programs, held between July and August 2025, reinforced the Centre's commitment to developing Kenya's creative economy through structured capacity building and community engagement.

The fourth phase, covering Embu and Machakos counties, ran from July 26 to August 3, 2025, at the Embu Talent Academy. This nine-day intensive program brought together trainees, trainers, and support staff in what has become a flagship model for regional theatre development.

Mr. Benson Ngobia, Director of the Kenya International Theatre Festival (KITFEST), opened the program by outlining the comprehensive training structure covering essential areas including entertainment law, wellness, production design, acting, directing, stage management, marketing, sound and lighting, producing, and audioplay production.

Six production groups participated: Pen and Paper Production, Great Vision Arts Production, Mount Kenya Theatre Production, Angaza Arts Production, Perfectors Film and Theatre Production, and University of Embu Drama and Film Production. The program emphasized skill acquisition through structured classes and joint sessions on wellness and entertainment law, ensuring all participants gained technical knowledge regardless of their specialization.



Community engagement remained central to the program's approach, with trainees conducting flashmob performances in Embu town on July 30 to promote their upcoming shows. Environmental responsibility was demonstrated through a tree planting exercise at the Embu Police Station.

The competition in the final days of the program saw Angaza Arts Production claim first place, while Perfectors Theatre and Film production secured second position. Both winning groups qualified for KITFEST 2025, providing them with a national platform to showcase their talents.



The fifth phase extended CTF's reach to Western Kenya, covering Kisumu, Migori, Homabay, and Kakamega counties from August 22-31, 2025, at Mama Grace Onyango Social Hall. Eight production groups participated: Cadence Production, Talent Theatre Kenya, Actofocus Playhouse, Supreme Arts Production, Shupavu Talents, Precious Arts Media, Chokwood Production, and Jawabu Arts Production.

The showcase performances on August 28, 29, and 31 highlighted the region's vibrant theatre talent, with Talent Theatre Kenya taking the first position and Chokwood Production securing second position.



Environmental stewardship continued as a program pillar, with a tree planting exercise conducted at Kisumu Museum on August 30. The session was led by Ms. Beatrice Odongo, the CEC Member for Sports, Culture, Gender, and Youth in Kisumu County, Mr. Michael Pundo, CEO Kenya Cultural Centre, Mr. Kevin Kimani Kahuro, Manager Programs and Business Development and KITFest@10 Ambassador Ms. Lorna Lemi, alongside CTF trainers, program staff, and participants.



Both editions featured the specialized Sauti za Boma audioplay program, demonstrating the Centre's commitment to expanding beyond traditional theatre formats. This innovative component allowed participants to gain hands-on experience in audio storytelling and professional recording techniques



These editions concluded with closing ceremonies that underscored institutional commitment to Kenya's creative sector development. The presence of distinguished guests, including county officials, Kenya Cultural Centre and KITFest leadership, demonstrated the program's significance in the national cultural landscape.

CEO, Mr. Michael Pundo, consistently emphasized the Centre's dedication to ensuring the theatre industry's continued growth, encouraging participants to apply acquired knowledge and skills in their artistic practice while maintaining consistency and utilizing available facilities.

Through its comprehensive approach combining technical training, legal education, wellness components, and community engagement, the County Theatre Fiesta continues to establish strong foundations for theatre arts growth across Kenya's regions. The program's expansion to five counties in these phases represents significant progress in the Centre's commitment to develop the country's creative economy while ensuring equitable access to professional development opportunities for theatre practitioners nationwide.

PROFESSOR NGŪGĨ WA THIONG'O UNVEILED AS FACE OF KITFEST 2025 DURING GRAND LAUNCH CEREMONY

This year marks a significant milestone for the Kenya International Theatre Festival (KITFest) as it celebrates a decade of connecting cultures through the transformative power of theatre. On August 13, 2025, the Kenya National Theatre came alive with the vibrant energy of artists, cultural leaders, and enthusiasts gathered to launch KITFest @10, a momentous event that reflected on the festival's rich legacy while looking boldly toward its future.



The ceremony opened with moving renditions of the Kenyan National Anthem and the East African Community Anthem, led by the Kenya Cultural Centre Choir, whose spirited performance immediately set a celebratory tone. Guests were then treated to an exhilarating opening act by acclaimed dancer and choreographer Robert Pree.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Benson Ngobia, Executive Director of the KITFest Trust, described KITFest as more than just a festival, it is a platform of artistic freedom and cultural exchange. He announced that this year's festival will feature over 50 stage performances from 18 countries, alongside themed cultural nights, workshops, street theatre, artist exchange sessions, poetry, painting, and children's activities, including the

Kids Fiesta, Play Lab, and Monologue Champions. He added that KITFest belongs to every rhythm, every age, and every world of brilliant imagination.

The ceremony also served as a moment of transition, honouring the outgoing KITFest Ambassador 2024, Martin Githinji, popularly known as Daddy Marto. In his address, he reflected on the artistic journey of the 2025 Ambassador, a performer whose early passion for traditional dance and verse blossomed into a robust theatrical career, nurtured in part by the training and residencies offered by KITFest.

The outgoing Face of the Festival, Mr. John Sibi Okumu, also took the stage. He began by saying that he was a student at the University of Nairobi from 1973 to 1975, where the Face of the festival was his teacher. “We celebrate the Face of KITFest 2025 contribution to the development of literary and performance arts, as well as the great impact his work has had in Kenya and the Global theatre landscape. His courage, his creativity, and his commitment to language, culture, and justice, remain an enduring Legacy,” he added.



The moment of the grand reveal came as Ms. Lorna Lemi was officially announced as the KITFest Ambassador 2025. An acclaimed performer known for her work in productions such as *Sarafina* and *Antigone*. Lorna took the stage with grace and purpose. She expressed her gratitude for the recognition and celebrated KITFest as a decade-long platform for bold expression, growth, and opportunity for young creatives. She pledged to carry the flame forward, using her platform to uplift others and to keep the spirit of theatre alive and burning. The reveal of the Face of KITFest 2025 followed, with the announcement that Professor Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o would hold this prestigious position.



As the ceremony approached its close, Benson Ngobia returned to the stage to share an overview of KITFest @10, setting the scene for the day's final remarks from the Chief Guest, Mr. Michael Pundo, CEO of the Kenya Cultural Centre. In his address, Mr. Pundo spoke of KITFest as a symbol of Kenya's creative resilience, ten years of stories told, challenges overcome, and milestones achieved. He reflected on how the festival had grown from a small gathering of artists into a globally recognized event that attracts performers, students, and audiences from across the world. He emphasized that the Ambassador and the Face of the Festival are not only representatives of the festival's mission and values but also vital bridges between the past, present, and future of Kenyan theatre.

Mr. Pundo highlighted the Centre's strategic initiatives, including the County Theatre Fiesta, which focuses on building the capacity of theatre practitioners across different counties, and the Twende Theatre Campaign, which cultivates a theatre-going culture and support for the creative and cultural industry. He urged all stakeholders to view KITFest not just as an event, but as a cultural movement capable of healing, connecting, and transforming society.

The ceremony concluded with a warm and reflective vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Kevin Kahuro, the Centre's Manager of Programs and Business Development. His closing remarks honored the collective effort that has propelled the festival through its first decade and set a hopeful tone for the future.

KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE SUPPORTS KENYA MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025



The Kenya Cultural Centre continues to fulfill its commitment to supporting artistic excellence following the successful conclusion of the Kenya Music Festival 2025, which took place in the Central Region's Meru County from August 3rd to 16th, 2025.

The Centre's participation in this year's festival aligned with the theme "Enhancing the Creative Economy through Artistic Expression for Sustainable Development." Through this collaboration, the Centre aimed at deepening its contribution to arts education and the broader creative economy, while also actively supporting the implementation of Competency-Based Education (CBE).

As part of its **Twende Theatre** campaign, translated from Kiswahili as "Let's Go to the Theatre," the Kenya Cultural Centre sponsored two competitive classes, Class 2139K and Class 463, providing both cash awards and trophies to winners and their trainers. The campaign serves as a national rallying call inviting artists, audiences, and stakeholders to actively support, celebrate, and sustain the performing arts in Kenya.

Winners of Class 2139K (Swahili Choral Verse) received their recognition during the festival ceremony. Pumwani Boys Secondary School claimed first position, followed by Tulwo Girls High School in second place, and Kisumu Boys High School secured third position. Both students and their trainers were awarded Ksh. 120,000 in cash prizes along with trophies.



Similarly, Class 463 (Music Item for Secondary Schools) saw St. Augustine Ngenia Boys take first position, with Mukumu Girls High School earning second place and Koelel Forces Academy finishing third. These winners also received Ksh. 120,000 in cash prizes along with trophies for both students and trainers.

The Centre's involvement extended beyond sponsorship to intellectual contribution through the Kenya Music Festival Conference, where the CEO, Mr. Michael Pundo, presented a paper titled "Harnessing the Synergies between Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Artistic Culture for the Sustainable Growth of the Creative Economy." The paper explored how merging heritage and contemporary art creates a strategic pathway toward sustainable development, calling for policy, institutional, and community-driven efforts that elevate the creative and cultural industry as a powerful driver of economic resilience, social cohesion, and national identity.

The Centre's commitment to supporting the creative and cultural arts industry continues through providing opportunities for artists to enhance their skills and expand their artistic potential. Through this sustained investment in Kenya's creative community, the Centre maintains its role in promoting excellence and enhancing the capacity of emerging artists in the performance landscape to earn a livelihood from their craft.

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!

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