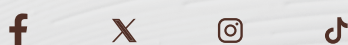




THE
KENYA
CULTURAL CENTRE
INCORPORATING THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

2026



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**THE KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE INCORPORATING
THE KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE MONTHLY BULLETIN
JANUARY 2026**

EDITORIAL

January 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.

 **Twitter:** Culturecentreke

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EDITORIAL

Kevin Kimani Kahuro- Manager, Programs and Business Development

Lucy Muthaa Karaya- Communications Officer

Chris Kadima- Assistant Communications Officer

CEO's MESSAGE



With 2026 now underway, I extend sincere appreciation to artists, partners, stakeholders, and the entire creative community that continues to believe in and walk with the Kenya Cultural Centre. Your passion, resilience, and collaboration remain the heartbeat of our work.

The year 2025 was one of profound impact and purposeful growth. It was a year in which we strengthened our mandate as a national and regional hub for artistic excellence, cultural diplomacy, skills development, and the creative economy.

A defining feature of the year was our expanding international engagement. We proudly marked a historic milestone with Kenya Cultural Centre's official

onboarding into the Silk Road International League of Theatres (SRILT), making us the third African member alongside Ethiopia and South Africa. This achievement unlocks new opportunities for Kenyan theatre practitioners to access global touring circuits, international markets, and capacity-building platforms, further positioning Kenya on the world stage of culture.

We were also honored to host H.E. Pedro León Cortés Ruiz, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to Kenya, whose courtesy visit opened meaningful dialogue on bilateral cultural cooperation. These engagements laid the groundwork for structured cultural exchange programmes encompassing artist residencies, joint performances, exhibitions, and educational initiatives, advancing mutual learning and cross-cultural understanding through the arts.

At home, our commitment to nurturing artistic excellence and professionalization remained unwavering. A landmark achievement was the successful Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) assessment for Poetry Theatre Artistes conducted in September 2025 under the guidance of TVET CDACC. Through the Poetry Theatre Development Project, poets from ten counties had their skills formally assessed and validated across key competencies, including performance, writing, producing, marketing, publishing, entertainment law, and digital literacy. This initiative bridged the gap between lived artistic experience and formal certification, opening new pathways for employment, funding access, and professional growth within the creative sector.

We continued to invest in arts education and talent development through our support of the Kenya Music Festival 2025 in Meru County. Under the *Twende Theatre* campaign, we sponsored competitive classes, rewarded excellence, supported the Competency-Based Education framework, and contributed to the Kenya Music Festival Conference, affirming our belief that cultural heritage and contemporary expression must go hand in hand for sustainable creative growth. The Centre also participated in the Kenya National Drama and Film Festivals trainers and adjudicators' workshop strengthening frameworks for talent development and ensuring alignment with evolving industry practices.

CEO's MESSAGE

The year also marked a landmark moment for Kenyan theatre with the successful hosting of the 10th edition of the Kenya International Theatre Festival (KITFest@10). With over 10,600 attendees, 55 performances from 16 countries, and more than 8 million digital impressions worldwide, KITFest@10 reaffirmed theatre's power to connect cultures, spark dialogue, and amplify African narratives on a global scale.

Our partnership with the Kenya International Theatre Festival Trust further came to life during the Kenya Theatre Awards hosted at the Kenya National Theatre. This important platform celebrates excellence, innovation, and emerging talent within the industry, reinforcing our shared commitment to a thriving, interconnected, and economically viable theatre ecosystem.

At the grassroots level, the County Theatre Fiesta (CTF) 2025 demonstrated the power of decentralised capacity building. Implemented across six training centres in 14 counties, the programme trained 439 theatre practitioners in 35 theatre companies, exceeding targets and reflecting strong demand for professional theatre training. Beyond skills development, the programme staged 39 productions, selected 12 winning groups to represent their counties at KITFest, engaged creatives through audioplay masterclasses, integrated mental wellness and entertainment law training, and supported national environmental goals by planting 1,114 trees.

As we step into the new year, our vision remains clear: to be a Centre of excellence in the development, promotion, and commercialization of creative arts. We will continue to invest in artists, expand partnerships, strengthen professional pathways, and champion innovation that enables creatives to earn sustainable livelihoods from their craft.

I sincerely thank every individual and institution that contributed to our successes in 2025. Together, let us embrace the new year with renewed energy, bold ideas, and a shared commitment to shaping a vibrant, inclusive, and globally connected creative future.

Happy New Year, and may the arts continue to inspire, unite, and transform us all.

KENYA CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS



REDEMPTION

By David Mulwa

KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE
KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE
ADVANCE TICKETS - 1,500/=

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REDEMPTION A PLAY BY DAVID MULWA

The Centre, in its mandate to preserve and promote Kenyan performing arts, is pleased to introduce a new initiative aimed at celebrating and honouring Kenya's veterans in the performing and literary arts. This initiative seeks to provide a national platform for veterans to showcase their craft and to acknowledge their immense contributions. As part of this initiative, the Centre will stage one of the most renowned works, "Redemption" by David Mulwa. This production will serve as a celebration of the authors career and as a key feature in a program designed to spotlight the impact of Kenyan creatives and storytellers.

Redemption is a heart-warming play that centres upon and explores such pressing social issues as hypocrisy, misuse of religious and political power, parental responsibility and the position of the youth in a world torn with strife. It has been hailed as the play of the decade and a marathon of truth by theatre critics. The non-partisan message of the play comes through loud and clear that the ageless virtues of ethics, love, tolerance, wisdom, concern for our neighbor, mercy, justice and goodwill toward men are in fact still a part of the redemptive forces in the society.

The production will take place at the Kenya National Theatre from 5th to 15th March 2026. Below is the production schedule:

Week 1:

Thursday, 5th March 2026 - 7:00 PM (Opening Night)

Friday, 6th March 2026 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, 7th March 2026 - 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Sunday, 8th March 2026 - 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Week 2:

Friday, 13th March 2026 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, 14th March 2026 - 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Sunday, 15th March 2026 - 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Reserve your tickets now through TheatreKE or Kenya Buzz.

<https://www.theatreke.com/events/redemption>

<https://kenyabuzz.com/events/event/redemption>

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

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.

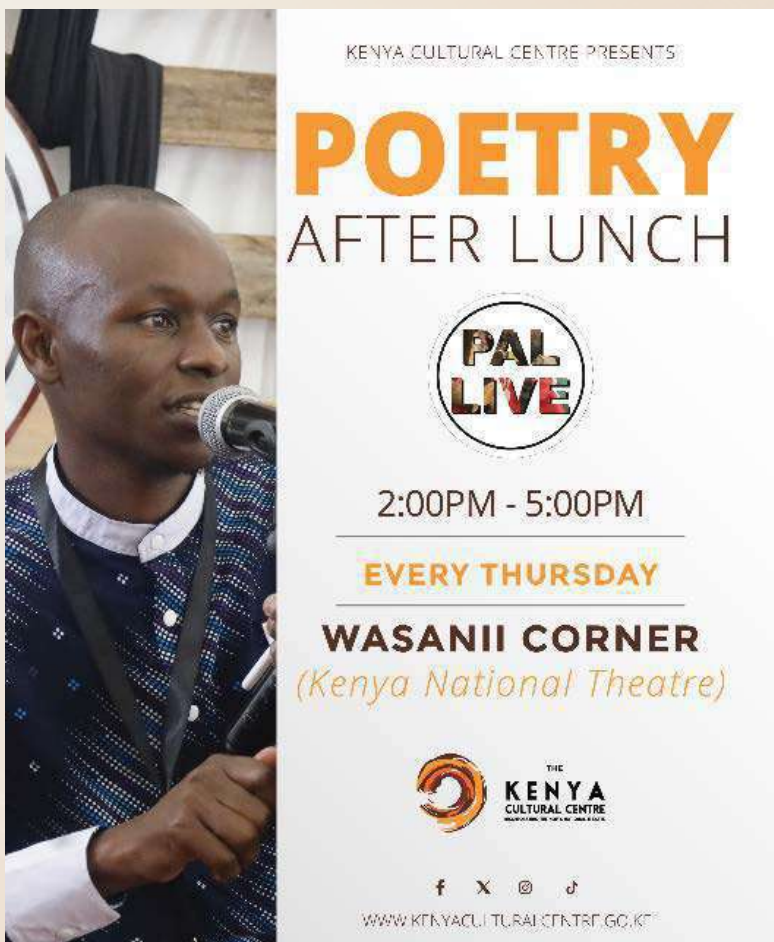


PAL LIVE

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

MATATU MUSICAL.

Date: 22nd to 25th January 2026.

Venue: Kenya National Theatre: Main Auditorium.

January takes the stage with Matatu Musical!

A bold and witty political satire that journeys through Kenya's history. This vibrant production blends music, movement, and sharp social commentary for an unforgettable theatrical experience. Don't miss it!



KETHAN LIVE EXPERIENCE III

Date: 31st January 2026.

Venue: Kenya National Theatre: Main Auditorium.

The Kethan Live Experience III returns with *The Case Study Edition*, an electrifying live performance set.

With die hard tickets sold out and Phase Two nearly closing, this highly anticipated experience promises bold storytelling, energy, and unforgettable moments on stage.

Mark your Calendars!



KCC-NT

ENGAGEMENTS



Kenya Cultural Centre Choir Shines at the National Kenya Music and Cultural Festival 2025

The Kenya Cultural Centre (KCC) Choir delivered an outstanding performance at the National Kenya Music and Cultural Festival 2025, reaffirming the Centre's commitment to excellence in cultural expression and performance arts. The festival was held from 30th November to 8th December 2025 at Moi Girls High School, Eldoret, in Uasin Gishu County, bringing together diverse communities to celebrate Kenya's rich cultural heritage.



During the festival, the Kenya Cultural Centre Choir participated in eleven competitive performance classes, demonstrating versatility across traditional, contemporary, and international musical genres. The choir's repertoire included performances such as *Loch Lomond*, *Adhiambo*, *Stella*, *Wazalendo*, *Wakenya Tuwajibike*, *Ngima Lomba*, *Alleluia*, *Ezekiel Saw De Wheel*, *Nakubaliana*, *Punda*, and *Najivunia*.

The choir's exceptional performances earned it top accolades, securing first position and four trophies in the following classes: *Punda*, *Najivunia*, *Ezekiel Saw De Wheel*, and *Loch Lomond*. In addition, the choir achieved second position in *Adhiambo*, *Alleluia*, *Wazalendo*, and *Ngima Lomba*, and placed third in *Wakenya Tuwajibike*. These results underscore the choir's high artistic standards, discipline, and dedication to musical excellence.

Organized by the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Gender, Culture, The Arts and Heritage, the National Kenya Music and Cultural Festival is one of Kenya's longest-running cultural events, with the 2025 edition marking its 98th year since inception in 1926. The festival showcases a wide array of cultural expressions, including music, dance, drama, chants, oral traditions, crafts, traditional foods, and indigenous practices, providing a vibrant platform for artistic excellence and cultural exchange.

The Kenya Cultural Centre continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing talent, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting Kenya's diverse artistic expressions. The choir's success at the National Kenya Music and Cultural Festival 2025 stands as a proof to the Centre's vision of excellence and its contribution to the country's creative and cultural landscape.





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