

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

wordfromafrica

Saturday 2 June 2007
12.00–20.15

A day-long celebration of African languages. Join us in exploring the diversity of Africa and its cultures through literature, music and visual arts. All sessions will have English translations or commentaries, or will be in English.

ADMISSION FREE

In partnership with



SABDET



British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG
Tottenham Court Road, Holborn, Russell Square

PART OF OUR SEASON ON
ATLANTIC TRADE & IDENTITY

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Event Programme

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BP Lecture Theatre

FREE – BOOKING REQUIRED

To book tickets for each session in the BP Lecture Theatre, go to the Box Office in the Great Court of the British Museum or telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8181.

Talking Drum

Theatre director and actor Femi Elufowoju Jr and royal drummer Ayantola Ayandosu explore the Yoruba language of Nigeria.

12.15–13.00

Hold your tongue!

A discussion of the big issues affecting how African languages can survive and thrive in the UK. With educationalist Morgan Dalphinis (St Lucia), translator Wangui wa Goro (Kenya), children's writer Blessing Musariri (Zimbabwe) and Professor Farouk Topan (Tanzania).

13.15–14.15

Nigerian Tales

Writers Helon Habila and Chuma Nwokolo read from their work and discuss how their native tongues from Nigeria influence the way they write in English.

14.30–15.15

UK African Poets

Abdullahi Bootaan (Somalia) reads and discusses his work, with poetic translation from Martin Orwin. Plus a performance from Ghanaian Nii Parkes, as seen on *Poems on the Underground*.

15.30–16.15

Zaunga – Sounds of Zimbabwe!

Featuring one of Zimbabwe's most popular performance poets and storytellers, Chirikure Chirikure, and leading UK based musicians, singer-songwriter Netsayi Chigwendere and mbira player Torera Mpedzisi.

16.30–17.30

Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Keynote speech from one of Africa's greatest living writers, Ngugi wa Thiong'o (Kenya), Professor of Comparative Literature and director of the International Centre for Writing and Translation at the University of California, Irvine. He will be reading from his latest novel, *Wizard of the Crow*, in English and Gikuyu.

18.00–19.00

Coco Mbassi

An intimate acoustic set from the lively, soulful singer-songwriter from Cameroon, with guitarist Serge Ngando Mpondo.

19.30–20.15

Great Court

Make an African Mask!

Workshop for children and families – just drop in!

14.00–17.00

Clore Education Centre Foyer

FREE – NO TICKETS NEEDED

Said Hussein

Magical oud (lute) from Somalia

12.45–13.15

Nickens Nkosa

Congolese griot on djembe (drum) and voice

14.00–14.30

Netsayi Chigwendere

Singer-songwriter from Zimbabwe/UK, with Jules Faife on guitar

15.00–15.30

Freddy Macha

Music and spoken word from Tanzania

16.00–16.30

Said Hussein

Magical oud (lute) from Somalia

17.30–18.00

Sackler Rooms

FREE – NO TICKETS NEEDED

FILM: Cult

This 33-minute silent film from 2005 explores black identity within various social contexts and the basis of its assimilation into Western culture. Directed by Benin/Nigerian artist Leo Asemota.

14.00, 15.00 and 16.00

Sainsbury African Galleries

FREE – NO TICKETS NEEDED

Torera Mpedzisi

Sublime mbira (thumb piano) from Zimbabwe

12.00–12.45

Freddy Macha

Music and spoken word from Tanzania

13.00–13.45

Chirikure Chirikure

Poetry and storytelling from Zimbabwe, with Torera Mpedzisi on mbira

14.00–14.45

Blessing Musariri

Reading from stories for children from Zimbabwe

15.00–15.30

Usifu Jalloh

Storytelling and song from Sierra Leone courtesy of *Music for change*

16.00–16.45

Nickens Nkosa

Congolese griot on djembe (drum) and voice

17.00–17.45

Atlantic Trade & Identity season

The *Atlantic Trade & Identity* season features a series of exhibitions, displays and events exploring transatlantic trade and its relationship to slavery, resistance and diasporas.

The Caribbean before Columbus:

The Taíno Universe

Until 17 June

Room 3

ADMISSION FREE

Inhuman Traffic:

The Business of the Slave Trade

Until 6 April 2008

Room 69a

ADMISSION FREE

For further details, including information on our Caribbean film season in July, visit www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

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