



PUPPETRY FESTIVALS 2008

Introduction

The Kenya International Puppetry Festival (KIPF) is a biennial puppet theatre event in East and Central Africa, showcasing a diversity of genres in puppet theatre as well as featuring performances and artistic workshops accessible to the public.

The Kenya International Puppetry Festival overall goal is to primarily promote puppetry as a performing art form, as well as a means of communication/education and social change

COMING FESTIVAL

4TH KENYA INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL, (KIPF 2008)

The Kenya International Puppetry festival (KIPf 2008) Organization Committee invites you to submit a proposal to participate and present at the Fourth Kenya International Puppetry Festival, (KIPf 2008) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from **10th -18th October 2008**.

THE FESTIVAL

This festival takes place against the background of one fundamental belief.... "That the one place puppetry ought to be is in the theatrical world." It recognizes the nature of puppets and their capacity play in silence and out of silence yet retaining the resilience and agility to mingle with objects, figures, things, people and other genres in time and space. It asks questions:

- What is the theatrical world of puppets?
- How can puppets play between and betwixt bodies, figures and images?
- Can puppetry be multi-disciplinary, inter-cultural, cross-border and experimental?
- How do puppets play, dance, construct and deconstruct without losing their essence?

TYPES OF PRESENTATION

Proposal for presentation will cover a wide range of theatre genres. The festival coordinating committee will be keen to receive proposal for:

- Puppets, mask, marionette, object and visual theatre performances
- Workshops on script writing for puppets, puppet construction and manipulation
- Exhibition of mask, puppets, publication or reading materials on puppetry
- Plenary discussion and exchanges on the use of puppetry in community education

It is recommended that proposals for performances include a digitalized recording and photos for performance. The proposals should be received by 30th February 2008. The Formatting Committee may use the information contained in it for festival publicity.

PARTICIPATION

KIPf 2008 targets participants from Africa as well as invited troupes, America and Asia. Participants are advised to seek sponsorship to meet their travel, accommodation and personal expenses.

THE HOST CITY

Nairobi, the host city, is the capital of Kenya. The name “Nairobi” means the place of cool water” the city which is over hundred years old is a modern centre of commerce, finance, industry and diplomacy. It is a favourite tourist destination. A superb network of world class well managed game parks, biosphere reserves, archaeological sites and pearly white sandy beaches are all easily accessible from the city. Some of these attractions are less than 50 Km from the city centre! Kenya offers some of the finest natural attractions in the world. Her prolific and well conserved wildlife is unparalleled.

A well designed grid of infrastructure links all these scenic attractions with Mombassa, the gateway to Kenya Coast and the country second largest city, and Kyushu, the lakeside town by the shores of the world famous Lake

Victoria. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, a premier airport in the region is only 15 minutes drive from the city centre.

Festival venues are within walking distance in central Nairobi.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is easily available in Nairobi during the festival period. Although the Organizing Committee will ideally prefer all participants to stay in the same place, a goal to which we will strive, there are alternatives. These include home stays, hostel and hotel at daily rates ranging from US\$20 to US\$100 for bed and breakfast. Participants are strongly advised to make reservation early through the festival secretariat.

**THE KENYA INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL
(KIPF 2008)**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM (fill and send)

Yes, I am interested in

A. Attending festival 2008

B. Making a presentation at the festival

Presentation proposal

A. . I wish to offer a performance

B. . I wish to offer a plenary presentation

C. . I wish to offer a practical workshop presentation/demonstration

Title.....
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Please attach an abstract giving description and duration of your presentation as well as a biography of the presenter{s}. The biography should include

professional role duties experiences etc.

Surname.....

Other Names.....

Organization.....

Mailing Address

Telephone.....

Email.....

Inquiries and information to:

Phylemon Odhiambo
The Festival Coordinator
The Kenya International Puppetry Festival (KIPF 2008)
C/o FPPS {K} CHAPS
PO Box 46042.
Nairobi.
TEL, 254-02-715002/710705
FAX, 254-02-715115
E-mail: unima_kenya@myway.com
phylmono@yahoo.com
Web: -----

PAST FESTIVALS

**KENYA INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL
3rd EDITION - 2006**

The third Kenya International Puppetry festival was a continuation of the journey begun in 2002. The KIP festival was formally open on 14th and closed on 19th October 2006 in Nairobi,

Six countries participated in the festival. This included the United State of America, Finland, South Africa, Italy and Malawi who participated in the festival as observers. A total of 30 Kenyan puppeteers participated in the conference.

KIP Festival 2006 aimed to celebrate the power of puppetry as a performing art form that can promote cultural integration and cooperation. Its goal was to present puppetry that is multi-disciplinary, inter-cultural, cross-border and experimental. The festival theme was *Puppetry: art, and cultural integration*.

The objectives of The Kenya International Puppetry Festival 2006 were:

- To celebrate, develop and promote the art of puppetry,
- To encourage creativity, improve puppetry skills, and enhance the quality of puppet theatre performances by exposing Kenyan and African puppeteers and audiences to contemporary puppetry techniques, skills and professional performances.
- To create link and joint projects with other UNIMA Chapters around the world.

KENYA INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL

2ND Editon "EDUPUPPETS FESTIVAL - 2004 (February 14-22)

Edupuppets 2004, aimed to celebrate the power of puppetry as a performing art form that could promote cultural integration and cooperation. Its goal was to present puppetry that is *multi-disciplinary, inter-cultural, cross-border* and *experimental*. The festival showcased new works and featured puppet art skills workshops aimed at enhancing Kenyan and African puppeteers' puppet theatre skills.

Edupuppets 2004 focused on puppet theatre aesthetics, performance,

stylistics and art education, through diverse puppet theatre performances and skills exchange workshops in major cultural centres, streets, parks and institutions within the central business district of Nairobi.

The theme of the festival was *Puppetry: art, aesthetics, education and cultural integration*.

In order to continue the goals of the international puppetry festival, *Edupuppets 2004* presented professional puppet theatre teams from across the world.

The objectives of *Edupuppets 2004* were:

- To celebrate, develop and promote the art of puppetry, as an aesthetic and performing art form, in Kenya, Africa and the diaspora.
- To encourage creativity, improve puppetry skills, and enhance the quality of puppet theatre performances by exposing Kenyan and African puppeteers and audiences to contemporary puppetry techniques, skills and professional performances.

KENYA INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL 1st EDITION - EDDUPUPPET FESTIVAL - 2002

Edupuppets 2002 was launched in Nairobi on 15th February 2002. The results exceeded expectations. A wonderful band of visiting puppeteers displayed their skills to appreciative Kenyan audiences. In addition to giving performances, they tirelessly presented workshops for 100 Kenyan puppeteers who were an integral part of the festival as performers and learners. The interaction between the visitors and the Kenyan puppeteers developed a dynamic of joy in shared experiences and common love of puppetry. The visitors discovered a world far from the competitiveness and commercialism of European and American festivals.

Edupuppets 2002, the first international puppetry festival in the East Africa region, brought an outpouring of energy and creativity to Nairobi. It

assembled:

- 30 visiting puppeteers from overseas
- 100 Kenyan puppeteers.

Objective of the festival included:

- To strengthen appreciation of puppetry in Kenya, thereby contributing to a favourable environment for CHAPS and its troupes;
- To promote awareness of puppetry locally and internationally as an effective instrument for informing, educating and catalyzing action on ills in communities; and
- To improve the skills and performance techniques of Kenyan puppeteers through exposure and instruction.

FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS/MANAGEMENT

- The Kenya National Centre of UNIMA
- Community Health Awareness Puppeteers (CHAPS)/Family Programmes Promotions Services (FPPS),

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

Assistance and support has come from a number of sources including .

- Royal Netherlands Embassy;
- The ministry Home Affairs, National Heritage and Sports-Department
- United States of America
- The Nairobi City Council.
- The Ministry of Tourism and Information
- Embassy of Finland
- Embassy of Israel
- Goethe Institute
- French Cultural Centre
- Embassy of Finland
- Ford Foundation
- Afrikalia
- Italian Cultural centre among others