

## **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

# **EYES ON KENYA**



**THE 9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL (IPFEST) KENYA – 2018**

**October 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

## ***“TOWARDS BREAKING BARRIERS”***

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Puppetry Festival “**IPFest2018**” Kenya will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from **17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup> October 2018**. This will be the first time that International Puppetry Festival of this magnitude will be held in Kenya. Alongside hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> IPFest2018, the Kenya puppetry fraternity will be celebrating its **Silver Jubilee Celebration** – a celebration of 25 years of the existence of puppetry and folk media programmes for health, social justice and political change in Kenya.

Every aspect of the IPfest 2018 is being designed with long term sustainability in mind and with a commitment to building partnerships between different embassies, theatre companies, governments and all stakeholders across the world interested in investing in the future of art for children and young people.

### **2. FESTIVAL THEME**

The 2018 festival theme is ***Towards Breaking Barriers***. The theme, “**Towards Breaking Barriers**” emanates from a conscious desire to deconstruct the idea of place and space of performances through cross-border and cross cultural mixed ability puppetry, physical and object theatre presentations. The festival also intends to create a platform of expanding,

sharing and enhancing skills and knowledge of Kenyan puppeteers as creative entrepreneurs. We want to affect the lives of many young aspiring art entrepreneurs for the better and take the most creative and most able journey that will radically improve not only their own life prospects as art entrepreneurs, but also their ability to act as forces of positive change within their own communities.

As such, *IPFest2018* will seek to intergrate and present multimedia and mixed ability puppet theatre works involving able and disabled people drawn from across the world, through a collaborative partnership aimed towards breaking social, political and economic barriers across the world.

We believe that hosting the 9th International Puppetry Festival 2018 will bring about increased awareness and enhanced bilateral relationship toward development of puppetry and artistic programmes through, **Cross-Border and Cross Cultural Partnership**

## **2. VISION**

**“IPFest 2018” vision is to** ensure that the value and transformative power of puppet theatre and art in the lives and education of children and young people is recognized and embraced.

**IPFest2018** will spark creativity in artists, teachers, researchers and academics as well as creativity in children and young people. It will link into the growing demand for quality arts education on the continent.

## **3. TARGET AUDIENCE**

The festival will build on the lessons learned from the previous festivals and will focus on the highest standards of puppet performance targeting children and youth and adult. **IPFest 2018** will focus on the aesthetics and pedagogy of the art of puppetry by presenting diverse and professional performances, workshops and conference presentations.

## **4. FESTIVAL PLATFORMS**

Presentations at the **IPfest 2018** will be accommodated under four main platforms.

### **a. The Professional Puppetry Performances**

*IPfest2018* emphasizes on development of collaborative puppetry performances between Artists from Africa and artists from other nations. This is seen as a long term benefit and sustainability of KIPT puppetry programme.

A total of 20 international and professional puppet, object, figure and image theatre companies from all over the world will be invited to present performances showcasing an array of unique and innovative styles.

Organizations working with people of all abilities (deaf, physically challenged etc) will be invited to participate too.

### **b. The Skills Exchange Workshops and Training**

Ten (10) Workshops with leading practitioners from Africa and the world held on different aspect of theatre and development will be conducted.

The workshops will feature diverse aspects and topics in puppet theatre, such as puppet construction, shadow puppetry, marionettes, masks, sounds and lighting, puppet theatre production, script writing, puppetry and therapy, puppet theatre in cross cultural cooperation and economic and democratic development.

The trainings are also intended to enhance and improve region puppeteers' skills in group dynamics/management, puppetry/puppet theatre in education and cross cultural cooperation.

#### **c. Directors' Forum**

This is a one day Research Conference into Theatre for Young Audiences in Africa and the World.

It will involve 100 participants including art directors, choreographers, physical and puppet theatre artistes, dancers, street artistes, theatre experts and artists from different countries and art organizations. Research papers, new works and development in the area of puppetry will be shared.

#### **d. The Young Puppeteers Forum**

One unique aspect of the **IPfest 2018** is the involvement of ASSITEJ Kenya in its organization. ASSITEJ Kenya endeavours to promote the art of theatre for children and young people in Kenya and represents the interests of young artists in the international fora. We believe that hosting this platform during the festival can bring about increased awareness and systemic changes on the development of theatre for young audience and by young people.

ASSITEJ Chapters from Africa, America, Europe and Asia in the just concluded The 49<sup>th</sup> ASSITEJ World Congress in Cape town in May 2017 expressed a lot of interest in participating in the activities happening in Africa to support and advocate for the development of theatre for children, youth and young audience in the continent.

### **5. SPONSORSHIP**

We encourage the teams/groups to seek their own support to participate in *IPfest 2018*. Our biggest supporters have been various embassies and cultural centres based in Kenya and cultural across the globe.

Our main focus is on collaborative/ partnerships artistic projects. We encourage groups to seek support from their embassies and cultural centres both in Kenya and abroad to support a collaborative production between them and Kenyan puppeteers geared towards presentation at the **IPFest 2018**. This is the information that we have already sent to most embassies in Kenya.

The festival will offer internal travel, assisting personnel(s), lighting and sound system that are not detachable from the theatre walls

Sponsorship is being sought from individuals, embassies, donors, corporate and private sector.

## 6 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Create collaborative puppetry and artistic programme between Kenyan and other international puppeteers and artists
- Encourage creativity and improve puppet theatre skills by exposing African puppeteers and audiences to professional puppet theatre techniques of international standards.
- Establish interest and support for puppetry and folk media as a cultural medium for social change in Kenya and Africa.
- Present at least 20 new international and professional puppet, object, figure and multi-media performances from puppet theatre companies from across the world.
- Consolidate Kenyan participation in the worldwide network of puppeteers and young artists.
- Involvement of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Sport, Culture and Arts in the development of puppetry for social change and as a teaching and learning tool for teachers and pupils

## 7.0 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

THE 9 <sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL PUPPETRY FESTIVAL (IPFEST)2018	
Expression of Interest Form	
Surname	I am interested in making ;
Other Names	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing a performance
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Making a research /paper presentation
Mailing Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Conducting a workshop/Training
Telephone	
Email	
Title of the performance /Presentation	
Synopsis / Brief Information About Your Presentation /Mounting & Demounting Time	
Target Audience / Maximum No	
Technical Requirement	

## **CONTACTS**

Festival Secretariate

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## **CONTACT PERSON:**

Mr. Phylemon Odhiambo Okoth

Director - Kenya Institute of Puppet Theatre

- International Puppetry Festival - Kenya