

FESTIVAL GUIDE

Crucible Theatre and Tudor Square
Fri 26 – Sat 27 October 2018

SO AFRICA FESTIVAL

sheffieldtheatres.co.uk
0114 249 6000 #soafricafestival



sheffield theatres
crucible lyceum studio



Utopia Theatre

SOAFRICA FESTIVAL


26 – 27.10.18

Loads of **free** daytime events plus
2 nights of music by internationally
acclaimed artists!

CELEBRATING THE
CULTURE AND PEOPLE OF
AFRICA IN YORKSHIRE

 #SoAfricaFest

 @soafricafest

 #SoAfricaFest #SoAfricaFest18



Welcome to the first ever SoAfrica Festival, celebrating African culture, art and heritage in Yorkshire.

For years I have travelled from Yorkshire to London for African cultural events and festivals. This year I decided to curate a festival here in the centre of Sheffield at the Crucible Theatre. I am delighted that the vision I've had for years – to bring the spirit of Africa to the heart of Yorkshire – has become a reality, thanks to the support of Sheffield Theatres Trust and Arts Council England.

Join us as we celebrate Sheffield as an internationally diverse city. SoAfrica Festival brings you some of the best known names in African music, theatre, dance and storytelling. Over two days our local, national and international festival artists promise an eclectic range of exciting, stimulating and uplifting experiences.

We are passionate about exploring and expanding the idea of what it is to be African. This is a unique opportunity to connect, learn, network, discuss and socialise. All are welcome!

We look forward to you joining us.

Moji Kareem
Festival Director
Artistic Director of Utopia Theatre

Our Team

Director/Producer **Moji Kareem**

Project Manager **Sam Holland**

Associate Producers
John Rwoth-Omach & James Whittle

Designer **Emma Williams**

Production Manager **Jack Howe**

Technical Manager **Peter Adjaye**

Marketing Manager **Annalisa Toccara**

Community Ambassador and
Marketing Assistant **Tchiyiwe Chihana**

Graphic Designer **Adam Hypki**

Sheffield Theatres staff

FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER

CRUCIBLE STAGE

18:00	19:00	Breis (doors open 17:30)	Music
19:30	20:30	Namvula	Music
21:00	22:10	Akala	Music

TUDOR SQUARE STAGE

13:00	13:40	One World Choir	Music
14:30	15:30	Hassan Salih Nour & Ibrahim Disco	Music
16:00	16:30	Music and Love Band	Music
17:00	18:00	Yaaba Funk	Music

LOBBY STAGE

12:00	13:00	Open Mic	Various
13:00	14:00	Alim Kamara: Interactive Storytelling and Family (8+)	Workshop
14:00	15:30	Open Mic	Various
15:30	16:30	Alim Kamara: Interactive Storytelling and Family (8+)	Workshop
16:30	17:00	Open Mic	Various
17:00	18:00	Why Refugee Women: Ubuntu	Fashion Show

ADELPHI ROOM

13:00	14:00	Ayan De First: African Drumming (5+)	Workshop
14:00	15:00	Ayan De First: African Dance (12+)	Workshop
15:15	16:15	Ayan De First: African Drumming (5+)	Workshop
16:15	17:15	Ayan De First: African Dance (12+)	Workshop

LOWER FOYER

10:00	12:00	Ayan De First: African Contemporary Painting (all ages)	Workshop
14:00	15:00	Ayan De First: African Contemporary Painting (all ages)	Workshop
15:15	17:15	Ayan De First: African Contemporary Painting (all ages)	Workshop

TUDOR SQUARE

10:00	18:00	Stalls	Food
11:00	12:30	Joe Williams: African History in Sheffield Walk	Talk

SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER

CRUCIBLE STAGE

19:00	19:45	Aar Maanta (doors open 18:30)	Music
21:00	22:30	Seun Kuti & Egypt 80	Music

TUDOR SQUARE STAGE

11:00	11:30	Stevie and N and M	Music
12:00	13:00	Kadialy Kouyate	Music
13:15	13:45	Sosa-Xa!	Dance & Music
14:00	14:30	Mulembas D'Africa	Dance
16:00	17:00	K.O.G and the Zongo Brigade	Music

LOBBY STAGE

11:00	12:00	IROKO: Interactive Storytelling & Music-making for Families (all ages)	Workshop
12:15	12:45	Ali Abdirahman	Poetry
13:00	13:45	IROKO: Music for Wellbeing (dementia friendly)	Workshop
14:00	14:45	IROKO: Interactive Storytelling (7+)	Workshop
15:00	15:30	Sosa-Xa!	Dance & Music
15:30	16:00	Ayan de First & Oduduwa Talking Drummers	Dance & Music
16:00	17:00	Somali Poets: So At One With You	Poetry
18:00	19:00	Haymanot Tesfa & Arian Sadr	Music

ADELPHI ROOM

11:00	12:30	Artist Forum Event	Talk
13:00	15:00	Ayan De First: Music and Dance (5+)	Workshop
15:30	16:30	IROKO: African Drumming (7+)	Workshop
17:00	18:30	Artist Networking Event	Talk

LOWER FOYER

10:00	12:00	Ayan De First: African Contemporary Painting (all ages)	Workshop
12:00	18:30	African Contemporary Painting: Workshop Artwork	Exhibition

TUDOR SQUARE

10:00	17:00	Stalls	Food
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Breis

18.00–19:00 (doors open at 17.30)



Breis (breeze) is a dynamic Nigerian rap artist based in the UK. His thought-provoking, spiritual, infectious songs, filled with humorous wordplay, always leave listeners uplifted.

Namvula

19.30–20.30



Creating an intrepid new world where folk and urban traditions of her Zambian homeland blend with London's vibrant eclectic music scene, Namvula crosses boundaries with a refreshing honesty and evocative lyricism, transporting listeners into different worlds while staying firmly rooted in African soil.

Booking info

Friday night: £20

Weekend Saver: £30

Box Office: 0114 249 6000

www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk



Akala

21:00–22:10

BAFTA and MOBO award-winning hip hop artist, writer/poet and historian Akala is a label owner and social entrepreneur who fuses a unique rap/rock/electro-punk sound with fierce lyrical storytelling. Inspired by the likes of Saul Williams and Gil Scot-Heron, Akala has developed a stellar live show with his renowned drummer/award-winning music producer Cassell 'The Beatmaker' (Plan B/The Streets/Keziah Jones)

As well as taking part in British Council arts education/music projects across South-East Asia, Africa, The Philippines, New Zealand and Australia, his compelling lectures and journalism (The Guardian, Huffington Post UK and The Independent), TV presenting and script-writing have given Akala a reputation as one of the most dynamic and literate talents in the UK.



Seun Kuti & Egypt 80

21.00–22.30

‘As with contemporary jazz, Seun Kuti makes his take on Afrobeat applicable to hip hop by tearing down all restrictions’ – The Quietus

‘some of the wildest, livest music on the planet’ – Brian Eno

Seun Kuti leads Egypt 80: the extraordinary dance orchestra created by his father, legendary Nigerian Afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti, as a conduit for the common people, their name reflecting black African origins in ancient pharaonic civilisation.

Their fourth studio recording, *Last Revolutionary*, is an album ‘for anybody who believes in change and understands the duty we have to rise up and come together,’ says Kuti. ‘The system says we’re different. But the struggle makes us one.’

Entice people home. Bring them together. Tell them about freedom: ‘about how we see ourselves and the roles we have to play.’

Booking info

Saturday night: £20

Weekend Saver: £30

Box Office: 0114 249 6000

www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk



Aar Maanta

19:00–19:45 (doors open at 18:30)

Young Somalis in the UK describe Aar Maanta as ‘the voice of our generation’. With a broad singing range and laidback delivery, his vocals have been touted as ‘almost Middle Eastern in feel’. A multi-instrumentalist, his eclectic songs celebrate influences on Somali music, from traditional North African music to the classical oud-centred Qaraami (‘love songs’ in Arabic) style of the 1940s.

One World Choir

13:00 – 13:40



Sheffield One World Choir are a group of refugees, asylum seekers and other local people who came together early this year. The group's rich heritage spans Africa, the Middle East and the UK: hear them celebrate diversity and friendship in songs reflecting their cultures and the excitement they find in singing!

Hassan Salih Nour & Ibrahim Disco

14:30 – 15:30



Born in Gabet, Eastern Sudan, singer and multi-instrumentalist Hassan Salih Nour performs on oud and tanbura (bowl lyre) in collaboration with traditional Sudanese percussionist, Ibrahim Disco.

Music and Love

16:00 – 16:30

Music and Love perform high energy songs inspired by the Townships of Zimbabwe: feel-good music weaving uplifting drum rhythms, melody, pulsing guitar and smooth saxophone.

Yaaba Funk

17:00 – 18:00



At the forefront of the UK's contemporary Afro scene, Yaaba Funk formed in Brixton in 2006 through a deep love of African music, funk, jazz and eclectic dancefloor grooves. Starting with Ghanaian Hi-life, they bring in James Brown grooves, Sun Ra jazz, Parliament-Funkadelic jams, and more than a hint of mind-altering dub.

Don't miss!

**Local artists performing:
14:00–15:00 & 16:00–17:00**

Kadialy Kouyate

12:00 – 13:00



Born into the great line of Kouyate Griot in Southern Senegal, singer-songwriter Kadialy Kouyate complements 'fleet-fingered skills' on the mesmerising kora with a 'hauntingly, darkly beautiful voice' (Time Out).

Sosa-Xa!

13:15 – 13:45



Enjoy the joyful harmonies of Southern Africa with SOSA-XA! Led by Tonde Phiri from Zimbabwe, this Sheffield-based intercultural choir sings (and moves) Mbube-style in a variety of languages. Get involved, have fun, and expect to dance!

Mulembas D'Africa

14:00 – 14:30



Focusing on the Angolan dance style and experiences of the African diaspora, Angelina Abel brings a world of African dance fusion and a portrait of a community. Expect a performance of raw moving energy in celebration of vibrant Africa.

K.O.G and the Zongo Brigade

16:00 – 17:00



A collective of musicians brought together by K.O.G & FRANZ VON who have put together a spine of rhythms that fuse traditional West African grooves with reggae, funk, soul, jazz and world music, championing integration, connection and positive energy.



Haymanot Tesfa and Arian Sadr perform
on the Lobby Stage on Saturday 27
October at 18:00 © Haymanot Tesfa



© Anthony Robling

Utopia Theatre

Utopia Theatre is a Sheffield based company that aims to produce high quality cross cultural content that enhances the value of the African community and promotes its recognition and its integration. We create festivals, films, opera, dance, new plays and we re-imagine classics in a way that demonstrate their contemporary relevance and appeal to a new audience.

Utopia Theatre exists to raise awareness and increase appreciation of African culture by creating new work and presenting established classics within a strong African context, and in so doing, employ African artists, dispelling stereotypes and encouraging authentic voices from the African diaspora.

Our vision is that African theatre and its practice will become fully recognised in the UK and its artists and practitioners able to secure regular employment and attract diverse audiences as a key strand of mainstream theatre in the West.



© Anthony Robling

Artist Forum Event with Moji Kareem (Utopia Theatre)

Adelphi Room, FREE
Saturday 27th October
11:00–12:30

What is the *Spirit of Africa*? What does it mean to be an African artist or an artist making African work today?

These questions and others will be explored in an open forum chaired by director Moji Kareem and designed for artists working in all art-forms at all levels. If you're an artist of any kind – musician, dancer, actor, sculptor, poet, painter – then this event is for you. Come and be part of the conversation!

Limited spaces available to book in advance. More spaces will be released on the day at 10.00am and you are welcome to drop-in on the day.

Artist Networking Event

Adelphi Room, FREE
Saturday 27th October
17:00–18:30

Festivals are about bringing people together. If you're an artist working in any art-form then this is for you: a chance to meet other artists and SoAfrica artists before Saturday's evening performances.

Drop by to chat with like-minded thinkers and makers, swap stories and business cards, and get to know the community surrounding one of the fastest growing theatre districts outside London.

African History in Sheffield Walk

Joe Williams

Tudor Square, FREE
Friday 26th October
11:00–12:30

A walk through city streets to highlight race and empire, exploring African-related history and the black presence in Sheffield.

Joe Williams (Heritage Corner, Leeds Black History Walk) shares the ground-breaking work of Sheffield historian Mark Hutchinson: stories of celebrated Victorian residents, famous visitors, and experiences since Windrush toward social cohesion. Participants can also contribute their own stories.

Dress comfortably and meet at Crucible Theatre Box Office.

FREE



L.OBBY STAGE: FRIDAY

Open Mic

Various

Our Open Mic slots showcase a selection of music, poetry, theatre and more. Come along for the best of Sheffield-based talent!.

Ubuntu Fashion Show: Why Refugee Women

17:00 – 18:00



© Why Refugee Women

'Ubuntu' means humanity, often used to mean 'I am because we are'. That encapsulates the guiding principle of Why Refugee Women. The Ubuntu Fashion Show is about inclusiveness, about women from all walks of life coming together to celebrate their journeys and also showcase their roots through fashion.

Aramatou ToureProtandem
© George Eyo

FREE

Ali Abdirahman

12.15 – 12.45

Somali poet Ali Abdirahman shares poems from his first book, which provides inspirational messages on themes such as morality, self-confidence, identity, and courage in the face of adversity.

Sosa-Xa!

15:00 – 15:30

Sosa-Xa! perform once again!

See Tudor Square Stage: Friday for information.

Oduduwa Talking Drummers Group Performance

15:30 – 16:00



© Ayan De First

Participants from African Drumming and Dance workshops perform with the Oduduwa Talking Drummers.

Somali Poets: So At One With You

(in association with Off The Shelf)

16:00 – 17:00

This bilingual event celebrates a new anthology of poems and essays by Somali writers from the Horn of Africa. The book features Maxamed Xaashi Dhamac 'Gaarriye' and Jaamac Kediye Cilmi, as well as contemporary writers of the Somali diaspora such as Asha Lul Mohamad Yusuf.

Haymanot Tesfa & Arian Sadr

18:00 – 19:00

Haymanot Tesfa's singing is inspired by the dramatic ancient landscapes and traditional music of her Ethiopian roots. Listen to the sound of a free spirit, fearless and intensely experimental, singing and playing the 6-string krar alongside Iranian percussionist Arian Sadr..

Booking info

Limited spaces available to book in advance.

Box Office: 0114 249 6000

www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

FREE

L.OBBY STAGE: SATURDAY

Storytelling and Family Workshop

Alim Kamara

Lobby Stage (Upper Foyer)
Friday 26th October
13:00–14:00, 15:30–16:30

FREE, 8+

Brace yourself for an energetic, insightful and captivating performance by Alim Kamara: a traditional storyteller here to inspire, ignite and inform.

As a child in Sierra Leone, Alim admired the way Griots (storytellers) weaved lessons through tales. On returning to London, he discovered different styles of storytelling: from the slapstick humour of Tom & Jerry to the vivid, poignant imagery of hip hop.

Alim Kamara brings the campfire to the stage. Gather round and enjoy the wonderful combination of African storytelling traditions, music and hip hop.

Workshops with IROKO Theatre

Once seen, never forgotten. IROKO are an award-winning company that bring spellbinding African stories to life through drama, music, songs and chants. No previous experience required!



Interactive Storytelling and Music Making for Families

Lobby Stage (Upper Foyer)
Saturday 27th October
11:00–12:00, 14:00–14.45

FREE, 7+

Enjoy an interactive family storytelling performance, followed by hands-on intergenerational drumming workshop activities.

Music for Wellbeing

Lobby Stage (Upper Foyer)
Saturday 27th October
13:00–13.45

FREE

Suitable for people living with dementia

Fun and enjoyable African group music-making can enhance health and wellbeing. This workshop will involve live drumming, gentle movement, songs and chants to enliven the spirit.

African Drumming

Adelphi Room
Saturday 27th October
15.30–16.30

FREE, 7+

Come and participate in fun, enjoyable inter-generational activities: African drumming, songs, chants, movement and singing.

Booking info

Limited spaces available to book in advance.

Box Office: 0114 249 6000

www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

Workshops with Ayan De First and the Oduduwa Talking Drummers

Artist and drummer Ayan De First has exhibited, performed and led workshops worldwide. In 1999 Ayan formed the first ever talking drummer troupe in the Western region: the Oduduwa Talking Drummers.

African Contemporary Painting

Lower Foyer, FREE, 5+

Friday 26th October: 10:00–12:00,
14:00–15:00 & 15:15–17:00

Saturday 27th October: 10:00–12:00

In African contemporary art, each painting tells a story about ways of life and living in Africa. Come and paint your own story, and if you like exhibit your work at the festival.

African Drumming

Adelphi Room, FREE, 5+

Friday 26th October
13:00–14:00 & 15:15–16:15

Learn how to play African drums and have a go on the unique West African Talking Drum. Participants also have the opportunity to perform with the Oduduwa Talking Drummers on Saturday 27th October.

African Dance

Adelphi Room, FREE, 12+
Friday 26th October
14:00–15:00, 16:15–17:15

Lively, rhythmic, joyful – African dance is a good form of exercise! Learn a variety of steps and styles, with the opportunity to perform with the Oduduwa Talking Drummers on Saturday 27th October.

African Drumming and Dance (Workshop and Rehearsal)

Adelphi Room, FREE, 5+
Saturday 27th October
13:00–15:00

Learn to drum and dance, West African-style! Participants also have the chance to perform with the Oduduwa Talking Drummers after the workshop on the Lobby Stage.



Sheffield Theatres

Sheffield Theatres is the largest producing theatre complex outside of London, home to three theatres: the Crucible, the Lyceum and the Studio.

In recognition of its success in creating new work, its bold approach to new classics and accessible ticketing policy, the Theatre was named Regional Theatre of the year for 2017, by the Stage, for an unprecedented third time, adding to wins in 2013 and 2014.

The company produces a diverse programme of work, spanning a range of genres: classical revivals, new work, large-scale musicals and innovative and immersive theatre experiences. It presents the best shows currently on tour in the UK and works with artists locally and nationally to nurture and develop new creative talent.

Last year, Sheffield Theatres produced the new musical *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* which transferred to the West End in November 2017. Sheffield Theatres opened their Autumn 2018 season in the Studio with *STEEL* a new play from playwright Chris Bush, with Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's*

Dream, directed by Artistic Director Robert Hastie, playing the Crucible.

There are a variety of shows coming to the stage over the coming months including *Peter Pan*, *The Singing Mermaid*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Barber Shop Chronicles* and *Kinky Boots*.

Next in the Studio is *Close Quarters*, in a co-production with *Out of Joint*, ahead of the Christmas Crucible musical, Cole Porter's *Kiss Me, Kate*.

For more information, please visit sheffieldtheatres.co.uk or call the Box Office on 0114 249 6000.





How to get here

Audience members are offered a discount off Q Park Charles Street parking for both evening and matinee performances. Simply visit the Box Office or speak to a member of the Front of House Team to claim your first hour free parking voucher. We are 5–10 minutes walk from the Train Station and the Transport Interchange is nearby.

Public Transport

The nearest bus stops are on Arundel Gate (50m) and High Street (300m). There are two Supertram Stops in close proximity to the Theatres: Castle Square and Cathedral (400m).

Our preferred taxi partner is City Taxis, who have a range of cars including some which cater for people with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users. You can phone City Taxis on 0114 239 3939.



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