



**African Connections CIC**

Presents

## **Edinburgh Multicultural Festival**

**4-6 Oct 2019**

Music, dance, storytelling, films and audio visual celebration of Edinburgh's multicultural communities

(the newest event on Edinburgh's festival calendar)



African Connections CIC (an Edinburgh-based community interest company promoting diversity through performing arts) is delighted to announce the very first Edinburgh Multicultural Festival, on 4-6 October 2019.

The festival programme features a bright array of Edinburgh's diverse talent with spoken word, poetry, music, dance and visual arts created by African, Asian and Eastern European artists living in the capital.

The festival will also present two international acts: albino Malawian singer and canjo player **Lazarus**, and **Sowhereto Africa**, a South African dance and music show promoting street talent from the township of Soweto (previously performed at Edinburgh's Dance Base and the Studio).

A poetry and storytelling programme (on Friday afternoon) will be curated by **Nadine Aisha Jassat**, with storytellers **Fong Liu** and **Daiva Ivanauskaitė**, while the weekend will feature musicians including **Samba Sene & Diwan** (Sengalese Mbalax/Afrobeat/ska fusion), rappers **Billy Got Waves & Joell**, Moroccan grooves from **Omar Afif & Gnawa Trance Fusion** and Bollywood//Indian classical music from **Swaryatra**; the dance programme on Saturday includes Scotland's leading Indian dance group **Dance Ihayami**, a range of African dances from **Sankofa Beats**, plus **Olga Kay**, **Iraya Noble**, **Pirita Tuisku**, and many more.

There will also be a specially curated short films programme and a specially created installation by Polish audio visual artist **Robert Motyka**, inspired by diverse cultures and identities.

The events will take place across 2 venues in north Edinburgh – creative writing, poetry and storytelling at Drumrae Library and Community Hub (4 October only), with the main programme taking place at Edinburgh College, Granton Campus (5 & 6 October), in the open café space (unticketed) and the PASS Theatre. There will be opportunities for audiences to mix with performers and community organisations, to share their experiences and find out more about how to be involved in cross-community activities.

**All events are free to attend, and all age groups are welcome.**

Edinburgh Multicultural Festival director, **Morgan Njobo**, says:

*With this programme we would like to celebrate Edinburgh's diverse multicultural talent and its contribution to the cultural life of the city. As a South African artist living in Edinburgh, I feel privileged to be able to present an eclectic programme that aims to engage local communities and increase access to arts and entertainment in the north of Edinburgh. We are collaborating with artists whose work is influenced by African, Asian and Eastern European cultures and we wish for all Edinburgh residents engage with our diverse performing arts and visual arts scene and enjoy the benefits of diversity brought by the artists involved.*

It is hoped that Edinburgh Multicultural Festival 2019 will be the first of many, growing over the years, contributing to promoting tolerance and inclusivity across Edinburgh and beyond.

Edinburgh Multicultural Festival is delivered in partnership with Edinburgh College, PASS Theatre and Drumrae Library and Community Hub, and supported by City of Edinburgh Council.

**For more press information, interviews, press tickets, hi res photos, etc,**  
please call **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email [info@scarybiscuits.com](mailto:info@scarybiscuits.com))

**Website** [www.edinburghmulticulturalfestival.co.uk](http://www.edinburghmulticulturalfestival.co.uk) ([www.edmcf.co.uk](http://www.edmcf.co.uk))

### **LISTINGS**

**Fri 4 Oct 2 - 5pm** Drumrae Library and Community Hub, 81 Drum Brae Dr, Edinburgh EH4 7FE  
**Storytelling, poetry and creative writing**

**Sat 5 Oct Noon-5pm** Edinburgh College Granton Campus, 350 W Granton Rd, Edinburgh EH5 1QE  
(Doors 11am) **DANCE** inc **Dance Ihayami, Sowhereto, Sankofa Beats**

**Sun 6 Oct Noon-5pm** Edinburgh College Granton Campus, 350 W Granton Rd, Edinburgh EH5 1QE  
(Doors 11am) **MUSIC** inc **Lazarus, Samba Sene & Diwan, Omar Afif & Gnawa Trance Fusion**

**All events are free, and tickets can be reserved in advance via Eventbrite**

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