

PRESS RELEASE



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sauti za Busara: Four Explosive Nights of 100% Live African Music

After receiving more than 560 applications from groups wanting to perform at the festival, 31 groups were finally selected to perform at the ninth edition of Sauti za Busara music festival scheduled to take place from 8th to 12th February at the historic Old Fort in Stone Town, Zanzibar. The festival line up includes a wide array of African music stars from East Africa as well as Nigeria, Sudan, Cape Verde, South Africa, Congo Brazzaville and Indian Ocean islands Comoros, Madagascar and Reunion. Headline acts to perform include Nneka (Nigeria), Tumi & The Volume (South Africa), Fredy Massamba (Congo) and FM Academia (Tanzania) and Super Mazembe (Kenya).

Busara Xtra fringe activities begin on Wednesday 8th where Stone Town establishments open their doors to host a variety of events. Zanzibar Town will be buzzing with shows including Nadi Ikhwan Safaa (aka Malindi Taarab), Maulidi ya Homu ya Mtendeni, Black Roots, Culture Musical Club and more.

The festival kicks off in style Thursday 9th February with a carnival parade from Kisonge Park (near Michenzani Roundabout). Featuring *maloya* drummers, *beni* brass bands, *mwanandege* umbrella women, stilt-walkers, *capoeira* dancers and acrobats, the parade winds through the streets of Zanzibar Town with fire and excitement, ending up at the Old Fort for the grand opening of the festival.

Sauti za Busara's opening night will feature performances by Swahili Vibes, Shirikisho Sanaa, Tandaa Traditional group, Wanafunzi wa SOS (all from Zanzibar), Mkota Spirit Dancers from Pemba and Ary Morais from Cape Verde

The second night Friday 10th features eagerly-awaited performances by East Africa's oldest renowned female music legends that have stood the test of time: Bi Kidude and Ogoya Nengo from Zanzibar and Kenya respectively. Other artists set to perform this day are Hanitra (Madagascar), Camirata Group (Sudan), Tausi Women's Taarab and Utamaduni JKU (Zanzibar), Kozman Ti Dalon (Reunion), Fredy Massamba (Congo) and Super Mazembe (Kenya).

Saturday night will see the battle of two of Tanzania most popular *mchiriku* groups, Seven Survivor and Jagwa Music play head to head and the audience has to decide: *Nani Zaidi?!* (Who is the Best?). Tunaweza Band (Tanzania), Ndere Troupe (Uganda), Jembe Culture Group (Tanzania), Camirata Group (Sudan) also perform on Saturday, together with Nneka, world-renowned Nigerian artiste and winner of *MOBO Award* for Best African Act, 2009.

Sunday 12th features shows by Qwela (Uganda), Leo Mkanyia (Tanzania), Lumumba Theatre Group (Tanzania), Chebli Msaidie (Comoros), Kidumbaki JKU (Zanzibar), Tumi & The Volume (South Africa) and FM Academia (Tanzania).

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Screenings of African music films and video clips showcasing highlife, taarab, hiphop, kuduro and bongo flava will also happen daily from 7pm til midnight, in sync with the live performances going on simultaneously in the Old Fort's adjacent amphitheatre.

The festival finale party happens on Valentines' Day 14th February from 4pm til 4am at Kendwa Rocks on the north coast of Zanzibar, for the festival crew, partners, media and friends of Busara.

About Sauti za Busara

Sauti za Busara provides a platform for local musicians to experience music from other parts of Africa, whilst introducing East African music to the visitors. In any society this kind of interchange is vital to the health and development of musical styles. Sauti za Busara provides an example of an event designed to develop, for locals and visitors, an appreciation of the uniqueness, wealth and diversity of music from the region. It shows there is beauty in our traditional music, with employment and income to be gained in sustaining it.

Artistic and technical workshops and seminars have been a key element of Busara's activities, aimed for musicians, media professionals, arts managers, technicians and cultural workers from the region. These workshops have helped to build knowledge and skills for the long-term cultural benefit of East Africa.

Festival Sponsors

Sauti za Busara music festival, 8 - 12 February 2012 is powered by: The Norwegian Embassy, HIVOS, Mimeta, Roskilde Festival Charity Society, Goethe Institut, The Embassy of France, Grand Malt, Toyota, Commercial Bank of Africa, African Leisure Centre, fly540, Memories, Zanzibar Grand Palace Hotel, Maru Maru Hotel, SMOLE II, Zanlink, Azam Marine, ZanAir, fRoots, Times FM, WOMEX, Multi-Color Printers, Ultimate Security, Southern Sun Dar es Salaam, Tabasam Tours, Emerson Spice, Monsoon Restaurant, Mercury's Restaurant, Archipelago Restaurant, Stone Town Café, www.zanzibar.net

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photo galleries*

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* Hi-res photos available for media on request

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