FILAMU

The trade of stories



FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

The Trade of Storytelling

Proposed Film Screening & Community Engagement Programme

Lamu Town & Shela, Kenya | Three-day hybrid festival concept

A festival shaped by the stories, histories and creative energy of the Indian Ocean world.

WWW.FILAMUFESTIVAL.ORG

Programme status: Curatorial proposal for discussion and planning. Dates, venues, film runtimes, screening rights and technical arrangements are to be confirmed.

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

DAY 1

MEMORY, SPACE & HERITAGE

Opening gathering; Pumzi; How to Build a Library; heritage conversation.

PRIMARY HUB: LAMU TOWN

DAY 2

ECO-FUTURES, IDENTITY & WOMANHOOD

Environmental film block; coastal dialogue; women and identity block.

PRIMARY HUB: LAMU TOWN & SHELA

DAY 3

RESILIENCE, PROTEST & BELONGING

Social realities and displacement; Mento; fifth-film showcase; closing reflections.

PRIMARY HUB: LAMU TOWN & SHELA

DAY 1

MEMORY, SPACE & HERITAGE

PRIMARY LOCATION: LAMU TOWN

Public spaces, memory, colonial legacies and the right to reclaim African cultural institutions. Pairing *How to Build a Library* with *Pumzi* creates a conversation between inherited histories and imagined futures.

TIME	FILM / ACTIVITY	PROPOSED VENUE
14:30–15:30	Festival opening, welcome and introduction to FiLamu	Lamu Fort courtyard (proposed)
15:30–16:30	Community conversation: Who owns our stories and heritage?	Lamu Fort (proposed)
17:00–17:30	Short-film introduction and filmmaker encounters	Lamu Fort courtyard
18:00–18:30	***Pumzi*** – Wanuri Kahiu	Lamu Fort (proposed)
18:45–20:30	***How to Build a Library*** – Maia Lekow & Christopher King	Lamu Fort (proposed)
20:30–21:00	Post-screening Q&A and audience discussion	Lamu Fort (proposed)

Film screening

AUDIENCE DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Who has the right to define and preserve African heritage?
- What does reclaiming public space mean for communities in Lamu?
- How do colonial histories continue to shape our institutions?
- What can water, memory and ecological survival in *Pumzi* mean for coastal communities?
- How can film help preserve local memory?

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTORS

A Lamu historian, librarian, heritage practitioner, young filmmaker and local creative-community representative.

DAY 2 ECO-FUTURES, IDENTITY & WOMANHOOD

PRIMARY LOCATION: LAMU TOWN AND SHELA

The relationship between people, environment, identity and the future of coastal communities. The day is divided into an environmental block and a women-and-identity block.

TIME	FILM / ACTIVITY	PROPOSED VENUE
14:30–15:00	Introduction: The Indian Ocean and our shared future	Community arts venue (to confirm)
15:00–15:30	***Bingwa*** – environmental waste and pollution	Community arts venue (to confirm)
15:30–16:00	***Seas The Day*** – climate change and coastal impact	Community arts venue (to confirm)
16:00–16:45	***Beneath the Tides*** – coastal/marine miniseries	Community arts venue (to confirm)
16:45–17:30	Community dialogue: Protecting our ocean	Community arts venue (to confirm)
17:45–18:30	Informal gathering and sunset transition	Shela (venue to confirm)
18:30–19:00	Introduction: Women telling their own stories	Shela courtyard (proposed)
19:00–19:30	***Path of Her Own*** – Fadhumo Alimaad	Shela courtyard (proposed)
19:30–20:00	***Bold*** – Nicole Panashe	Shela courtyard (proposed)
20:00–20:30	***Shame's Last Dance*** – Mark Wambui	Shela courtyard (proposed)
20:30–21:15	Audience conversation and filmmaker Q&A	Shela courtyard (proposed)

Film screening

AUDIENCE DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- How is pollution affecting Lamu's beaches, fisheries and marine life?
- What does climate change mean for the next generation of coastal communities?
- How can local communities participate in marine conservation?
- Who gets to define a woman's identity and choices?
- How can African filmmakers create more space for underrepresented voices?

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTORS

Fishermen, marine conservation groups, youth groups, coastal researchers, women storytellers, filmmakers and educators. Confirm film synopses before finalising the identity block.

DAY 3

RESILIENCE, PROTEST & BELONGING

PRIMARY LOCATION: LAMU TOWN, WITH A SHELA CLOSING GATHERING

The human experience behind social challenges, political change, displacement and the search for belonging. The sequence moves from social realities to mental health, then closes with a new-voices showcase.

TIME	FILM / ACTIVITY	PROPOSED VENUE
14:30–15:00	Introduction: Stories of belonging and social change	Lamu Fort (proposed)
15:00–15:30	***Malombo Ufanisi*** – poverty, drug abuse and terrorism	Lamu Fort (proposed)
15:30–16:00	***Burial in Exile*** – Mohamed Farah	Lamu Fort (proposed)
16:00–16:30	***Freedom Park*** – Lateefa Mayaki	Lamu Fort (proposed)
16:30–17:15	Audience discussion	Lamu Fort (proposed)
17:30–18:00	Introduction and audience context	Lamu Fort (proposed)
18:00–18:30	***Mento*** – mental health and aftermath of the June 2024 protests	Lamu Fort (proposed)
18:30–19:15	Facilitated audience conversation	Lamu Fort (proposed)
19:30–20:00	Introduction to the fifth film	Shela (venue to confirm)
20:00–20:30	***Fifth Film*** – selected short film (TBC)	Shela (venue to confirm)
20:30–21:00	Filmmaker conversation and closing reflections	Shela (venue to confirm)

Film screening

AUDIENCE DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- How do poverty and social exclusion affect choices available to young people?
- What happens to identity when people are separated from home and community?
- What does freedom mean beyond political independence?
- How can communities create safe spaces for difficult conversations?
- What role can film play in documenting collective trauma and recovery?

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTORS

Community organisers, youth advocates, filmmakers and—especially for the *Mento* discussion—a trained mental-health facilitator. Do not pressure audience members to disclose personal experiences.