# GLOBAL STREETS MON 23 - FRI 27 JUNE QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK







## **GO ONLINE**

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#### **GETTING HERE**

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, E20 By Train: Stratford (Underground & Overground); Hackney Wick (Overground) By DLR: Stratford By Bus: 388, 308, 25, 69, 86, 97, 104, 108, 158, 238, 241, 257, 262, 276, 339, 425, 473, D8, N8, N86 By Car: Paid parking at Westfield

Stratford City, Stratford International

station and the Stratford Centre

#### ACCESS:

Full disabled access throughout Canary Wharf, including car parks and toilet facilities.

#### **AUDIO DESCRIPTION:**

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#### **NEED HELP? FIND A VOLUNTEER**

Our volunteers wear yellow T-Shirts. They can help you with directions and any other enquiries.

## Following the recent opening of London's new and spectacular park,

the Festival is delighted to be presenting an evening programme of exciting outdoor theatre at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Featuring thought-provoking and compelling contemporary outdoor theatre telling globally resonant stories, the programme includes new outdoor work created by Libyan performers specifically for the Festival, and performances from Britain's leading African theatre company Tiata Fahodzi.

#### It's followed by the UK premiere

from leading Chilean street theatre company La Patriótico Interesante of Kadogo, Child Soldier, offering a polemical insight into the tragedy of child soldiering which combines heartfelt performances, live music, ingenious staging

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Mon 23 June -Thu 26 June 20:30

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, E20

**FREE** Runs approx 25 mins

In 1914 young Hamba sets off to war. He wins and loses empires, becomes a king, a beggar, a oligarch and a thief. But 100 years later he is no closer to home and his spirit lives on through a strange and powerful mask. The Legend of Hamba is a modern mystery play created by Tiata Fahodzi, Britain's leading African theatre company. It is named after the word meaning 'let's go!' in Ndebele, one of the three major languages of Zimbabwe, and its sense of urgency and perpetual forward motion sets the pace for this whirlwind of a contemporary fable. Told in a unique physical style by extraordinary looking characters who have landed from another world Hamba tells us the timeless story of winning, losing and surviving.

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## Kadogo, Child Soldier Patriótico Interesante

Mon 23 June -Fri 27 June 21:30

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, E20 **FREE** Runs approx 55 mins

Chilean company La Patriótico Interesante presents the UK premiere of this gripping, poignant and visually stunning story highlighting the plight of child soldiers. Gritty, urgent and ultimately touching, Kadogo,

Child Soldier explores the themes of loss, childhood and innocence in a world where children are drawn into the realms of narcotrafficking and guerrilla warfare. Performed in circus style, La Patriótico Interesante's heartfelt performances combine with live music, fire effects and inventive staging to devastating

Performed in Spanish with English surtitles



Wed 25 June -Thu 26 June 19:15

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Stratford, E20

**FREE** Runs approx 25 mins

In a first for UK street theatre we welcome artists from Libya to create a new work especially for GDIF audiences. Supported by the British Council and the

European Development Fund, a troupe of 6 Libyan actors and musicians have spent the last two weeks in residency at the Festival watching performances and working with UK company Periplum to create a world premiere.

Supported by the British Council and the European Commission

### Over the past year I have visited Libya 6 times

and created with my Libyan colleagues (by all accounts) the first ever piece of Libyan Street Theatre. The project was a partnership between the British Council and the National Theatre of Tripoli and we performed the piece 'A Family Picnic' in a public park in March this year. It was an incredible experience.

#### Little theatre has been happening in Libya in

recent years. The former regime didn't support the art form and the act of going to theatre buildings to watch a play is a completely foreign idea to most people in the country. Since the revolution, as the Libyan people attempt to work out their new identity and cope with continual disruptions to daily life, it has understandably not been a priority to create a theatrical landscape or even a theatre performance. The huge majority of Libyans have little idea what the theatre is or could be- a whole generation has not experienced it. Therefore the creation of a street theatre performance, that took the theatre out to the people in their local spaces, was a vital

and timely development. It worked really well and we were all thrilled with the response.

### **Working with Libyan** actors, designers and

musicians we created the story of a family get together to celebrate the 18th birthday of the youngest son. Entirely in Arabic with local music and recognisable family dynamics the piece arrived in a Tripoli park one sunny afternoon and unpacked its tale. A relatively simple story was hugely enjoyed and understood by crowds that we struggled to keep off the 'stage'. It was a humbling experience to see the hunger and desire for storytelling and a community experience. There is no formal theatre training in Libya and very little opportunity to act or create work. The opportunity afforded to us by the European Development Fund and the British Council to both make a show in Libya and also a residency at GDIF will have huge impact on theatre practice for the Libyan artists.

**Nathan Curry Associate Director,** 

