



PRESS RELEASE

SLAVE TO THE RHYTHM: Scottish and African musicians come together to celebrate at the *Africa in Motion* Film Festival

“Fires burn, heart beats strong, sing out loud, the chain gang song,” is how icon Grace Jones expressed it so memorably in her 80’s hit “Slave to the Rhythm”. Today Scottish, African and Afro-Scot musicians will once again bring music, passion and rhythm to life as they commemorate, amongst other things, 200 years of the abolition of the British slave trade. With a host of exhilarating live music events accompanying the second Africa in Motion (AiM) film festival in Edinburgh during October, audiences are bound to become slaves to the rhythm.

To celebrate the launch of this year’s AiM film festival, award-winning Scottish/Ghanaian musician Benny Tetteh-Lartey and his band will dazzle audiences with their unique brand of Afro-Scot music, as he plays it up for the 50th anniversary of independence for Ghana, his late father’s homeland. The Edinburgh born musician will be showcasing the distinctive live sound of his self-made musical instrument, the ‘combuitar’, only the third on the planet. A clever combination of the combolin (first created by the late Roy Williamson) and his own adapted 8-string acoustic guitar, Benny’s unique instrument compliments many of the captivating songs and sounds he has already written when he plays the opening night concert for AiM.

Throughout the AiM film festival, Filmhouse Cinema will be transformed into a hub to celebrate African culture: with art exhibitions, music performances, and a DVD and book stall selling African films and books in the foyer of the cinema for the duration of the festival.

Several Scottish and African musicians will be performing in the Filmhouse bar after

many of the film screenings. These include the Afro-beats of Senegalese musician Samba Sene; drumming and dancing by Edinburgh-based Ghanaian musician Sam Achampon with his group Sakatumbe; and the award-winning singer-songwriter David Ferrard. Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade, David presents a selection of songs, traditional and contemporary, about slavery and emancipation, including songs written by slaves, abolitionists, and local luminaries such as Robert Burns.

Setting the festival scene, the Filmhouse will host an exhibition of drawings by Tayo Fatunla, an internationally acclaimed Nigerian cartoonist. The exhibition features selected prints from Fatunla's OUR ROOTS series that honours the courage, creativity and accomplishments of many renowned people of African heritage. Simultaneously the corridors to the cinemas will be adorned with the work of Tiffany Boyle, whose time spent in Ghana and Nigeria has become the focus for her work in photography, video, textiles and installation.

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Notes to Editors

The Africa in Motion film festival takes place from 25 October - 4 November 2007 at Edinburgh Filmhouse and other venues. Now in its second year, the festival programme will consist of more than 30 brilliant and thought-provoking African films from all over the continent – features, documentaries and shorts - from pioneering African filmmakers to young and emerging contemporary directors. For more information visit www.africa-in-motion.org.uk.

For all press enquires, please contact Kirsty Dickson (kirsty@africa-in-motion.org.uk 07917 431609). Photos of musicians and artists are available to download from www.africa-in-motion.org.uk/press

AiM Opening Night Concert:

Thursday 25 October, 9.30pm (doors open 8.00pm) at Lava Ignite Night Club, 3 West Tollcross, Edinburgh, EH3 9BP

Tickets cost £5 and are available from Lava Ignite Nightclub (0131 228 3252 or on the

door) or in advance from Filmhouse box office (0131 228 2688).

Samba Sene and supporting acts:

Mon 29 October, 11.00pm and Sun 4 November, 6.30pm | Filmhouse bar | Free

This Scottish-African collective is led by Senegalese musician Samba Sene, who has studied under the world-renowned Baaba Maal. Visit Samba's MySpace page www.myspace.com/sambasene

Sam Achampon

Fri 2 November, 11.00pm | Filmhouse bar | Free Event

Ghanaian musician Sam Achampon will be performing with his group Sakatumbe - featuring explosive drumming, dancing and singing. The group finds inspiration from a variety of African countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya and South Africa. Sam used to be the frontman and keyboard player for the acclaimed Edinburgh-based band Makossa, and still plays with them as a guest performer. He has since started up his own band, Sagrenti. The performance of Sakatumbe incorporates the use of djembe and double-headed or dondo drums from West Africa.

David Ferrard

Wed 31 October, 11.00pm | Filmhouse bar | Free Event

David Ferrard fuses music with a commitment to political and social change. David's performance at AiM will take place after the screening of *Return to Gorée*, a musical road movie that tells of Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour's epic journey following the trail left by slaves and by the jazz music they invented. Visit David's homepage www.davidferrard.com

Tayo Fatunla

Fatunla's work encapsulates the power of the medium by being simultaneously political, informative, entertaining and visually striking works of art. All artwork will be for sale. Visit Tayo's homepage www.tayofatunla.com.

Tiffany Boyle

Tiffany Boyle is a third year Fine Art student at Duncan of Jordanstone College Of Art and Design, Dundee. Her photographs of Ghana, taken over a 2-year period, focus on

the daily life, culture and traditions of the Ghanaian people and are the source for a body of work, consisting of screen-prints, agyrotypes, an installation and an applique tapestry. The carbon prints in this exhibition feature Muslim chiefs, village elders and street hawkers. She chose to embellish the black and white prints with beads and African fabrics to portray Ghanaians' energy, pride of appearance, sense of colour and frivolity. The series of agyrotypes, brown and white photographs, focus on Teshie, a Ga township in Accra, during their Homowo festival. The images display the vibrant spirit of the township people in spite of poverty and hardship.