



The Mission Statement

New Africa Live aims to carve out a cultural space of belonging for contemporary African artists by producing multidisciplinary arts events that entertain, educate and create awareness of the value of African culture in a globalized world. These events strive to challenge homogenized notions of African cultural production and celebrate artists whose work interrogates African identity politics with a cosmopolitan spirit and the vigor of urban hybridization. *New Africa Live* is sponsored by the New York Foundation of the Arts, a 501(c)(3) organization.

A Brief Overview

In January 2008, *New Africa Live* began as an informal bimonthly music series conceived and curated by acclaimed East African singer/songwriter **Somi**. The series featured emerging and established artists and subsequently developed a massive & devoted audience. In January 2009, *New Africa Live* became a registered non-profit organization and was subsequently selected as an emerging organization for the prestigious New York Foundation of the Arts Fiscal Sponsorship Program. Moving forward, music continues to be the primary medium of focus for the organization. In 2009, however, the *New Africa Live* brand evolved into a more multi-disciplinary format that continues to create platforms for high quality, emerging or established African artists year-round. *New Africa Live* continues to partner with some of New York's other flagship cultural institutions like the Brooklyn Museum of Art, The Public Theater, 651 Arts, and Community Works.

Past artists that have been presented in *New Africa Live* include Somali folk hip-hop emcee **K'Naan**, South African superstar **Zolani Mahola of Freshly Ground**, Grammy winning Blue Note recording jazz artist **Lionel Loueke** of Benin, critically acclaimed South African art rock hipsters the **BIKJks**, multi-platinum Nigerian soulbird **Asa**, Grammy nominated Ethiopian Soul singer **Wayna**, Kenyan rockers **Extra Golden**, Paris-based Nigerian singer **Keziah Jones**, the Sierra Leonean hip-hop outfit **Bajah & The Dry Eye Crew**, and the electro-soul project of **Abena Koomson**, the Ghanaian lead singer of Bill T. Jones' Broadway production of *Fela!*. In November 2008, *New Africa Live* also produced a retrospective event honoring the legacy of Miriam Makeba, which included remarks by **Harry Belafonte** and performances by **Paul Simon**, **Randy Weston**, **Les Nubians** and many more.

Founding members of *New Africa Live's* board include the internationally renowned artists **Wangechi Mutu** and **Binyavanga Wainaina**.

For more information, please contact:

Somi Kakoma

Artistic Director

212.561.0988

info@newafricalive.org

www.newafricalive.org