Scottish International STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Friday 26th October - Sunday 4th November 2007

Out of Eden - Scotland & Africa

Box Office 0131 556 9579
www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk
43-45 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR
Welcome

**The Scottish International Storytelling Festival 2007** runs from the 26th October to 4th November and takes the theme of Out of Eden: Scotland and Africa. Now in its 18th year, the Festival provides a rich and varied programme of live performance storytelling events, workshops and training. It is recognised internationally as a unique opportunity to experience every aspect of one of the world’s oldest literary and performance arts.

This year’s theme of Scotland and Africa brings together central and southern African oral traditions with Highland lore and legend. It draws on ideas of landscape and environment, tradition and artistic culture, migration and social change to explore ancient roots and modern injustice, and to celebrate ethnic and cultural diversity in Scotland. The Festival is a cultural happening, and a centre of friendship. Come along and be part of it.

This year’s Festival embraces celebrations for the 2007 Year of Highland Culture, Black History Month, Africa in Motion film festival, and Stop Climate Chaos.

The Centre is delighted to be joined by Cousland Smiddy, Historic Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Village Storytelling Centre for a programme of exciting events in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Glasgow.

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**How to book**

Seats for most events can be purchased by cash, cheque, credit or debit card in person at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, or by credit or debit card over the phone. Tickets for some events are limited – please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Tickets from some events are only available from partner venues – please see event listings for further information. All events details are correct at time of going to press, but please check with the Storytelling Centre box office when booking.

[www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk)

**What is Storytelling?**

Stories are everywhere around us, in newspapers, books, on TV and on the Web. But storytelling happens when the story is told person to person, live, without print or technology. Storytelling is a unique human skill and is one of our oldest artforms. We believe storytelling is for everyone – of every age and from every background.

**The Scottish Storytelling Centre**

Our landmark building on the Royal Mile is the world’s first purpose-built centre for storytelling. The Centre is the physical home of the Scottish Storytelling Forum and Network. The Scottish Storytelling Network promotes a range of storytelling events and projects throughout Scotland and the world, and provides storytelling training and support.

Visit [www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk) to find out how to become a member.

The Scottish Storytelling Centre is a joint initiative of the Scottish Storytelling Forum and the Church of Scotland and is supported by the Scottish Arts Council, the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian and a wide range of charitable donations.

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**Box office and information**

**0131 556 9579**

Scottish Storytelling Centre

43-45 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

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Photography: Simon Jones

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[Scottish Arts Council](http://www.scottisharts.gov.uk)

[Scottish Enterprise](http://www.scottishenterprise.gov.uk)

[City of Edinburgh Council](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)

[Edinburgh Golden Guide](http://www.edinburghgoldenguide.com)

[Founding patron: George Mackay Brown, Scottish Registered Charity: SCO 11353](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk)
Out of Eden
Scotland and Africa

Visiting the Centre
The Centre is open 10am-6pm Monday to Saturday, and on Sundays during the Scottish International Storytelling Festival.
The Centre is situated half way along Edinburgh’s Royal Mile. The Storytelling Centre and John Knox House shop stocks storytelling resources, books, CDs and gifts, and a light and airy Café looking over the Royal Mile is the perfect place to stop for coffee and a homemade cake, or a delicious light meal. The Café is licensed, and the bar is open before and during evening performances.
The Scottish Storytelling Centre is accessible for wheelchair users, excluding the upper floors of John Knox House which can be viewed through an interactive virtual tour. Audio loops are provided in all performance areas and there is Braille signage throughout. Wheelchair users should notify the theatre box office on booking. The Centre has baby change facilities.
Spaces and facilities in the Scottish Storytelling Centre can also be hired for private and corporate functions and events.

Visit www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk for more information

Contact Details
Scottish Storytelling Centre
www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk
reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com
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Events
Fri 26 October 6.00pm (60mins) Festival Lecture: Scotland and Africa Alexander McCall Smith Scottish Storytelling Centre Novelist, folktales collector and world citizen, McCall Smith launches the 2007 Festival by reflecting on the way his own creative work bridges Scotland and Africa, and on how Africa is perceived today.
£6/£4

Fri 26 October 7.45pm (2hrs) Barrier of the Waves Scottish Storytelling Centre The Hebrides in Story and Song, hosted by Martin MacIntyre, with Annemarie MacRury and Maggie Smith.
£8/£6

Sat 27 October 11.00am (60mins) Bothan Scottish Storytelling Centre A special family Festival event from Edinburgh’s Gaelic club.
£4, children free

Sat 27 October 2.00pm (75mins) Giants, Bogles, Beasties and Heroes Scottish Storytelling Centre Family fun with Highland stories. Andrew Mackintosh with the magical storyteller’s coat full of wonders takes you on a journey of humour and enchantment.
£5/£3

Sat 27 October 4.00pm (1hr 30mins) Window to the West / Uinneag dhan Àird an Iar Scottish Storytelling Centre A panoply of visual richness from the Gaelic Highlands past and present. Images of landscape, carved stone, fabric, and illustrations with Murdo Macdonald and the imagery of poems and story with Meg Bateman.
£6/£4
**Sat 27 October**  7.30pm (2hrs)
**Where the Wild Geese Fly**
Scottish Storytelling Centre


£8/£6

**Sat 27 October**  8.00pm (2hrs)
**Afro-Scottish Ceilidh**
Cousland Village Hall, Cousland, Midlothian

Join us for a traditional village ceilidh of storytelling, music and song to explore and celebrate cultural and economic links between the Lothians and Africa. A wonderful opportunity to visit Cousland Village Hall, a rare surviving example of a 1930’s miner’s institute. Drinks will be served at the bar on arrival, during the two intervals and after the main performance. Cousland Smiddy will be open for visitors to view from 6.00pm-7.15pm.

More information, map and ticket contacts on www.cousland.net/smiddy

£10

**Sat 27 October**  11.00am
**African Plants**
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh

Come and hear about Scottish plant hunting in Africa. Join Cathy Bell and Angela Chisholm to hear the stories of many of the plants in your garden, and others of economic importance that originate in Africa. Meet at the Temperate Palm House. Suitable for adults and older children (12+, under-16s must be accompanied by an adult)

Tickets from the Scottish Storytelling Centre

£4

**Sat 27 October**  1.30pm and 3.00pm (45mins)
**Edinburgh Castle: Storytour with Stuart McHardy**
Edinburgh Castle

Join our storyteller to hear some tales of Edinburgh Castle. Find out what the castle meant to the people of highland Scotland and have a go at putting together a story of your own.

Ages 8 +

Free on payment of Castle admission (adult £11, conc £9, kids free throughout October)

**Sun 28 October**  2.00pm (60mins)
**Highland Legacies: J.F. Campbell Revisited** with Stuart McHardy
Scottish Storytelling Centre

John Francis Campbell of Islay inspired the world’s first mass gathering of tales from the storytellers’ mouths – in the Scottish Highlands much of what he gleaned is still unpublished. What do these sources mean for a Scottish storyteller today?

£5/£3 OFFER – two ‘Highland Legacies’ events for the price of one

**Sun 28 October**  3.15pm (60mins)
**Highland Legacies: Hugh Miller Revisited** with Bob Pegg
Scottish Storytelling Centre

Stonemason, geologist, journalist, democrat and storyteller. What does Hugh Miller of Cromarty’s ‘scenes and legends’ mean for a storyteller today?

£5/£3 OFFER – two ‘Highland Legacies’ events for the price of one

**Sun 28 October**  4.30pm (60mins)
**Highland Legacies: a Skye Seannachaidh** with Seoras MacPherson of Glendale
Scottish Storytelling Centre

In the far north west of Skye, Glendale is a unique story rich environment which still boasts its own seannachaidh. Seoras or George MacPherson reflects on his life and growing devotion to the art of Highland story.

£5/£3 OFFER – two ‘Highland Legacies’ events for the price of one

**Sun 28 October**  6.00pm (60mins)
**Highland Legacies: Calum MacLean Revisited** with John Shaw
Scottish Storytelling Centre

In 1946 the Irish Folklore Commission sent Calum MacLean to gather songs and stories in his native Highlands. It was a spark that set Scotland alight. What does Calum’s legacy mean for today as a new project once again links Scotland?

£5/£3 OFFER – two ‘Highland Legacies’ events for the price of one

**Sun 28 October**  7.30pm (2hrs)
**Heartlands of the South**
Scottish Storytelling Centre

Argyll and Perthshire in story and song, with Donald Smith, Seoras MacPherson and Paraig MacNeill. From the ‘landfalls of the Gaelic’ in the west to the glens of Highland Perthshire, stories and songs animate every inch of the journey.

£8/£6
Mon 29 October  7.30pm (2hrs)

**Travellers’ Joy**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Hosted by Stanley Robertson with Jess Smith, Sheila Stewart, and Jimmy Williamson. The Travelling peoples of Scotland, England and Ireland are heroes and artists of song. Meet with some of Scotland’s best to celebrate Mike Yates’ wonderful EFDSS collection *Travellers’ Joy.*

£8/£6

Tue 30 October  6.00pm (60mins)

**The Alan Bruford Memorial Lecture: Lady Evelyn Stewart Murray’s Perthshire Gaelic Folk Collection**
The 2007 lecture is given by Mrs Sylvia Robertson and Mr Tony Dilworth, and opens the window on one of Scotland’s great yet little known collection. Followed by the launch of Volume 10 of the EERC Compendium Oral Literature and Performance Culture. This event is sponsored annually by the School of Scottish Studies Archives.

Free but ticketed

Tue 30 October  7.30pm (2hrs)

**Guid Crack Club: Festival Open Night**
The Waverley Bar, St Mary’s Street, Edinburgh
Hosted by Noel Cochrane. A chance for guests and visiting storytellers to share their stories at Edinburgh’s famous Club.
Entry by donation (£3)

Wed 31 October  7.30pm (2hrs)

**‘Samhain’ Stories and Traditions of Hallowe’en**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Hosted by Seoras MacPherson, with Duncan Williamson, David Campbell and Ruth Kirkpatrick. On Hallowe’en Eve the two worlds come close. Hear the traditions and songs Highland and Lowland, experience the turning of the Old Year.

£8/£6

Wed 31 October  10.00pm (2hrs)

**Guid Crack Club: Hallowe’en Night**
The Waverley Bar, St Mary’s Street, Edinburgh
Hosted by Colin Mackay. Hold the mood and your nerve for the Club’s first Hallowe’en special. Share stories through to the witching hour.
Entry by donation (£3)

Thu 1 November  6.00pm (90mins)

**Stories of Change**
Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, Exhibition Hall, Forest Room
Africa has experienced the effects of climate change more severely than anywhere else. Storytellers and ecologists will share their stories on how the people and plants of the continent are coping with the challenges created by change. Supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

£5/£4  Tickets from the Scottish Storytelling Centre

Thu 1 November  7.45pm (2hrs)

**African Legacies: Selim Aga and Great Zimbabwe**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
With James McCarthy and Joost Fontein. There is no one Africa but many Africas. James McCarthy’s *Selim Aga* is the inspiring odyssey of a slave who became one of the nineteenth century’s great explorers, Joost Fontein’s *The Silence of Great Zimbabwe* delves into one of Africa’s great civilisations and how its heritage is presented now.

£8/£6

Fri 2 November  7.30pm (2hrs)

**Hello, Africa!**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Hosted by Ewan McVicar with Kelone Khudu-Petersen, Chief Suleman Chebe and friends. The African pace picks up with special guests from central and southern Africa and some unexpected Scottish angles – and songs.

£8/£6

Sat 3 November  10.00am (3hrs)

**Encountering Africa**
National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
Join storyteller Anne Errington to explore the images of Africa created by David Livingstone and other writers represented in the John Murray Archive and discuss their impact on our perceptions of Africa today. Then go on to develop your own storytelling and creative writing skills.
Contact the National Library of Scotland for tickets on 0131 623 3845 or events@nls.uk

Free but ticketed

Sat 3 November  12.00pm-5.00pm

**African Market, Global Bothy**
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Come to the market, hear the stories, enjoy the music. Africa alive at the Storytelling Centre. Hear Gift Amu Logotse in the Global Bothy. Watch out for the migrating birds coming in to land.
Free – just drop in
Sat 3 November 2.30pm (2hrs)
‘Let Them Speak’ Community Court and Workshop

Scottish Storytelling Centre
What are the experiences of children in Africa today? Are they better or worse than kids in Britain? Discover the first-hand testimony, explore the experiences and make your own judgments in the style of a traditional African court. Ages 11-adult
£6/£4

Sat 3 November 7.30pm (2hrs)
Afro-Scottish Storytelling Ceilidh

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Hosted by Marion Kenny with Amadu Khan, Sylvain Ayité, Gift Amu Logotse, and Andy Cooke. Listen to the rhythms, tap the beat and revel in the stories and songs at this Festival spectacular.
£8/£6

Sun 4 November 1.00pm (2hrs30mins)
Africa in Motion: Finye

Filmhouse
A screening of Finye by Souleymane Cisse followed by a panel discussion on the links between the African oral tradition of storytelling, and African film as a contemporary medium of telling stories. Chaired by film critic Mark Cousins, the panel will feature African storytellers, filmmakers and film theorists.
£4.50/£3

This event is in partnership with the Africa in Motion (AiM) film festival, taking 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. Screenings will be accompanied by discussions, masterclasses and workshops, with many filmmakers in attendance to talk to audiences about their work. Please see www.africa-in-motion.org.uk for full details.

Sun 4 November 2.30pm (1hr 30mins)
‘An End to Slavery?’ Community Court and Workshop

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Has the slave trade really ended? What was it like then and what is it like now? Discover the first-hand testimony, explore the experiences and make your own judgments in the style of a traditional African Court. For ages 11-adult
£6/£4

Sun 4 November 6.00pm (2hrs)
Wizard of the Crow and other Corbies

Scottish Storytelling Centre
With Femi Folorunso and Donald Smith. How have modern writers in Africa and Scotland used the idea of storytelling and the motifs of storytellers? From Ngugi Wa Thiongo to Liz Lochhead, the voices continue to resonate and influence. Readings and discussion.
£5/£3

Sun 4 November 7.30pm (2hrs)
Listening for the Future

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Hosted by Rachel Smillie with Linda Bandelier and guests. An evening of entertainment and reflection, weaving together the key stories and themes and creating a tapestry that we can all celebrate.
£8/£6

Finye, Dir. Souleymane Cisse
Connecting with Stories
SISF Training and Development

Sat 27 October  11.00am-5.00pm
Starting with Stories (1 & 2): Animal Magic & Fairy Tales Workshop
Sandeman House, Trunks Close, 55 High Street, Edinburgh
Combining two themes, Animal Magic and Fairy Tales, this one-day workshop introduces animal stories and fairy tales as perfect starting points for storytelling to children and for those interested in telling stories in the traditional oral style. Led by Donald Smith and Ruth Kirkpatrick.
£30/£24 including lunch & refreshments

Sat 3 November  11.00am-5.00pm
Intermediate Skills: Crafting & Voicing the Story Workshop
Sandeman House, Trunks Close, 55 High Street, Edinburgh
Crafting the language, moods and shape of your tale is the storyteller’s task and one of the secrets of effective telling is to be at ease with your own voice, your golden gift as a storyteller. Explore simple, practical techniques that will help you to discover your distinctive voice. Join Bob Pegg and David Campbell to hone these skills and transform your favourite tales.
£30/£24 including lunch & refreshments

Sun 4 November  11.00am-1.30pm
Storytelling Masterclass: Character Development and Balance with Jan Blake
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Stories can act as mirrors, reflecting to us the nature of the human condition. But as storytellers how do we break life up into characters, the full spectrum of good and bad, and achieve balance without creating caricatures? In this interactive workshop guest storyteller Jan Blake will focus on development of characters, light and dark, and on how the relationship you have with your characters can bring them to life. Please bring a story with you that involves a battle between good and evil.
£15/£12 (Network members £12/£10) including refreshments

SISF Glasgow
In partnership with The Village Storytelling Centre and Glasgow Storytellers

Sat 27 October  2.00pm (2hrs)
Africa: A Crucible of Faiths
St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, Glasgow
Tying in with the ‘Voices from Africa’ exhibition showing at the museum from 5th October 2007 to 24th February 2008, this event will explore the richness and diversity of African faith stories. With storytellers Londi Beketch Luyeye and Amadu Khan. Contact Alison Kelly on 0141 553 2557 for information
Free

Thu 1 November  7.30pm (2hrs)
Africa Night: Storytelling Ceilidh
The Village Storytelling Centre, Glasgow
A Scottish celebration of Africa through story, music and song. Hosted by Rachel Smillie, with Londi Beketch Luyeye and Beltus Etchu.
£3/£2 tickets on the door

Sat 3 November  10.00am (2hrs 30mins)
Storytelling in the Kibble
The Kibble Palace, Glasgow Botanic Gardens
Tales from the vast continent of Africa and the Highlands of Scotland will be entwined with fascinating facts of man’s involvement throughout history with the Plant Kingdom. Join Patsy Dyer who has a fascination with plant myths as she takes you around the beautiful Kibble Palace. Contact Louise Bustard on 0141 334 2422 or Louise.Bustard@ls.glasgow.gov.uk for more information.
Free – just drop in

The Village Storytelling Centre
The Village is a community based Storytelling Centre in south west Glasgow. It aims to bring communities together using storytelling at the heart of all its activities and projects. In a warm and welcoming environment people of all ages and backgrounds can explore their roots, their relationship with the world around them and the significance that traditional stories might have for life in the 21st century.

Glasgow Storytellers
From an increasing number of storytelling initiatives in Glasgow has developed a vibrant network – The Glasgow Storytellers. This network is dedicated to supporting and developing storytelling activities throughout the city and surrounds through running clubs, raising the profile of storytelling in city festivals, and creating innovative storytelling opportunities.
For more information on SISF Glasgow events, The Village and Glasgow Storytellers, please contact Rachel Smillie on 0141 882 3025 or rachel@thevillageonline.org.uk
The 6th Carrying Stream Festival

The 6th Carrying Stream Festival, Edinburgh Folk Club’s annual celebration of the life and legacy of the late Hamish Henderson, runs from 3rd-11th November. This year Carrying Stream will be headlined by the legendary Irish fiddler Tommy Peoples and the celebrated political songwriter Roy Bailey, flanked by Margaret Bennett, Sylvia Barnes, Kris Drever, Mose Scarlett & Jim Condie, Iain Bruce, Sangsters, Kris Drever, Wingin’ It and the Funky String Band.

Visit www.edinburghfolkclub.org.uk for more info and to view the full programme.

Tue 6 November  8.00pm

Songs of Change

Leading Edinburgh songwriter and peace activist David Ferrard believes that music is not simply about entertainment. Since he started writing songs he’s been interested in fusing his beliefs in social justice and peace with the music. Here, he is joined by likeminded songwriters who use their craft for social change in a musical event which contributes to a culture of peace and democracy, very much in the spirit of Hamish Henderson.

£8/£6  Tickets from the Scottish Storytelling Centre

Thu 8 November  8.00pm

Homage to Hamish

Hosted by celebrated songwriter & storyteller Nancy Nicolson, a night of poetry, song & storytelling celebrates the lasting influence of Hamish Henderson, the leading inspiration behind the Scottish Folk Revival. With Margaret Bennett, Tom Hubbard and Davy Campbell.

£8/£6  Tickets from the Scottish Storytelling Centre

Brochure Images

Selected stills from Window to the West / Uinneag dhan Àird an Iar, an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Visual Research Centre of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art (University of Dundee) and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute). With thanks to Murdo Macdonald.

Selected images from the John Murray Archive at the National Library of Scotland. With thanks to Emma Faragher.
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