

Uganda's Top Movie Actress to Hit the Stage at the World Largest Arts Festival!

Two time Uganda Film Festival (UFF) BEST ACTRESS award winner Nisha Kalema is to recreate, on stage at the 70th Edinburgh Fringe Festival, her award-winning screen portrayal of Amelia from the multi-award winning movie FREEDOM, which she both wrote and starred in.

The actress and screenwriter commented, "This is a tremendous privilege and opportunity. The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is the world's largest arts festival and attracts audiences from across the world. It will also be a first for me. First time performing on stage and the first time travelling outside Africa."

Ms Kalema, who is currently filming her latest movie EXTRA TIME in Kampala said, "I want to make Uganda and Ugandans everywhere proud. As such, I am so grateful for the support of the cream of Uganda's acting talent who will be joining me in the UK: my wonderful co-star in the movie version of FREEDOM Ray Rushabiro, Irene Nalubega who was in the Disney movie QUEEN OF KATWE with David Oyelowo, Samuel "Saviour" Kizito who is one of the directors of my latest film and has just been nominated in the Best First Time Director category at the African Movie Academy Awards (AMAAAs) and Richard Kagumya aka Richard Kays who is best known for the British TV show Strictly Soulmates."

FREEDOM is directed by US veteran director, author and actor Ray Shell, who is the Artistic Director of the New York based Total Artist In Production (TAIP) Lab and Creative Director of the London based Giant Olive Theatre Company. Mr Shell said, "I read Nisha Kalema's script - it haunted me. It's beautiful, visceral and startling how the horror creeps up on you."

Of his approach to the stage production Mr Shell said, "I think Ugandan authenticity is extremely important. Using the dialect and language of the characters is key. For me the exciting thing would be to transport the Ugandan village, its inhabitants and their life to any stage in the world."

The play is produced by J. George Hargreaves who is best known for producing and writing songs for 80's pop star and X Factor mentor Sinitta.

Hargreaves commented, I reported on the Edinburgh Fringe a few year ago for BBC TV, never thinking I would produce a show for the festival. I feel privileged, excited and a little bit scared as The Edinburgh Fringe is the biggest and most prestigious arts festival in the world.

FREEDOM will be at the Just Festival at St John's Church on 15, 16, 23, 24 & 26 August at 9:30pm, tickets £10 (concessions £8).

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