



Cambridge African Arts and Culture Festival

Headline Events

At St Paul's Centre, Cambridge

30th October from 7pm

Dance class

Congolese meal

Les Quatre Etoiles

7th November

Free screenings

2pm

THE POSITIVE LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB (30 mins)

and

NORA (35 mins)

3pm

AFRICAN HOOP DREAMS (54 mins)

and

WAR GAMES (30 mins)

Q&A sessions with the directors of the films showing from 3pm will be held after the screenings, followed by a special Menelik Music evening:

7.00 WRESTLING GROUNDS (105 mins)

8.30 Congolese meal

9.00 Koko Kanyinda and his band

11.00 Daby Balde

For details about each film and a full programme of festival events go to:
www.cambridgeafricanfilmfestival.co.uk

Tickets available from:

Email: info@menelikmusic.com

Tel: 01223 769 300 /07842 177 344

Dear Friends of MenelikEducation & Music

The launch of the new look MenelikEducation Newsletter marks a new development in the way we inform you, our members, about what is happening here and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This newsletter will tell you much you need to know about our past, present and future aims, and strategic priorities. It will describe what we want to do, how our work is relevant to the plight of the people we are seeking to help and how we will use our resources to best effect in a more comprehensive way than ever, as well as bringing you recipes, reports from volunteers and much more.



Our organisation is the first of its kind in the DRC, heralding a major shift in the way humanitarian assistance is provided. We help Congolese people improve their education system by encouraging the system to change instead of relying solely on foreign aid and we form effective and equal partnerships between our organisation and those with whom we work.

Our agenda is ambitious: we want to break down the barriers that hold people back, releasing talent and expanding opportunities to communities living in some of the most deprived areas of the capital city, Kinshasa. We will build on the work and achievements of MenelikMusic.

We live in a small intertwined world and every little action we take has a huge impact elsewhere. So jump on board with us and help us make a difference where it matters.

Director/Founder

Theodore Menelik-Mfuni

Lembo Menelik International Academy progress report

Things we have achieved so far:

- Financial assistance to pupils, including sending three girls to university and to three single mothers to start up businesses
- A new resource centre with a total of 20 computers
- A teacher training programme for all our teachers
- Medical equipment for our school clinic at St Georges
- A Congo-UK online students group
- Schemes enabling volunteers to travel to the Congo to help us train people and transfer skills.

Things we want to achieve:

- Open libraries within the resource centre and in our schools
- Complete the protective wall of our partner school (Ecole Laic de Kintambo)
- Refurbish a derelict site to establish a business training centre
- Fund teacher training trips to the UK for teachers from our schools in Kinshasa
- Fund an agricultural development project based at our resource centre to introduce self-sufficiency.

School visits in the UK

Theodore runs a programme of visits to UK schools and colleges in conjunction with Harambee Centre for Development and Environment Education (learning partnerships for global justice and equality). Theodore offers a range of activities for schools, including talks on the Congo and other African issues, African dance workshops, an African buffet and the chance for the children to dress in African costume.

At a recent visit to Brampton Village Primary School, Theodore ran a series of workshops for each year group within the school (Years 1-6). Each workshop comprised a short talk to the children about the Congo, then they all took part in activities, dressing in African costume, handling and identifying African objects and listening and dancing to African music. The children were able to find out about the work of Menelik Education in the DR Congo, discover what a school day is like for an African child and ask questions.

Theodore's next visit is to Edingham School in Norfolk in late November.

For details about the Menelik Music and Education packages available for schools and colleges, visit:

www.menelikmusic.com

"Theodore brings this African country alive through a quiz and slides that set the country in context within the African continent. Students learn about its recent history and some of the less well-known, positive aspects of its culture."

Jane Carpenter

Harambee Centre Development Education Programme Coordinator

Cambridge African Arts and Culture Festival 28 Oct - 7 Nov

Organised by Menelik Education in partnership with Cambridge African Film Festival

We are putting on two special events as part of the Festival. See panel on page 1 for details of dates and times.

30th October - Les Quatre Etoiles are a Congolese group who have played with all the big African bands, including Rock a Mambo, Continental, African Fiesta Sukisa, Afrisa and African All Stars. Tickets include a dance class from 7pm and a Congolese meal.

7th November – Special screening of the acclaimed **Wrestling Grounds**.

Koko Kanyinda is a member of The Master Drummers of Africa and has performed and taught throughout Europe, USA and Australia through WOMAD. A key member of the African music scene thanks to his work with his band Soukous Koumbele.

West African singing star, **Daby Balde**, will be a Special Guest at the 7th November show.



Book now for a great night out.

£12 (pre-paid)/£14 at the door/£10 members & concessions
£20 with meal/£15 members & concessions

NEW: Students £8 without meal / £12 with meal

Free entry for under 10s

Free: Congolese dance classes

For full details go to:

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Recipe by Jenny Martin

(with thanks to the ladies of the compound!)

FUMBWA

One of the Congolese dishes people enjoy at our events is 'fumbwa', greens cooked with peanut butter. There are many possible variants, but here is one possibility:

You will need:

- 1 onion
- 1 clove of garlic or garlic paste
- 1 green pepper
- 1 or 2 leeks
- 1 tomato (optional)
- 1 bag of frozen, chopped spinach
- 1 stock cube
- half a jar smooth peanut butter

Finely chop the onion, garlic, green pepper and leeks, and gently sauté in oil until they're soft. Add a chopped tomato if you wish. Add a bag of frozen, chopped spinach and a little stock – if you want to be authentically African, use magi stock cubes.

Simmer this for a while, then take a bowl and mix the peanut butter with some of the liquid from the vegetables so that it becomes workable and loose. Put this back into the pot, stir thoroughly and cook a bit longer. None of this is a precise business! Serve when ready.



Visits to DRC from the UK

During the first visit in 2009 from Impington Village College, our partner school in the UK, the group helped build the wall for the school, visited all our school sites and went into the classrooms to help teach the children. Since that time IVC has been raising funds for the project and providing much-needed books and equipment (see box opposite).

The second visit took place over the summer (see below). The third visit from IVC takes place from 24th October to 31st October. Eight people are going – five students and three staff – from a wide range of mother countries (two from the United States, one from Germany, one from Italy, one from France and three from Britain). They'll be taking with them, amongst other things, computer training resources, donated by the National Extension College, Cambridge, so the teaching staff can make full use of the computers recently donated by the University of Cambridge.

Teachers from the LM Academy hope to come to the UK in 2010.

“A Year 7 tutor group has worked on the project with spectacular success. Deciding to seek out organisations which could help in any way, they wrote to publishing companies, libraries and editors asking for donations of books, having described the urgent need. Olivia Reynolds managed to get a donation of fifty dictionaries from Harper Collins.”

Fiona Swanson, Head of International Education, IVC

We asked Kiran Flynn, one of the group that went out from the UK over the summer, to tell us about the experience.

When did you go out to the DR Congo?

K: We flew out at the beginning of July 2009.

How long were you there?

K: I was there for two weeks, however some people were there for three and others were there for a month.

Who was in the group?

K: There were nine of us altogether who went out, including Theodore – six students and three adults. Two of the students were from Birmingham University, two from Cambridge, one from UEA and one from London.

Where did you stay?

K: We stayed in Theodore's mother's compound, which had quite a few people living in it as it was used as a church and also a place for people to stay if they had nowhere else to go.

What did you do while you were there?

K: We spent a lot of time in the compound helping out with the daily running of things and playing with the children that lived there. We also went to visit the three schools in the Menelik Education partnership a few times and helped to refurbish Lembo school. We also created a resource centre in the compound which will hold the computers donated by Cambridge University and can be used by all the students in the Menelik schools.

What age were the children you worked with?

K: They ranged from about 5 to 20.

What impressions did you get about their schooling?

K: I didn't get to experience any actual classes because when we visited it was the summer holidays. However, from what I gathered through speaking to the children, teaching there is done in a very formal way and it can be very strict.

What can you tell us about the children you met?

K: All the children living in the compound were extremely bright. Seefa, a girl my age, had just been accepted into university to study International Relations after graduating top of her class. It was really great to be able to see people enjoying learning.

What's the most memorable thing that happened?

K: Going on the Congo river was particularly spectacular, but being able to do some informal English/French/Lingala teaching was probably the most memorable thing. It was really amazing to be able to teach English while also learning French and Lingala at the same time. Also memorable was being taken on walks around the area by the people who lived there as I got to hear different stories about the places from their points of view.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

Music has a large influence and so we were taken to listen to many bands play – that was such fun. Congo is an extremely beautiful country and Kinshasa is a very exciting and busy city. I can't wait to go back!



Global Voices for global citizenship in schools

MenelikEducation also encourages schools to participate in the 'Global Voices' scheme, leading to a UNICEF award. Under this scheme, schools demonstrating that they embed the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in school life can apply for UNICEF assessment leading to presentation of the award.

"The aim is to demonstrate that putting children at the centre of our thinking, at the centre of policy-making and at the centre of the curriculum actually does make a positive difference."

Edward Waller, Head of Education, UNICEF UK

For more information go to:

www.menelikeducation.org/schools.html

Email:globalvoicesforschools@menelikeducation.org



African Citizens' Advice in Cambridge

MenelikEducation, in partnership with CILC (Cambridge Immigration Law Cafe), now also provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to anyone in the community and minority ethnic groups on their rights and responsibilities.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Menelik Community Support is committed to providing a specialist service to all sectors of the local community in the areas of:

Immigration, Mediation, Housing Advice, Family Matters and more.

Our service is free, confidential, independent and impartial. We believe in equality for all.

SOME OF THE ISSUES WE DEAL WITH

- Advice on your right to challenge decisions
- Advice if you are facing eviction or bailiff action
- Advice on what the law says and if it has been applied correctly
- Advice and representation with appeals or court hearings
- Advice on immigration matters

Telephone helpline and appointments:

Direct Line 01223 769 300

Mobile 07842 177 344

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am – 5:30pm

Tuesday 9:30am – 12:00pm

Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm

Saturday 10:00am - 12:30pm

(appointment needed)

Administrator/Fundraiser for Menelik Education

We're looking for someone with administration experience to help us in our work. If you have the energy, enthusiasm and ability to take on this role based in Cambridge, contact Theodore by email at info@menelikeducation.org

Microfinance

As part of our mission to help development in Africa, we offer business start-up support for individuals who come to the UK to train with us in MenelikEducation and who then go back to DR Congo to carry on our work there.

Look out for more on this in the next newsletter.

We're aiming to produce a newsletter like this one 6 times a year which will be sent by email to all members. If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and would like to make a donation to help us cover costs, you can do this by sending a cheque made payable to 'MenelikEducation' to the following address:

MenelikEducation Ltd, The Humanitarian Centre, Gresham Road, Cambridge, CB1 2ES

Even the smallest donation makes a practical difference to a child's education in the DRC.

