



BLACK HISTORY SEASON
LEICESTER
2007

SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

Welcome...

Black History Season is an integral part of Leicester's cultural events, bringing together all the black communities from across the city for a series of events the whole of Leicester can be proud of. The diversity of events in the Black History Season is something of which we can all be proud.

Like all festivals in Leicester, Black History Season is a barometer of the success of the city and the success and hard work of the organisers behind the event. I congratulate all those involved this year and would encourage everyone who enjoys Leicester and the multi-cultural success of the city, to give whatever assistance they can to this and the rest of Leicester's festivals and events.

We look forward to the success of this year's programme and to the success of future years.

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Gary Hunt



It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you have forgotten

Black History Season 2007 marks the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade throughout the British Empire. This is a very significant milestone in the reconstruction of the African experience during the trans Atlantic slave trade.

Much has been written and said about the process of abolition and emancipation. These writings from a Eurocentric point of view glamorise the European perspective of that history, placing their Christian conscience by extending tender mercies on the poor down trodden slaves who hitherto were burdened with whips and chains, kneeling in supplication begging for freedom. The cold reality is that the captives who were stolen from their homeland wasted no time in rebelling and resisting the evil captors, who were bent on breaking their spirits using all

manner of ruthless devices to carry out their purpose.

There is a whole litany of hero and shero kings, queens and noble warriors. Penmen and women wrote tomes, poems, essays, books and other materials opposing the human traffic. Amongst these were Ouidah Equiano and Sojourner Truth, their writings and speeches pressing home the degradation suffered by the captives as can only be expressed by victims.

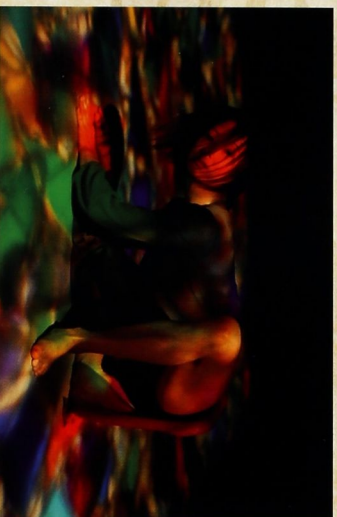
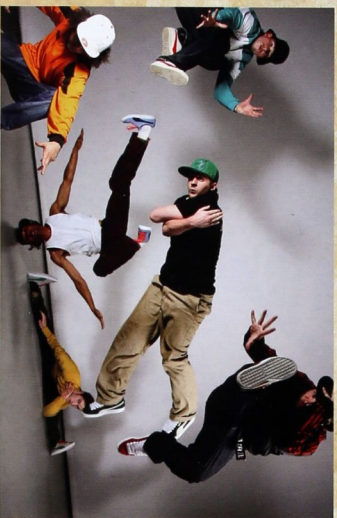
Black History Season is about redressing the balance and putting forward the African perspective on the foregoing. As the African proverb says, 'until the lions have their own historians, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunter'.

© Woida Selassie, Chair Black History Season, Leicester



Events...

All events are free and operate on a 'drop in' basis unless otherwise stated. To make a booking, contact the host venue or the person highlighted within the event description. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Black History Season Launch

Monday 1st October
6.30pm
The Y Theatre

Black History Season is a major feature within Leicester's events and festivals calendar. This year's season highlights the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire and this year has a theme of 'Souls of Black Folk'. Celebrate the launch of Leicester's Black History Season and enjoy a variety of stalls, speakers, performers, Caribbean cuisine and to open the season, a traditional libation. For further details, contact the venue (details on back page).
Tickets: £5.00 / £2.00 or by invitation.



Afrika Mamas

Thursday 4th - Saturday 6th October
7.30pm
Peepul Centre

Six single, South African women who treasure African tradition through dancing and a cappella singing in Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho and English as well as gospel and jazz. Their performance symbolises the voice of women in South Africa, with strong and colourful ethnic features.
Tickets: £5.00 / £6.00



**Felix Dexter -
 It's Felix Dexter
 Don't It**

Thursday 4th October
 8.00pm
 The Y Theatre

A distinctive fusion of brilliant character comedy and satirical stand-up in the latest hilarious and exhilarating show from the award winning actor and comedian, Felix Dexter. Felix has appeared in The Real McCoy, The Lenny Henry Show, The Fast Show, Grumpy Old Men, Absolutely Fabulous and Radio's Down The Line alongside Paul Whitehouse. "Excellent, explosive and exhilarating performer...watch him bring the house down" The Guardian
 Tickets: £12.00 / £10.00



EVENTS
 4TH OCTOBER - 7TH OCTOBER

**Gospel Meets
 Motown**

Sunday 7th October
 7.30pm
 Phoenix Arts

Leicester Community Gospel Choir provide a positive message through uplifting music and song. Featuring the very best of local talent, Gospel Meets Motown promises to be an explosion of contemporary gospel complemented with the sounds of Motown. Special guest appearances.
 Tickets: £10.00 / £8.00



Black Umfolosi

Tuesday 9th October
 7.30pm
 Loughborough Town Hall

Black Umfolosi have become internationally renowned for their harmonic a cappella sound and traditional African dance. Based in Zimbabwe, they have released a number of recordings of Imbube, Mbudanga and Township songs. Their dynamic live performances showcase traditional dancing styles of the Southern African region as well as their own contemporary moves.
 Tickets: £12.00 / £10.00

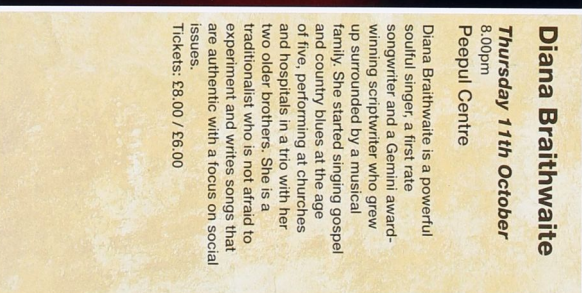


EVENTS
 9TH OCTOBER - 11TH OCTOBER

Diana Braithwaite

Thursday 11th October
 8.00pm
 Peepul Centre

Diana Braithwaite is a powerful soulful singer, a first rate songwriter and a Gemini award-winning scriptwriter who grew up surrounded by a musical family. She started singing gospel and country blues at the age of five, performing at churches and hospitals in a trio with her two older brothers. She is a traditionalist who is not afraid to experiment and writes songs that are authentic with a focus on social issues.
 Tickets: £8.00 / £6.00



EVENTS
11TH OCTOBER - 19TH OCTOBER

Sakoba Dance
"Okon Nijo" (ONE)

Thursday 11th October
8.00pm
Phoenix Arts

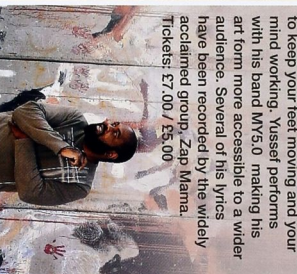
A dance piece about six dancers and three musicians on a spiritual journey across continents.
Tickets: £10.00 / £8.00 / £7.00 (Schools)



Yussef Ahmed & MY5.0

Friday 19th October
8.00pm
The Y Theatre

Alternative, topical, witty and enlightening, Birmingham's Yussef Ahmed is a poet, musician and cultural activist. Performing urban poetry to an infectious combination of urban grooves, he makes music to keep your feet moving and your mind working. Yussef performs with his band MY5.0 making his art form more accessible to a wider audience. Several of his lyrics have been recorded by the widely acclaimed group, Zap Mama.
Tickets: £7.00 / £5.00



EVENTS
20TH OCTOBER - 23RD OCTOBER

Kaine Gospel Choir

Saturday 20th October
8.00pm
Phoenix Arts

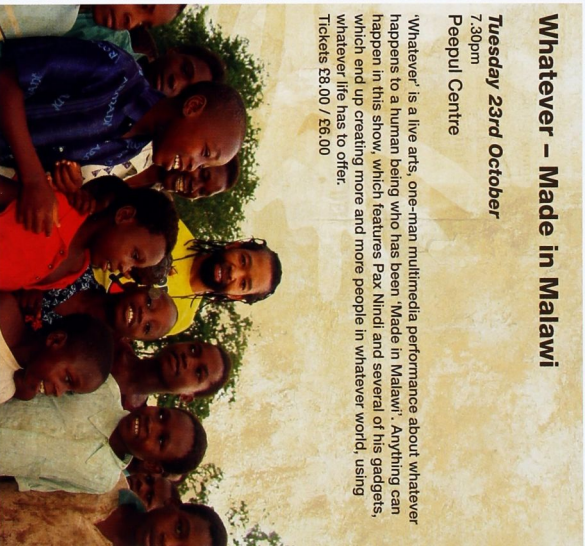
A dramatic evening of dance, poetry and music celebrating all that is wonderful about gospel arts.
Tickets: £8.00 / £6.00



Whatever - Made in Malawi

Tuesday 23rd October
7.30pm
Peepul Centre

'Whatever' is a live arts, one-man multimedia performance about whatever happens to a human being who has been 'Made in Malawi'. Anything can happen in this show, which features Pax Nindi and several of his gaddets, which end up creating more and more people in whatever world, using whatever life has to offer.
Tickets £8.00 / £6.00



Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Wednesday 24th October

8.00pm
De Montfort Hall

Ladysmith Black Mambazo have brought the music and passion of South Africa to the attention of the world with their thunderous and beautiful harmonies. Headed by charismatic founder and composer Joseph Shabalala, Ladysmith Black Mambazo is Africa's number one selling recording group. With nearly 40 CD releases and sales approaching 10 million, Mambazo's captivating Zulu harmonies are a proud, strong homage to the jubilation, power and beauty of indigenous music.
Tickets: £25.00



Stephen K Amos - More of Me

Thursday 25th October

8.00pm
The Y Theatre

Fresh from success at the Edinburgh Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Stephen K Amos brings his unique brand of confessional, heart warming comedy to The Y. Supremely warm and wickedly funny, Amos is renowned for his chatty delivery, energy and his ability to become the characters he is talking about. "Amos's show is packed with well-observed material, performed hilariously...an all-singing, all-dancing party to which everyone is invited!"
Sunday Times
Tickets: £10.00 / £8.00



Aswad

Saturday 27th October

8.00pm
Peepul Centre

Aswad is Britain's most prolific reggae ensemble known for their infectious, danceable rhythms as well as their creative and commercial success. This is a rare chance to enjoy some of their trademark rich melodies and compelling harmonies, woven over hard rhythm tracks and inspired horn riffs. Includes a wealth of new material.
Tickets: £15.00 / £12.00 (advance)
£17.50 (on the door!)

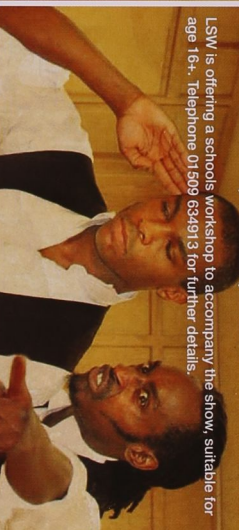


Lifting The Mask

Tuesday 30th October

7.30pm
Loughborough Town Hall

London Shakespeare Workshop presents a new musical celebrating the life and lyrics of Paul Laurence Dunbar. We are backstage - immediately after Dunbar's last UK recital in 1897, part of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This celebrated writer, who will later die at 33, recalls: "It was both the height and the end". Lifting The Mask celebrates the lyrics of the first African-American to gain international eminence as a verse maker. Inspired by Dunbar's life and works, LSW honours themes ranging from love and loneliness to slavery and the outcome of its historic mindset "LSW works at the highest level. What is impressive is the commitment of the entire company and its rare passion for language." The Guardian
Tickets: £11.00 / £9.00. Special school price £5.00



1ST NOVEMBER - 3RD NOVEMBER
EVENTS

**Lunchtime
Concert:
Celebrating Black
Music**

Thursday 1st November
1.05pm - 1.55pm
New Walk Museum & Art
Gallery
Philip Herbert (piano), Angela
Caesar (soprano), Christopher
Rogers (violin).
Tickets: £6.00 / £5.00

**Border Crossings:
The Dilemma of A
Ghost**

Thursday 1st November
8.00pm
Phoenix Arts
UK premier of a Ghanaian play
about our shared legacy of slavery,
written by Ama Ata Aidoo.
Tickets: £9.00 / £7.00 / £6.00
(schools)

Slavery

Saturday 3rd November
7.30pm
Peepul Centre

The consequences of the slave trade are brought to life through the actual testimonials of American slaves, their music and passion for life. Drawn from interviews with former slaves, this powerful drama combines personal testimony with Negro spirituals to create a remarkable sense of this dark time in history. Winner of the 2002 John Caubie short play award.
Tickets: £8.00 / £6.00



7TH NOVEMBER - 9TH NOVEMBER
EVENTS

Malika Booker

Wednesday 7th November
8.00pm
Bambu

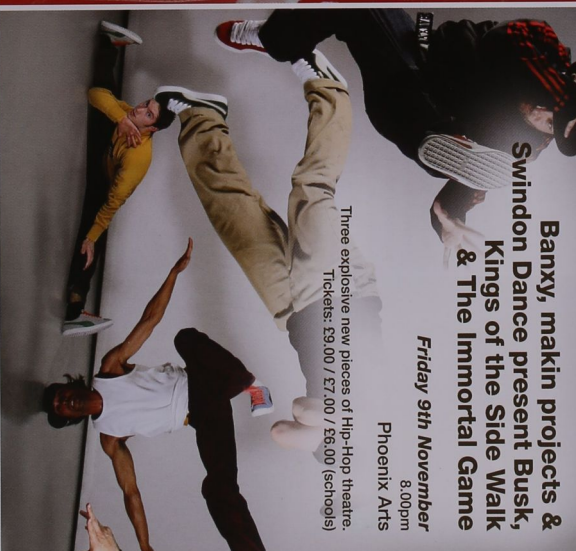
WORD, Leicester's open floor performance poetry and spoken word event and Leicester Libraries present the fabulous Malika Booker, one of the UK's greatest poet talents. Writer, spoken word and multidisciplinary artist, Malika Booker's work spans literature, education and cross-arts. She was one of the touring poets with Bittersweet in 1999 / 2000 and has featured in Modern Love and In Kin at the Barbican in 2004. There will be a master class for poets, writers and spoken word artists with Malika Booker on the afternoon of the performance. Contact Damien Walter for details: 0116 252 7347 / damien.walter@leicester.gov.uk



**Banxy, makin projects &
Swindon Dance present Busk,
Kings of the Side Walk
& The Immortal Game**

Friday 9th November
8.00pm
Phoenix Arts

Three explosive new pieces of Hip-Hop theatre.
Tickets: £9.00 / £7.00 / £6.00 (schools)



Cameron Pierre

Saturday 10th November
8.00pm
Peepul Centre

Cameron Pierre is without doubt one of the most original guitar voices on the British scene today whose music encompasses a fiesta of world music and jazz. Influences range from jazz to calypso, through to stateside Rn'B. "A keen ear for a killer hook", Jazzwise
Tickets: £8.00 / £6.00

The Four Tops and The Temptations

Wednesday 14th November
7.30pm
De Montfort Hall

The Four Tops and The Temptations epitomise the Motown sound. Between them over several decades they have amassed scores of timeless hits - Reach Out (I'll be there), I Can't Help Myself, It's All in The Game from The Four Tops and My Girl, I'm Gonna Make You Love Me and Just My Imagination from The Temptations. Don't miss these two fantastic bands live in concert.
Tickets: £32.50 / £29.50



**Union Dance
Heaven on Earth**

Thursday 15th November
7.30pm
Phoenix Arts

A 21st anniversary double bill of dance from the Union Dance Company.
Tickets: £10.00 / £8.00 / £7.00 (schools)



Live Box: Eska Mtungwazi

Saturday 17th November
8.00pm
The Y Theatre

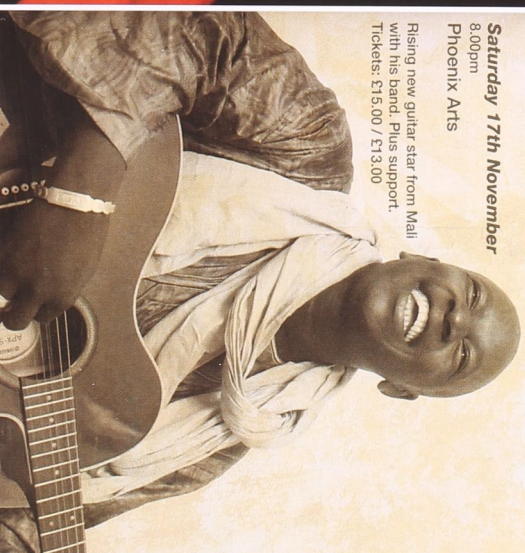
Charismatic singer / songwriter Eska Mtungwazi has a unique vocal sound that moves effortlessly between jazz, hip-hop, soul and dance styles. Highly respected amongst her musical peers, she has performed with a diverse range of artists including UK rapper Ty, Mlin Sawhney, Soweto Kinch, Julie Dexter, Courtney Pine and Denys Baptiste. Eska's performance will be followed by an open mic improvisation session, providing musicians and vocalists the opportunity to jam with her.
Tickets: £7.00 / £3.00 / £3.50 (musicians & vocalists)



Vieux Farka Toure

Saturday 17th November
8.00pm
Phoenix Arts

Rising new guitar star from Mali with his band. Plus support.
Tickets: £15.00 / £13.00



Chromatix
Joseph Emidy: An Extraordinary Life

Tuesday 20th November
1.30pm
Phoenix Arts

Music and storytelling based upon documentary evidence of a 19th century slave.
Tickets: £5.00 (one free with every ten purchased)

Walthamstow Day Of Fellowship
Kaine Gospel Choir Show

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th November
8.00pm

For further information on this event, including the venue, contact Kaine on 0116 261 6840 info@kainemanagement.org.uk or visit: www.kainemanagement.org.uk

Sing Freedom – The Songs

Thursday 29th November

7.30pm
The Guildhall

During slavery in the USA, there was a systematic effort to de-Africanise the captive Black workforce. As they were unable to express themselves freely in ways that were spiritually meaningful to them, enslaved Africans often held secret religious services. Worshipers engaged in African religious spirituals and crafted the impromptu musical expression of field songs into the intricate, multi-part harmonies of struggle. Join Kaine Gospel Choir and friends for an evening celebrating Negro Spirituals to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade. Songs featured include The Gospel Train, Wade in the Water and Swing Low Sweet Chariot.
Tickets: £8.00 / £4.00



Heritage
LOTTERY FUNDED

Film

Daratt (Cert: PG)

Tuesday 20th November
7.30pm
Peepul Centre

Atim and his grandfather crouch by a small radio to await the verdict of those accused of war crimes during Chad's decades long civil war. Controversially, the government decides to grant amnesty to all war criminals. This devastating decision prompts the boy's grandfather to assign him one mission in life: kill the man who murdered Atim's father during the war. Armed with a revolver, he is told to return only when his task has been completed. When Atim finds the man, a taciturn baker, the gravity of taking someone's life proves heavier than he first thought and his promise of vengeance becomes increasingly fraught with complicated consequences. Directed by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun. 95 minutes. Arabic with English subtitles.
Tickets: £5.00 / £4.00

Exhibition

Africa's Gift

10th September – 30th November
The V Theatre

Africa's Gift focuses on the economic and cultural contributions of the slaves and their descendants, especially those aspects we now see in Europe and the Americas, which are known to have their origins in Africa. brought about by the African.

Calabash

Abolition of Slavery

Leicester Libraries is collecting oral histories from African Caribbean people brought down through the generations from the long period of the transatlantic slave trade.

2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade throughout the British Empire. For hundreds of years before 1807, millions of Africans were transported to the Americas and forced into slavery. Because of the millions of Africans who died, this slave trade has been called the African Holocaust.

Health and healing were essential to slave life. Slave masters cared only that slaves could do their work and gave little medical treatment. But enslaved Africans developed their own storehouse of healing knowledge and looked after their own health needs. The secret knowledge of treatments and remedies was an important way for slaves to assert control over their own lives. Calabash will record this secret knowledge by collecting oral histories passed down to descendants of enslaved Africans at workshops and educational sessions. Stories of traditional remedies, treatments, beauty products and more will be collected in a publication and archived online in a website for the future use of the whole community.



Heritage
LOTTERY FUNDED

For more information about Calabash please contact:

Marcia Brown
Highfields Library
98 Melbourn Road
Leicester
LE2 0DS
marcia.brown@leicester.gov.uk
0116 299 5494

Other Events

Drum Clinic

Every Sunday
6.00pm - 8.00pm
The Y Theatre

Play the rhythms from West Africa, birthplace of the djembe, as well as South Africa and the Caribbean. A relaxing way to share cultural history with an option to perform at festivals and events around the city. If you have a drum, please bring it along. Tutor: Wolde Selassie.
Price per session: £4.00 / £3.00

Eat and Meet

Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th October & 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November
12.00pm - 3.00pm
African Caribbean Centre

Meet old friends and make new ones while enjoying a delicious Caribbean lunch. Free entry, (meals not included)

Crafts at the Ark

Thursday 4th October
9.00am - 3.00pm
Sparkenhoe Arts Centre

Available to year 6. Free admission.

Back To Basics

Friday 5th October, 2nd & 16th November & Monday 19th November
10.00pm - 2.00am
African Caribbean Centre

Come down, have a meal and a drink or just show us your moves on the dance floor!
Tickets: £2.50

OTHER EVENTS
6TH OCTOBER - 20TH OCTOBER

The Long Road to Freedom

Saturday 6th October
11.00am - 3.00pm
New Walk Museum & Art Gallery

Discover the story of slavery and the campaign for its abolition by Elizabeth Heyrick, a Quaker abolitionist from Leicester. Heyrick wrote a pamphlet stating 'Immediate and Not Gradual Abolition of Slavery'. A family event including arts and crafts, gospel music, poetry by young people, 'slave food' tasting and a re-enactor playing Elizabeth Heyrick.

City of Leicester College

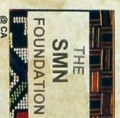
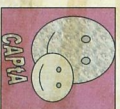
Friday 12th October
8.30am - 3.30pm

Discover the achievements of African Caribbeans, especially in the areas of PE & expressive arts. Steel pan dance, drumming, food, bakti. For further details, contact Julie Nisbett on 0116 221 3994.

Above and Around

Saturday 13th October
CAPTA

Discover how to wrap the head for different occasions from around the world. For details of times, telephone 0116 255 5300 email: capta2004@yahoo.co.uk



Inner Beauty, Outer Health

Saturday 20th October
12.00pm - 5.00pm
African Caribbean Centre

Come along and pamper yourself including make up, hair braiding, nails, health checks, mendhi and much more. Women and girls only, treatments chargeable

Tracing your Caribbean Ancestors

Monday 22nd October
10.30am - 12.30pm
Learning & Information Library

How to begin tracing your family history including sources for tracing Caribbean ancestors - a talk by Pat Grundy of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. Advance booking essential.

Family Fun Day

Saturday 24th October
1.00pm - 5.00pm
African Caribbean Centre

Fun day for all of the family including workshops, children's entertainer, clothes, nails, art jewellery, gospel corner, books, food and more.

Antigua & Barbuda Independence Dance

Saturday 10th November
Time TBC
African Caribbean Centre

For further details, contact Theresa on 0116 221 1793.

Stars in your Eyes

Saturday 17th November
Time TBC
African Caribbean Centre

An open opportunity for people in the community to come along and show off their talents to friends and family and have some fun! For further details, contact Theresa on 0116 221 1793.

OTHER EVENTS
22ND OCTOBER - 17TH NOVEMBER

Barbados Independence Dance

Saturday 24th November
Time TBC
African Caribbean Centre

For further details, contact Theresa on 0116 221 1793.

Black Achievers Awards

Date & Time TBC
African Caribbean Centre

A gala award ceremony celebrating the unsung heroes of our community. For further details, contact Theresa on 0116 221 1793.

Contact

For further information on Leicester's Black History Season, contact:

Leicester African Caribbean Arts Forum

LGB Depot
31 Rutland Street
Leicester
LE1 1RE
T: 0116 261 6881
W: www.lacaf.org.uk

Festivals & Events Unit

1st Floor, Wellington House
Wellington Street
Leicester
LE1 6HL
T: 0116 238 5080
E: festivals@leicester.gov.uk
W: www.leicester.gov.uk/festivals

The Venues

African Caribbean Centre

Maldstone Road
Leicester LE2 0JA
T: 0116 221 1793
W: www.leicester.gov.uk

Bambu

21 Wellford Road
Leicester LE2 7AD
T: 0116 288 5243

CAPTA

28 Saxby Street
Leicester LE2 0NE
T: 0116 255 5300
E: capta2004@pobox.co.uk

City of Leicester College

Downing Drive
Evington
Leicester LE5 6LN
T: 0116 241 3844

De Montfort Hall

Granville Road
Leicester LE1 7FU
T: 0116 233 3111
E: dnh.office@leicester.gov.uk
W: www.demontforhall.co.uk

The Guildhall

Guildhall Lane
Leicester LE1 5FO
T: 0116 253 2699
E: museums@leicester.gov.uk
W: www.leicester.gov.uk/museums

Learning & Information Library

Bishop Street
Leicester LE1 6AA
T: 0116 299 5401
E: central.reference@leicester.gov.uk
W: www.leicester.gov.uk/libraries

Loughborough Town Hall

Market Place
Loughborough
Leicestershire, LE11 3EB
T: 01509 231914
E: box.office@charnwood.gov.uk
W: www.loughboroughtownhall.co.uk

New Walk Museum and Art Gallery

53 New Walk
Leicester LE1 7EA
T: 0116 225 4900
E: museums@leicester.gov.uk
W: www.leicester.gov.uk/museums

Peepul Centre

14 Melrose Street
Leicester LE4 6FA
T: 0116 266 7673
E: info@peepulcentre.com
W: www.peepulcentre.com

Phoenix Arts

Newark Street
Leicester LE1 5TE
T: 0116 255 4854
W: www.phoenix.org.uk

Sparkenhoe Arts Centre

Gopsall Street
Leicester
LE2 0DL
T: 0116 253 9273

The Y Theatre

7 East Street
Leicester LE1 5EY
T: 0116 255 7066
E: marketing@leicesterymca.co.uk
W: www.leicesterymca.co.uk

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SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

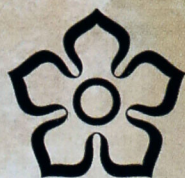
For information on parking, disabled access or other queries, please contact the participating venue. For information on travelling by bus to the venues, telephone 'Traveline' on 0870 608 2 608.

All details contained in this publication were correct at the time of going to print. We apologise for any changes that may be necessary.

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WWW.LEICESTERBLACKHISTORY.CO.UK


L900 Black History



Leicester
City Council



2006-2007
Culture and Sport for
Hard to Reach Groups

Loughborough  Town Hall

PHOENIX

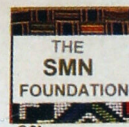


THEATRE • BAR • VENUE



 Heritage
LOTTERY FUNDED


Lacaf
Leicester African Caribbean Arts Forum



CITY OF LEICESTER COLLEGE

SPARKENHOE ARTS CENTRE

BAMBU

**FOR A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS BROCHURE,
TELEPHONE 0116 238 5080**