

# Sigana International Storytelling festival (SISFest) 2025

**Event Dates:** 29<sup>th</sup> June – 1st July 2025

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Venue:** Kenya National Library services upper hill, Cheche Bookshop & Café, alliance France

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Overview of the festival

**Theme: Threads of Heritage: Weaving Stories, Bridging Generations**

Started in 2009, the *Sigana* International Storytelling Festival (SISF) brings together a wide array of international professional Storytellers from diverse cultures and modern practice to Kenyan audiences. Initially Held yearly and now biennially, the festival continues to be a platform for professional exchange, growth and collaborations for many experienced Storytellers. They get to plunge into memorable interactions with some of the most enthusiastic audiences across Kenya’s diverse cultural milieus both in urban and rural settings.

The festival has featured leading Storytellers from Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Romania, Singapore, South Korea, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, and USA. A celebration of storytelling, culture, and creativity, the Sigana Festival 2025 brings together local and international voices to honor the art of storytelling as a timeless thread connecting generations, communities, and nations, fostering understanding, empathy, and unity through shared narratives. The festival will run for 2 and ½ days from 29th June to 1st of July and the fees will be **30 USD**

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**Day – 1 29<sup>th</sup> June: Opening Mboka Prelude Night**  
(Mboka Festival in The Gambia is a Pan-African Arts, Culture and Sports Festival, expanding to Kenya as Mboka East)

Time	Activity
9:00 AM	Registration: Guests and participants arrive, check in, and receive festival programs.
10:00 AM	<b>Official Opening Ceremony:</b> Keynote Address (“ <i>The Power of Stories to Connect Generations</i> ”), Speaker TBC  Performances by local storytellers and cultural dancers, Ribbon-cutting ceremony.
12:00 PM	<b>Workshop Name:</b> <i>Imagining Climate Futures: Kenyan Edition (Game workshop)</i>
1:30 PM	<b>Shakespeare in East Africa:</b> Explore Shakespearean themes and their relevance in East African storytelling.
3:00PM	<b>Poetry Workshop:</b> Interactive guidance on creating, performing, and interpreting poetry.

<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Open mic storytelling session:</b> open to participants who have done a Sigana workshop
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Cultural Fusion Night:</b> Mboka festival from the Gambia introduced to Sigana festival 2025 Mboka East with guest artist Storytelling performances and readings. Sneak peek into <i>Mboka 2026: Coming East</i> .

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Day 2

<b>Panel Discussions and Community Focus</b>	<b>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Panel Discussion 1:</b> “ <i>Kenyan Comics and Cartoons: Storytelling Through Visual Arts</i> ” – Exploring the evolution, impact, and future of comics and cartoons in Kenya with artists, writers, and illustrators.
	<b>12:30 PM - 1:30 PM</b>	Lunch Break: Participants enjoy a meal together in a relaxed setting to network and reflect on the morning sessions.
	<b>1:30 PM - 2:30</b>	<b>Panel Discussion 2:</b> “ <i>Intergenerational Dialogue in the Arts</i> ” – Bridging the gap between generations through storytelling and artistic expression with veteran and emerging artists.
	<b>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Sigana Technique Workshop:</b> A practical session led by expert storytellers introducing the <b>Sigana storytelling technique</b> , focusing on performance, structure, and audience engagement.
	<b>6:00 PM - 7:30 PM</b>	Cheche Bookshop Event: Annie Domingo book <i>signing Breaking the Maafa Chain</i> , an insightful talk, and

		performances. Annie in conversation with another Mboka – already
	<b>8:30 PM - 10:00 PM</b>	Evening Session: Open Mic, Music, and Dance, culminating in the day's closing celebration.

Day 3

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
9:00 am	<b>Early Years Program:</b> Storytelling activities designed for young children.
10:00 am -12pm	<b>Visual Assembly or Card Game Making:</b> Creative activities using visual elements or card games to explore storytelling techniques.
12:00-1:00 pm	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Conversations on storytelling's role in heritage and shaping the future.
1:30 pm -2:30pm	<b>Somali Heritage Performances:</b> Highlighting the richness of Somali traditions.