

# Symposium on Youth and Urban Culture in East Africa

Featuring screenings of two films by Ron Mulvihill, *Maangamizi* and *Poetry in Motion: 100 Years of Zanzibar's Nadi Ikhwan Safaa*

Sponsored by an Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program grant, International Programs, African Studies Program, and the Department of English

## Program Schedule

### Friday, April 2, 2010

#### 9:00-9:30 AM (109 English Philosophy Building)

Opening Remarks (by James and Blandina Giblin, University of Iowa)

#### 9:30-11:00 AM (109 English Philosophy Building)

Screening: *Hip Hop Colony* (93 minutes).

*Hip Hop Colony* examines *genge*, Kenya's unique brand of hip-hop. *Genge* was initially dismissed as a passing fad, but this new musical style, a fusion of traditional African music with American hip-hop, is growing in popularity around the world.

#### 11:00-12:00 noon (109 English Philosophy Building)

Discussion of *Hip Hop Colony* led by Mwenda Ntarangwi (Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan) and José Arturo Saavedra Casco (El Colegio de México, Mexico City).

#### 1:00-2:30 PM (University Capitol Centre room 2520D)

Current Research on East African Culture: Panel I: Hip-Hop in Kenya and Tanzania: Mwenda Ntarangwi (Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan) and José Arturo Saavedra Casco (El Colegio de México, Mexico City).

#### 3:00-4:30 PM (University Capitol Centre room 2520D)

Current Research on East African Culture: Panel II: Studies in Electronic Media: James Brennan (University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana) and George Gathigi (Hampshire College, Massachusetts)

#### 7:00-9:00 PM (Becker Communications Studies Building room 101)

Screening of *Maangamizi* (112 minutes)

*Maangamizi – the Ancient One* (Gris-Gris Films, U.S.-Tanzania) is a unique story that steps out to reclaim the spiritual connection that threads us together as a global community. Set in a women's psychiatric hospital in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, it portrays the fated union of two women from two different

backgrounds and cultures --and yet united by terrifying memories --and the re-emergence of their independent and collective selves through the intervention of the ancestor. It is a powerful meditation on the human psyche in its confrontation with a hostile world.

## **Saturday, April 3, 2010**

### **9:00-10:30 AM (University Capitol Centre, International Commons room 1117)**

Screening of *Naliaka is Going* (85 minutes)

From Kenya, *Naliaka is Going* is the story of a young woman who leaves her village to become a housemaid, attains language and typing on her own and travels to the city where she manages to escape various dangers and finds success in a career as well as romance.

### **10:30-11:30 AM (University Capitol Centre, International Commons room 1117)**

Discussion of *Naliaka is Going*, led by Allison McGuffie (University of Iowa).

### **1:00-2:30 PM (Becker Communications Studies Building room 101)**

Screening of *Poetry in Motion: 100 Years of Zanzibar's Nadi Ikhwan Safaa* (75 minutes)

*Poetry in Motion: 100 Years of Zanzibar's Nadi Ikhwan Safaa* is a feature-length documentary film exploring the music, poetry, history and personalities of an esteemed East African orchestra. Performers of sung Swahili poetry called taarab, Nadi Ikhwan Safaa ('The True Brotherhood Club') of Zanzibar, Tanzania celebrated its 100th anniversary in July 2005, making it one of the oldest orchestras in the world today.

### **2:45-4:00 PM (Becker Communications Studies Building room 101)**

Discussion of *Maangamizi* and *Poetry in Motion: 100 Years of Zanzibar's Nadi Ikhwan Safaa*. The discussion will be led by Ron Mulvihill, the director of both films, and by Mona Mwakalinga (University of Kansas), who appeared in *Maangamizi*.

### **5:00- 6:30 PM (University Capitol Centre, International Commons room 1117)**

Reception/Bufferet (public invited)