



ZMO-Kolloquium 2013

Thursday, June 20th, 2013, 6 pm

Poetry in Motion: 100 Years of Zanzibar's Nadi Ikhwan Safaa



Poetry in Motion

(Tanzania, USA)

Directed by Ron Mulvihill

Run Time: 70 minutes

Country of Filming: Tanzania

Language: Swahili,
with English Subtitles

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Film Screening and Talk with Kelly Askew

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. African orchestral music is largely unknown, falling outside popular perceptions of African music. Originating as a male social club, Nadi Ikhwan Safaa has since grown to encompass male and female members from all sectors of Zanzibar's diverse population. 'Poetry in Motion' offers a music and poetry-driven narrative of a musical group that has survived colonialism and violent revolution, yet always managed to celebrate life's joys and challenges.

Official Selection: SVA Film and Interactive Media Festival, Montreal (2011), Sauti ya Busara Festival, Zanzibar, Tanzania (2012), Pan African Film Festival, Los Angeles (2012)

Kelly M. Askew holds an associate professorship for Anthropology at the University of Michigan, currently she is a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. Her research interests lie in the field of socialism/postsocialism, land conflict, cultural politics, music, media and performance with a focus on Swahili studies in East Africa. She edited (with R. Wilke) *The Anthropology of Media: A Reader* (2002) and is the author of *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania* (2002). Most recently she published "Of Land and Legitimacy: A Tale of Two Lawsuits," in *Africa, Journal of the International African Institute* (2013). In 2012 Kelly Askew produced the films *Poetry in Motion* (by R. Mulvihill) and *The Chairman and the Lions* (by P. Biella).

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