

**Glöbäl
Stórieš**

Danish Somali Storytelling Academy

With **Abdi Phenomenal (US)**, **Christian Lollike (DK)** and **Amal Aden (NO)**.



Danish Somali Storytelling Academy – 2015

The Somalis are one of the most stigmatized population groups in Denmark. *Global Stories* is eager to create a more nuanced picture of the Somalis and in particular to hear more Somali voices in the Danish art scene.

During the first weekend of March, Global Stories arranged a Storytelling Academy in the *Scenekunstens Udviklingscenter* (Center of Stage Art Development) for seven young upcoming Danish-Somali artists, that are keen on expressing themselves in the Danish cultural life. There they were strengthened in their artistic expression as well as in the development of scenic material. Further, they got to meet other Somali artists and received professional feedback on their storytelling.

The American-Somali spoken word artist Abdi Phenomenal and the Norwegian-Somali writer and debater Amal Aden shared their stories with the participants; stories about their flight from civil war and about challenges that they met when trying to express themselves and their experiences artistically. Inspired by those stories the participants began to produce texts about their own personal experiences with related topics; they wrote about civil war, about the life as a refugee in Denmark, about lost parents and relatives, about veiled women and about humoristic cultural misunderstandings.

In addition, the Danish playwright Christian Lollike did a writing workshop with the participants and gave them feedback on their storytelling.

From Storytelling Academy to I AM ALSO SOMALIA

Following the Storytelling Academy, four of the seven participants continued to work with their texts and received ongoing feedback, amongst others from Christian Lollike and Ditte Maria Bjerg. The participants were free to choose which language or languages they would like to express themselves in.

This process ended with a reading on the 20th of June, during which the texts were presented at Københavns Musikteater, as part of *CPH Stage*. Next to the texts of the four young Somalis, the Danish-Somali musician Bashir Billow presented his music.

Currently the scenic material from the reading is being developed further. Finally, parts of it will be incorporated in the performance *I AM ALSO SOMALIA* that will premiere in February 2017 at the theater Sort/Hvid.

We proudly present some of the driving forces in the development of I AM ALSO SOMALIA:



Camara Lundestad Joof, creative producer, is a 26 year old Norwegian-Gambian performance artist and vocalist. She is known, among others, from the Norwegian bands *Sid Vant* and *Evig Poesi*. Camara studied theater sciences at Oslo University and has worked as an actress and art producer. She further has been a member of several Norwegian arts and music councils. Currently she resides in Copenhagen, where she writes dramatic texts and works as a culture-political advisor and art producer.

Sanna Albjørk, playwright, is educated in theater sciences and performance studies from the University of Copenhagen. She has worked as a playwright, producer, performer as well as coordinator, preferably in the course of theater productions that involve communities and interest groups. Sanna has, among others, already worked for Caféteatret, Odsherred Teater, REPUBLIQUE and currently she is working for Global Stories.

