



The Blue Room Theatre with The TOOL Event & Our Collective Dream proudly presents

AN EVENING OF AFRICAN POETRY AND STORYTELLING

Curated by *the* Outsiders

10TH - 21ST SEPT 2024 | 6:30PM
THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE, NORTHBRIDGE

www.blueroom.org.au | [@theoutsidersperth](https://www.instagram.com/theoutsidersperth)

Starring Ayuba Musah Kuda Ndlovu Lisa Watson Mohammed 'Ayo Busari'
Nidal Saeed Ridge Moss Tao Issaro Veronikka Habieb

Acknowledgement of Country

As The Outsiders and friends gather to reflect on our journeys of migration, home, and belonging, we would like to acknowledge that *An Evening of African Poetry and Storytelling* was conceived, devised, and performed on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar.

As storytellers, we're inspired by the passing of knowledge, tradition and culture, and have a tremendous amount of respect for the longest-continuing culture, maintained through stories and art.

We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. We cherish the contribution they make to the life of this city and state, birthing ideas, creating art, and working with diverse artists and creatives.

We extend solidarity and hope for a future where all are afforded justice, assurance and freedom to live in unity and not feel like outsiders in a place called home. We should encourage those around us to remember that this always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

We would also like to acknowledge and give honour to our ancestors, our elders, our motherland, our spirits, our people and our culture. We are our ancestors' wildest dreams.



THE OUTSIDERS

A Celebration of Identity and Culture

Presented by The Blue Room Theatre, The TOOL Event and Our Collective Dream

The Outsiders are a fusion of art and performance, brought to life by African Diaspora creatives Mohammed 'Ayo Busari,' Lisa Watson, and Kuda Ndlovu. This show marks a significant step toward giving underrepresented CaLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) creatives the platform they deserve to share their unique stories, cultures, and identities.

Rooted deeply in the ethos of both The TOOL Event and Our Collective Dream (OCD), The Outsiders is about more than just performance; it's about empowering youth and communities through authentic storytelling. Since its inception in 2017, The TOOL Event has earned a reputation for uniting creative minds in a vibrant, inclusive environment. OCD shares this vision, working tirelessly to be part of a thriving multicultural community that values and supports the creation and sharing of diverse narratives.

The Outsiders invites you on an authentic African journey with *An Evening of African Poetry and Storytelling - New Home*. Inspired by traditional story circles, the show embodies a profound exploration of migration, identity, and cultural resilience.

As our fellow Outsider Nidal Saeed said, "Love is the essence of life." This sentiment resonates throughout The Outsiders, as the show explores themes of love, identity, and belonging, urging the audience to reflect on the essence of what makes us human. Ayuba SOQS, another Outsider, also reminds us, "I heard the world is full of lonely people too scared to make the first move." This insight speaks to the heart of The Outsiders - a show that not only invites the audience to witness our journey but also encourages them to take that first step toward understanding, connection, and unity.

Through The Outsiders, we invite you to join us on this journey of self-discovery, cultural exploration, and collective empowerment. Together, let's celebrate the diversity that makes us unique and the shared humanity that unites us all.

**the
Outsiders**

**Mohammed 'Ayo Busari'
'Kuda Mic' Ndlovu
Lisa Watson**

The Journey to AN EVENING OF AFRICAN POETRY AND STORYTELLING

Curated by **the Outsiders**

11 April 2022

An Evening of African Poetry and Storytelling makes its debut with a digital-only presentation as part of Propel Youth Arts WA's KickstART Festival 2022



**31 January
- 4 February 2023**

We hit the stage for the first time with 5 special Summer Nights performances at The Blue Room Theatre



20 April 2023

We are welcomed back to KickstART Festival 2023 with a one-night only performance at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA) Performance Space



**10 - 21
September 2024**

An Evening of African Poetry and Storytelling returns to The Blue Room Theatre for an epic 10-show season featuring new and old friends



**"Our journey has only just begun, for us, The Outsiders."
- Mohammed 'Ayo Busari'**



The Team

the Outsiders

Lead Creatives, Producers, Devisors and Performers



**Mohammed
'Ayo Busari'**

Mohammed 'Ayo Busari' is a Nigerian-born award-winning Creative Producer, Curator, Disability Support Worker, Writer & Performer. Previously living and working in Nigeria and the UK, he is now blessed to be based in Boorloo. A graduate of Journalism & Media (BA Hons) from University of Hertfordshire (England) & Screen Arts (MArts) from Curtin University, Ayo is constantly learning and evolving as an artist and arts curator.

Since Co-Founding the Boorloo-based theatre and performance group, The Outsiders in early 2021, Ayo has Co-produced, written and performed at various shows, most significantly EAPS at The Blue Room Theatre & PICA. He frequently performs poetry and plays live music in various spaces and shows, and most recently performed at Hidden in Plain Sight (Co-produced by Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa & Joel Evans), an experimental fusion of spoken word, music, dance and theatre in Freo Town Hall.

Ayo is an all-around multidisciplinary creative, expressing himself through these different art forms and genres. He currently sits on the board for Western Australian Youth Theatre Company (WAYTCo).



'Kuda Mic' Ndlovu

Kuda Mic is a Zimbabwean Artist, MC, Producer, Writer, and Performer based in Boorloo (Perth), Western Australia. He co-founded Nuanced and Our Collective Dream (OCD), focusing on community development and cultural enrichment. His diverse background spans Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, and Australia, shaping his unique perspective.

Through OCD and The Outsiders, Kuda has uplifted the BIPOC community with events like Afro Block Party and An Evening of African Poetry and Storytelling (EAPS), earning recognition for his storytelling and cultural advocacy.

Kuda serves on the Multicultural Advisory Group for the City of Armadale and has been acknowledged by the community with nominations and awards such as finalist for the Arts and Culture Award from the Zimbabwean Association of Western Australia (ZAWA) in 2021 and the Social Change/Impact Award from Organisation of African Communities of Western Australia (OACWA).



Lisa Watson

Lisa Watson is a South African creative, with a passion for community and performing arts. After leaving Cape Town at a young age, Lisa grew up in Auckland, New Zealand before moving to Boorloo, Western Australia. This experience shaped Lisa's perspective, teaching her to appreciate diversity in art, food and culture, and helping her find her own sense of identity.

In 2021, Lisa took part in the Performing Lines Kolyang Diversity Lab artist residency at the Fremantle Art studio, then 'To The Front', another artist residency through Roots TV. She finished the year off by taking part in the Humans of Armadale project with the City of Armadale and becoming a Multicultural Advisory Group member for the City of Armadale. In 2022 and 2023, Lisa has been heavily involved in creating inclusive Afro-centric shows and events such as Jaiye Jaiye, Afro Block Party and an Evening of African Poetry and Storytelling (EAPS) as Co-Founder of 'Our Collective Dream' (OCD), a social enterprise created to entertain, educate and uplift the BIPOC community.

Performers and Storytellers



Veronikka Habieb



**'Ayuba SOQS'
Musah**



Nidal Saeed

Live Band



Tao Issaro



Ridge Moss

**Publicist
/Production
Manager**

**Lighting
Designer**

**Stage Manager
/Movement
Director**



Phoebe Eames



Katrina Johnston



Kiara Thomson

**Mentor
Mararo Wangai**

Special Thanks

Propel Youth Arts WA KickstART Festival

Rep Kulture

Shoshi and Shubert from Kaya Radio

The Blue Room Theatre Staff

Hillview Intercultural Community Centre

Faiza Busari

Nuanced

Mararo Wangai

TAB Family & Mobus Entertainment

All of our past *An Evening of African Poetry and
Storytelling* collaborators

Photography Credits

Summer Nights 2023 and Annual Season 2024: Apurva Gupta

KickstART Festival 2023: Hunter Whyte

The Blue Room Theatre 2024 Campaign: Cole Baxter

Official Clothing Partner

