

6-8 PM

LUCE HALL COMMON ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

# Swahili Yoruba Zulu

PROGRAM IN AFRICAN  
LANGUAGES - ANNUAL SKIT  
NIGHT

## **Introductions:**

Kiarie WA'Njogu,  
Director, Program in African Languages

## **Welcome:**

Prof Cajetan Iheka  
Chair, Council on African Studies

## **PAL Faculty:**

IsiZulu: Nandipa Sipengame  
Kiswahili: Kiarie Wa'Njogu, Veronica Waweru  
Yoruba: Oluseye Adesola

## **FLTAs:**

Zipporah Morumbwa(Kiswahili)  
Idris Akinade (Yoruba)

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## 1. Intermediate Kiswahili

## Marimba ya Miujiza

Cast:

Bibi (grandmother): Lily

Mjukuu (grandchild): Andre

Ria (magic woman): Lily

Mgonjwa (sick person): Andre

Tajiri (rich man): Lily

Binti ya Mvuvi (fisherman's daughter): Lily

A grandmother tells her grandchild a story about a magical marimba. This marimba, which was created by a magical woman named Ria, heals everything with its music when she plays it. Everyone loves Ria and her marimba except for one rich man who, driven by greed, steals the marimba in the night. However, things don't go as planned for the rich man as the marimba does not appreciate its evil new owner. Will the rich man be able to conquer the magical marimba and force people to pay for its healing music? Or will the marimba be reclaimed by those that will use it for good? Gather around and listen closely to grandmother's story to find out!

## 2. Intermediate Yorùbá

## Cinderwale

Cast:

CINDERWALE - Olutola

STEPMOM - Fadeke

BROTHER 1 – Zeke (Ayòmidé)

BROTHER 2 – Osize (Olúfẹmi)

PRINCESS CHARMING – Tẹní

QUEEN – Ruth (Olúwabùkáyòmi)

FAIRYGODMOTHER - Modupe

PRINCE TOBI- Abu (Ọrẹolúwa)

HERALD - Babawale

A young man Cinderwale is mistreated by his stepmother and stepbrothers, but his fortunes change when he gets the chance to attend a royal ball with the help of some magic. A retelling of Cinderella with a Yoruba twist.

### 3. Beginning IsiZulu

Cast:

Manqoba (Qifan.Z)

Nozipho (Osasu.O)

Londiwe (Amina.S)

Bhekithemba (Ben.M)

Sizakele (Bilha. N)

Mthunzi (Kate.S)

### Amaculo womlando, amasiko nethemba

(Zulu Songs of History, Heritage, and Hope)

As we celebrate 30 years of South African democracy, our Zulu 120 class presents a lively musical performance that features traditional isiZulu songs. The song collection takes listeners through diverse emotions ranging from honoring memories to expressing happiness and celebration. The musical pieces serve as windows into South Africa's extensive cultural and political history. Each performance will begin with an explanation of the song and its cultural or historical significance to help the listener understand the thematic elements of the music. Our songs feature: Baxabene Oxamu which showcases isiZulu click consonants through its clever tongue-twisting lyrics and Sithi Halala which celebrates victory. The song Shebeleza explores Pan-African identity and continental pride while Shosholoza tells the story of South African rural-to-urban migration for work opportunities. The song Asimbonanga uMandela pays tribute to Nelson Mandela while expressing the public's desire for his leadership throughout apartheid and Emarabini documents the difficult realities faced by people in urban life. Through Mkabayi kaJama we honor an influential figure from Zulu history who exemplifies the essential contributions women have made to the nation's development, continuing path to democracy. Together, these songs highlight the strength of Zulu cultural expression and offer a meaningful way to engage with South Africa's history and heritage.



## 4. Beginning Kiswahili

## Safari ya Tanzania

(A Trip to Tanzania)

Cast:

Rita: Friend from East Africa

Odree: Friend who calls Rita

Rebecca: Friend and Waiter at a restaurant

Jeannot: Worker at the airport and Safari guide

Safa: Friend and Doctor

Siu-yu: Friend

Salima: Friend and Tour Guide

Alexis: Friend

Audrey: Friend and Shopkeeper

Jerry: Friend

Calista: Friend who gets sick

In scene 1, a group of friends in America are planning to travel to East Africa during vacation. Rita is a friend of the group who is from East Africa, and the friend group asks Rita what to pack for the trip and what the weather will be. In scene 2, the friends arrive at the airport, check luggage, and ask Jerry (airport staff) where their gate is. In scene 3, the friends have already arrived in Tanzania, and they meet with a tour guide (Salima) to talk about how to get to their hotel and what the weather is usually like. In scene 4, the friends ride a jeep through a safari, and they talk to the safari guide (Jeannot) about the animals they see and the protection efforts for animals. In scene 5, the friends go to a restaurant and ask the waiter (Rebecca) what food options they have. They end up having to pay 561 shillings and 37 cents. In scene 6, one of the friends (Calista) gets sick, and her friend Rita accompanies her to see the doctor (Calista). In scene 7, the friends go to an open-air market looking for some gifts, clothes, and souvenirs. Audrey is a shopkeeper who sells shirts, bags, hats, and bracelets to her friends. In scene 8, the group of friends return home to the United States and talk to Rita about their experiences and what gifts and souvenirs they bought.

## 5. Beginning Yorùbá

## Kò Sí Àwáwí

Cast:

Mother: Olamide

Father: Ade

Fọlákẹ́: Temitayo

Tosin: Kikelomo

Ade: Ayanfe

Tosin's Friend: Gbemiga

Fọlákẹ́'s friend Anuoluwa: Odunayo

Mama Oloja: Olamide

Cousin Titi: Odunayo

Ontaja: Similoluwa

Ọ̀jògbọ̀n: Ade

Dókítà: Simi

(Ọ̀nẹ̀kọ̀wé kan): Ayọ̀lọ́

In this hilarious skit starring the Olatunji family. After graduating from high school, the Olatunji triplets embark on the next stage of their lives. Tosin goes into the music industry hoping to become the next Rema but is led astray by his friend. Folake is off to university in Germany where she is very studious... maybe a little too studious. Last but not least, Ade becomes a merchant so that he may stay close to his parents. It seems that after moving, they are all living in completely different worlds. They don't stay in touch anymore. They all have their own problems going on. It is not until one day that they get an unexpected call that they realize maybe they should have to stay in touch.

## 6. Intermediate IsiZulu

Cast:

Nala Busisiwe Mashinini (Shanique.R)

**Uhambo lwami  
eNingizimu Afrika &  
Ukusina kwami**

In this presentation, Nala guides us on a personal journey through South Africa by sharing a selected collection of videos that demonstrate both language interaction and cultural experiences. Her presentation showcases the Umemulo ceremony, which stands as a traditional coming-of-age ritual for young Zulu women representing their growth and readiness for adulthood while honoring ancestral values. Her lens captures the Umemulo ceremony's symbolic richness along with its music and attire which reveals its communal importance and gives the viewers, us, a close view of this essential cultural tradition. The second segment demonstrates the student's routine interactions throughout South Africa while speaking isiZulu. The clips reveal practical language skills, confidence to engage in real settings, and curiosity, which are essential components of meaningful language learning. She takes us through activities like ordering meals and exploring local landmarks while engaging in spontaneous conversations. A traditional Zulu dance called ukusina with its themes of pride and celebratory rhythm will cap off the presentation. She combines all these components to deliver a dynamic presentation which emphasizes the intricate connection between language and culture.



## 7. Advanced Kiswahili

## Ndoto ya Amerika

(American Dream)

Cast:

Ty: Isa

Joshua: Madoa

Owen: Rock Mwamba

Liz: Mother and Judge

In this play based on the story “Ndoto ya Amerika” (American Dream) by Ken Walibora, two young friends, Isa and Madoa, are tired of life in the rural village of Sangura, Kenya. They dream of escaping to America, where they believe all their troubles will disappear. Madoa tells Isa that he has a friend named Rock Mwamba in Nairobi who can help them. However, to get to Nairobi, they must steal from one of their neighbors. In Nairobi, they soon find Rock Mwamba, who promises to help them reach America as long as they agree to help him with his “work.” His work, involving guns and fake identities, is illegal and dangerous. They are captured by law enforcement and stand for their crimes in court.

## 8. Advanced-Topics in Yoruba Literature and Culture

## Èsan

Cast:

Títí: Esther Àánú Òjó

Oyin: Tolú Adánrí

Fémi: Sam Adéifé Ògúntóyìnbó

Bólá: Ruth Búkúnmi Arómọlárán

Òtẹlẹmúyẹ: Tori Roúnké Sódèindé

Meet coworkers and friends Titi, Oyin, and Bola. Bola seems to be finding success on all sides with an enviable position at work and a loving fiancé, Femi. However, jealousy has been brewing in the background, threatening their friendship and Bola’s success. In this story of love, envy, betrayal, and intrigue, will the truth prevail, or will Titi, Oyin, Bola, and Femi be ensnared in a web of lies?

## 9. Intermediate Zulu (Shared Course Initiative)

**Usuku lwami  
edolobheni  
lase New York**

Cast:  
Thabisa (Nyasha.M)

Through an engaging vlog-style presentation the student leads us through her daily experiences in New York City with a narration in isiZulu. Her daily life at Columbia University unfolds through the spaces she visits from morning until night which she documents in this presentation. The student travels between her Brooklyn home and her Manhattan based university campus, allowing viewers to explore her educational and social experiences. The vlog features her regular spots throughout the city including cafes and subway stations while she naturally uses Zulu vocabulary and conversation. In her creative project she demonstrates both her personal experiences and the practical application of language learning in daily life.

## 10. Topics in Kiswahili Literature

**Faida ya elimu**  
(Benefits of Education)

Cast:  
Maarifa: Ron  
Mtundu: Kensa  
Mama: Natalie  
Baba: Joshua

This play follows the journey of two friends as they move from the end of high school into the uncertain world of adulthood. In their final year, they already see life through very different lenses—one is focused on academics, dreaming of a professional career, while the other, Mtundu, is eager to skip the classroom and jump straight into the business world. But life after school doesn't unfold the way either of them imagined. As the years pass, their choices begin to bear fruit—one slowly climbs toward success, while the other is swallowed by hardship, poverty, and regret. Through their stories, the play raises powerful questions about the value of education, the weight of youthful decisions, and the influence parents hold over the futures of their children. It's a reflection on how the paths we choose—or refuse—can shape our destinies in ways we never expect.

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