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## One of the world's finest festivals, Lake of Stars, launches new UK event in Walthamstow for March 2018: LOS London



One of Africa's leading music and arts festival, Lake of Stars, will celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year with festivals and events taking place in Malawi, London and Glasgow.

Known for hosting a festival on the beautiful shores of the Lake Malawi in Africa, the Lake of Stars project has run events and festivals in UK and Africa since 2003, showcasing artists from Malawi, across Africa and around the world. The festival has generated an estimated £1.3 million for Malawi's economy each year and receives extensive global press coverage from the Guardian, BBC, CNN and more.

Taking place on Saturday 10 March 2018, LOS London is a one-day multi-venue arts festival set in Waltham Forest, championing new talent from the UK and Africa. The festival will host live and electronic music, poetry, theatre, film screenings, book readings and exhibitions across eight venues in Walthamstow with most activities being free entry. The mornings will be family-focused with craft workshops and puppet shows through to DJ workshops and interactive theatre.

The festival will close with a ticketed evening concert featuring artists from the UK, Malawi, Ghana and South Africa at Walthamstow Assembly Hall. Waltham Forest Council have announced plans to revive Walthamstow Assembly Hall as an arts, live music and recording venue, rebranded under the name WAH17, with an impressive programme of events for 2018, including LOS London.

Confirmed artists include internationally acclaimed, award-winning hip hop artist from Ghana, M.anifest and Malawian singer, songwriter Faith Mussa. More artists will be announced shortly. Lakes of Stars Festival Founder Will Jameson, said: "our 15th anniversary celebrations in London and Glasgow will offer a unique chance for UK artists to perform and collaborate with some of the best new acts from Africa. Over the years our events have attracted an amazing line up of talent from UK bands such as the Foals, Maccabees and Young Fathers through to African legends like Oliver Mtukudzi and Mafikizolo.

“Having kick-started Malawi’s festival industry, we are taking things full circle by further developing platforms for African artists in the UK, which is why we are excited to be working with Waltham Forest Council to host our London-based events in such a vibrant borough which is bidding to become the first London Borough of Culture in 2019.”

“Walthamstow is experiencing a creative regeneration we want to help grow. Both Hoe Street and Wood Street are changing rapidly, with great venues, street art and a diverse community. LOS London will boost awareness of the area, engage local artists and contribute to the economy,” said Jameson.

Cllr Ahsan Khan, Cabinet Member for Libraries Arts and Culture at Waltham Forest Council, said: “We are delighted to host Lake of Stars’ 2018 London event and to encourage such fantastic links between musicians in the UK and Africa. The festival will be one of the opening events of our new arts and live music programme at the Walthamstow Assembly Hall, which once hosted the likes of The Rolling Stones, Ronnie Scott and Eileen Joyce.”

Further details about the London festival will be announced shortly at <http://lakeofstars.org/>. Details on the LOS Glasgow event will be announced in December. To learn more about Waltham Forest’s bid to become the first London Borough of Culture in 2019 and pledge your support, please visit <https://wfculture19.co.uk/> by 1 December 2017.

LOS London thanks its partners Waltham Forest Council, Sound Thread, British Council, Empire Cinemas, Countryside PLC and Eventbrite.

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#### **Media Contacts**

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#### **Editors Notes**

#### **Artists**

- **M.anifest** (Ghana) will be one of our African headliners performing at the evening event and taking part in workshops during the daytime. M.anifest is an internationally acclaimed award-winning Hip Hop artist from Accra, Ghana, known for musical boundary crossing, multilingual wordplay, and a refreshing hybrid songwriting approach that acknowledges both his Ghanaian upbringing and his sojourns in the West. Described by the Guardian (UK) as “the foremost rapper on the continent,” M.anifest’s originality and impressive lyricism has earned him collaborations with musical giants such as Tony Allen, Damon Albarn, Flea (Red hot Chili Peppers), Erykah Badu, Femi Kuti, A.B Crensil and more. <http://manifestmc.com/>
- **Faith Mussa** (Malawi) will perform acoustic sets in the daytime, run a workshop and perform live in the evening Faith Mussa is a youthful Singer/Songwriter and Child rights activist from Malawi, Southern Africa. His music background dates back to the days he was playing hand-made gallon guitars and Milk-Tin drums with his friends and siblings in the dusty township of Ndirande. He has toured South Africa in the BBC Africa Beats, Scotland at the Celtic Connection Music Festival, Arts festival of Northern Norway, China, Kenya and USA. <http://www.malawi-music.com/F/198-faith-mussa>

#### **The Lake of Stars Project**

The LOS Project aims to create an annual event in London that champions contemporary sounds and art from Africa and the UK including the African diaspora. We create a new creative, dynamic and cultural narrative about Africa. Malawi is a peaceful country with huge potential in the arts. Through LOS London we want to: increase awareness of Malawi and its artists; develop appreciation of the new sound of Africa; increase opportunities for international

artistic collaboration; and engage a wide local audience across multiple art forms. The London and Glasgow events will also act as fundraisers for the main festival in Malawi. The project has also started other festivals in Malawi, including the Children's Future Festival, Day of Ideas, Festival of Ideas, Tumaini Festival in Dzaleka Refugee Camp and LLW Shorts Film Festival. We have organised fundraisers and shows in London, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow and Bristol. Our project also gives opportunities to UK artists: Foals, Felix B (Basement Jaxx), Seth Lakeman, BBC Radio 1 DJ's, the Maccabees, Young Fathers are among those who have all performed in Malawi. Young Fathers shot a video there, artists have taken part in workshops and connected with African creatives who have influenced and in some cases featured in their work. In this way LOS offers an exciting, cultural gateway to Malawi and southern Africa.

<http://lakeofstars.org/> @lakeofstars

### **Walthamstow Assembly Hall (WAH17)**

Walthamstow Assembly Hall is a Grade II listed arts, live music and recording venue with world-renowned acoustics. The venue is available to hire for Pop ups, Music, Theatre, Rehearsals, Filming, Parties, Weddings, Photography, Festivals, Fairs, Exhibitions, and Retail. 2018 event programme to be announced shortly. <http://wah17.co.uk/>  
@wfcouncil #wah17

### **Waltham Forest for Borough of Culture**

Waltham Forest is bidding to become the first London Borough of Culture in 2019. Inspired by the UK City and European Capital of Culture Programmes, the competition, launched by the Mayor of London, would bring a once-in-a-lifetime cultural programme of events to Waltham Forest, building upon their proud traditions of creativity and entrepreneurship, to make the borough a better place. Back the bid at <https://wfculture19.co.uk> #wfculture19  
#mylocalculture @wfculture19