



Maimouna Jallow

- +34 608 919 919
- maimouna.jallow@gmail.com
- Sant Esteve de Palautordera, Barcelona, Spain
- Gambian & Spanish

BIOGRAPHY

Maimouna Jallow is multidisciplinary artist, content creator and educator. In 2021 she released her debut film, *Tales of the Accidental City*, an experimental feature-length, which received several awards, including the Audience Award at *Cine Invisible* in Bilbao, Spain. She is the author of the children's book *I'm the Colour of Honey* and in 2018, edited an anthology of 12 re-imagined African folktales entitled *Story Story, Story Come* (Pavaipo/Ouida Books). In 2021, she was the Artistic Director of the *East African Soul Train*, an interdisciplinary arts residency and research programme, investigating new ways of collaborating virtually and engaging audiences across geographical boundaries. In 2016 she co-founded *Positively African*, a Nairobi-based arts and media platform, and organized two editions of the *Re-Imagined Storytelling Festival*. A lover of the stage, Maimouna has toured four continents with a one-woman adaptation of Lola Shoneyin's novel, *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives*.

Maimouna also runs workshops and masterclasses in storytelling and communications. She has worked with a wide range of organisations, including the *Conflict Early Warning Response Mechanism* (CEWARN-IGAD), the *YouTube Black Voices Fund*, the International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP) *ArtXchange* programme, *Global Survivors Fund*, Oxfam, and the African Women's Development Fund. She has also written communication strategies for numerous programmes for organisations like Dfid and the Ford Foundation, and has managed large-scale projects, including a million-dollar grant to the African Media Initiative by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She is the author of *Flipping the Script*, a communications manual for women's rights organisations.

Prior to that, Maimouna worked as a producer for the BBC World Service and as Regional Communications Officer for *Medécins Sans Frontières* (MSF) in the Horn of Africa region. Maimouna sits on the advisory boards of *This is Africa* and *Wiriko*. She holds an MA in African Literature from SOAS, University of London.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

RECENT CONSULTANCIES:

- Current **Freehand Studios** – Writer
- Current **Tinkle Consultants** – Freelance Communications Trainer
- 2023 **CISP Storytelling for Social Change** – Storytelling workshop facilitator
- 2022 **ArtXchange Residency, Rome & Nairobi** – Creative Director
- 2022 **Africa No Filter Fellowship** – Mentor
- Nov 2021 **Global Survivors Fund** – Storytelling & Communications Workshop Facilitator
- Oct 2021 **ArtXchange, International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP)** – Storytelling Workshop Facilitator
- Aug./Sept 2021 **East African Soul Train Residency** – Artistic Director
- July 2021 **Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN - IGAD)** – Communications Strategy; Implementation Plan & Workshop facilitator
- March 2021 **#YouTubeBlack Voices Fund** – Storytelling Presentation & Coaching
- Feb 2021 **Women in Dox** – Storytelling Presentation & Coaching
- Oct 2020 **African Women's Development Fund** – Communications for Women's Rights Groups - Workshop Facilitator
- July – Sep 2020 **Oxfam – Horn & East Africa Region** – Writing Coach & Editor
- March – Aug 2019 **AfroQueer Podcast** – Associate Producer
- Jan – Dec 2018 **African Women's Development Fund** – Writer & Media Trainer
- Nov 2016 – Dec 2017 **Ford Foundation** – Communications Strategist & Content Producer
- Jan – Mar 2017 **DFID, Kenya Extractives Programme** – Communications Strategist & Kenya Media Analyst

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

- Mar 2013 – May 2015 **The African Story Challenge, African Media Initiative (AMI), Nairobi**: Senior Programme Manager
- July 2010 – Mar 2013 **Medécins Sans Frontières (MSF), Horn of Africa**: Regional Information Officer
- Oct. 2003 – Oct 2009 **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**
 Producer – African News and Current Affairs, London
 Regional Reporter - São Tomé e Príncipe, Gabon & Equatorial Guinea

WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Personal Storytelling & Writing: The art of telling your own true story

Storytelling for NGOs: Messaging | Press Releases | Opinion Editorials | Interviewing Skills | Public Speaking | Photos & Captions
Reaching the Right Media Social Media Basics | Developing a Communications Strategy

The Art of African Storytelling: Finding stories; traditional techniques and creative telling.

Broadcast Journalism 101: Finding the Story | Writing Cues & Reports | Interviewing Skills | Presentation Skills | Planning your Running Order

SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME

INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING PERFORMANCES WITH MUSIC AND DANCE FOR BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS. PARTNER INSTITUTIONS INCLUDE:

- **Rosslyn Academy** Nairobi – 2020
- **Samova Festival Schools' Performance** Finland – 2019
- **Braeside School** Nairobi – 2019 & 2018
- **Kenya National Library Services** Kid's Programme – 2019
- **Inverkeithing Primary School**, Fife, Scotland - 2017

“ WE ARE SO GLAD YOU CAME TO SHARE YOUR GIFT WITH OUR STUDENTS. YOU HAVE ENRICHED THEIR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT AFRICAN ORAL STORYTELLING. ”

Tyler Heugel, Middle School Principal
Rosslyn Academy

THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Tales of the Accidental City: Writer & Director

And Then She Said: Script Adaptation, Director & Producer.

The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives: Script Adaptation, Principal Actor, Director & Producer.

The Door of No Return: Script Adaptation, Storyteller, Director & Producer

White Rabbit, Red Rabbit: Principal Actor Improvisation

Weaving New Ropes: Director

The Thing Around Your Neck: Storyteller

Perspectives on Yvonne Owuor's Oeuvre: Storyteller

PUBLISHED WORKS

BOOKS, STORIES & POETRY

I am the Colour of Honey, Children's Book.
Book Dash, 2019.

Story Story, Story Come, Anthology of Folktales.
Pavaipo/Ouida Books, 2018.

The Bake Club of Tailflower Lane, A short story in the
Fifth Draft Anthology, Dec 2015

Zanzibar: Ode to Haji Gora Haji, Poem in the
Fifth Draft Anthology, Dec 2015

From Shame and Fantasy I rise, Poem in *Fresh Paint*,
Volume 2, Feb 2015

SELECTED ARTICLES & OPINION PIECES

The Power of Telling Our Own Stories, *Africa is a Country*,
March 2019

Finding My Way Back Home, *Africa Writes*, July 2018

Bringing African Folktales to Life, *BBC Online*, July 2017

References available on request.

EDUCATION

Masters Degree (MA) (2001 - 2002)

African Studies

School of Oriental and African Studies, London, United Kingdom

Bachelor Degree (BA) (1997 - 2001)

French and Portuguese

The University of Southampton, United Kingdom

Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal