

Screening of Fambul Tok

A Documentary Film About the Power of Forgiveness

Fambul Tok tells the story of healing in post-conflict Sierra Leone through the intimate stories of perpetrators and victims, including:

- **Esther and Joseph – family members** who were caught in the horrors of the war. At age 12 Esther was captured by rebels, and raped by 15 men. Among them was her uncle, Joseph. He, too, had been caught by the rebels and ordered to rape Esther – or be killed.
- **Sahr and Nyumah – best friends** whose lives were forever changed by the conflict. Rebel forces turned the two boys on each other, forcing Nyumah to beat his best friend so severely that he crippled him – and then forcing him to cut the throat of his best friend's father.
- **The villagers of Foendor and Tamba Joe, the native son** who killed and beheaded 17 members of his own clan.

Victims and perpetrators of Sierra Leone's brutal civil war come together for the first time in an unprecedented program of tradition-based truth-telling and forgiveness ceremonies. Through reviving the traditional cultural practice of *fambul tok* (family talk), Sierra Leoneans are building sustainable peace at the grass-roots level – succeeding where the international community's post-conflict efforts fell short. This film explores the depths of a culture that believes that true justice lies in redemption and healing for individuals – and that forgiveness can be a crucial element in restoring dignity and building strong communities. The film had its world premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, in March 2011 and its Sierra Leonean premiere in the same month in Bomaru, the community in eastern Sierra Leone where the civil war began in 1991. Since then it has been screening around Sierra Leone and the wider world. It has won several awards, including 'Best of the Festival' at the 2011 Global Social Change Film Festival in Bali, Indonesia.

More Details

www.fambultok.com www.fambultok.org

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Screening and Discussion: 5pm to 7:30pm, 27 March 2012
Room MD007, Magee Campus, University of Ulster

The film will be followed by questions and discussion with Dr Jon Lunn

Dr Jon Lunn is acting convenor of Fambul Tok's advisory group and former board member. He has worked closely with Fambul Tok's director, John Caulker, on transitional justice issues in Sierra Leone since 1998. He is based in London. Fambul Tok (Krio for Family Talk) is a community-owned and led programme, built on the principle of constant consultation and dialogue, that has been promoting reconciliation across five districts of Sierra Leone since 2008.

RSVP Essential. Drinks Reception 5pm, film begins 5:30pm

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