



ALS4/12/1/20  
The Convener,  
The Soyinka Festival,  
c/o Association of Nigerian Authors,  
National Theatre, Iganmu,  
Lagos, Nigeria.

Fax: 01-815537

24/3/94

Dear Bernth Lindfors,

On July 13, 1994 Professor Wole Soyinka, the 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, will be 60 years old. To commemorate the day, we his friends and compatriots including colleagues in the Association of Nigerian Authors, the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners, the National Association of Seadogs, Society of Nigerian Artists and Committee for Relevant Arts are organizing The Soyinka Festival from July 7-15, 1994 at the National Theatre in Lagos. The week-long festival is to honour and celebrate Soyinka's prodigious creativity as a writer, dramatist, critic and prime motivator of social conscience in our times. We are strongly committed to making the event a memorable communal celebration of artistic excellence and the visibility and deference that this has brought to African peoples and cultures.

The following activities have been slated for the Festival:

(a) From the 3rd of July and throughout the Festival Week, (7th-15th July) the National Theatre in Lagos shall be home to Professor Wole Soyinka's plays. The Play of the Festival is IKU OLOKUN ESIN, a Yoruba translation of Soyinka's DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN which shall run concurrently with versions in English and French, and with two other plays, TRIALS OF BROTHER JERO, and A DANCE OF THE FORESTS at different halls of the National Theatre throughout the Festival.

(b) There shall be readings from Wole Soyinka's prose and poetry; seminars and art exhibitions on his life and works, including his records and films.

(c) We are inviting four Nobel laureates who will be delivering lectures and talks among other distinguished writers, critics and theatre persons from all over the world. Some of them will be reading from their works in special sessions.

It is our great pleasure to invite you to participate in The Soyinka Festival. We shall appreciate it if you will present a paper at one of the Seminar sessions or join in the readings. Or you may wish to limit your participation to informal interventions in the various activities at the Festival.

The Soyinka Festival Committee is essentially an informal body set up for the purpose of this Festival. Limited economic resources prevent us from providing transportation and accommodation to all but a few participants. So let us know in time what your plans are so that we can make arrangements for your welfare during the Festival. Booking at a hotel close to the venue of the Festival shall be made for those who request it. Once in Lagos, transportation, and in some cases, accommodation for participants shall be our responsibility.

Please, join us to wish our special person Many Happy Returns.

Sincerely Yours

Bola Ige  
CHAIRMAN, The Soyinka  
Festival Committee

Odia Ofeimun  
President, Association of Nigerian  
Authors, Festival Convener

## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE SOYINKA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

### SUNDAY 3rd July

1. Preview for the Press: PLAY OF THE FESTIVAL -  
IKU OLOKUN-ESIN (Akinwunmi Isola's Yoruba translation of Death and the King's Horseman)

### MONDAY 4th July, 1994

Opening performances: all the plays of the Festival.

1. Play of the Festival: IKU OLOKUN-ESIN
2. DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN
3. TRIALS OF BROTHER JERO
4. A DANCE OF THE FORESTS

### WEDNESDAY 6th July 1994

1. Press briefings by the Publicity Unit of The Festival
2. Book, Art Exhibition opens.

### THURSDAY 7th July: FORMAL OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL

Presentation of Books and magazines by authors and publishers

### FRIDAY 8th July:

1. Seminar: SOYINKA'S AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, Journalism, Political and cultural Activism
2. Seminar: Soyinka's Theatre, films, records and translations

### SATURDAY 9th July

ANA NIGHT at JAZZ 38  
with FELA ANIKULAPO and Egypt 80

### SUNDAY 10th July

1. The Friends of Soyinka reception for invited guests and the arts community
2. Command Performance of Play Of The Festival:  
IKU OLOKUN-ESIN

### MONDAY 11th July

1. Seminar: Soyinka's Prose and Poetics
2. Seminar: Soyinka's Aesthetics and Cultural philosophy

### TUESDAY 12th July

1. Soyinka in Person: TV Interview
2. A Talk by a Nobel Laureate

### WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY: ABEOKUTA/LAGOS

1. The Plays of the Festival
2. NANTAP/CORA DAY: The Soyinka Stampede

### THURSDAY 14TH JULY: ABEOKUTA

1. International Reading by actors, writers and artists from all over the world
2. THE LUNCHEON  
The Soyinka Toast by a Nobel Laureate