

News Release: 3rd May 2007

NOBLE PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT EMPIRE MUSEUM

Wole Soyinka, the first African to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature is to appear at the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum in Bristol on Wednesday 9th May. In a rare visit to the South West, he will talk about his life as a human rights activist as well as reading from a selection of his best-known works.

Soyinka was born in Western Nigeria in 1934. During the civil war in Nigeria in the 1960s he was accused of conspiring with the Biafran rebels and held as a political prisoner for two years. He has published about twenty works: drama, novels and poetry and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986.

The event is part of Bristol's Festival of Ideas, which runs from the 9th – 30th May. The festival also includes an appearance at the Museum on the 16th May by William Dalrymple, one of Britain's leading writers on Indian history and best-selling author of 'The Last Mughal'.

Wole Soyinka will be at the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum between 12.30 and 2pm on Wednesday 9th May. Tickets are £6 (£4 concessions) and include Museum entry. Advance booking is essential. Further details are available from the Museum by calling 0117 925 4980.

ENDS

For more details and images please contact the Museum Press Office:

Feisal Khalif on 0117 925 4980 x 204
Email: feisal.khalif@empiremuseum.co.uk

Lucy Edwards on 0117 925 4980 x 230
Email: lucy.edwards@empiremuseum.co.uk

The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

The only Museum in the world to present the 500 year history of the British empire and to examine the legacy of Britain's colonial history on modern, multicultural Britain. The Museum opened in September 2002 and was short-listed in 2004 for the title of 'European Museum of the Year'. Its current special exhibition 'Breaking the Chains' commemorates the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade and was developed in partnership with Bristol City Museums, Archives and Galleries. The two-year exhibition received major funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

British Empire & Commonwealth Museum, Clock Tower Yard,
Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH

www.empiremuseum.co.uk

Festival of Ideas

The 2007 Festival of Ideas aims to ignite the hearts and minds of the people of Bristol, exploring questions on the arts, Englishness, happiness and affluence, Africa, big business, spirituality, crime and justice, science and peace. The range of events across the city include two Booker Prize-winning novelists, Kiran Desai and Graham Swift, one Nobel Prize-winner for Literature Wole Soyinka, musician Billy Bragg, cartoonist Steve Bell, psychologist Oliver James and civil rights campaigner Clive Stafford Smith.

www.ideasfestival.co.uk