The next ZIFF event will be
Sails of History: Citizens of the Sea
July 14th – 23rd, 2006

Built around the working theme of Sails of History, next year’s festival will examine maritime culture, the “citizens of the sea” and artistic expression inspired by sailing and the sea.

ZIFF envisions hosting replicas of all the types of tall ships, dhows, jahazis, junk and caravellas that ever traversed the Indian Ocean, for a grand, illuminated opening of our festival along Zanzibar’s historic Stone Town waterfront. This is a consciously massive and awe-inspiring project, that will galvanise interest not only in ZIFF but in Zanzibar itself. The idea is that next year anyone in Zanzibar should be able to state it as a plain fact that: ‘If you were not here, you were nowhere!’
Call for Papers

'Sails of History':
Citizens of the Sea

ZIFF Conference, July 2006

As part of the 2006 film festival, the Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) is planning to convene a large get-together of the sailing vessels of the Indian Ocean in July 2006, including all the different types of dhows. One of them, an Indian Kotia, is already in Zanzibar, and we hope it will be there in 2006. We hope that we will be able to induce the Kuwaitis to bring one of their Bums as well, and perhaps a Ghanja from Oman or Iran.

Six hundred years ago the Chinese Admiral Zheng He embarked on a series of marathon voyages across the Indian Ocean, and three of these expeditions reached as far as the East African coast. Since these expeditions spanned 28 years from 1405 to 1433, we will not be too late in celebrating this momentous chapter in trans-oceanic diplomatic and commercial relations. It will therefore be only appropriate if we succeed in enticing one of the Chinese junks to come to Zanzibar in 2006.

With such a gathering of the sailing vessels, it will be only appropriate if the ZIFF conference examines different aspects of dhow building and sailing in the Indian Ocean. As part of a film festival, we would be interested not only in the technical aspects of dhow building and sailing, but even more so the social contexts of these human activities, including social, commercial and diplomatic relations across the ocean.

We invite those who may be interested in attending the conference to indicate their interest, suggest a possible topic that they want to write on, and even possible sub-themes and sessions that they would like to mount or see included.

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