

YAV

YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES MAGAZINE

MAY/JUNE 2012

VOL.1 ISSUE TWO: AFRICA IS THE FUTURE

SPECIAL MUSIC ISSUE

**RAFIYA
HEALS**

**ROYAL LIFESTYLE
SOLO NNANNA**

**NIKYATU
FILMMAKER**

**CUAEF
AFRICA'S ECONOMY**

**FOKN BOIS
CONTROVERSIAL**

**NNEKA
VOICE OF VOICELESS**

**M.ANIFEST
IMMIGRANT CHRONICLES
HIS STORY THRU MUSIC**

**NIGERIAN FASHION DESIGNERS
TORI AND ESPIONAGE**

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YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES MAGAZINE

WHO WE ARE

ENVISION TOMORROW TODAY

YAV

YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES MAGAZINE

MARCH/APRIL ISSUE

VOL. 1 ISSUE ONE: AFRICAN RENAISSANCE



AFRICA AID
DOING MORE
HARM THAN GOOD

PHENOMONAL WOMEN
10 YEAR OLD FEMALE RAPPERS

GOLDEN GLOVES
IMANE KAABOUR
EDUCATIONAL BOXING

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YOUNG AFRICAN FILMMAKERS

VISIONARY OF THE MONTH
MARI MALEK

KEEPING AFRICA RELEVANT
LILIAN BLANKSON

THE MAGAZINE

INNOVATIVE

OUR BUSINESS

ENTERPRISING

OUR AUDIENCE

INSPIRING

OUR COMMUNITY

CREATIVE



YAV MAGAZINE: MISSION STATEMENT ENVISION TOMORROW TODAY

YAV MAGAZINE SEEKS TO FIND THE MOST INNOVATIVE WAYS TO PROVIDE STORIES TO OUR READERS THAT ARE RELEVANT. OUR ENTERPRISING SPIRIT, ALLOWS FOR A BUSINESS THAT WILL GROW WITH OUR READERSHIP. WE TAKE PRIDE IN THAT OUR AUDIENCE INSPIRES OUR TEAM TO REPORT STORIES OF TRIUMPH, SUCCESS, & INSPIRATION. YAV MAGAZINE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR CREATIVE WAYS TO ENGAGE WITHIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF YOUNG AFRICANS WORLDWIDE.

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YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES MAGAZINE

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Letter From Editor

Music is the Vehicle of Change

As we celebrate with our special music issue; we pay homage to the young Africans in the music industry who acknowledge the power of music to convey stories of triumph and to go beyond just entertaining. In 2011, I decided to start the Young African Visionaries Project which would support my thesis for graduate school, I wanted to explore how young Africans use media but especially music to empower themselves. In the age of technological and the a cultural revolutions in Africa both the arts and politics the importance of media is more relevant than ever.

We young Africans must embrace the power within us, the media resources available to us, and use the arts to express the pain and the joy of our communities as well as help us come up with solutions to resolve conflict. Listen to your hearts, listen to the music that inspires you, and enjoy our second issue.

We Salute You,

Rebekah A. Frimpong
Editor-in-Chief /Publisher
YAV Magazine-BGNB Productions



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YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES MAGAZINE

ENVISION TOMORROW TODAY

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In this second issue YAV Magazine will celebrate some of the most creative and thoughtful musical artists from “The Continent” as well as the Diaspora. These musicians are not only making cutting edge sounds in music but re-defining African music and staying connected to their communities by building sustainable projects and fostering important conversations about African development. Africa is the future; we are living in this future fast forwarding to a time where sound and movement resonate as the same and young Africans are using music to impact positive global efforts.

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54 KINGDOMS
'It's a Kulture, not a Brand'

Gaza & Gazettes Accessories
Visit us at 54kingdoms.com



Model: Danielle Edmond
Photo by GC Photography



EDUCATING OUR YOUTH: YAV SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

YAV Magazine Scholarship Initiative

YAV Magazine will have a special scholarship initiative that will be available to three promising young African visionaries! We will be rewarding youth in these three fields of leadership:

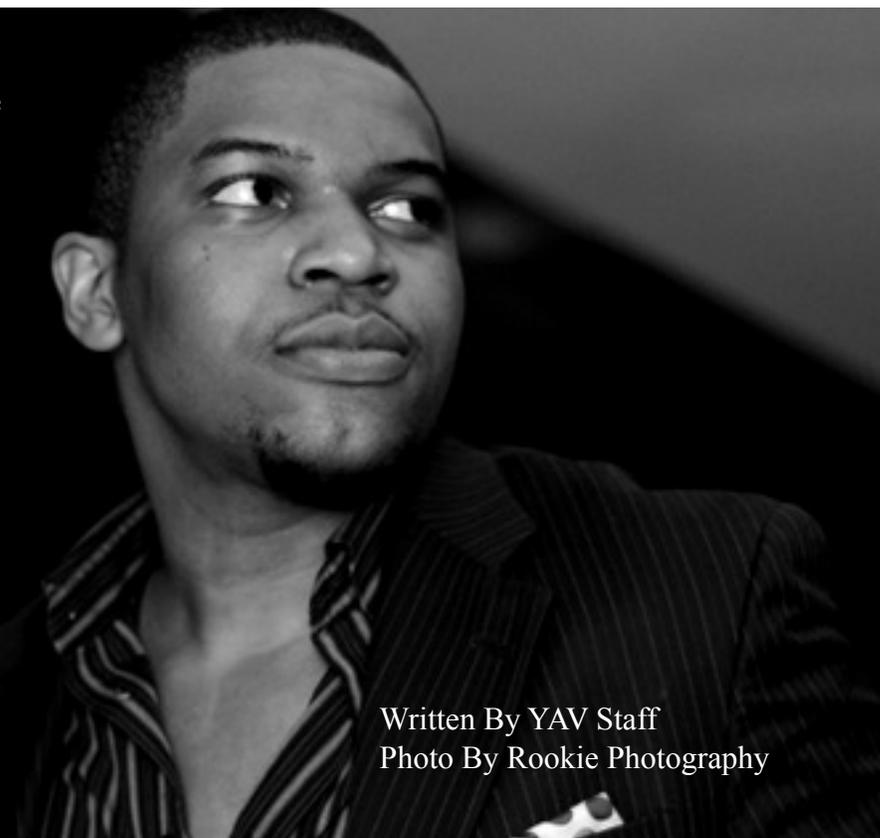
- Environmental*
- Social Awareness*
- Health and Science*

Here is How to Apply:

Visit www.yavmagazine.com and submit an essay describing in detail your story and what makes you a visionary. All rules and guidelines are on the website and the winners will be announced later this year and get featured in an issue of YAV Magazine.

ROYALTY LIFESTYLE

Solo Nnanna is the Executive Director of Royalty Lifestyle - A Marketing & Events Company based in the New York area. Solo Nnanna has made African development not only relevant but stylish. Royalty Lifestyle has helped coordinate and promote some of the most influential events in New York over the last three years that have put to the forefront African development, entrepreneurship, and community partnership.



Written By YAV Staff
Photo By Rookie Photography

Can you tell us a little about Royalty Lifestyle?

Royalty Lifestyle (RL) is a Marketing & Event planning firm based in New York City that caters to a Niche Multi-cultural clientele. While our marketing agency help our clients with creative development & brand outreach, our event planning division puts together spectacular corporate & private events as well as our exclusive signature RL soirees.

What inspired you to continue to start this company?

RL was born out of necessity. We started out hosting private events where folks could listen to international music and as the company expanded, we noticed that no-one else was catering to our niche clientele in the marketing arena. I have always been interested in the hospitality & marketing industry so we decided to create a hybrid company that would play a role in both industries.

If you could give advice to young Africans what would it be in regards to success?

Support one another. An old adage goes “two heads are better than one”. That adage holds true

Photos By Debo Folorunsho



in successful businesses as well. We are more likely to succeed as a people if we come together and help one another grow as opposed to creating competition and segmenting an already very fragmented client base.

What have been some of the challenges you have faced breaking into your field and how did you overcome them?

Our challenges were similar to that of any other small start up which is getting the name out there ala brand recognition and finding adequate funding. And I will say by staying true to our vision and un-relenting hard-work we are well on our way to overcoming those challenges.

What is next for you? What hopes do you have for the future?

We are really excited about what the future holds for Royalty Lifestyle as we continue to expand. We held our first event in Africa 5 months ago (December 2011) and we are already working on the second installment of the Passport to Nigeria series this fall. And on the marketing side we are growing; both in the size of our staff as well as

our client base.

The theme for this issue is “Africa is the Future”, how do you feel your work is reflective of this?

The goal of Royalty Lifestyle is to cater to a niche multicultural clientele both on the African continent and in the Diaspora. Having worked with the Harvard African Development Conference & the Wharton African Business Forum; organizations that seek to shed light on Africa as the next frontier, we feel as though we are positioned to lead the wave that will take Africa from being the future to being the present.

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www.passport2nigeria.com

IYADEDE

THAT GIRL FROM AFRICA

Written By YAV Staff

Photo By Sam Kessie



This Rwandan songstress, has many talents from designing jewelry, modeling, and acting...but it is her music that really gives you an idea of how eclectic she is as an artist. Iyadede's music is impressive, refreshing, and futuristic. She leaves many of her listeners asking: "she is from Africa"? Yes, indeed Iyadede is from Africa but her music is her own.

YAV Magazine got to ask Iyadede a few questions about music and her unique perspective.

Looking at your currently released EP "the demo" could you share with us how you would describe your process of putting that EP together?

With the demo, I gathered material that showed versatility in writing and in style. All songs were selected from a bulk of tracks written and recorded over one year period.

Developing your sound who would say were your major music influences?

I like for things to flow, I try to be honest and just let the song write themselves.

As a musician do you feel that you have more power in regards to making an impact in changing attitudes towards Africa or in particular Rwanda?

But as an artist I think you are representing yourself first, if anything. Any individual can make a change globally... it doesn't matter where you are from or what you do. The fun in being an artist is the distance you can travel with your work and all the people you reach and bring together...that alone

Iyadedede is Fresh; Her Sound is the Future

is positive, it's great.

What has been the biggest challenge for you so far as a music artist?

To remain honest with my music and myself, and of course to manage my business.

What advice would you give to yourself if you could go back in time to when you first came to the US?

Value your time, it is precious, and never minimize your effort.

What excites you about the future of African music and how it will be and continues to be defined?

I am excited about music in general, but it's a headache to think about the African music industry. I try to look at things globally.

Do you feel you will be a major part of the evolution of music in Rwanda or in African music markets?

Well, we have no lucrative music industry... I think...not enough unfortunately. No copyright,

no Soundscan, no royalties. As far as Rwanda, I don't know many Rwandan artists who made a living off music to the level of their contribution. There are many who have contributed greatly to the cultural landscape but they are not celebrated enough...not to the level that we celebrate foreign artists. But that's the same everywhere, someone like Amber Rose (I like her but this is just an example) would make a lump sum check for appearing in Ghana and not certified Ghanaian MC's like M3nsa or Blitz. I don't think K'naan himself would make a living in Somalia alone, or Balaji in Congo.



Photo By JD Urban Photography

NNEKA

A Powerful Voice



Photos Courtesy of Jens Boldt

Nneka is a musical force of nature; the Nigerian-German soul songstress is giving voice to the voiceless with her music. After releasing her debut EP “The Uncomfortable Truth” it was evident that Nneka is a musical visionary. Her blend of spiritual-roots, rock, and reggae infused grooves are the backdrop for her powerful lyrics about confronting injustice, freedom, and courage in the face of conflict. Nneka’s music is powerful and has helped build a bridge between her listeners in Africa and in Europe as well as the United States. She recently, also made her acting debut in the independent film “Relentless” a film by Nigerian filmmaker Andy Amadi Okoroafor and editor of CLAM Magazine. The film shows yet another side to this powerful artist. YAV Magazine got to ask Nneka what the future looks like, defining her music, and the power that all Africans have to make change.

What inspires you to continue to make music that is socially conscious versus commercial?

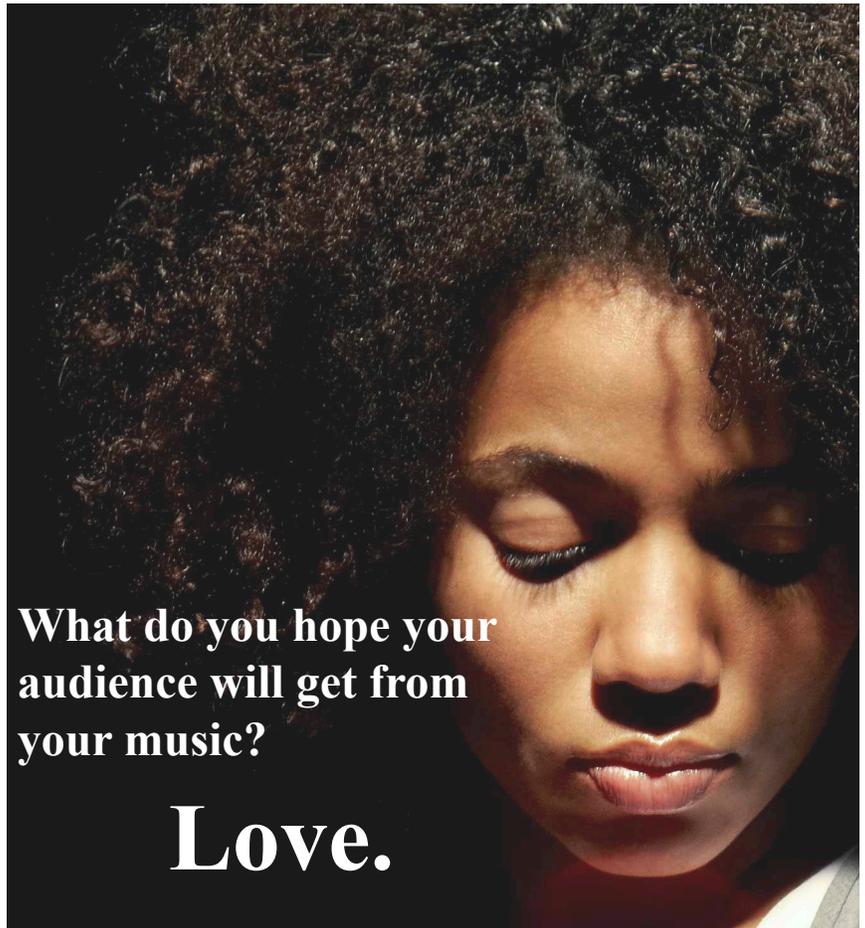
I am pushed to do music out of emotions and feelings. The only time I feel like screaming is when I see what mankind has created and how far we have gone, too far, instead of screaming I sing out the pain and melancholy I see around me, and be a mouth piece for many who do not have the courage to raise their voices due to fear or fake respect. I come from a place where people are forced to be creative; it’s up to you if you channel the energy into a negative thing or positive.

Who were your role models growing up, both musically and outside of music?

The Bible, Job and Jesus, Whitney Houston, Fela Kuti, Edna Okoli, King Sunny Ade.

Out of all the songs you have written which one is your favorite and why?

I have no favorites, though I do like “Soul is Heavy”, because it is on point hits the needle to the head, this song is about corruption and our VIP leaders who do not stick to their words but are in power for one reason self glorification and money. I stress the issues and possible solutions to the African problem. We need to be together regardless of tribe and history.



What do you hope your audience will get from your music?
Love.

If you could give advice to young Africans what would it be in regards to success?

Stay focused, go to the long and narrow path, no short cuts, be honest, and humble at all times.

Outside of music, what are your other interests?

Reading, painting, visiting family, cooking; I love cooking.

What is next for you? What hopes do you have for the future?

I am down from the American tour, and now heading to the next tour which is in UK and Europe. Then we have a Rope Foundation workshops in Sierra Leone that I am part of.

The theme for this issue is “Africa is the Future”, how do you feel your music is reflective of this?

Africa is past, present, and future, this future is part of the Trinity, my music moves like we move...and we are the chief corner stones that was once rejected.

Check out Nneka’s music and work:
www.nnekaworld.com/us
www.grab-the-rope.com
Facebook Nneka
Nneka’s on iTunes, Amazon & in stores

Rafiya

Teaching Loving Giving Thru Music

Nicole Ngokwey also known as RAFIYA is a Congolese songstress who uses her music to spread positive messages of hope, empowerment, and foremost love. One of her most influential songs was her song: *A Song for Haiti (You Are Not Abandoned)* she wrote after the Haiti earthquake of 2010. She has been able to perform at many benefits in the US to help raise awareness of the real issues on the ground in Haiti but at the same time reminding her audience through her music of the humanistic side of the tragic earthquake in Haiti. RAFIYA shares with YAV Magazine how she balances being a teacher and a singer and her need to inspire others through her music.



What inspires you to continue to pursue excellence in your music and in life?

People's positive responses and reactions inspire me to continue to pursue excellence not only in my music but also in my life in general. Knowing that I have made a difference is beyond rewarding to me and it gives me wings to fly even higher.

What do you hope your audience gets from your music?

My music is very heartfelt and positive. It's the channel that I use to uplift spirits. I hope that my audience always feels uplifted and encouraged. This has always been my goal and it's something that I will never compromise.

Outside of music what are some of your other passions or talents?

Outside of music, I am passionate teaching and education in general. I've taught French and Spanish in a language school in an elementary school and in a high school. I'm also a freelance tutor; imparting knowledge to individuals is extremely rewarding. I feel blessed to be able to do all that I love.

Who were your musical influences?

Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey truly made me want to become a singer. As a little girl I adored them and wanted to sing just like them! I grew up in a very musical family and I heard all types of music, from all over the world. There are a handful of artists who have particularly influenced me. Youssou N'dour from Senegal, Lokua Kanza from Congo and Nayanka Bell from Cote d'Ivoire come to mind.

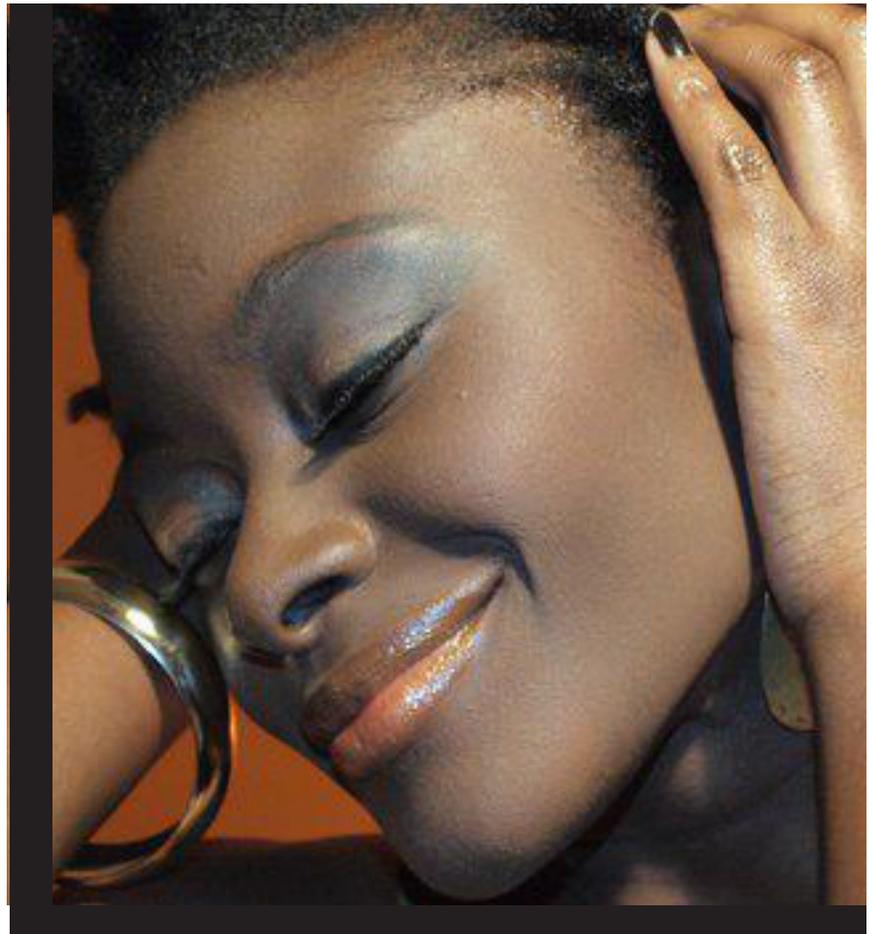
What have been some of the challenges you have faced breaking into your field and how did you overcome them?

The greatest challenge I faced as a musician was balancing being a musician and being a full time high school teacher. As very demanding endeavors, I had to learn to be creative in terms booking shows after work and on weekends. It was tough and exhausting but it was absolutely worth it because I was able to do what I love.

What is next for you? What hopes do you have for the future?

Next for me is "Africa, Where I'm from"! It's an exciting project that I'm currently working on. The anticipated release is for May/June 2012 and I cannot wait for the world to hear it! The project includes new music and partnerships with outstanding companies based in Africa. In the near future I see my career soaring to an international level, I also see myself collaborating with artists that I admire...I'm sure you guessed Lokua Kanza and Youssou N'dour are part of the list!

The theme for this issue is "Africa is the Future", how do you feel your music is reflective of this?



As an African musician, I play a role in shaping the future of Africa through my music. Since music is an extension of me, it inevitably incorporates African elements, whether it is in the instrumentation or in the language. To make a difference in the future of Africa, we need to know our past and experience Africa in the present wherever we are. The children of the Diaspora especially are reminded of the beauty of their origins through my music. My project "Africa, Where I'm from" expresses this more explicitly. It urges Africans to come together to mold the Africa of the future and to be proud of their origin.

Lastly, please let us know where we can find your work.

You can find my work and everything RAFIYA on my website www.rafiyaonline.com. Please stay tuned for "Africa, Where I'm from!" (May/June 2012) and my debut album "AMAZING" is available on iTunes and Amazon. Also check me out on Facebook and Reverbnation at www.facebook.com/rafiyamusica and at www.reverbnation.com/rafiya



AFRIKA21

YAV Magazine talks to one of the masterminds behind the AFRIKA21 Mixtape Project and the creator of Society HAE; Ngozi Odita. Ngozi Odita is one of the taste makers of the Afro-Artists movement and has been pushing the new African cultural renaissance with creative and sustainable initiatives bringing African artists to the forefront.

Photo By Delphine Fawundu

What inspired the development of AFRIKA21?

Africa has become synonymous with poverty, corruption, AIDS and civil war, but this is far from a balanced perspective. There is an abundance of talent on “The Continent”, but often times our progress and triumphs are over shadowed by the perceived problems. I conceptualized AFRIKA21 with the goal of creating a platform to celebrate the creative thinkers on the continent and reframe the conversation around Africa. I continue to be blessed with the opportunity to meet artists, musicians, filmmakers and the like from the continent that inspire much of what I do. AFRIKA21 enables me to share the goodness they create with the world.

What artists are you currently playing on rotation?

What’s really exciting is that there are so many amazing artists making music right now. The amount of music coming out of Africa from Addis Ababa to Lagos to Luanda to Johannesburg is crazy, every couple of weeks new tracks are released. I love it all, and we put in rotation as much as we can via our



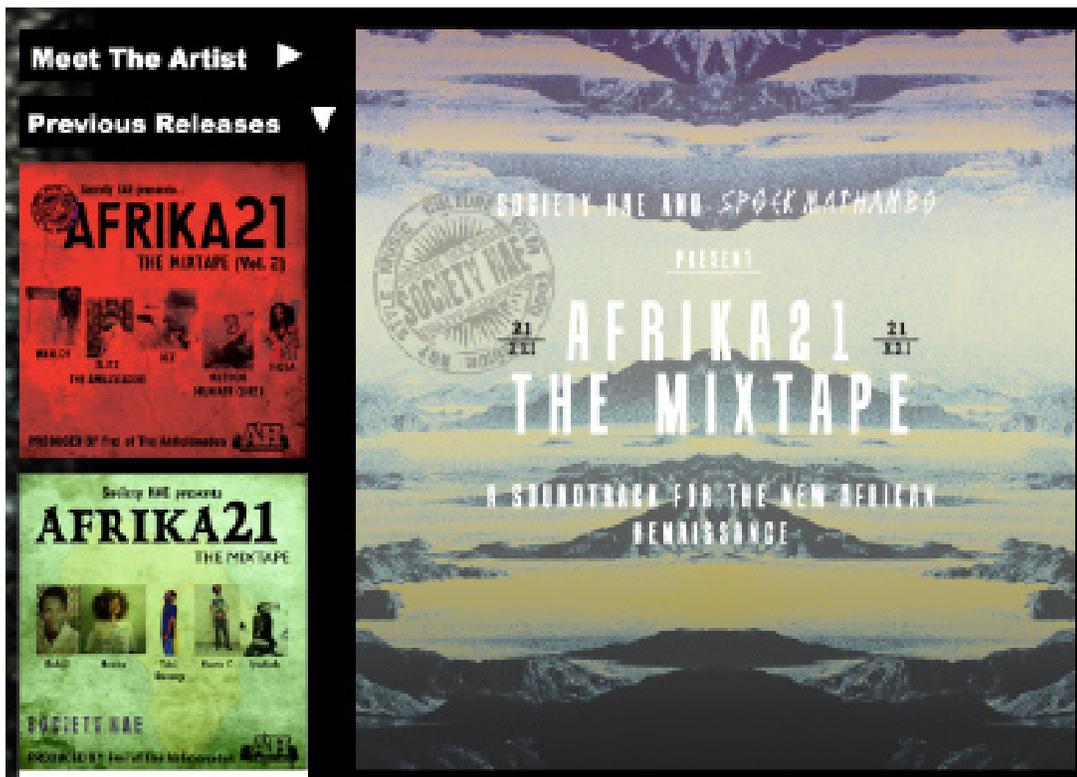
AFRIKA21 Mixtape Project and radio show. In terms of what we're playing right now, last week Sound Sultan (Nigeria) released Gud Gal and The Very Best (Malawi/Sweden) released the video for Yoshua Alikuti, so it was a must to put those songs in rotation along with new releases by M.I (Nigeria), Copperwire (Ethiopia) and HHP (South Africa). We try and make sure we're playing what's hot at home, mixed in with a few classics and special remixes.

Can you share with us a little about your SXSW African music showcase you just completed earlier this year?

The ALL AFRICA Showcase was nothing short of amazing. There has never in the history of SXSW been a delegation of artists brought from the continent to perform on one stage. The showcase featured 11 artists representing seven countries and its' purpose was to highlight Africa's next wave of music makers who are redefining African music and the continent in general. Featured artist included Seun Kutu, 2Face, Blitz The Ambassador, Baloji, Just A Band, Sauti Sol, Bez, Spoek Mathambo, Naeto C, M.I and Chief Boima. Both showcase nights were packed to capacity with a line down the block. In fact people had to be turned away. It was historic. What was also really cool was that the audience was diverse. There were of course Africans in attendance but then you had Europeans, Americans and Asians. On night there was a woman in the front from Korea losing her mind (in a good way) standing right beside a guy from Nigeria standing next to a guy from Austin, how often do you see something like that? It speaks volumes to how these artists and music in general has the ability to resonate with so many different people.

What do you see are some of the challenges African musicians face now breaking into international markets?

To break in to the international market you must travel abroad and many countries especially the US make it really hard for Africans to obtain entry visas. First and foremost it's cost prohibitive. To obtain a visa you must first file a petition with US that will cost an artist upwards of \$1,500 and if you travel with musicians



it's more like \$5,000 not to mention the overwhelming amount of supporting documents you must submit. As a result many musicians I know have been denied visas to come to the US to perform, it's really disheartening.

What is next for you? What hopes do you have for the future?

As media makers and producers we are making people more aware of the renaissance now taking place on the continent. The next step is to start collaborating with our counterparts in Africa, producing projects and creating opportunities. At present, there is a lot of interest in Africa, six of the worlds 10 fastest growing economies are in Africa, the largest youth population is on “The Continent” and there are more mobile phone users in Africa than in North America many of which will soon have access the internet via their mobile devices. Clearly there is enormous opportunity in Africa and it's of paramount importance that projects and investments in Africa are sustainable, equitable and result in economic development for citizens in their respective countries. It's critical that thoughtful leaders, technologists and entrepreneurs on the continent and within the Diaspora work together to ensure the renaissance now taking place benefits the people and I look forward to being a part of this movement.

The theme for this issue is “Africa is the Future”, how do you feel your work is reflective of this?

Everyday I encounter someone be it online or in the “real world” that blows me away, whose forward thinking foretells of the great things to come on the continent. My job is to share their story with as many people as possible, create opportunities for a richer dialogue about Africa and hopefully inspire others.

Lastly, please let us know where we can find your work.

Visit www.SocietyHAE.com for all the content we currently produce. In addition every Tuesday from 5pm to 7pm EST you can tune in to AFRIKA21 on www.bboxradio.com. It's a weekly radio show I produce and co-host with DJ Frei. We've dubbed the show “Your soundtrack for the new African renaissance.” And to keep track of the various projects I'm working on you can follow [@HAElifestyle](https://twitter.com/HAElifestyle) and [@SocietyHAE](https://twitter.com/SocietyHAE) on twitter.



FOKN REAL

The Controversial Duo FOKN BOIS--Saving African Hip-Hop and America.

Never short on creativity, the duo from Ghana FOKN BOIS has released their latest album “FOKN Wit Ewe” which is a blend of both satire and controversy. But their honest play on the most pertinent issues of today from how the world views Islam to confronting the false ideology of the American archetype is something that is much needed in the often repetitive sounds in Hip-Hop currently. The duo uses the image of FOKN BOIS to express themselves in an almost metaphoric way, both members M3nsa and Wanlov are talented

producers, musicians, and activists in their own right infusing the sound of FOKN BOIS with intelligent witty banter over infectious beats. M3nsa released an award winning album in 2011 called “No. 1 Mango Street” which he produced and wrote showing his versatility as a singer and rapper. Wanlov also released critically acclaimed “Brown Card” and “Green Card” albums prospectively gaining a huge international fan base and blending music styles inspired by his heritage of Romanian and Ghanaian ancestry. Both M3nsa and Wanlov are advocates of environmental awareness and arts education programs for youth in Ghana. When they team up together they take you on a Ghanaian adventure like no other giving their listeners get a glimpse into everyday life in Ghana as well as witnessing the innovation African youth of today. They ultimately, break down stereotypes and preconceived notions for those unfamiliar with the wealth of knowledge in African music. The duo FOKN BOIS explains to YAV Magazine how their latest album takes African Hip-Hop to the future.



Even though FOKN BOIS is seen as a bit controversial, at the same time your music is innovative, what inspires FOKN BOIS while creating music?

We always try to approach topics from the most interesting angles. Top angles, wrong and right angles and our favorites; try angles.

With the release of your new album “FOKN Wit Ewe”, what do you hope your audience will get from this album?

Us. If they don't get us, they won't get anything. But if they get it then they will get a good FOKN.

What role do you feel African musicians have in changing or shaping the image of Africa? Is your music a commentary on this or purely just entertainment?

What we speak is what shall be so we speak thoughtfully. Our music is a new age design that is both functional and entertaining.

What has been your most precious memory thus far promoting your new album?

We were on stage in Copenhagen performing “Help America” and halfway through the song the crowd rather started chanting “Fuck America” in unison. We were precious in shock and awe. We're also precious about the memory left on the hard drive on which the album was recorded.

What is next for FOKN BOIS? What hopes do you have for the future?

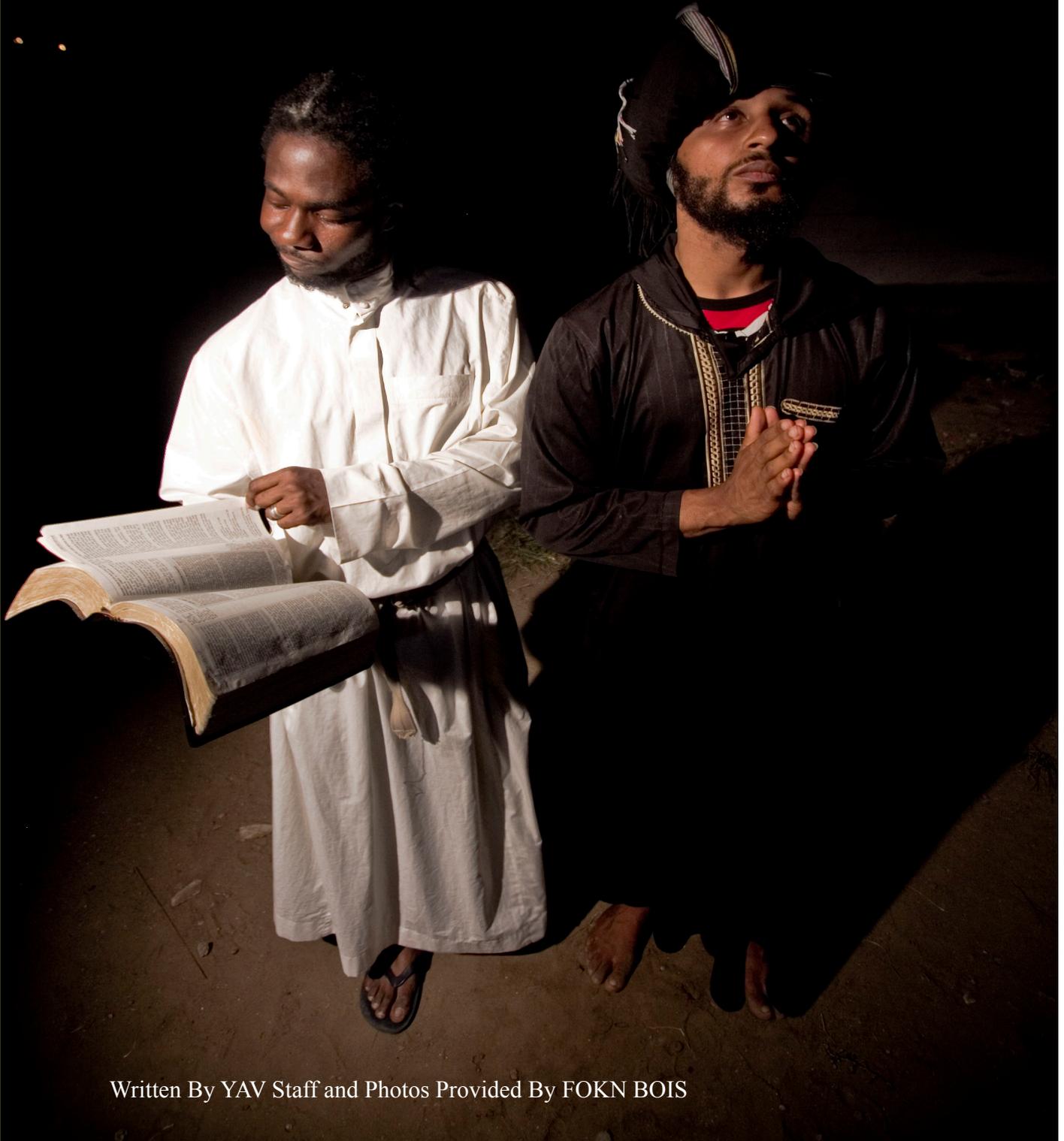
We are writing *Coz Ov Moni 2 - FOKN Revenge* which we plan to film by end of 2012, we are working on several recordings with several producers around the world...we don't have any hopes.

The theme for this issue is “Africa is the Future”, how do you feel your music is reflective of this?

We have a song called “FOKN Future” which we have performed in front of a mirrors made in China so we feel our music is very reflective of this.

Lastly, please let us know where we can find your work.

www.youtube.com/foknbois , www.foknbois.bandcamp.com & iTunes



Written By YAV Staff and Photos Provided By FOKN BOIS



EFYA

GOLDEN SONG BIRD

Written By YAV Staff and Photos By RAF



EfyA recently perform in New York at DROM to a full house sharing a blend of her original Ghanaian Neo-Soul music. EfyA got notable recognition after teaming up with Nigerian singer Dipo for the song “Be My Man”. She has since worked with artists Sarkodie, M.Anifest, and Yaa Pono of Ghana for the songs “I’m In Love With You”, “Asa”, and “Good Morning”.

With comparisons to Lauryn Hill and American jazz greats, EfyA is sure to please audiences with her upcoming album *Love Genesis*. Singing since the age of 9 years old, EfyA has grown as an artist. The most impressive thing about EfyA is her confidence and unfiltered talent.

Visit EfyA on Reverbnation
www.reverbnation.com/efya
EFYA Facebook

5 Questions with Congo Creative Alec Lomami

Written By Mazuba Kapambwe & Photography By Shako Oteka

Two decades before African nightclubs became saturated with the sounds of WizKid, D'Banj and other Naija pop artists; the Democratic Republic of Congo was the go-to country that produced some of the most successful African musicians. Artists like Koffi Olomide, Awilo Longomba, Papa Wemba and others managed to transcend boundaries and export their music from local “Chez Ntemba’s” (one of the most famous night clubs in Kinsasha) to sold out concerts in France and other European countries.



Nowadays, artists like Baloji and Fally Ipupa receive as much airplay as any Naija pop artist, but we would like to introduce you to someone we think is Congo’s “next big Act”; his name is Alec Lomami. He recently was named a MTV Iggy Artist of the week (August 2011), featured on Fader Magazine’s website for his single “Kinsasha” --a warm jailhouse rap ode to his hometown. His second single was the more upbeat “Pop Revolution” which was inspired by elections in Congo, as well as Afropolitans he met on a New York trip. I asked Alec Lomami five questions, we talked music, concerts and more.



I We know you're in Zimbabwe working on your new album. How's that going?

It's going well. I've finally settled on a few tracks which will make the "Melancholie Joyeuse" EP. I hope to release it in June.

“ I Create the Best Music I Can”

2 Congo is known for producing musical greats like Koffi Olomide, Tshala Mwana and more, but it seems there's a new creative Congolese class coming up. Do you consider yourself part of that group?

I think that it would be a bit ostentatious of me to place myself in that class. Those are some very accomplished artists that I appreciate and respect immensely. Personally, I just want to create the best music I can.





© Shako Oteka

3 What music/artists did you grow up listening to?

I grew up listening to a lot of different things. I've always been at home in various genres, so I was a fan of Michael Jackson, Tupac, Prince, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Angelique Kidjo, Wenge Musica, Salif Keita, Nas etc. I could go on for days!

4 What's the best musical concert you've been to?

It would be blasphemous of me to list one, so let's pretend that all these artists performed at one concert, shall we? The Roots, M.I.A, Pusha T, Ra Ra Riot, Murs, Lissie and Papa Wemba. That would be one hell of a show.

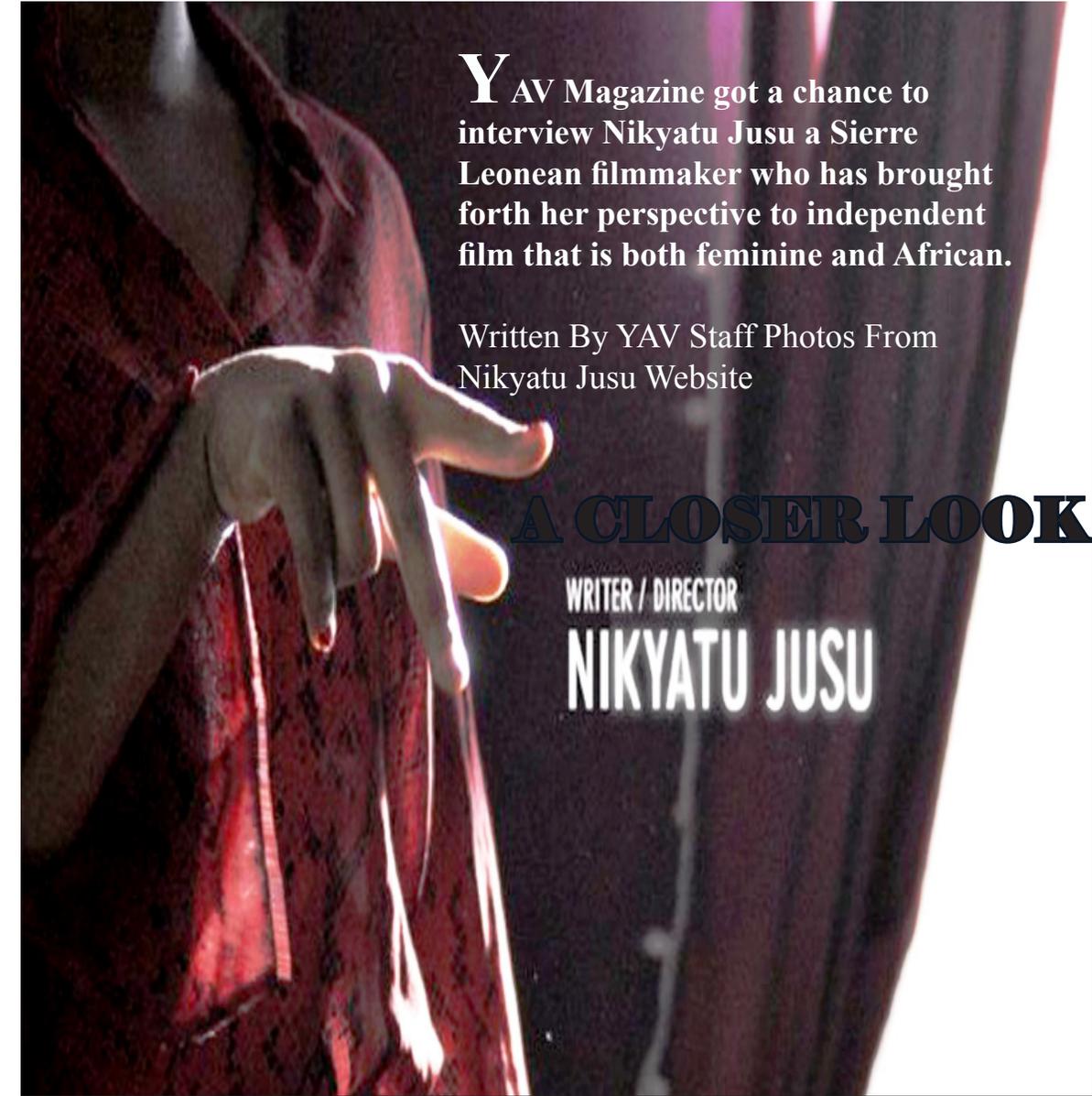


© Shako Oteka

5 If you could only listen to two albums for the rest of your life, what would those be?

“Titanic” by JB Mpiana. I was saddened by the breakup of Wenge Musica, as I was always more of a Werra Son fan when they were together, but that album made me switch sides. It's the album that popularized the dance “Ndombolo”. To this day, I listen to it from beginning to end. The second one is ‘Graduation’ by Kanye West. That's a near perfect album. I once drove fourteen hours from New Orleans to North Carolina listening to that album on repeat.

Make sure to lookout for Alec Lomami's upcoming EP *Melancholie Joyeuse* (Merry Melancholy) due to be released in June and check him out on aleclomami.bandcamp.com



YAV Magazine got a chance to interview Nikyatu Jusu a Sierr Leonean filmmaker who has brought forth her perspective to independent film that is both feminine and African.

Written By YAV Staff Photos From Nikyatu Jusu Website

A CLOSER LOOK

WRITER / DIRECTOR

NIKYATU JUSU

What have been some of the challenges you have faced breaking into your field?

The typical challenges that most filmmakers face; filmmaking is arguably the most expensive art form and garnering enough money is always a huge hurdle although I'm always challenging myself to be more innovative and economical in my creative approaches--utilizing whatever resources I can get my hands on.

Do you feel as an African, that some things are harder to maintain? For example is it harder to get a job in your field?

On the contrary, I find that my African heritage gives me a slight advantage -- only in the sense that I can straddle the two worlds by pursuing opportunities both in the USA and in other countries where "African-ness" is still perceived as exotic and uncharted territory. For instance, I find it interesting that there is relatively ample funding for projects shot in Africa by African filmmakers; whereas here in the USA African-American directed content is unbelievably hard to fund unless one approaches private investors. Many

Some of Nikyatu Jusu's Films From
www.nikyatu.com

AFRICAN BOOTY SCRATCHER the short Jusu

from Nikyatu Jusu



[BLACK SWAN THEORY] teaser from Nikyatu Jusu

from Nikyatu Jusu



[SAY GRACE BEFORE DROWNING] short Jusu

from Nikyatu Jusu



African filmmakers under their wing. Here in the states, African-Americans are not necessarily a target for such initiatives.

Who were your role models?

I have so many filmmaking "role models": Ousmane Sembene, Andrew Dosunmu, Lynne Ramsay, Andrea Arnold, Mahen Bonetti--just to name a few. But of course my most prevalent and direct role model has always been my mother.

What has been your most precious achievement thus far?

Winning an equipment grant from Panavision: any award that enables me to contribute money towards my next project keeps me going--

What projects are you currently working on?

I'm developing a feature script *FREEtheTOWN*: a multi-narrative thread in the same vein as *Babel* and *Amores Perros* that forces four disparate characters' lives to intertwine violently in the capital city of Sierra Leone, West Africa. I'm also collaborating with my writing/directing partner Darius Monroe--we're going into production on our feature film debut *FCK MY LIFE* in Atlanta, Georgia this fall.

What is next for you? What hopes do you have for the future?

I hope I can stay prolific and continue to tell stories through cinema. I hope to keep honing my craft to the best of my ability.

Africa is currently going through a renaissance of sorts, in your country of heritage what is the most exciting thing to you happening or what are you looking forward to see happen back home?

A few notable film festivals have surfaced in Freetown, Sierra Leone that I am extremely excited about, one of them *OPIN YU YI* (Open Your Eyes) recently screened one of my short films, *SAY GRACE BEFORE DROWNING*. Cinema in Sierra Leone is beginning to flourish.



SOULPURPOSE
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Having the opportunity to have a talk with the music gurus deep in the industry, I discussed the connection of music and education. Is music just pure entertainment and fan collection, or do musicians actually have a mission beyond becoming popular--a mission to educate the society through music? To be honest listening to the famous Zimbabwean song “Tezvara Varamba” never ignited my brain towards intellectually thoughts but it did make me feel socially aware of my environment and connected to my fellow peers when we sang together over it and laughed about it. So, reaching out to the Zimbabwean music critics, I drilled them with a few questions which they gladly answered as music is their passion

Written By Clarah Manuhwa

Interview with Seleville Business Solutions

Questioning Chief Operations Officer: Seletine Tau

So who is Seletine Tau?

I am a young Zimbabwean Entrepreneur & traveller with interests in Web and Multimedia solutions. A follower of trends in International Music , film, lifestyle and Arts as I mould my craft as the best leader I can be today and tomorrow. Powered By God.

As a music critic plus a manager, what is your favorite music piece and why?

DJ Naida Ft Fungai - *Beautiful Day*, because it's got that nice acoustic feel and smooth melodies to really brighten up your day.

Would you find the prior to be educational in any sense if yes , what have you learnt from it?

Educational in a social but not academic sense, yes. It's just a track that makes you want to spread love and appreciate the people who mean the world to you.

From the song Tezvara Varamba, how do you think musicians are viewed in our society?

With reference to *Tezvara Varamba* especially rappers as well as rockstars: they are usually stigmatised by the older generation, as people who don't respect cultural values or are just wild cards in society but I think this is not true to some extent. We have musicians like Nyari Mashayamombe, who is inspiring young girls with her music and collaborating in various society building initiatives across Zimbabwe.

Would you have any problem with raising a child who wanted to do solely music as a profession?

I wouldn't have a problem with it, as long as he/she is really serious about pursuing it, I'll step in every step of the way.

What words do you have to say on the power of music in young peoples life?

The ability to make music is a gift from God, it may either build or destroy societies, which is power....So use your Power Wisely!

Interview with John Mirii Ngugi

Tell us about King Ngugi?

My name is John Mirii Ngugi. Zimbabwean by birth, originally Kenyan. I am the Business development Officer at That Squad Media/Chamhembe and I manage

music producer Take Fizzo. I am the event organizer of a monthly event called Zwagga Nyt that showcases Zimbabwe's top urban contemporary artists including Tehn Diamond, Stunner, MC Chita, Jnr Brown, M'afriq, Iratty and more.

As a music critic plus a manager, what is your favorite music piece and why?

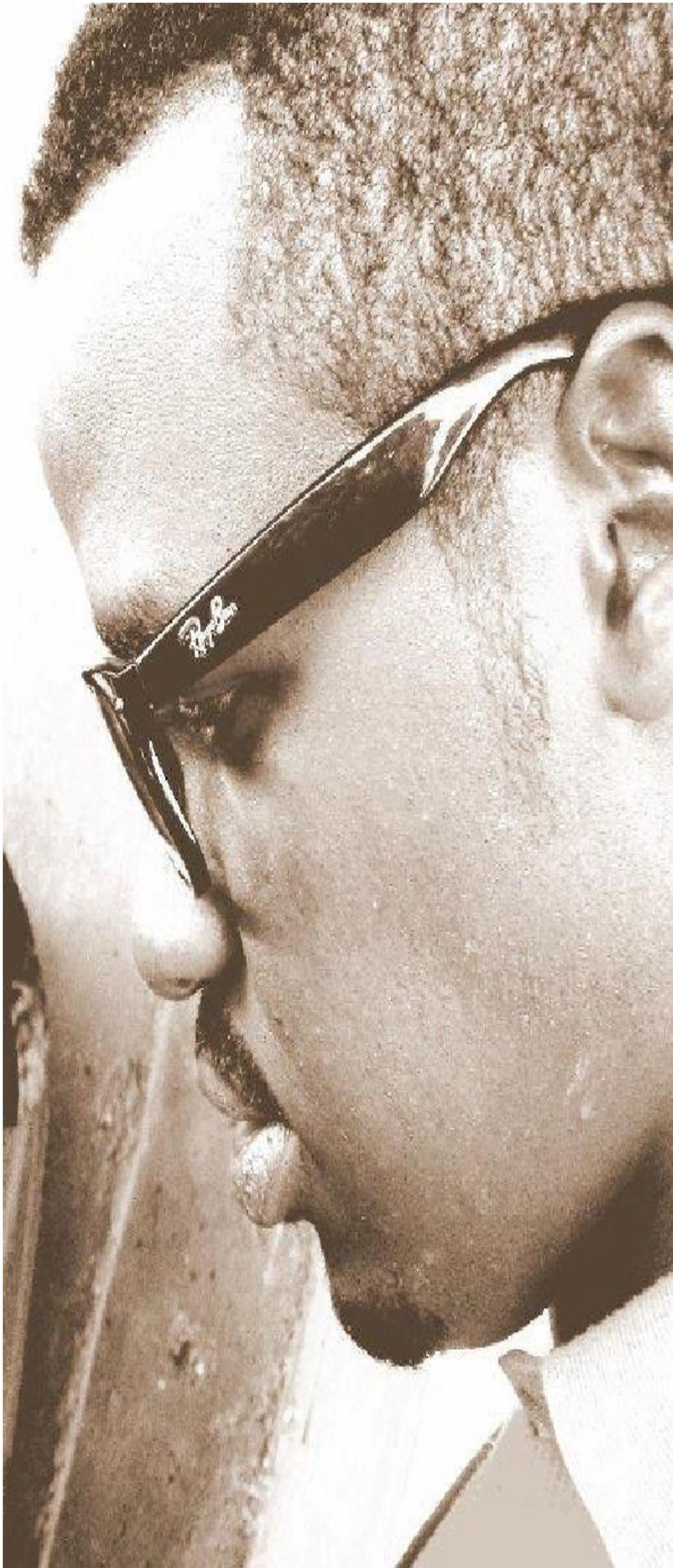
My favorite is always changing because I listen to so much although right now I'd say my favorite of the moment is a song by Tehn Diamond featuring Davina Green and S-Preme entitled *Be Amazing*.

Would you find the prior to be educational in any sense if yes , what have you learnt from it?

The song is not educational per say, its more motivational, but then again most motivation involves learning your capabilities so yes and no. What i do learn from listening to this song is that no one around you or anywhere for that matter can limit you from being amazing!

From the song Tezvara Varamba, how do you think musicians are viewed in our society?

Musicians have a horrible reputation. I attribute this to our industry having a lot of misguided talent. Having immense talent and no manners/ social etiquette makes one look mentally insane. Then of course the industry is plagued with infidelity but then again its simply a lack of guidance. This bad rep is slowly turning into a cliché though because more musicians are turning into 'entertainers' so everything they ever do is considered as an act, a form of entertainment and so doesn't seem too drastic or publicly offensive. The biggest point i must include here (very much in regard to the song-*Tezvara Varamba*), is that



the path to becoming a successful artist has commonly been portrayed as extremely hard and not conducive for starting a family which is the cornerstone of African life... subsequently any girl who introduces a musician to her parents as a potential spouse is told that she is insane and that artists are worthless. Personally i think we are just about to reach a time when this notion will be completely over turned. The same way teachers used to be the most looked up to....now they are the most disrespected, accountants used to be at the top of the food chain, now they are just a wheel in the machine. artists have been 'just' entertainers, the time is coming where they will be leaders. Eg. The president of Haiti and the president of Madagascar.

Would you have any problem with raising a child who wanted to do solely music as a profession?

Not at all! Its as much off a great occupation as any other. I come from a very artistic family so infact I will check whether my child is inclined to that before anything else. Then if he/she is, make sure that there is a provision in whatever school they attend to get a full music education. Apart from that, it would be easy for my child seeing as i am already deep into music. Being in the arts is more fulfilling I think

What words do you have to say on the power of music in young peoples life?

Music can dictate emotions and emotions dictate a large amount of any humans actions. Only when one makes a conscious effort to ignore their emotions will they begin to even try to alter their actions. Music will make you laugh in the midst of your worst nightmare,

make you hot and bothered when your trying to be serious...music will make you kill a person. Music will lift you up and then take you even higher. Watch what you listen to but just remember to appreciate it all!!Without it life would be bland.

The third interview was with a young Zimbabwean musician and the questions obviously became different. Youth to youth here is the interview with D-Blok D-lo Swag.

So Who is D-Blok D-Lo Swag



As a musician how do you come up with your music? what inspires you?

My emotions help me come up with my music. My pain and my joy are my muse.

Do you find your music educative in any way?

I consider my music to be self-empowering and not educative. I'm a realist type of artist. Every song has a self motivational message created from what I deem to be reality its not meant to educate but to stimulate the mind and body.

What are the challenges in the music industry you have faced?

To be honest I haven't faced any real challenges that other musicians have faced. Everyone I've worked with or simply seen me performing have shown me nothing but support and love. I actualy think I'm the challenge that I'm facing

Last words to readers and young people out there?

The music industry is easy to get into but hard to stay in. Everyone wants the number one spot. You have to be adaptive in order to survive. Don't just do it cause you can but do it cause you willing to work hard for it. Not every character we portray in our music is meant to be emulated. With that I hope evryone learns a thing or two about music and its power. It might not be highly academic but it sure is inspirational and an essential piece to society. Music has done great things.



COMING SOON!!

BAVUBUKADYNASTY

THE URBAN INDIGENOUS LIFESTYLE



Living a legacy of dreams, visions & creativity

Bavubuka Dynasty is a unique, forward-thinking brand focusing on fashion, music and art. Our collective of artists are innovative, creative entrepreneurs of all ages whose designs reflect the ingenuity and global appeal of their communities. These passionate minded artists seek to educate, preserve and archive the history of their culture and tradition by fusing traditional and contemporary elements to create products that celebrate our urban indigenous lifestyle.

Bavubuka Dynasty is the first brand to merge the beauty and diversity of indigenous Uganda with luxury fashion and make a global impact. We love to explore the diversity and complexity of the true stories living in each community we represent. These stories inspire our dynamic, cutting edge line of products which includes t-shirt lines, documentary films, collaborative music albums, indigenous art, enviro-friendly

jewelry as well as spoken word and storybook collections.

Founded by the creative director, Silas Babiyeekubo, in Kampala Uganda & Vancouver BC, Bavubuka Dynasty is an international community platform with a strong following of socially conscious musicians, fashion designers, visual artists, poets, motivational speakers and loyal consumers.

ENVISION TOMORROW TODAY

YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES 2012

NOMINATE YOUR CHOICE FOR THIS YEAR

YAV MAGAZINE WILL CHOOSE
10 YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES TO BE A PART
OF OUR SPECIAL VISIONARIES GALA PLUS A
CHANCE TO APPEAR ON YAVTV'S SPECIAL WEB
SERIES.

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YAV
YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES MAGAZINE

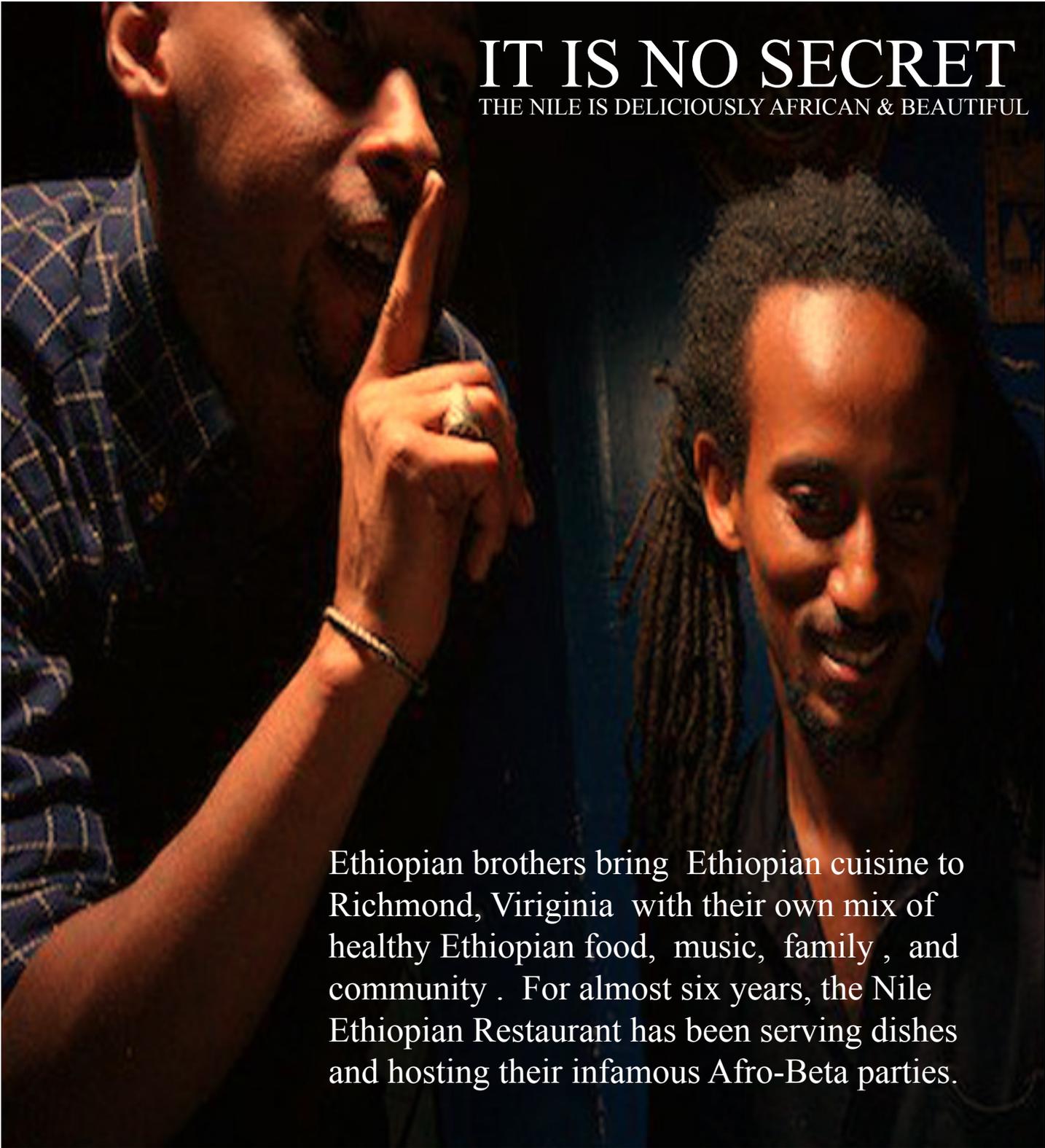
ENVISION TOMORROW TODAY

IN 2011 THE YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES PROJECT WAS JUST A MODEL FOR EXPOSING THE WORLD TO THE WORK OF YOUNG AFRICANS WORLDWIDE DOING GREAT THINGS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. TEN YOUNG AFRICANS WERE CHOSEN TO HIGHLIGHT IN OBAASEMA MAGAZINE AND TO BE A PART OF THE YAV MUSIC FORUM.

NOW IT IS 2012, AND YAV MAGAZINE IS GOING TO LOOK FOR 10 NEW YOUNG AFRICAN VISIONARIES TO HIGHLIGHT AND INVITE TO OUR 2ND ANNUAL MUSIC FORUM AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU OUR READERS WHO YOU WANT TO SEE US NOMINATE.

EMAIL BGNBPRO@GMAIL.COM



IT IS NO SECRET

THE NILE IS DELICIOUSLY AFRICAN & BEAUTIFUL

Ethiopian brothers bring Ethiopian cuisine to Richmond, Virginia with their own mix of healthy Ethiopian food, music, family, and community. For almost six years, the Nile Ethiopian Restaurant has been serving dishes and hosting their infamous Afro-Beta parties.

Written By Rebekah A. Frimpong & Pictures Courtesy of Nile Restaurant

Since 2006, the Nile Ethiopian Restaurant has been a staple in the small city of Richmond, Virginia serving healthy Ethiopian food and hosting the open dance party “Afro-Beta” which is a combination of a drum circle, Brazilian Samba, an African dance party, and more. To me, the Nile Ethiopian Restaurant is a great example of how young Africans are finding ways to cherish their heritage in innovative ways and provide opportunities



for others in their communities. One of the owners is a friend of mine, Benyamen Teklemariam with his family opened the Nile in Richmond, Virginia (a Southern small city not known for diversity) and it became an instant hit with the locals because they had never had Ethiopian food or they were wishing there was an Ethiopian spot like the Nile Ethiopian Restaurant located in the heart of Richmond. Benyamen Teklemariam and his family are very active in supporting other small business and helping young people pursue their dreams. The Nile Ethiopian Restaurant event sponsors the Ethiopian Ski Association and other African organizations making positive global impact. I was definitely, excited about the Nile the first time I visited and I quickly fell in love with the food and the atmosphere. I felt beautiful and proud to be African while dinning in the Nile conversating with patrons about social justice and music. If you ever find yourself in Richmond, Virginia visiting or passing through on your way to Myrtle Beach or Florida, make sure to stop by the Nile Ethiopian Restaurant for food and maybe even a party.



Try the Vegetarian Plattter
for Lunch or Dinner

Also Check Out The
“**Afro-Beta**” Series

Visit:
Nile Ethiopian Restaurant
309 N. Laurel St.
Richmond, VA 23220
Tel: (804) 225-5544
www.nilerichmond.com



YAV PROFILE ARCHIVES

KALAB BERHANE
Co-Founder of Africology

Africology

The concept for Africology was started around 2006, when Kalab Berhane first moved to New York and met Sirak Gertchew (creative business partner/Co-Founder of Africology). Berhane notes: "I always wanted to create a platform for African artists and artists of the Diaspora". Berhane came up with the name Africology and once the name was established things started moving fast, working with Sirak Gertchew, Kalab Berhane ran Africology out of Ethiopia and New Jersey. Africology was first hosting parties and using guerilla marketing, celebrate music and culture of Africa, offering New Yorkers a venues where they could meet people from all parts of Africa and hear African music.

Then in 2010, Africology struck with *Africa Hot* a dance party series and event established to benefit the African people in New York. Africology also in the summer of 2010 teamed up with Somi of New Africa Live, to have parties around the first of month and then later teamed up with BFH Magazine. Africology

also sponsored and coordinated parties featuring films (*Coz Ov Moni* and *Streetball*,) while providing music, and other African media to entertain.

The Future

In Ethiopia Africology has a three hour radio show, called Afro FM that has been around since 2010 playing whatever African artists Berhane and Gertchew felt needed exposure including podcast for online listeners. Africology has done artist interviews with Cody Chestnut, Gibril Da African, Peter Morgan, ...and other artist and screen them on Vimeo on the Africology Vimeo page. Africology was established with the ultimate goal of doing an African tour with all the artists they have worked with so far. Berhane believes: "through music you can experience another part of the world you may never get to experience".

Advice/Motivation

Berhane feels the best advice for musicians or those interested in the music industry is to : " always listen to music and be fascinated by music". Berhane is a people person and helping people drives him. His advice to other young Africans; teamwork is the most important, without that you have nothing. Berhane is open to criticism which keeps him grounded.

Archive Article Excerpt From Young African Visionaries Project with Obaasema Magazine Profiles on Young African Visionaries 2011-Written by Rebekah Frimpong




Mushana
under one sun

www.mushana.com

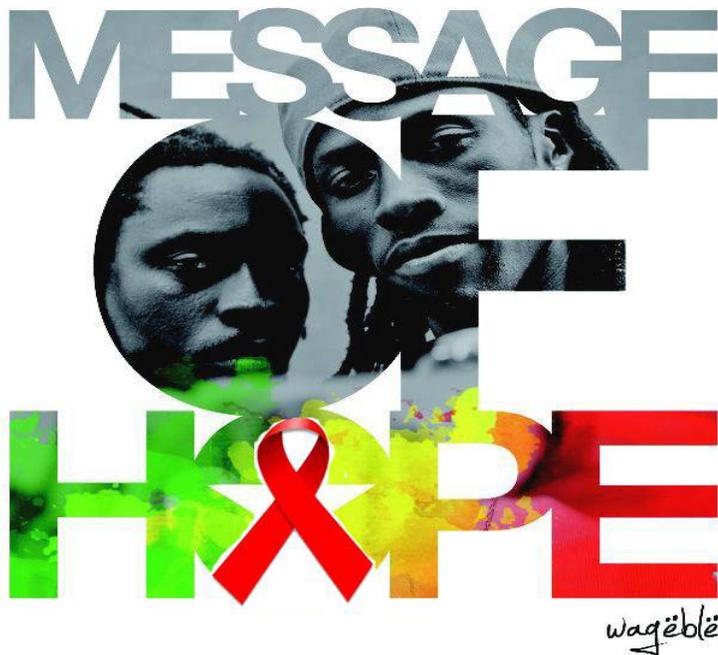
YAV MUSICAL VISONARIES LIST

YAV Magazine's Top Picks of Young African Making Music a Movement



BLITZthe Ambassador *Ghana*

Also known as the band leader; Blitz the Ambassador is a creative producer, rapper, and aspiring filmmaker. With his latest album *Native Sun* and short film, Blitz blended traditional sounds of Ghana and Afro-beat to make his version of Hip-hop the soundtrack and the music landscape for the album.



WAGEBLE

Senegal

The Senegales Hip-Hop duo Wageble has been captivating audiences with their brand of Griot-Hip-hop with lyrics about youth empowerment and the political scene in Senegal.



K'NAAN

Somalia

First giving an audience a taste of his socially conscious Hip-Hop with *Dusty Foot Philosopher*, K' Naan has been helping put spotlight on East African music and share his story of triumph in the face of struggle inspiring African youth around the world.



RUBY AMANFU

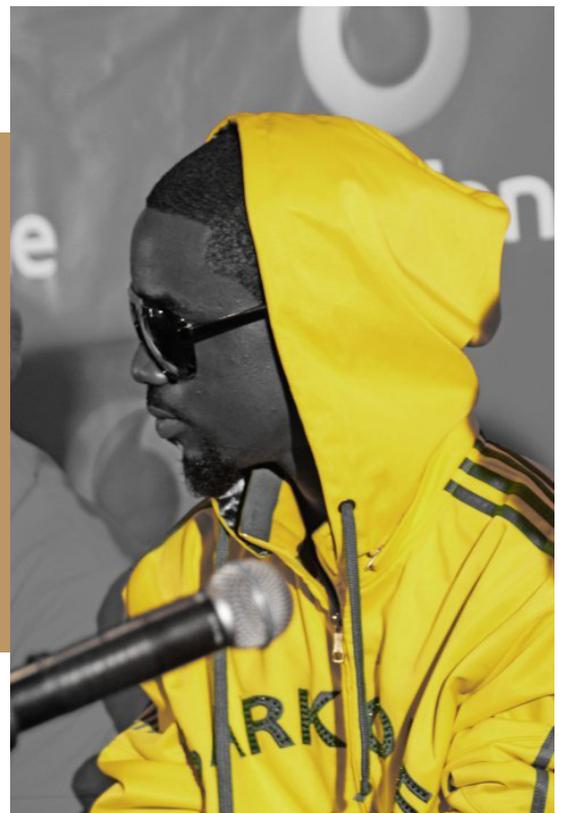
Ghana

Lending her voice to the new single by White Stripes Jack White called “Love Interruption”, Ruby Amanfu has worked with artists like Patti LaBelle, Kelly Clarkson, and Katie Herzig. Ruby has a voice that is Rock infused and soul heavy which has allowed her to cross music genres working with Rock musicians to Country music stars.

SARKODIE

Ghana

Ghana’s golden boy, Sarkodie has won various African music awards and took Ghana and the world by storm by pushing the Azonto dance craze with his song “You Go Kill Me”. Taking Ghana’s Rap industry to new heights Sarkodie is always grateful for his success sometimes writing songs that are inspirational and share his relationship with God.





SPOEK MATHAMBO

South Africa

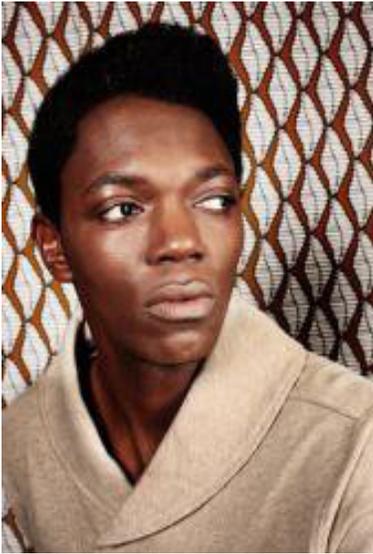
With the release of his second album *Father Creeper*, Spoeck Mathambo is not playing by any rules combining the most futuristic sounds and creative arrangements in African music today. His experimental way of making his songs is what audiences love and he is a pioneer in the new African renaissance in music.



SOMI

Rwanda-Uganda

The Founder of New Africa Live, a non-profit organization promoting African music, Somi has made her mark in America, Europe, and in Africa. She blends Jazz and R&B Soul music to create her own sound that is smooth and elegant.



BALOJI

Congo

The Congolese Belgian who was born in Lubumbashi in 1978, Baloji released his album 'Hotel Impala' about his quest for identity amidst displacement and creativity as a man in his early thirties. His voice and sound can be said to be both spiritual and soulful (as if both blend to reveal his identity). Baloji is a magician, and a musician. These two words are synonymous with his lyrics and infectious sound gallery of vocals and instruments. As Baloji says: "I'm Goin' Home" or "Nakuenda", which means "return" in Swahili. With influences like Marvin Gaye, Baloji, has captured audiences in North America, South America, and Europe as well as the youth of Africa.



JAY GHARTEY

Ghana

They call him "PaPa" the title also of his latest single, Jay Ghartey has managed to have a music career both in the US and in Ghana keeping his sound authentic and Ghanaian. His songs are both in Twi (Akan) and English.



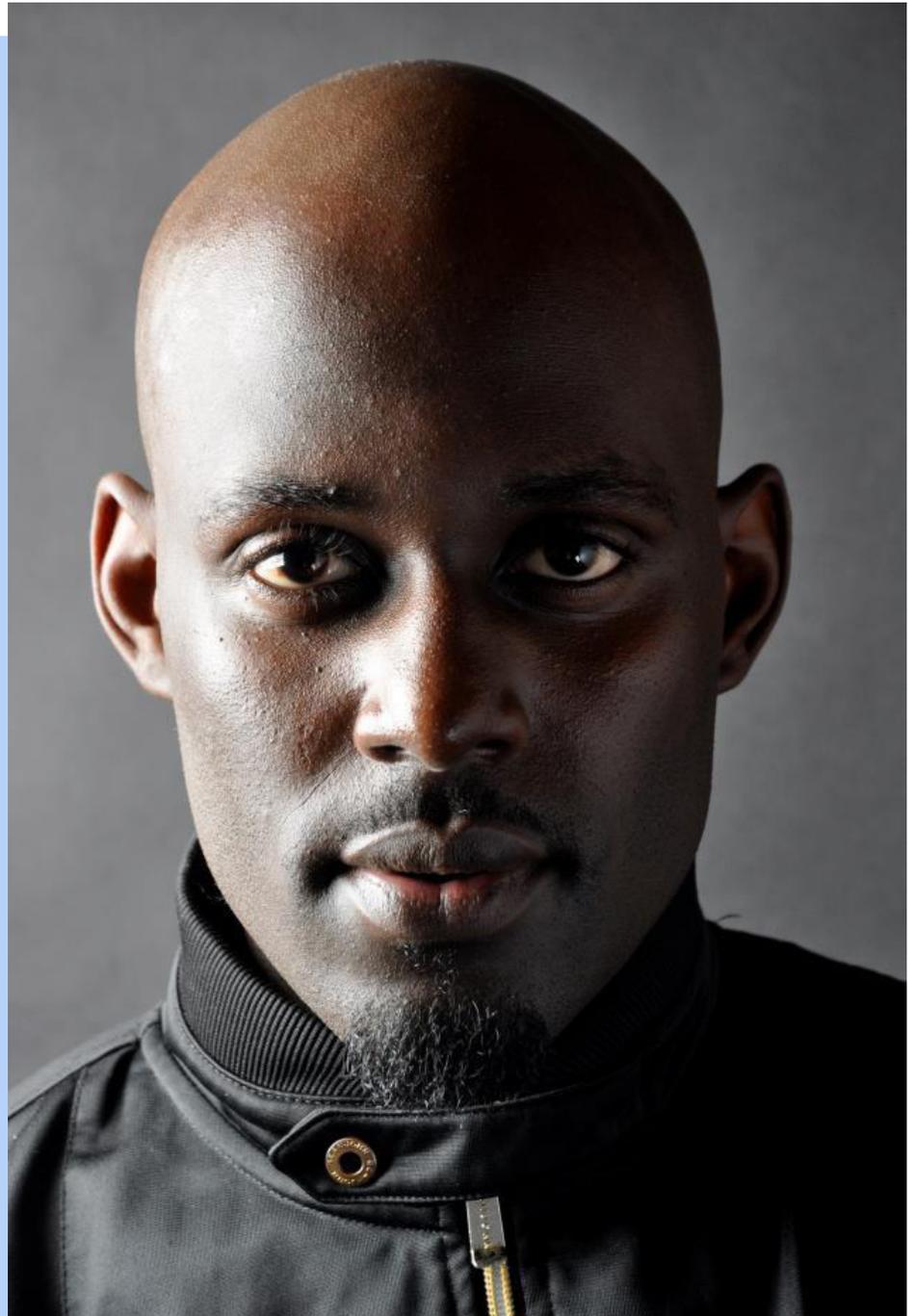
UGANDA'S MUSIC MOVEMENT

There are many musicians in Uganda doing great things in their communities and changing the music scene in East Africa. But one voice has been getting a lot of recognition lately and that is the voice of Maurice Kirya.

MAURICE KIRYA

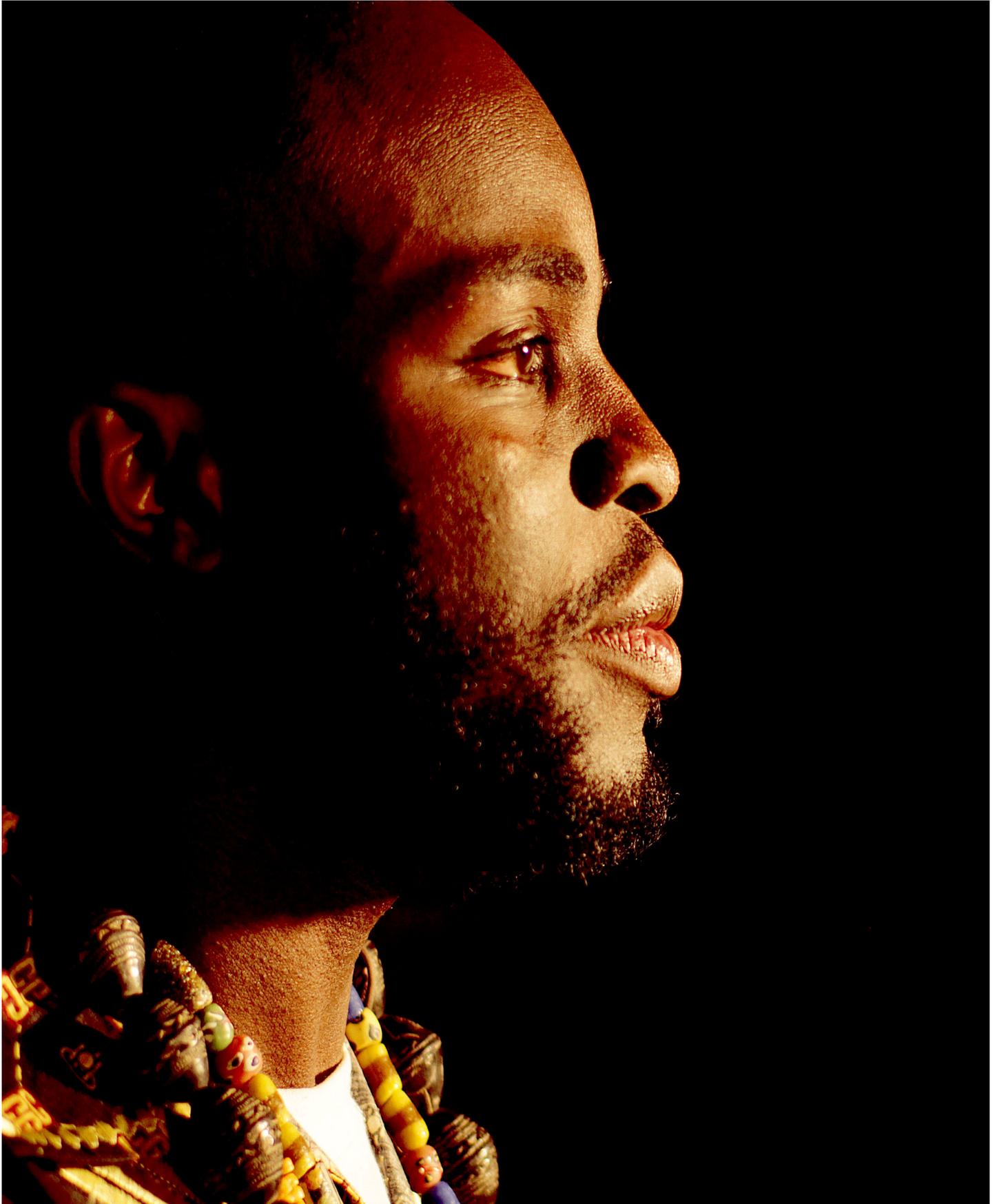
Uganda

His debut album *Misubbaawa* released in 2010 got him recognition on CNN and his hit from the album “Boda Boda” became an anthem on the streets of Kampala Uganda. His about to release his second album and the first single from it “I Don’t Wanna to Fight” is already getting buzz and his is now the sweet voice of Uganda’s Soul and Acoustic music scene. In his music there are messages of spreading peace, accepting inner beauty, and more ranging from lyrics about love to everyday life.



VISIONARY OF THE MONTH

MANIFEST DESTINY



Kwame Ametepee Tsikata also known as M.Anifest is taking music to a different level in Ghana. Spending most of his time in past few years in Minneapolis in the United States completing his latest work *Immigrant Chronicles: Coming to America*, M.Anifest is now touring in his homeland of Ghana bringing his music back to where it started for him. Respected in international underground Hip-Hop circles for his realistic lyrics and drum driven grooves, M.Anifest is a great example of the multifaceted musician. M.Anifest has worked with artists from Senegal, Uganda, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine shedding light on positive images in Islam and Hip-Hop. M.Anifest took some time out of his busy schedule to talk to YAV Magazine and share how his latest album is making buzz on charts worldwide and what current projects he is working on.

What inspires you to continue to pursue excellence in your music and in life?

There have been many that came before me whose ideas, works, and legacies have contributed so much to our humanity and given us many things we now take for granted; from refrigeration to the moog to spell check to a metal bird with wings. It's not about what you came to find but what you leave behind. To make lasting contributions excellence is necessary. I owe it to the gifts given to me to take things to the next level.

With the release of your new album "Immigrant Chronicles: Coming to America", what do you hope your audience will get from this album?

I put my best foot forward with this album. Its embrace so far has been a testament to how much people bump to music that resonates with many aspects of our lives past the simplicity of club hopping and popping tags. It's been said every piece of art is autobiographical, and immigrant chronicles is just that. Musings about life from my immigrant eyes and experiences that fortunately strike a chord with people from significantly different experiences; from folks from Accra to Minneapolis. It's a beautiful thing.



Photo By Rab Bakari

Outside of music what are some of your other passions or talents?

I'm a co-founder of a conference called Giant Steps which brings together entrepreneurial creative people and creative entrepreneurs (www.GiantStepsMN.com) to network and exchange ideas on how to do what you love and to make a living out of it. As someone building a career independently I understand the importance of bringing together like minds to propel ideas forward through unlikely collaborations and cross-disciplinary sharing and learning. I also support Young Entrepreneurs Africa, which an organization working on giving marginalized African youth the tools to flourish as entrepreneurs. My endless list of other talents include: public speaking, making a mean beef stew, and an infectious laugh.

Who were your role models growing up, both musically and outside of music?

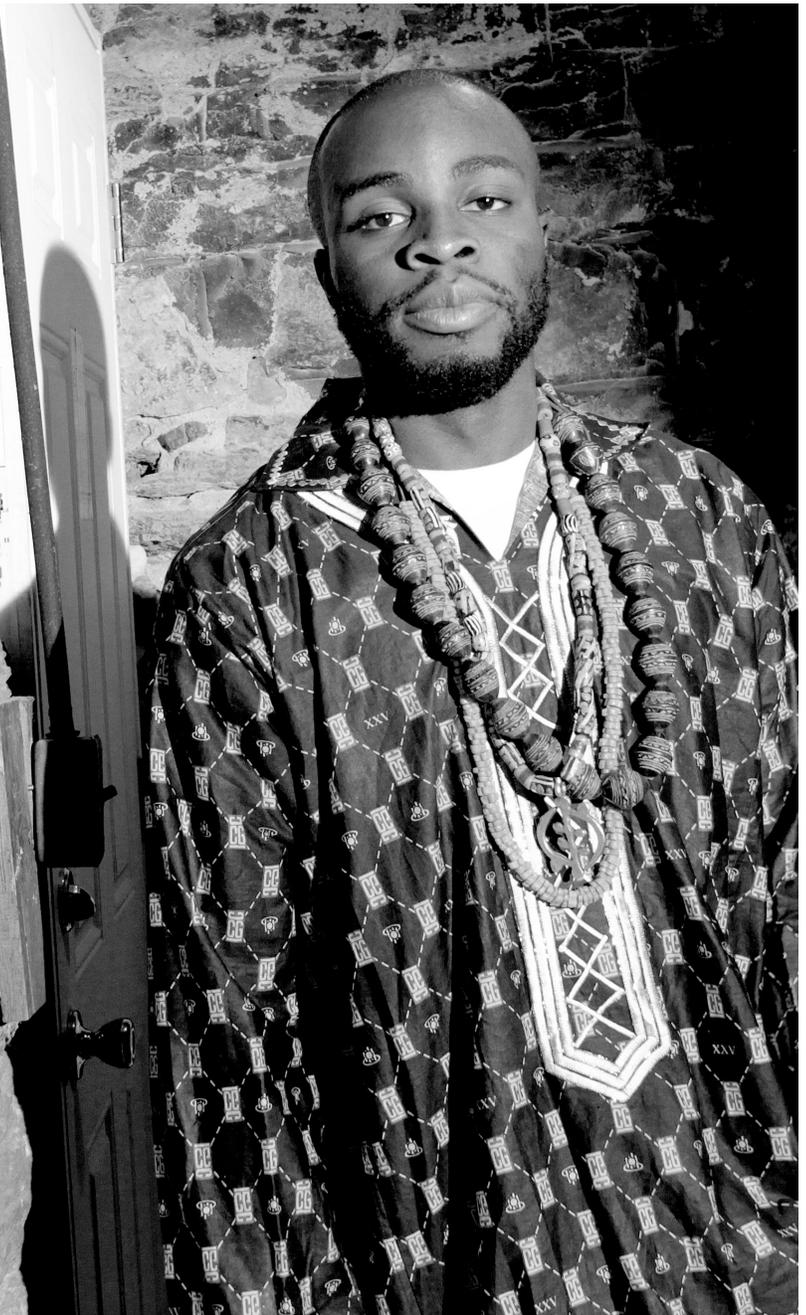
As I grow older I become a lot more suspicious of the idea of role models because it suggests modeling yourself after someone and neglecting to nurture your unique self and the fact that we're all beautifully flawed. That said some of the people I respect and have gained inspiration from include my grandpa, Nas, Reggie Rockstone, Ayi Kwei Armah, Thomas Sankara, D'angelo, Yaa Asantewaa, Hugh Masekela, Ngugi Wa'Thiongo, 2Pac, Lauryn Hill, Fela, Koo Nimo and more.

What has been your most precious memory thus far being in Ghana promoting your new album?

We put together a show with Highlife legend Ebo Taylor, Songstress Efyaa, and myself in December. It was the first time I was performing songs of the new record fully in my hometown. I had also just come from an amazing European tour experience with Tony Allen (Long-time Afro-Beat drummer for Fela Kuti), Damon Albarn (The Gorillaz), Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) and more so the bar was quite high for this Accra show. People came in their numbers to have a funky good time and from all indications they did! Watching folks dance and sing along vigorously to the new tunes was one of those moments an independent artist such as myself finds a renewed sense of purpose and more of a defiance to not follow trends.

If you could give advice to young Africans what would it be in regards to success?

Ideas triumph over limitations. Know more and you can always do better. Money is important but can only be a means to an end. In the long run making contributions will always be more fulfilling than profit you can spend away easily. But in the end advice is like medicine, easier



to give than to take, so anybody reading this might as well just follow their own heart.

What has been some of the challenges you have faced breaking into your field and how did you overcome them?

Music and the music business are two warring bedfellows. I was perhaps initially naïve in thinking making good music will do all or most of the leg work required to succeed in the long term. Due to this some of previous work didn't achieve as much notoriety as was expected. Most of us artists are idealistic right brainers and we anticipate how cut throat and unfair

the business is going to be. I've fallen victim to this albeit it helping me to know the importance of having a solid and trustworthy team to work on all aspects of the music business. I spend probably ten to fifteen percent of my time actually making music and the rest to pushing the pieces: from marketing & PR, to shows to handling things in a timely manner, and finding time to do other things I'm passionate about. If you can't multi-task between doing artistic things and business things, it can be a nightmare having a career in music.

What is next for you? What hopes do you have for the future?

Rocket Juice & the Moon, a group consisting of Damon Albarn (Gorillaz), Tony Allen, Flea (Chili Peppers), just released their project. I was honored to have contributed on five of the songs including one of them that features Erykah Badu and myself on vocals. It's exciting being part of a future-sounding project and my work being exposed on a whole other major strata. In the pipeline is also 4 videos from Immigrant Chronicles we shot and are working on for release. It's very thrilling to have so much quality video content now compared to my first album which had only one simple video. I also have more touring plans in the works in the continent and the U.S as well.

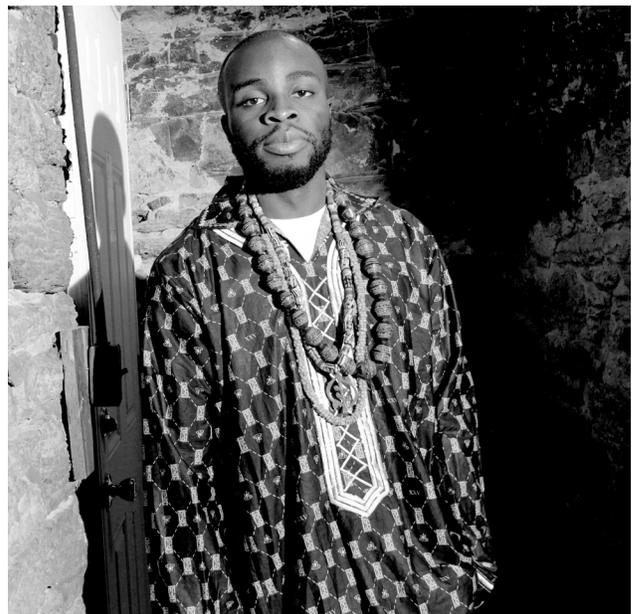
The theme for this issue is "Africa is the Future", how do you feel your music is reflective of this?

Since time immemorial we've inspired many. Our resources, art and culture have been taken and used to do great things. Take the "lion sleeps at night" for instance which many folks made a killing from except it's South African writer Solomon Linda. We're in a new age where some us (including folks like myself who've straddled different worlds) are able to take our stories and styles to the world

ourselves. Africa has always been influential but perhaps we're now saying it's the future because the world is being increasingly exposed to us on our terms. It's still a long way to go before we pat ourselves on the back though. As a worldly person from Ghana who's lived in Minneapolis, my cross-cultural brand of music is sometimes an entry point for some folks in exploring more music from my origins.

Lastly, please let us know where we can find your artistic /music work.

You can find my latest work on iTunes! <http://t.co/UIZ4gJ18>. Also bookmark www.manifestmc.com for a comprehensive update on videos, tours and such. I'm also actively on twitter @manifestive. --Peace and much love.





A TASTE OF SENEGAL...IN BROOKLYN



JOLOFF RESTAURANT

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BROOKLYN NY**

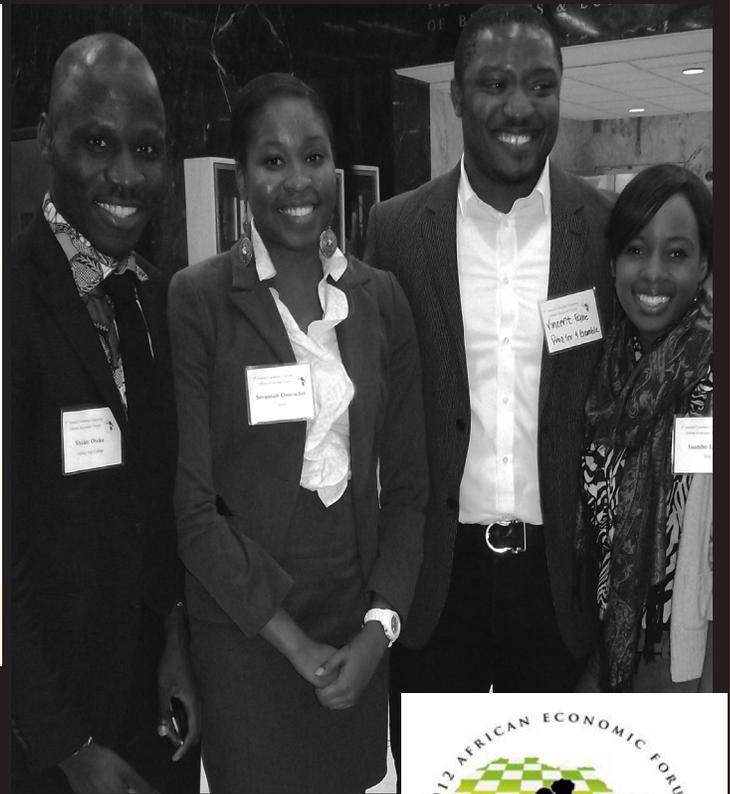
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Africa Reclaiming Africa:

CHANGING THE RULES
OF ENGAGEMENT



Columbia University held their 9th Annual African Economic Forum 2012 focusing on Reclaiming the wealth of Africa. The Forum highlighted these key points:

- HOW DO AFRICAN NATIONS BUILD SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES
- AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMING INITIATIVES
- AFRICA CAPITALIZING IN FIELDS OF FASHION AND ENTERTAINMENT
- MOBILE TECHNOLOGY THE NEW FRONTIER IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE
- YOUNG AFRICANS ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA



The CUAEF was a great forum for those interested in Africa's economic development and for young Africans who are looking to enter the growing markets in Africa or embark on bringing global development to the continent. The discussions that were brought forth will hopefully mean discussion will continue to try to come up with working solutions for Africa's economy.

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A GENTLEMEN'S TOUCH

New Men's Accessory Line By Young Nigerian Designer

Written By YAV Staff Writer

Photography By Jowita Garstecka & Nusaiba Dalvi



Espionage Clothing created by Ako Agudah is a new menswear and men's accessories company based in London. This new company hopes to bring to men's fashion a touch of intrigue and polished style. The creator of Espionage Clothing speaks with YAV Magazine on fashion influences and launching a new clothing company, and the future of African designers.

Can you share with us a little bit about how you got started with Espionage?

In a nutshell, Espionage Clothing came about from a firm passion I have in design, art and clothing. Coming from a family where my Mum and Dad have always been into fashion, I was always kind of around fabric and tailors. I always felt the strong desire to put pen to paper, design stuff and start something. I am also a big fan of the sharp, trim look that Ian Fleming's 007 gave us, the suave and exquisite gentleman look.

The theme for this issue is “Africa is the Future”, what do you see in the future of African fashion?

I strongly believe that African Fashion has always been one to admire, the only issue has been the global recognition and awareness that was not achieved in the past. I am glad that is becoming history now as a number of events and African designers have started to get local and global recognition. Some notable events recently have been the Fashion week in Lagos and Arise Fashion week which aims to put Africa’s designers on the map.

What inspires your designs and who were some of your role models?

I think I get the weirdest inspiration. I tell people to use nature as a guide for fashion and style, what better teacher right? Things like tulips, zebras, bees and so on, inspire designs and creativity for me. The careful juxtaposing of iridescent beauty that some of these flowers, insects and animals show is absolutely amazing in my book. I have quite a number of role models, if I am to stick with fashion, I’d say Ozwald Boateng, Duchamp, and any African designer, just love to see their designs.



What was the most challenging thing for you getting into the fashion industry?

Like any business, starting is usually a very challenging aspect. I would say for the fashion industry, it’s definitely the brand recognition when starting that comes up as a challenge. A lot of people are usually comfortable with a lot of brands they are used to, so you need a unique selling point. So it’s the fusion of creativity, price and design that we focus on.

What has been your greatest accomplishment so far and what are you working on now (new collections)?

At the moment, there are quite a few things in the pipeline, few fashion events, parties etc...I’d say getting invited for fashion events, interviews are something I am well pleased about.

How can people find out more about your work and designs?

They can visit www.espionageclothing.co.uk or call 08050251386, 019514800, or 08025869032.

Glowing Fashion

By Tori Famuyiwa



Making his collection's debut at Africa Fashion Week New York (AFWNY) 2011, Tori Famuyiwa's stunning 2011-2012 collection is now being seen on catwalks across the US. He has been in several fashion shows since his inaugural showing at AFWNY 2011. This talented fashion designer designs eloquent fashions for women and men. Tori Famuyiwa will be introducing a new men's collection called *Modern Nomad* this year and his fashion for women he is promoting all summer in fashion shows and fashion industry events. YAV Magazine got to talk to the designer about his dream to design.

Written By YAV Staff
Photos Courtesy of Tori Famuyiwa



Toriola Famuyiwa

Can you share with us a little bit about how you got started?

I have been fortunate to have a history in retail which I guess inadvertently prepared me for me being a designer. I first dreamt about being a designer about 10 yrs ago when I move to New York, but off course



it was just a fantasy then and I didn't know how I would navigate the stormy waters to get the that happy dream I had. But looks like I had to do my time and learn a lot to be mentally and emotionally prepared to be where I am today. To answer your question, I got laid off by Victoria Secret in December 2009. It was then I made the decision to see what this spark in me was they so badly needed to come out and that people kept seeing in me. So, I gave myself a year to see where my passion and experience takes me and here we are 2+ years later...

The theme for this issue is “Africa is the Future”, what do you see in the future of African fashion?

I see African fashion becoming a staple in our western society and not so much a trend anymore.

What inspires your designs and who were some of your role models?

Some of the people in the industry I look up to are, Haider Ackerman, Alexander McQueen,



Tom Ford, Mark Jacobs, Carolina Herrera.... Just to mention a few. Ultimately, what inspires my designs is a combination of things, but the constant ones is my home country (Nigeria), the fabrics I use as a medium, my mood and lastly the beautiful diverse women I see everyday.

What was the most challenging thing for you getting into the fashion industry?

The most challenging thing for me in the industry was gaining the respect and recognition from the industry, its something I am still working on but it gets easier everyday.

What has been your greatest accomplishment so far and what are you working on now (new collections)?

I haven't achieved my greatest achievement yet but I am very thankful for that because I feel like I am still evolving. But if I were to name something I would say getting to show at African Fashion Week New York in the summer of 2011 and getting my five minutes of fame.

How can people find out more about your work and designs?

My website is www.toriola.com and people can see my works there. I am also very active on my Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ToriolaCustomDesigns) and Twitter. @toriolainc.

MAMA AFRICA'S WORK ING FOR MOTHERS



YAV Magazine supports the MaMa Africa Program. The MaMa Africa Program is set-up to support maternal healthcare initiatives and raise awareness of issues facing mothers worldwide.



Photos By
**Gilbert Frank Daniels
& RAF Photography**

Learn About The MaMa Africa Program: www.maafricaprogram.org





54 KINGDOMS

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