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REWARDING EXCELLENCE - CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

GHANA



AWARDS 2007
NOMINATIONS

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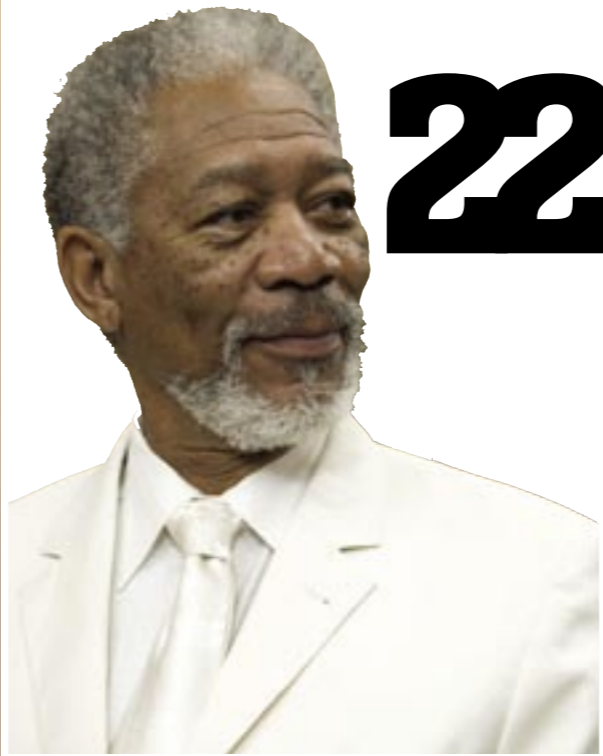
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SCREEN NATION

REWARDING EXCELLENCE - CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

FILM & TV AWARDS

Sky Drama

10 pm

29th October 2007





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photographer / creative director

HASSAN

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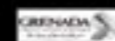
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A vertical advertisement for TUACA liqueur. The central focus is a bottle of TUACA liqueur with its distinctive yellow label and red wax seal. The bottle is set against a background of a narrow, sunlit Italian street with buildings and a tower. Surrounding the bottle is a collage of various Italian architectural landmarks, including the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Colosseum, and other historic structures. The TUACA logo is prominently displayed below the bottle, and the tagline "The Smoothest Italian" is written in a cursive font at the bottom.

The Smoothest Italian



Supporting Black Film in London

I am committed to supporting the development of London's film industry and to promoting London as a world-class film location. That commitment includes making sure that our film and media sector reflects London's diversity at all levels. The Screen Nation Film & TV Awards is an invaluable medium through which the talent, creativity and contributions of Black producers, directors, actors, actresses and presenters in film and television can be honoured and recognised. It provides a unique platform, not only for showcasing and supporting their achievements, more importantly, it continues to make the case – in a very positive way – for ensuring that we work tirelessly to increase diversity and representation in the UK film and television industry – both in front of and behind the camera.

The awards ceremony therefore serves an important purpose. It acts as an inspiration, not only to those already within the industry, but also to those seeking to enter it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Livingstone".

Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London



It's my pleasure to be able to write this piece in what is our 5th year celebration and in what many say is a lucky year and also one of completion. With God's grace I am confident that will be the case for many of you as well as Screen Nation.

When this journey started I didn't know where it would go, I just understood that I was on a journey and many others were coming along with me as well. Well this journey is now 5 years old and I am happy to announce that WE have come a long way. New friends, supporters and sponsors have joined us and look to continue with us as we make our way.

Screen Nation is an event that has something for everyone, the sector, the industry, the community, UK PLC and the world. The possibilities are endless and the opportunities great, all we have to understand is that there is more out there for all of us, but we can only gain if we strive to work together.

I would like to show my great appreciation for all those that trusted and believed in me and this idea over the years and all those who have contributed directly or otherwise to the success of Screen Nation and what it stands for.

I salute you and stay Blessed.

Charles Thomson
Ceo Screen Nation



AKWAABA,

The Screen Nation awards magazine is always a tale of two halves, like the last issue the second half of this one is about lifestyle but this time with a dash of Ghana.

This year marks 50 year's since the much respected Dr Kwame Nkrumah and others instigated Ghana's independence. We've done our own special tribute via this publication to commemorate this achievement.

Join us as the Screen Nation awards celebrate a milestone five years. On page 15, Screen Nation founder, Charles Thompson's talks about what this prestigious ceremony means to him.

There's just so much to read so I'm going to end my little spiel here and give you a chance to tuck into this visual feast.

Enjoy the 2007 awards, enjoy our tribute to Ghana.

Happy 5th Birthday, Screen Nation!

Sophia Jackson
Editor

Email your thoughts on the magazine to sophiajackson@boscar.co.uk

** Akwaaba means welcome in Twi*

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS



KRISHNA MAROO
Writer and aspiring photographer Krishna Maroo is a writer, photographer and graduate who has been with the Screen Nation family since summer 2006. "Screen Nation has given me opportunities I could only dream

of. It's great being part of a team and being part of a creative process." Krishna enjoys quoting inspirational people and lyrics, vintage clothing and flicking her hair.



IHUNNA EBERENDU
Ihunna is a budding journalist and PR executive and editor of online magazine EveryUrbanThing.com



ANTONIA HINES
Antonia Hines is a web editor to a public sector website and a freelance journalist. She has a regular column on Christian lifestyle e-zine, United By One and has appeared as a guest on a number of radio talk shows.

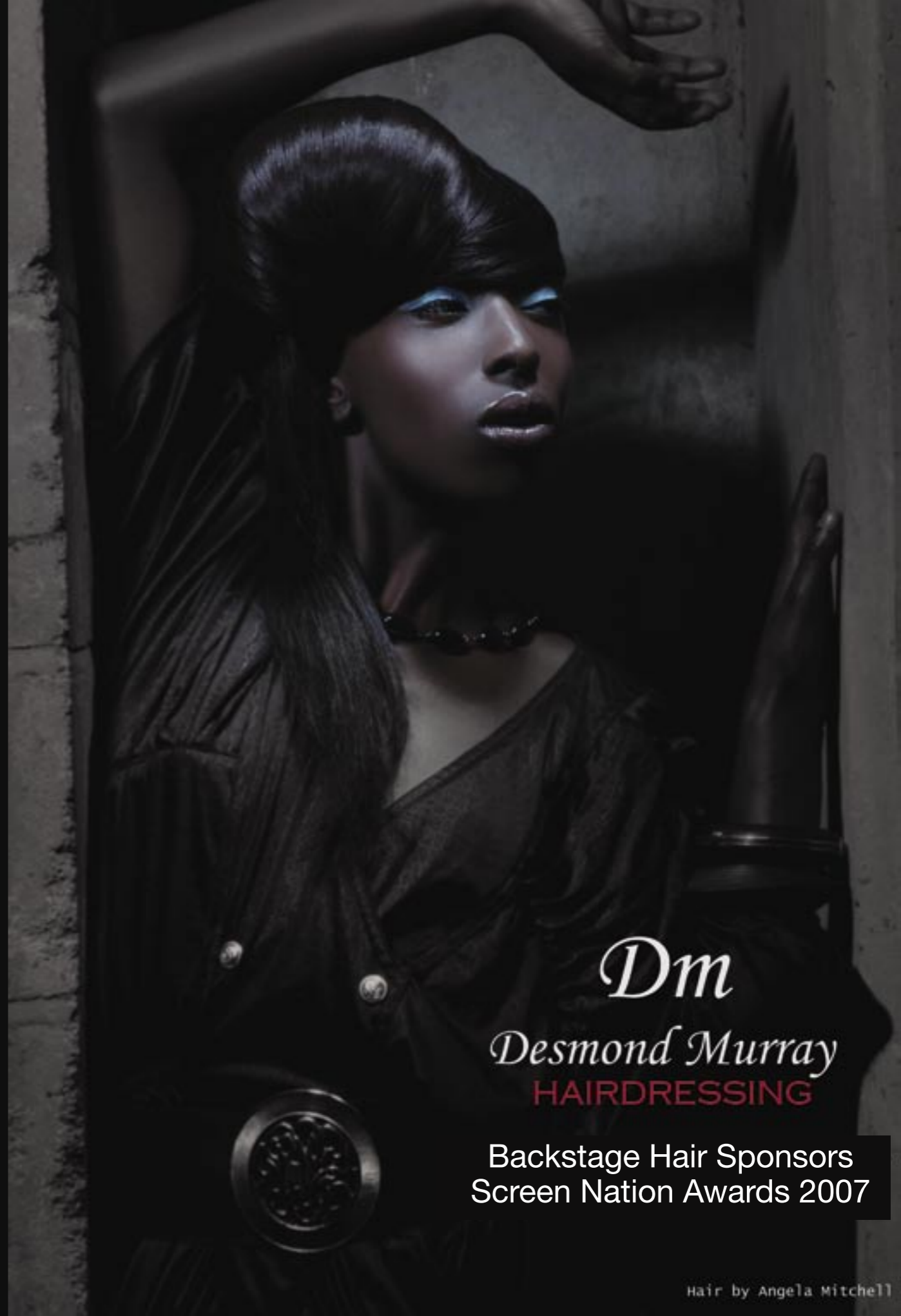
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Sophia Jackson at Arsenal's newly-opened Emirates stadium as we presented Adewale Akinnouye Agbage with his three 2006 Screen Nation Awards. He came along with a small entourage that included his Mum and sisters. Not only did we present the awards at his favourite football team's stadium but we also got a special Arsenal top designed in his honour. Result.

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THE SCREEN NATION HOSTS



> By Sophia Jackson

D'Arby and Salmon together again

The star-studded fifth Screen Nation Film and Television Awards will once again be hosted by TV presenter Josie D'Arby and Bond actor Colin Salmon. The slick duo who hosted last year's event will join forces again on this celebratory night which puts the spotlight on black achievement on the big and small screen.

It's fantastic that they will be working together again and the Screen Nation family is looking forward to another entertaining night from one of the hottest and most charismatic pairings on the awards circuit.

This is the third consecutive year that Josie D'Arby has hosted the event; the first time was at the Prince Charles cinema in Leicester Square. Previous hosts include Professor Brenda Emmanus who hosted the first two years and in the second year she was joined by Danny John Jules with Natasha Simpson being the only other host ever used.

>> **Did you know...that in 2008 Colin Salmon will star alongside US singer Jill Scott in *The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency* directed by Anthony Minghella. The cast includes fellow black British actors Idris Elba [*The Wire*, *Daddy's Little Girls*] and David Oyelowo [*Last King of Scotland*, *Shoot the Messenger*]. The film is based on the novel by Alexander McCall Smith.**

>> **Did you know...Josephine D'Arby was born and raised in South Wales and is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art [RADA] Her love of showbiz began when she was an usher at the Bristol Hippodrome and she was just 14-years-old when she became a regional reporter. She is a celebrity ambassador for the British Red Cross and has travelled to Africa as part of her commitments to the charity.**

PERFORMERS



YOLANDA BROWN

Saxophonist Yolanda Brown is considered by many to be one of a kind.

From very early musical beginnings she has come to make the Tenor and Soprano Saxophones her very own. She expresses her innermost feelings

through her music and in so doing, never fails to rise to the next level with each performance. A belief in the open truth of music has seen her develop a wide genre vocabulary and songbook, backed by an undeniably awesome performance talent.

Born and raised in London, Yolanda Brown has grown up surrounded by an eclectic mix of music, the influences of which can be heard in every breath she plays and in every note she writes.

She references Jazz, Afro-Jazz, Gospel, Reggae, Salsa, Hip-hop, R&B, with consummate ease, even going back to Mento throughout her performances, but her style and phrasing always remains her own.

With such a musically diverse DNA to her soul, is

it any wonder that Yolanda Brown touches so many people through the voice of her music!

In conjunction with her music, Yolanda Brown has completed a Masters in Management Science, as well as a Masters in Social Research Methods and is currently studying for her PhD at the University of Kent. She also fronted a TV talk show on a Sky Channel.

A worldwide performer, she has played for the High Commission in Jamaica, Jazz venues in Miami, the Frankfurt Auto Show, the Rotterdam Carnival and the IslaVuelta festival in Spain, to name but a few.

The release of Yolanda Brown's debut EP, entitled "Finding My Voice" and her sold out debut concert at the Mermaid Theatre London in July 2007, were both met with rave reviews from press and her ever growing fan base. We now await with great anticipation the DVD release of that magical evening.

In response to overwhelming popular demand, Yolanda Brown's next solo concert has been set for Saturday 8th December 2007, at the prestigious Cadogan Hall in Sloane Square, London.

www.yolandabrown.co.uk www.myspace.com/missyolandabrown

DJ ABRANTEE

Starting his career in the hugely successful street sound 90%, DJ Abrantee has since played all around the world as well as DJing for some of the biggest names in Hip Hop and RnB including Missy Elliot, Ja Rule, Fundamental, Busta Rhymes, Joe, Foxy Brown, Baby Cham, Jagged Edge and Jay Z.

Abrantee has hosted many award ceremonies; presented DJ workshops to budding entertainers; fronted advertising campaigns and has had walk on parts on TV shows such as *The Bill* and *Footballers Wives*.

DJ Abrantee's zest for life is transmitted across the airwaves when he hosts his Saturday party night show on Choice FM simply entitled "Saturdays Choice".

DJ Abrantee is proud of his Ghanaian origin. He recently won Best Entertainer of the Year for the second year running at the Prestigious GMA awards.

The award-winning DJ Abrantee says "I am nowhere near finished fulfilling my dream and with the help of my entertainment company and my passion for djing, I will continue to entertain the masses."

For Dj Gigs, Voice Over's, and T.V Appearances Please E-mail Sarah@Geestor.co.uk or call +44(0)208 554 0090



RANDOLPH MATTHEWS

Camden born and raised Randolph Matthews has been on the capital's music scene since the late 80s when he was a regular at Dingwalls, the Electric Ballroom and especially Norman Jay's gigs at the Bass Clef. Bitten by the

music bug, young Randy perfected his techniques as a percussionist and by the 90s he was playing sessions with people like Don Blackman and Will Downing.

Studio connections won him some vocal voice over work - Telly anoraks might remember the "Twix in the Mix" campaign - and then onto a series of experimental projects with hip hop DJ Rob Mac, Gum Drop, Truba,

Zena Edwards and Low Budget Soul. Encouraged by both those he's worked with and those he's performed for, Matthews has now launched his own solo career with a self-titled set on Documented Records.

Vocally Randolph compares himself to Jon Lucien and Shuggie Otis and listening its hard to take issue, though because none of the songs are traditionally crafted in terms of structure those comparisons are not wholly accurate. The thirty-something son of Camden is determined to do his own thing, aiming, as he himself says, "to unleash the full potential of what music can do to affect people's lives - small ripples that may have wide-reaching resonance in the world at large".

'Randolph Matthews' was released on Documented Records on June 25.

EDDIE KADI

Infectious smile, Unpredictable material, Clean comedy, Fantastic Delivery...

> Best Newcomer (BECA Comedy Awards 2006)

> Artist of the Year (Vine Awards 2006)

Taking the comedy world by storm Eddie Kadi has had audiences laughing in their seats for the past few years. Eddie Kadi's versatile style has captured the attention and imagination of people from different cultures and backgrounds. As a proud African, his main vision is to educate audiences through comedy and as a result break stereotypes.

A multi talented performer, EDDIE KADI soon turned his sights to performing a genre of music he calls, Com Music- (music with a comedic stance) This has been amazingly well received by people from all walks of life.

EDDIE KADI has performed at a wealth of venues including the Hammersmith Palais, Hackney Empire, Da Comedy Funhouse, and Shepherds Bush Empire for the Channel U Best of British Awards

He recently played the lead role in a British film, shot in Africa, (November 2006).

EDDIE KADI also had a show on Passion TV (Sky183) called, *The Good Stuff*, aired on Wednesdays at 7pm and Fridays at 7.30pm. His show had the number one ratings on the channel for the entirety its time on air.

Eddie Kadi held his debut solo concert at the Mermaid Theatre in Blackfriars on the 28th of April 2007.

The event was extremely successful and sold two weeks prior to the event date, with a further 500 people enquiring about purchasing tickets.

Eddie Kadi says, "I am extremely humbled to have sold out at my first solo project and I would like to promise everyone that has supported me that I will remain humble as my career progresses".



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With an Oscar and Golden Globe under his belt and year after year of movies behind him Morgan Freeman is one of Hollywood's heavyweights.

Freeman's most memorable roles include the strong, forgiving chauffeur in *Driving Miss Daisy* for which he won his Golden Globe and second Oscar nomination, the determined detective in *Seven* and the sympathetic mentor in Stephen King's novel, *The Shawshank Redemption* where he got his third Oscar nomination. His first Oscar nomination was for playing a pimp in *Street Smart* with Christopher Reeve. Last year his performance in this movie was ranked as no.77 in *Premiere Magazine's* 100 Greatest Performances of All Time.

Morgan who was named after his father comes from a large family [four brothers and one sister]. All of the boys except the youngest joined the Air Force. One brother drowned as a teenager while serving with the Marine Corps in North Carolina. Morgan had dreamed of becoming a Pilot and spent almost four years in the Air Force but he realised that it was the movie version he preferred and embarked on a career in acting.

Mr Freeman became a member of the Cabaret Union where he learned how to dance but his true passion was acting. Whilst a member of the Inca Chorus he got a life changing job touring *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*.

In search of his dreams Morgan went to New York and auditioned whenever the opportunity arose – they were limited at this time. He appeared in a range of plays and then in the seventies got his TV break on the *Electric Company* children series teaching phonetics and grammar. Bill Crosby also starred on this show. 780 episodes later in 1977, the early morning kid's show came

to an end and Morgan returned to New York.

During the eighties he spent time dabbling in and out of television and theatre waiting for his elusive shining moment and finally it came.

He won himself a role in *Driving Miss Daisy*, the Pulitzer-winning play about 20 years in the lives of an old Jewish woman and her serene black chauffeur to which he received many favourable reviews. This paved the way for on-screen roles to come flooding in, including



Clean and Sober with Michael Keaton, a principle in *Lean On Me*, the film version of *Driving Miss Daisy*, a Sgt Major in *Glory*, Robin Hood *Prince of Thieves* and *Unforgiven*.

Since then, Morgan Freeman is rarely off the big screen appearing in a string of hits and blockbuster movies. He also found time to set up a production company, *Revelations Entertainment*. One of the films to come under that umbrella includes dark comedy, *Nurse Betty* with Renee Zellweger and Chris Rock. In the early nineties, the father of four also tried his hand behind the lens in his directorial debut of South-African movie, *Bopha!* He has since decided to stay in front of the camera.

This distinguished performer and household name is a hard-working veteran of the big screen who often plays untypical 'black' roles. Although his film career didn't take off until his fifties, it's an enviable one all the same as he is a well-respected man of prestige and honour who is just as capable of playing a pimp or a slave as he is God or a president.

BIOGRAPHY AND AWARDS

- > 1937 Born in Memphis, Tennessee
- > 1955 Graduates from Greenwood High School
- > 1955 Joins the Air Force
- > 1961 Works as a Transcript clerk for LA City College and takes advantage of the free acting, dancing and singing classes
- > 1964 Dances at the World Fair
- > 1965 Plays an extra in *The Pawnbroker*
- > 1967 Stars in a continuous production of *The Niggerlovers*
- > 1967 Marries Jeanette Adair-Bradshaw
- > 1968 Stars in an all black version of the Broadway production of *Hello, Dolly*
- > 1971 Joins cast of the *Electric Company* TV series

- > 1971 Makes big screen debut in *Who Says I Can't Ride a Rainbow?*
- > 1974 Divorces Jeanette Adair-Bradshaw
- > 1984 Marries Myrna Colley-Lee
- > 1989 Wins Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture for *Driving Miss Daisy*
- > 1993 Directs *Bopha!*
- > 2003 Gets star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
- > 2004 Wins Academy Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role in Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby*
- > 2007 Awarded Screen Nation's Outstanding Achievement to Film and TV [international] award

FILMOGRAPHY

[a selection]

- > 1971 *Who Says I Can't Ride a Rainbow?*
- > 1980 *Brubaker*
- > 1982 *Nurse Betty*
- > 1987 *Street Smart*
- > 1989 *Driving Miss Daisy*
- > 1992 *Unforgiven*
- > 1994 *The Shawshank Redemption*
- > 1995 *Seven*
- > 1996 *Moll Flanders*
- > 1997 *Kiss the Girls*
- > 1997 *Amistad*
- > 1998 *Deep Impact*
- > 2000 *Nurse Betty*
- > 2001 *Along Came a Spider*
- > 2002 *The Sum of All Fears*
- > 2003 *Bruce Almighty*
- > 2004 *Million Dollar Baby*
- > 2005 *Batman Begins*
- > 2005 *March of the Penguins* [narrator]
- > 2005 *Edison*
- > 2006 *Lucky Number Slevin*
- > 2007 *Evan Almighty*
- > 2008 *Wanted*
- > 2008 *The Dark Knight*



Previous winners of the Outstanding Contribution to Film and TV [International] award

- > 2006 Yaphet Kotto
- > 2005 Melvin Van Peebles
- > 2004 Danny Glover

MORGAN freeman

> By Sophia Jackson

Hollywood screen legend Morgan Freeman is honoured with the Outstanding Contribution to Film and TV

FAVOURITE FILM??

My favourite Morgan Freeman film
My gut reaction would be to adopt the herd mentality and shout out *The Shawshank Redemption*, however, I think *Million Dollar Baby* because of the depth of his character.
MICHAEL MORGAN, FILM CRITIC, TOUCH MAGAZINE

I would probably say *Seven*. I love the darkness and intensity of the film and as always Morgan Freeman gives a top notch performance!
IHUNNA EBERENDU, FREELANCE WRITER

My top three Morgan Freeman films

- 1 *Shawshank Redemption* (obvious but still great)
- 2 *Seven* (so good they named a magazine after it...)
- 3 *Unforgiven* (best Western EVER)

CASSAM LOOCH, FILM CRITIC

>> Did you know...it was 35 years before Morgan Freeman had his first on-screen kiss? It was in *Nurse Betty* [2000].

>> Did you know... Morgan Freeman speaks fluent French?



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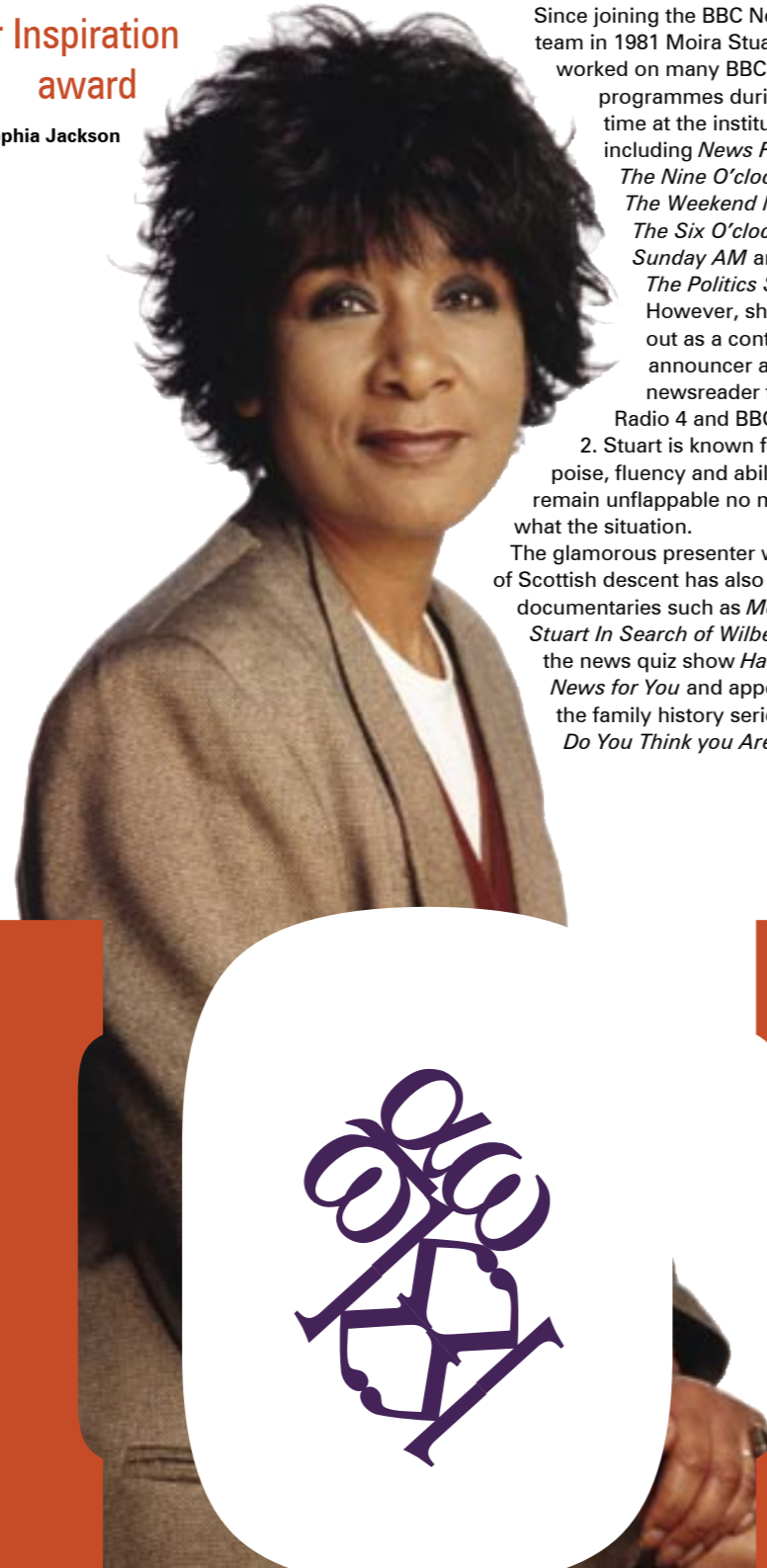
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British broadcast legend and newsreader Moira Stuart is honoured with the Edric Connor Inspiration award

> By Sophia Jackson



The first black female newsreader to grace British screens, journalist and broadcaster Moira Stuart OBE is this year's recipient of Screen Nation's Edric Connor Inspiration award.

Since joining the BBC News team in 1981 Moira Stuart has worked on many BBC news programmes during her time at the institution including *News Review*, *The Nine O'clock News*, *The Weekend News*, *The Six O'clock News*, *Sunday AM* and *The Politics Show*. However, she started out as a continuity announcer and newsreader for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 2. Stuart is known for her poise, fluency and ability to remain unflappable no matter what the situation.

The glamorous presenter who is of Scottish descent has also fronted documentaries such as *Moira Stuart In Search of Wilberforce*, the news quiz show *Have I Got News for You* and appeared in the family history series *Who Do You Think you Are? The*

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE EDRIC CONNOR INSPIRATION AWARD



- > 2006 Mona Hammond
- > 2005 Paul Barber
- > 2004 Floella Benjamin
- > 2003 Rudolph Walker [Edric Connor Trailblazer Award]

show traced back her family history and past links to slavery. She also starred in an episode of the Rick Gervais comedy, *Extras* as Ronnie Corbetts drugs supplier.

In between being one of the best known presenters of BBC TV news programmes Moira has bagged numerous awards over the years and sat on a number of boards and judging panels ranging from BAFTA, the Orange prize for literature to Amnesty International.

The ground-breaking career woman is well respected amongst her peers and when the BBC made the decision to end her slot on Sunday AM it was greeted with contempt by the public and the media. Renowned for being fiercely private in true Moira Stuart style, she said little about the BBC's decision. The nation is left wondering whether Moira has been shoved to one side because

she now ticks the over-50s box. There is something missing from our screens and that's Stuarts elegance and calm and of course that magnificent hair.

In her spare time Moira indulges in music, film and travel.

ABOUT THE EDRIC CONNOR INSPIRATION AWARD

Trinidadian folklorist, singer and actor Edric Connor (1913-1968) became well known in the British theatre, television and film world. He is acclaimed for being the first black actor to perform in Shakespeare at Stratford-upon-Avon, as Gower in *Pericles* (1958). Some of the films he starred in include *Moby Dick* (1956) and *King of Kings* (1961). He also became a filmmaker himself and shot one of the first documentaries on the Trinidad Carnival.



BIOGRAPHY + AWARDS

- > 1949 Born to parents Marjorie Gordon and Harold Stuart
- > 1981 Joins BBC radio as a production assistant
- > 1988 Wins Best Newscaster of the Year" TV and Radio Industries Club
- > 1989 Wins Best Television Personality - Women of Achievement Awards
- > 1994 Named Best Female Television Personality - the Black Journalists' Association
- > 1997 Wins Best Media Personality - The Voice Newspaper
- > 2000 Joined BBC's breakfast daily morning news programme
- > 2002 Named Media Personality of the Year - EMMA awards
- > 2001 Awarded an OBE
- > 2004 Received the "Global Diversity Award
- > 2006 Received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Edinburgh
- > 2006 Leaves BBC breakfast when it revamps its format
- > 2006 Made a Fellow of the International Visual Communication Association
- > 2007 Received the European Women of Achievement Award
- > 2007 Leaves Sunday AM
- > 2007 Receives Screen Nation's Edric Connor Inspiration Award

MOIRA STUART OBE

STAN Lathan

Screen Nation honours Veteran American TV director and producer Stan Lathan with its new Vanguard Award

> By Sophia Jackson



It has been 39 years since Stan Lathan began changing the face of global media. Stan's biggest impact has been in the comedy arena but his influence and style has been reflected in televised drama, dance, poetry, performing arts and film.

Mr. Lathan and partner Russell Simmons co-own The Simmons Lathan Media Group, a film and television production and acquisitions company that develops and distributes urban content across a variety of media platforms.

Since 1968, Mr. Lathan has maintained a bold, original and accomplished vision. He creates important shows that illuminate the entire human experience while particularly inspiring African-American and urban audiences.

Mr. Lathan's career began with public television in Boston where he co-created and directed one of the first and longest running urban themed magazine shows, "Say Brother." In 1969, he moved to New York to become one of the first directors of the groundbreaking urban preschool phenomenon "Sesame Street."

In 1973, Mr. Lathan teamed with Quincy Jones and Jesse Jackson to produce and direct *Save The*



Children, a music documentary feature film distributed by Paramount Pictures.

Mr. Lathan began directing network television shows in 1975, when he was invited to Los Angeles to direct multiple episodes of "Sanford & Son" starring Redd Foxx. Stan went on to direct numerous television drama and comedy series, including "Hill St. Blues," "Miami Vice," "Cagney & Lacey," "Eight is Enough," "The Waltons," "Falcon Crest," "Remington Steele," "Frank's Place," "Fame" and "Roc."

Mr. Lathan's creative reach has been as great as his depth. During the 1970's and 1980's, he contributed to some of the most prestigious performance arts series on public television. Stan directed "Alvin Ailey: Memories & Visions" as well as dance specials featuring The Martha Graham Company, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Agnes de Mille. In addition, he directed dramas for some of public television's most distinguished series such as "Great Performances," "American Playhouse," "The American Short Story," and "Wonder Works."

In 1984, Mr. Lathan worked with Producer Harry Belafonte to direct the pivotal hip hop

movie "Beat Street" for Orion Pictures.

In the 1990's, Lathan remained one of Hollywood's most prolific Directors of TV and film. He directed the pilots and thus seeded the series & syndication success of: "Martin," "Moesha," "The Parkers," "The Steve Harvey Show," "Amen," "Cedric The Entertainer Presents," "Eve!" and "All of Us."

Then, in 2000 and 2004, Mr. Lathan continued to break the mold and expand the business model for black comedy on cable TV. He Executive Produced and directed Dave Chappelle's highly successful comedy specials "Killin' Them Softly" for HBO and "For What It's Worth" for Showtime. He also Executive Produced and directed Cedric the Entertainer's "Taking You Higher," for HBO.

In 1989, Lathan and Russell Simmons partnered to create one of the most successful franchises in entertainment: HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" series, which started the careers of some of today's biggest television & movie stars, such as Chris Tucker, Dave Chappelle, Martin Lawrence, Bernie Mac, Cedric the Entertainer, Steve Harvey, Mo'Nique, Mike Epps and DL Hughley. After a nine year hiatus, "Def Comedy Jam" relaunched in 2006 to huge ratings.

In 2003, the partnership was honoured with their first Peabody Award for their groundbreaking series "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry" on HBO. That same year, Lathan and Simmons produced and Lathan directed *Def Poetry Jam on Broadway*, which won a Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Event.

Currently, Lathan and Simmons are Executive Producing the MTV hit reality show "Run's House," now shooting its fourth season.

They are also producing independent movies and new seasons of "Def Comedy Jam" and "Def Poetry Jam" while developing a wide variety of broadband and mobile content.

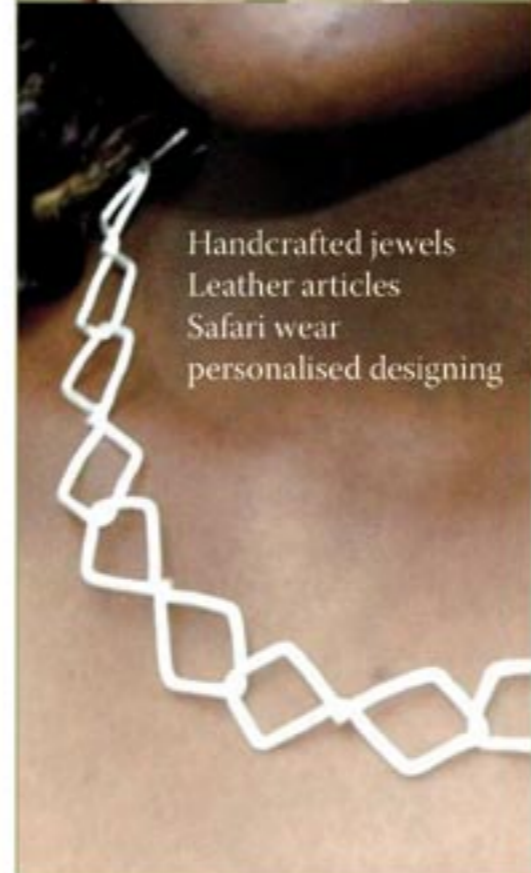
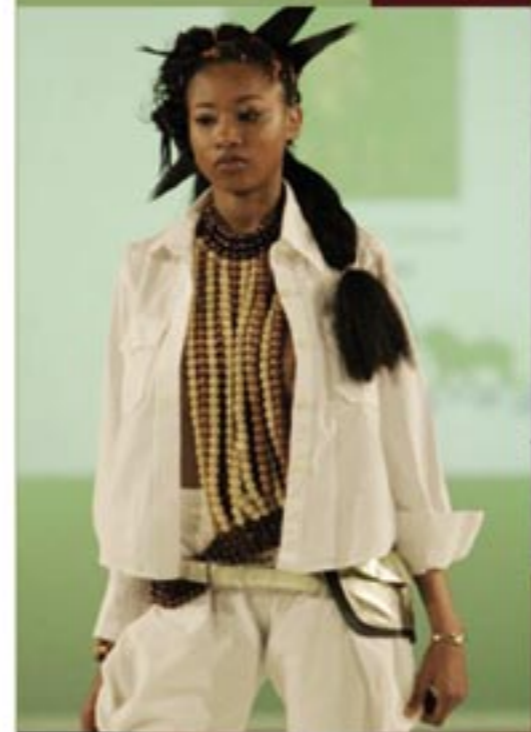
To date, Mr. Lathan continues his personal journey of achievement, leadership and mentoring, shepherding new generations of comedic talent, urban storytellers and filmmakers to success.

He resides in Beverly Hills with his wife Marguerite.

>> Did you know...Stan Lathan has a Tony-award nominated daughter called Sanaa Lathan who worked with her father on Moesha? She has also starred in NYPD, Blade, The Wood, The Best Man, Brown Sugar and Nip/Tuck.



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SCREEN NATION'S CLASSIC TV AWARD ROOTS

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the release of this highly significant drama.

> Ihunna Eberendu

There are three films that never fail to reduce me to tears. Regardless of how many times I have seen them the knowledge of the impending tragedies often leaves me blubbering before the opening credits have ended. The first is Cry Freedom; the second is Beaches and the third and by no means least, is the screen adaptation of Alex Haley's *Roots*. On 23rd January 1977 the first instalment was aired on US network ABC. The series ran on eight consecutive nights until 30th January 1977 and attracted approximately 130 million viewers. To this day *Roots* remains one of the most-watched programmes in TV history. In honour of this historical series Screen Nation have awarded it a special Classic TV award. Actor Danny John Jules describes the effect the series had on him, "It was the Rasta's that actually knew what was going on; people like Burning Spear "Do You Remember the Day of Slavery?" You'd be bopping in the dance but people didn't really know what he was talking about but when *Roots* came out you realised what the dreads were saying. If we had listened to the dreads, as a community, a long time ago we would have been twice as far forward today;



>> *Roots* is a really good series. It makes me angry sometimes but it is good. I use that energy and I focus and channel it into the music. Sway

as the Americans did by listening to the folk-tales of their families who were from the slave trade era." Approximately a year after publishing his most infamous work, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Haley began his research on *Roots*. The story is based on his ancestor Kunte Kinte who was kidnapped as teenager from The Gambia and sold into slavery. Spanning 120 years the story follows the first four generations of Alex Haley's family in the US. The finished product *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, was published in 1976 and was followed a year later by the screen adaptation.

In 1977 the series received an outstanding 28 Emmy nominations. The four directors Marvin J. Chomsky, John Erman, Gilbert Moses, David Greene and James T. Heckert each received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Directing in a Drama series. Ben Vereen received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor for a Single Appearance in a Drama or Comedy Series for his wonderful portrayal of Chicken George; an ancestor of Alex Haley. He is currently filming *Mama, I Want To Sing* which features Ciara, Billy Zane and Lynn Whitfield. Amongst others he also starred in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* playing the role of Doctor La Forge, the father of Geordi La Forge who of course was played by LeVar Burton.



After 30 years the mini-series is still as poignant and significant as it was when it was released, serving as a reminder of the atrocities the black race experienced during and in the aftermath of the slave trade. Irrespective of age or race *Roots* remains un-missable series to many and long may it continue to do so for the next 30 years and beyond.

>> In 1977 the series received an outstanding 28 Emmy nominations.

MY FIRST TIME

The first time I saw *Roots* I was about 10 years old when it came on and it was a big family occasion. My parents said, 'You really have to watch this.

It will help you to understand how much black people have struggled from slavery days till now.' When I watched the programme it shocked me because I didn't fully understand what black people had gone through. I watched the whole series. Rickie Haywood-Williams, Presenter, MTV



The *Roots* series for me is massively influential; not only does it involve some amazing actors but it also touches you in places that no other drama touches you apart from *The Color Purple*.

I remember watching it at 10-years-old. If you haven't seen it go and check out the *Roots* series right now. Melvin Odoom, DJ, Kiss FM



I remember my mum telling me a story about *Roots*. When she first watched it she went into school the next day and all the black kids sat on one side and the white kids sat on the other side and there was a solemn silence in the air. I remember watching it when I was young. It makes you angry but it also makes you happy to see how things have moved on to a certain extent. It's an inspiring movie; I watched it all at once.

Aml Ameen





OUSMANE SEMBÈNE

> Sophia Jackson

>> Did you know... Ousmane Sembène was member of the jury at the Cannes Film Festival in 1967, the Berlin International Film Festival in 1977 and at the Venice Film Festival in 1983?

A tribute to the late great father of African cinema

The great Senegalese film director, producer and writer Ousmane Sembène 1923-2007 is hailed the father of African film. He died in June of this year at the grand age of 84. He leaves behind a legacy of landmark filmic and literary achievements and accolades.

His mother tongue was Wolof, the language most widely spoken in Senegal and he studied French and Arabic. He had a stint in the French Army where he fought in World War II and eventually stowed away to France and did manual work. During this time he joined the French trade union and Communist party. He suffered a back injury and turned his hand to literature. His experiences in these movements inspired him to write *Le Dockey Noir* about an African's experiences of racism and mistreatment on the Marseille docs. Sembène's fictional writing is described as social realism and his literary reputation was able to support him financially. The next novel, *O Pays, Mon Beau Peuple* garners him even more success as invitations from around the world came flooding in and whilst in Russia he spent a year studying filmmaking.

"Xala" (1974), which many critics consider his finest film, takes a humorous

look at polygamy and traditional African medicine and the contrasts between urban and Sembène's next offering is what many consider to be his masterpiece *Les Bouts de Bois de Dieu* a fiction based novel about a railroad strike [1947-1948] on the Dakar-Niger line told through the eyes of a union spokesman.

The acclaimed writer then went on to write a series of short stories, tales and fables including *La Noire De* which was later adapted to become his first film. His writing became a way for him to express his feelings about racial and economic oppression caused by being under colonial government rule.

His writing then took an about turn when he started focusing on the corrupt ways of Africa's elite when *Xala* was released in 1973. He put down his writer's hat in 1981 when he wrote *Le Dernier de L'empire* a story of corruption and a military coup in an African nation. Coupled with *Les Bouts de Bois de Dieu* these novels escalated "Xala" (1974),

>> Did you know... Ousmane Sembène was the first African director to give the director's lesson at Cannes?

which many critics consider his finest film. Many believe that Sembène's reputation as a leading figure in African literature would have been greater had his books been given English translations, too.

At 40, this hinderance propelled Sembène to go into filmmaking, to ensure that his work reached wider audiences – particularly a more diverse African audience. When he released the 60-minute film *La Noire de...* in 1966 he was the first sub-Saharan African director to reach this level. This French-language movie attracted international limelight to African cinema. His debut feature was a huge success and many see this as the first ever African film. *La Noire de* is about the mistreatment by a French family of Diouana, a young African woman. She commits suicide when she travels to Europe with them. This first feature ever produced by an African filmmaker won a prize at the 1967 Cannes Film Festival.

Then in 1968, the Wolof language speaker made *Mandabi* in his mother tongue this

>> Did you know... Ousmane Sembène was a co-founder of the Pan-African festival of film and television of Ouagadougou (Fespaco)?

was a long-term ambition which was also realised in the film adaptation of *Xala* [1975], *Ceddo* [1977], *Camp de Thiaroye* [1987] and *Guelwaar* [1992]. Making films in Wolof enabled Sembène to tour around Senegal's cities and villages.

To some *Xala* is Sembène's greatest film achievement. There was much controversy surrounding the release of *Ceddo* in Senegal and it was censored because of its anti-Muslim connotations. Some scenes were deemed to be offensive and below government standards. The film deals with the subject of African cooperation in supplying slaves to western slave traders.

However, Sembène was determined to get his views across and distributed fliers

detailing the nature of the scenes that had been cut.

Moolaadé was his final film and the beautifully made movie went on to win awards at Cannes, FESPACO, Ouagadougou, and the Burkina Faso film festivals. It also won two prizes at the Venice film festival. In an interview with Bonnie Greer, Sembène described it as his 'most African film' in terms of its aesthetics and narrative structure. Set in a small African village in Burkina Faso, *Moolade* explores the controversial subject of female genital mutilation.

Thorough filmmaking the pioneer who led the rise of African cinema told the story of colonialism, the strength of African women, the dark side of religion and the new African bourgeoisie. His filmography ranges from comedy to serious drama and documentary-making. His films were always honest and he touched the lives of many with his integrity and passion for African people. He used this medium for social commentary and as a way of chronicling Africa's culture and history.

Ousmane Sembène died at home in his mother country, Senegal having been ill since December 2006.

BIOGRAPHY

- > 1923 Born to a fisherman
- > 1944 joins French Army for World War II
- > 1956 writes *Le Dockey Noir* [The Black Dockey]
- > 1957 writes *O Pays, Mon Beau Peuple!* [Oh Country, My Beautiful People!]
- > 1960 writes *Les Bouts de Bois de Dieu* [God's Bits of Wood]
- > 1962 releases a collection of short fiction *Voltaïque* [Tribal Scars]
- > 1963 returns to Senegal
- > 1966 his first feature film *La Noire de...* [The Black Girl from...] is the first film to be released by a sub-Saharan African director
- > 1968 second film *Mandabi* [The Money Order] is released
- > 1971 *Emitai* released
- > 1973 *Xala* released
- > 1977 *Ceddo* [Outsiders] released
- > 1981 writes *Le Dernier de l'empire* [The Last Empire]
- > 1987 *Camp de Thiaroye* released
- > 1992 *Guelwaar*
- > 2004 *Moolaadé* released
- > 2005 receives a fellowship from the BFI
- > 2007 dies on June 9 aged 87

from the director of 'waiting for happiness'
"we are all responsible"



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UK Screen Awards

LAWRENCE COKE

> DIRECTOR / WRITER

An established director some of his projects include The Chelsea Flower Show and work on The MOBO's. Ten years ago Lawrence decided to give his career a twist and commence the production of his very own films. By 2002 he had won Best Script and People's Choice Award for Run Richie Run in the 23:59 short film competition and his films have gone on to win awards ever since. Lawrence continues to shine through with his undoubted writing and production skills.



PATRICK REGIS

> LIFE & LYRICS / ROLLING WITH THE NINES

Patrick Regis has been in the film industry for a few years but has already worked with a number of highly experienced directors and had a number of guest appearances in shows such as Casualty and The Bill. One of his biggest onscreen personalities was 'Money Man' in LIFE & LYRICS, and he also played Temper in ROLLING WITH THE NINES which won Screen Nation 2006 Achievement in Film Production Award.



FREEMA AGYEMAN

> DR WHO

Freema Agyeman's first notable appearance was in the ITV soap Crossroads, however she is now best known for the role of Martha Jones in the science fiction television series DR WHO. The Iranian/Ghanaian actress is undeniably building up her credibility in the industry and has adopted an savvy on-screen style. Be sure to keep an eye out for her forthcoming projects.



RICHIE CAMPBELL

> THE BILL

Richie Campbell is a deserving nominee in this category. His radiant performance in THE BILL was a credible and refreshing and there is no doubt this guy is going places!



ZARAAH ABRAHAMS

> CORONATION STREET

Zarah made it big time when she landed her role in the multi award winning Soap CORONATION STREET. She has held her ground and proven herself worth to be part of this institution and this is the beginning of many things to come.

AML AMEEN
> THE BILL



Aml is definitely going to take the TV industry by storm. His performance in THE BILL is a breath of fresh air and his ability to act naturally enables audience's to relate with him. This young man without a doubt is going places.

EAMONN WALKER
> JUSTICE AND ER



EAMONN WALKER is a British film, television and theatre actor. He is perhaps best known for playing Kareem Said in the American HBO television series OZ (for which he won a CableACE Award). His performance in JUSTICE and ER is nothing short of brilliant.

ANGELA GRIFFIN
> WATERLOO ROAD



It seems like it was only yesterday when Angela first made her break in Coronation Street. With many successful projects under her belt, her latest WATERLOO ROAD sees her play a believable teacher whom students admire.

SOPHIE OKONEDO
> TSUNAMI: THE AFTERMATH



A deserving nominee at the 2006 Oscar for Hotel Rwanda; Sophie in TSUNAMI: THE AFTERMATH plays a mother whose life is ripped apart by the Boxing Day tragedy that took place in 2004.

CHIWETEL EJIOFOR
> TSUNAMI: THE AFTERMATH



The makers of this drama couldn't have picked a better actor to feature. TSUNAMI: THE AFTERMATH is a well told account of the tragedy that took place. Chiwetel is someone you must definitely look out for.

ROGER GRIFFITHS
> HOLBY CITY



A familiar face to Eastenders and Family Affairs, Roger has now moved onto HOLBY CITY. His policeman character is fast, feisty and you could say sly. We hope this gifted actor continue to grace our TV screens with his talent.

GINNY HOLDER
> HOLBY CITY



Ginny plays a bold, determined nurse who has come from Africa. This strong individual will stop at nothing to get what she wants. She has become an asset to HOLBY CITY. A natural talented actress.

NIKKI AMUKA-BIRD
> SHOOT THE MESSENGER / FIVE DAYS / BORN EQUAL



This beautiful actress simply knows how to give a good natural performance this is especially evident in major dramas SHOOT THE MESSENGER /FIVE DAYS /BORN EQUAL. Expect to see much more of her in the future.

DAVID OYELOWO
> SHOOT THE MESSENGER / FIVE DAYS / BORN EQUAL



An emotional rollercoaster ride of an actor; David's performances in SHOOT THE MESSENGER /FIVE DAYS /BORN EQUAL is believable every time. We're sure he'll be in many more drama's to come.

< MENTIONS >
HUGH QUARSHIE
> DOCTOR WHO AND HOLBY CITY

SHARON D CLARKE
> HOLBY CITY (CASUALTY)



Sharon D. Clarke is a British actress and singer popularly known for her role in the UK medical drama HOLBY CITY, in which she plays Lola Griffin. Other notable roles include Rent, Fame, The Lion King and Chicago. What a multi-talented woman!

< MENTIONS >
RAKIE AYOLA

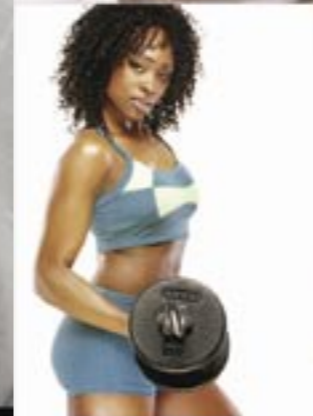
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Celebrating the Woman of Colour



The Funky Roots issue

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CHIWETEL EJIOFOR
 > INSIDE MAN



Born to Nigerian parents in East London, Chiwetel Ejiofor has come a long way from amateur acting. He has moved into major film roles such as playing Detective Bill Mitchell alongside Denzel Washington in the blockbuster INSIDE MAN. His star continues to shine and shine.

DAVID OYELOWO
 > THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND



Moving from Theatre to TV to Film, David Oyelowo has developed greatly as an actor; with major roles in BBC's Spooks and this year through the hit film THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND in which he plays a Ugandan doctor. Oyelowo has proved that he shines on many different levels as an actor.

NAOMIE HARRIS
 > PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MANS CHEST / AT WORLDS ENDS AND MIAMI VICE



After her quality breakthrough performance many years ago Naomie Harris has since added mainstream roles to her list. More recently in MIAMI VICE and her PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MANS CHEST/AT WORLDS END. Her performances have to be commended. All power to her.

SOPHIE OKONEDO
 > SCENES OF A SEXUAL NATURE / STORMBREAKER



It's hard to believe that this sensational actress never even considered this profession in her early years. Sophie's role in STORMBREAKER is based on novels by Anthony Horowitz. Here she demonstrates just why she is an international superstar.

ASHLEY WALTERS
 > LIFE AND LYRICS / STORMBREAKER



London born Ashley Walters has proved time and time again to be a major player in the TV and Film industry. In films such as Bullet Boy, Get Rich or Die Trying, LIFE AND LYRICS and STORMBREAKER, Ashley consistently demonstrates with ease his ability to stay very much afloat in the world of film.

DAVID HAREWOOD
 > BLOOD DIAMOND



David Harewood's fantastic performance in BLOOD DIAMOND as Captain Poison, displays his ability to really inhabit a character making him seem so real to the audience. Initially training as a Shakespearian actor, Harewood proves again that his acting skills are not limited to the stage or television, but contributes greatly to the world of film.

THANDIE NEWTON
 > THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS AND NORBIT



Last year's winner of Female Performance in Film returns for a second nomination for THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS and NORBIT. Simply terrific.

ADRIAN LESTER
 > SCENES OF A SEXUAL NATURE



Over the last decade Adrian Lester has built a solid portfolio as a successful actor both in TV and Film. Very well known to the UK public via the BBC series Hustle; Adrian is also a very strong film actor and is nominated for SCENES OF A SEXUAL NATURE.

< MENTIONS >
IDRIS ELBA
 > 28 WEEKS LATER
STEPHEN GRAHAM
 > THIS IS ENGLAND / THE INNOCENCE

CLARE-HOPE ASHTEY
 > CHILDREN OF MEN



Clare's first major international film CHILDREN OF MEN has made her noticed within the global film industry. Her natural ability to act is just simply phenomenal. With a performance like this it is fair to say that she can take the British or even Hollywood industry by storm.



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PUBLIC VOTING



LEON LOPEZ
 > HOLLYOAKS IN THE CITY

Sexy Leon first came to our attention in Brookside but after the axe of the programme he managed to make a comeback in C4's spin off from Hollyoaks- HOLLYOAKS IN THE CITY. With a large female fanbase Mr Lopez and the respect of the males his career is going places.



ADRIAN LESTER
 > HUSTLE

Adrian has come a long way from his birth place Birmingham. This handsome actor has starred in the American hit sitcom Girlfriends and was the mainstay in HUSTLE for four series. It is likely he may return for a fifth series.



IDRIS ELBA
 > THE WIRE

London born Idris has not only starred in many productions in the UK but also in America where he now resides. The HBO hit series THE WIRE has been a major success and lefts its mark on US TV. Elba's performance is excellent.



AINSLEY HARRIOTT
 > READY STEADY COOK

Ainsley is very skilful in what he does. Not only does he host READY STEADY COOK, he also contributes to helping the chefs prepare dishes, keeps the audience informed and makes us laugh, all at the same time.

TRISHA GODDARD
 > THE TRISHA GODDARD SHOW

Having been through a lot in her personal life Trisha has managed to conquer her demons. Now the host of THE TRISHA GODDARD SHOW she is highly respected and looked up to by many in the UK. A true inspiration



GINA YASHERE
 > LAST COMIC STANDING

Gina Yashere is known for her honest, upbeat and entertaining jokes. She is definitely flying the flag for Britain having been the first Brit to do America's famous Def Jam Comedy Show. Her performance in LAST COMIC STANDING is brilliant - she is a truly gifted comedian.



JUNE SARPONG
 > T4, STRICTLY DANCE FEVER / WAGS BOUTIQUE

June is no stranger to our screens. Her confident friendly approach in STRICTLY DANCE FEVER/ WAGS BOUTIQUE (and in everything she does) is the reason why she is here.



JOCELYN JEE-ESIEN
 > LITTLE MISS JOCELYN

Having conceived, wrote and starred in LITTLE MISS JOCELYN, the talented Jocelyn should be proud of her achievements. A former Screen nation winners she is a truly creative shining star.

PUBLIC VOTING



ANGELICA BELL
 > BBC

Aneglica's gift to present is amazing. Her natural relationship with the camera has her favoured by audiences from all backgrounds and ages. Let's hope that one day soon she has her very own TV show.



FREEMA AGYEMAN
 > DR WHO

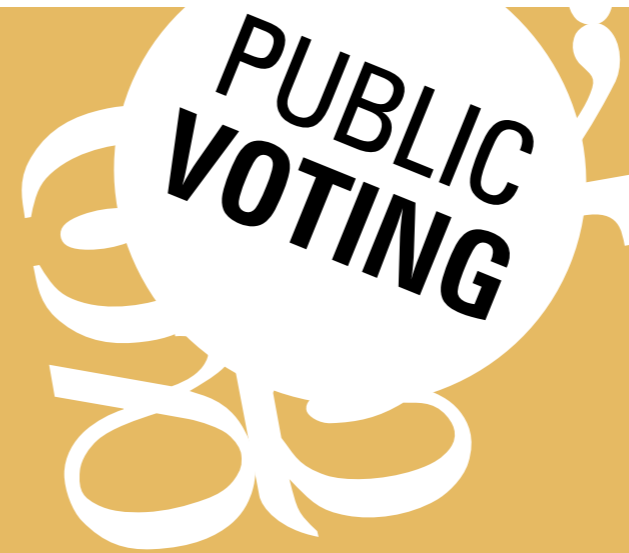
After graduating from Middlesex University Freema has been one of the many changes DR WHO has seen in the last year. She has made history with the series by becoming the first Black person to play the Dr's companion. What an accomplishment at such a young age!

Congratulations to Screen Nation Awards on your 5th Anniversary and good luck to all the award nominees.



At **Ernst and Young** we believe that an organisation full of **distinctive** and **diverse people** helps us deliver a different and better experience for our clients. That is why we are pleased to support events such as the **Screen Nation Awards** which celebrates the cascade of achievements that have helped enrich world and UK cinema and television with cultural diversity.

www.ey.com/uk



KAT
> **MTV**

The funny man Kat keeps moving forward. Some of you may know that he and his partner have their own show 'Kat and RB' on Choice FM. Even with his solo act on MTV, Kat has not failed to entertain.



MICA PARIS
> **WHAT NOT TO WEAR / COME DINE WITH ME**

London born singer Mica Paris, is no stranger to the entertainment world with a string of well produced albums and songs behind her name. Mica Paris is also the new face of WHAT NOT TO WEAR, a popular fashion guidance show. Her contribution to creating social awareness about gun crime as well as her efforts to conquer youth homelessness are highly commendable.

AINSLEY HARRIOTT
> **READY, STEADY, COOK**

At the early age of 16, Ainsley Harriot began an apprenticeship at an East End restaurant exploring his passion for food. However, he did not neglect his passion for comedy and singing, forming the Calypso Twins and releasing a record in the early 90s. He found a way to combine all his talents hosting several versions of his own cooking show, the popular READY STEADY COOK and Can't Cook Won't Cook and the Ainsley Harriet Show. He has graced both British and American television screens as both chef and comedian.



JUNE SARPONG
> **T4**

June Sarpong is a television presenter and role model to many young British women. At the age of 30, she has had a very successful media career. She began at Kiss FM radio, before transferring her talents to the screen at MTV UK, She now regularly hosts Channel 4's T4 strand and has interviewed the likes of Tony Blair amongst others while continuing to present game shows and live events.



TRISHA GODDARD
> **TRISHA GODDARD SHOW / FAMILIES AT WAR**

Born in Hackney London, she became a TV success in Australia. Now, Trisha hosts her own very successful daytime television chat show The TRISHA GODDARD SHOW. Her unfailing interest in social issues has been key in helping to shape and guide British lifestyle.



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TIM CAMPBELL
> THE APPRENTICE

Tim was the winner of the first series of THE APPRENTICE. Sir Alan described Tim who was kept on after the end of his original 12 month contract as a "great asset". He is also an asset to his community.



LEONA LEWIS
> X FACTOR

A lot has changed for Miss Lewis since winning X FACTOR having now signed a £5 million recording contract with Arista Records. Whitney Houston is reported to have said that Lewis will be an international star and has offered to mentor her. Leona is now hoping they will record a duet. Leona Lewis is a true winner.

MAKOSI
> BIG BROTHER

The Zimbabwean beauty who has become a reality TV star, Makosi Musambasi earned fame as a contestant on the UK's BIG BROTHER 6. She finished third on the show and was the highest female finisher.

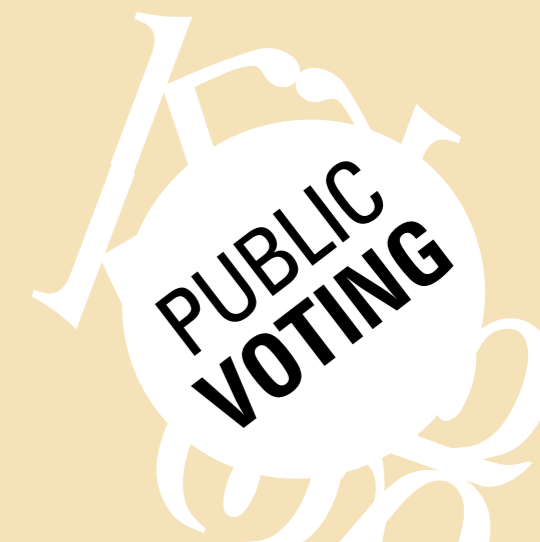


ANDY ABRAHAM
> X FACTOR

Since appearing on X FACTOR, Andy has released 2 studio albums. His debut, 'The Impossible Dream', reached platinum status (300,000) in the UK. 'Soul Man', his second album took Andy back to his roots, capturing hits from inspirational legends including Stevie Wonder and The Temptations. He may have failed to win X FACTOR but Andy is on a winning streak.

BRENDA EDWARDS
> X FACTOR

Prior to appearing in X FACTOR Brenda worked as an Accounts Manager, but how things have changed. She has been involved in various projects including roles in the West End hit musical Chicago and Carmen Jones at the Royal Festival Hall. Things are very bright for Brenda and there is no stopping her now.



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A GOAT'S TAIL > DIR / PROD: JULIUS AMEDUME

A Goat's Tail – Dir/Prod: Julius Amedume
Kojo is a taxi driver in Ghana. Sleeping on his break he is awoken by a beautiful young actress called Cynthia. Six months later Kojo arrives on Cynthia's doorstep in London. Filled with ambitions of making money and fulfilling his dreams of succeeding as a poet, he soon realises that the grass isn't greener on the other side and people are not what they seem.



RAG TAG > DIR: ADAORA NWANDU

At last a Black British Gay Film. RAG TAG has two strong leads and an even stronger sense of realism. Set in a London that is totally believable Rag Tag has an edge that echoes Stephen Frears' My Beautiful Launderette. The film introduces themes and ideas without banner waving. The two leads are believable and watchable and supported by a strong cast. It also boasts the first Black British Gay screen kiss since Isaac Julien's Passion of Remembrance.

MALCOLM'S ECHO > DIR / PROD: DAMI AKINNUSI

Dami Akinnusi is fantastic director. Her documentaries never fail to deliver which is why MALCOLM'S ECHO has to be recognised. Premiered to the world to coincide with the anniversary of Malcolm X's assassination the film looks at one of the most famous black icons of all time.



LITTLE WHITE LIES > PROD: JOHN GIWA-AMU

'LITTLE WHITE LIES' is a comedy about racism which tells the story of working class family in Wales living in fear of their country becoming a place where there are more mosques than McDonalds and terrorists lurk in every corner shop. Their own family is on the verge of being torn apart by racial tensions and the only person in the family trying to hold it all together is the mother, Karen. It also deals with the rise of the BNP, the politics of hate, the paranoia of racism and how it affects this Welsh family.

CROSSING BRIDGES > DIR / PROD: MARK NORFOLK

CROSSING BRIDGES follows 55 year old Julius who is about to commit suicide- his daughter has accused him of abuse. As he is about to end it all he meets an Angel. He comes to realise that ending it is not easy and there are great demons he has to face. Mark Norfolk is a talented writer whose work should be celebrated.



LUCKY JOE > DIR: OBI EMELONYE

LUCKY JOE is simply a must see. The film follows two friends who have hit the jackpot or so they think. They consequences that lie ahead may prove fatal. Obi Emelonye will be more than a conqueror in the film industry.



Images of Black Women Film Festival African descent women in cinema

29th Feb - 2nd Mar 2008
Tricycle Cinema - London - Kilburn

Submissions are Open for Images of Black Women Film Festival 2008 - info@imagesofblackwomen.com

Closing date **15th December 2007**
Images of Black Women (IBW) is looking for documentaries, features, short films and animation. The selection criteria: strong presence of African descent women in front or behind the camera.

The 4th Images of Black Women Film Festival will open on 29th February to 2nd March 2008 at the avant-garde Tricycle Cinema, London. 3 inspirational days where amazing work by black women & about black women will be showcased to increase one's knowledge of their role in cinema. The Festival opens with a **Life Time Achievement Award to acknowledge the achievement of a prominent black woman in cinema.** Other events include a short film competition for emerging filmmakers, a Children's Corner with animations, the oral tradition of the storyteller & an animation workshop. There will be films from the Black Diaspora, **Q & A's, seminars and workshops by inspiring black women filmmakers,** celebrity guests, networking events & parties.

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IBW 2007 screening: *Antonia* by Tata Amaral (2006) Brazil



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JOHN MAKINSON, CEO PENGUIN

SOUL BRITANNIA

> BBC4

BBC4's SOUL BRITANNIA celebrates the underestimated singers in Britain within the 60's and 70's. It brings to light the surrounding issue of how American soul singers such as Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, etc were recognised around the world but British singers from that same era were forgotten. It also examines the impact Black American and Caribbean music has in society today.



ROOTS REMEMBERED

> BBC2

ROOTS REMEMBERED follows Kwame Kwei-Armah's journey to bring together the original cast of the hit series for the first time in 30 years and looks at the impact that the series had on many people's lives. A refreshing look back in history.

MOIRA STUART IN SEARCH OF WILBERFORCE

> BBC2

BBC's very own Moira Stuart became the first female Afro-Caribbean newsreader in 1981. Although working in a white dominated workforce; she still kept to her roots. The BBC's 'Abolition' season follows Miss Stuart in her own documentary IN SEARCH OF WILBERFORCE which coincided with the 200th anniversary of the Bill banning the British slave trade.



GIRLS & KNIVES / YOUTHS WITH GUNS

> ITV

Wayne G. Saunders is a gifted writer/director who aims to take the British film industry by storm. Two of his hard hitting documentaries GIRLS AND KNIVES / YOUTHS WITH GUNS aired on ITV and had a huge response from the public. The films give an insight into the reasons why this atrocity is taking place in the community and how some deal with tackling the issue.

TV'S BLACK PIONEERS

> BBC4

Award winning director Alrick Riley has done it again! His unique talent and ability to tell a story manages to captivate you each time. TV's BLACK PIONEERS shown on BBC4; places interest in the trials and tribulations of first generation African-Caribbean actors and actresses.



< MENTIONS >

THE HISTORY OF BLACK PEOPLE IN THE UK

> C4

THE ORIGINS OF RACISM

> BBC2



BBC

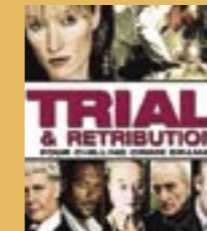
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TRIAL & RETRIBUTION

> ITV

TRIAL AND RETRIBUTION is a police procedural format which follows the lives of the people in the police force and also how they conduct their investigations. It's uniqueness with its use of camera movements and juxtapositions are just one of the reasons why this programme is popular.



EASTENDERS

> BBC1

EASTENDERS is one of Britain's best loved Soaps and has been around for more than twenty years. Its ability to captivate, and provoke emotions is why it is still going. And let's not forget the programme's diversity from the past up until the present day.

SHOOT THE MESSENGER

> BBC2

SHOOT THE MESSENGER follows one teacher hoping to save his pupils from the destructive path of crime, gang-culture and of course underachievement. His journey brings up emotions he cannot deal with forcing him to search for himself. On his way he finds his attitudes and those of his community being challenged. Brave, uncompromising and designed to create a reaction.



THE BILL

> ITV1

THE BILL has most definitely come a long way. Its present force highlights what is going on in society today - bent coppers, drugs, sex and much much more. The show shows how the police deal with their job and their personal everyday lives.

DR WHO

> BBC2

DR WHO is one of the longest running programmes on British TV. It hasn't failed to entertain and has moved along with the times. Their newest addition Freema Agyeman, the Dr's Companion and other young blood have brought a refreshing diversity to the show.



TOUCH



DIZZEE RASCAL

> SIRENS / MATHS + ENGLISH

The East-London-born rapper entered the scene via the underground and is now one of the hottest acts in the urban music scene. Since winning a Mercury Music Prize in 2003, his garage style rapping has set a trend that is presently dominating the streets of London. His new Album 'MATH & ENGLISH' has received recognition in America and has also been nominated for a second Mercury prize.



CORINNE BAILEY RAE

> LIKE A STAR

Corrine Bailey Rae is a singer/songwriter who has not only been nominated for a Grammy but has won two MOBO awards. Accurately predicted breakthrough act of 2006, her first album 'CORRINE BAILEY RAE' debuted at number one selling over 4 million copies. The forthcoming Instant Karma album is set to take the country by storm for a second time.



AKALA

> SHAKESPEARE / A LITTLE DARKER

Despite being in the mainstream for just over a year, Akala has managed to win himself a MOBO Award for Best Hip Hop Artist beating international heavyweights such as Busta Rhymes and Kanye West. Following this achievement, he has partnered with the British Council to promote British music and culture overseas. 'SHAKESPEARE/A LITTLE DARKER' simply shows off his talent.



UNKLEJAM

> LOVE YA / WHAT AM I FIGHTING FOR

UNKLE JAM introduces a refreshing new sound that brings together pop, funk and fun within a unique retro landscape. Their bright and clever approach to music is simply exciting. 'LOVE YA/WHAT AM I FIGHTING FOR' is upbeat and will definitely have you on the dancefloor.



NATHAN

> COLD AS ICE

The moment 'Come into My room' hit the streets, Nathan was labelled a perfectly polished parcel. Now, two-years on the R&B singer is still firing hits and is set to stomp the charts. He returns with the lyrically innovative single 'COLD AS ICE' which to no surprise is positioned to stomp the charts.



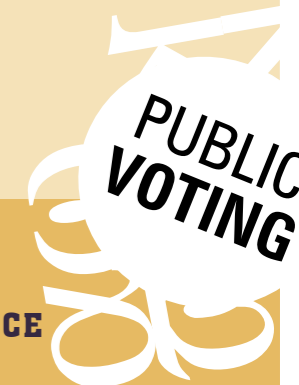
JAMELIA

> BEWARE OF THE DOG / WALK WITH ME

After her groundbreaking hit 'Money' and just the tender age of 16, Jamelia was dubbed the queen of R&B. Now the 26-year-old mother of two is back to reclaim her title. Her refreshing and diverse third album 'WALK WITH ME' is said to be her best yet and has received fantastic reviews. The single 'BEWARE OF THE DOG' has been described as the stand out track after a good run in the UK Charts.

< MENTIONS >

KANO > LONDON TOWN
MS DYNAMITE > JUDGEMENT DAY
SWAY > THIS IS NOT MY 2ND ALBUM



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DREAMGIRLS

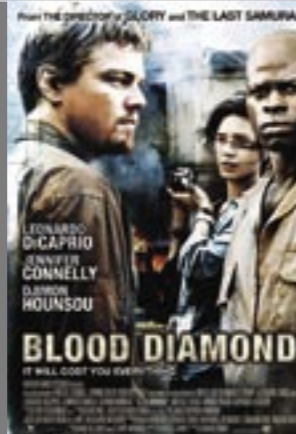


THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

This musical is unquestionably entertaining with its racy storyline. DREAMGIRLS also manages to reflect on friendship, love and betrayal.

A must see! THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND is a good history lesson which is why it has to take its deserving place here.

BLOOD DIAMOND



THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

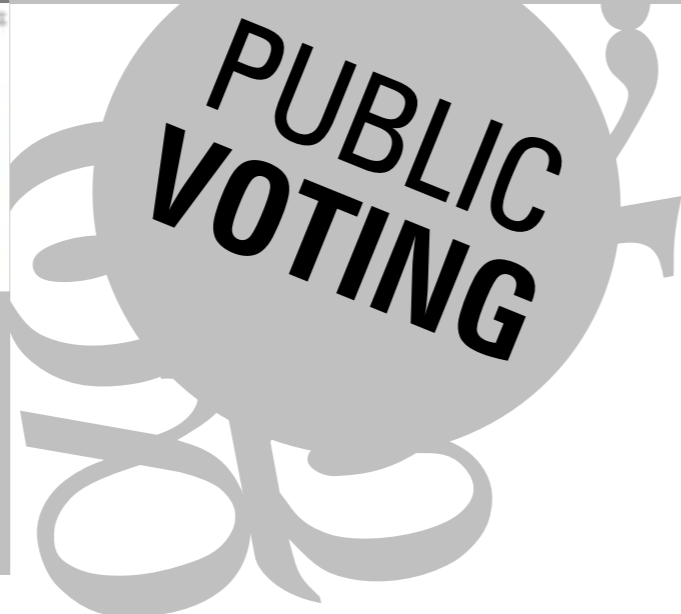
A convincing film BLOOD DIAMOND's brutal scenes makes it a compelling story.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS is a wonderful story of one man's struggle to make it to the top.

MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION



MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION is a hilarious film. It is a must see.



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DJIMON HOUNSOU
> BLOOD DIAMOND



You could say Steven Spielberg's Amistad enabled Djimon to set his position amongst first rate actors. Following a string of nominations and 12 wins, Djimon Hounsou is also the third ever African male to receive an Oscar nomination. The BLOOD DIAMOND star always receives a positive response from critics and audiences alike.

ISAIAH WASHINGTON
> GREY'S ANATOMY



Mr Washington not only deserves his place in GREY'S ANATOMY but also on this list. His effortless acting style manages to captivate and deliver every time.

KERRY WASHINGTON
> THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND AND I THINK I LOVE MY WIFE

American born Kerry Washington has had a recent string of success and came to the public's attention in her mind blowing performance in Save The Last Dance. Since then, the only way has been up for this rising star. Her performance in THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND was exceptional. She is now one of the new faces for L'Oreal.



VANESSA WILLIAMS
> UGLY BETTY



Is there anything Miss Vanessa Williams hasn't done? After becoming the first African-American to win Miss America; this began the birth of her flourishing career. She has topped the charts and acted. Although in her mid 40's it's only now that Vanessa is at her peak. She is the star of one of America's most talked about shows UGLY BETTY and with a bunch of awards under her belt it seems her work is not yet over.

JAMIE FOXX
> DREAM GIRLS / MIAMI VICE



Multitalented performer Jamie Fox rose rapidly to stardom after his Oscar winning performance in the film biography of the late Ray Charles. His Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor in Collateral and his roles in MIAMI VICE and DREAM GIRLS make him nothing short of fabulous.

TYLER PERRY
> MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION



Funny man Tyler Perry is back again. MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION is another hit under his belt. This man has a huge future.

JENNIFER HUDSON
> DREAMGIRLS



After her controversial exit from American Pop Idol, Jennifer Hudson immediately had the sympathy of the public around the world. Since then Hudson has moved one mountain after another. Her breathtaking performance in DREAMGIRLS has definitely earned her a place as a household name.

TICHINA ARNOLD
> EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS



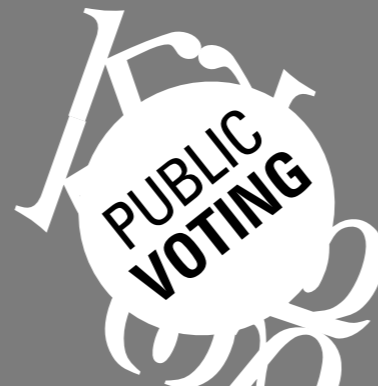
New York born Tichina began her acting career at an early age. Since then she has built up her reputation landing at least two important roles a year. Her best known role to date is playing Rochelle in EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS. If that wasn't enough; she had her voice featured on many underground house and dance mixes played in the club scenes of Los Angeles.

WILL SMITH
> THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS



Will has been around for years and it seem he isn't going anywhere in a hurry. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS is just another effortless performance from Will Smith. He is a legend. Nothing else to say

< MENTIONS >
TYRESE
OMAR EPPS

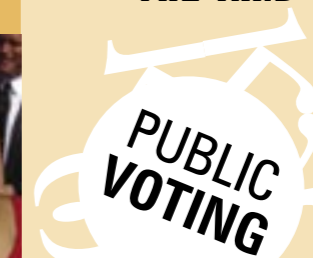


CHANDRA WILSON
> GREY'S ANATOMY



Since attending the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, earning a BFA in drama; Chandra has come a long way having appeared in Sex and the City, The Sopranos and Law and Order. It wasn't until playing Dr. Miranda Bailey in GREYS ANATOMY that her talent and passion for acting has been recognised by everyone.

< MENTIONS >
SANAA LATHAN
> SOMETHING NEW AND NIP TUCK
MEAGAN GOOD
> YOU GOT SERVED AND STOMP
THE YARD





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APESIN



APESIN exercises the question "To be or not to be"; the notion that the power of love can move mountains and cause the betrayal of friendship. The consequence of the bitter feud between two friends sees the lives of themselves and many taken to deep despair.

STITANDA



It is not hard to see why Izu Ojukwu's STITANDA has been nominated for numerous awards, Best Cinematography, Best Editing and even Best Film; I mean the list is endless. With attributes like this it is not hard to see why this film has touched a vast number of people.

ABENI



ABENI tells the story of a beautiful young lady born into a rich family who meets Akanni, a young man who has managed to pull himself out of poverty. Being a small world Akanni's father used to work for Abeni's father when they were children. As adults they have now fallen in love but Abeni's father has already sealed an engagement for her to another man. What will become of the young lovebirds?

BEYONCE

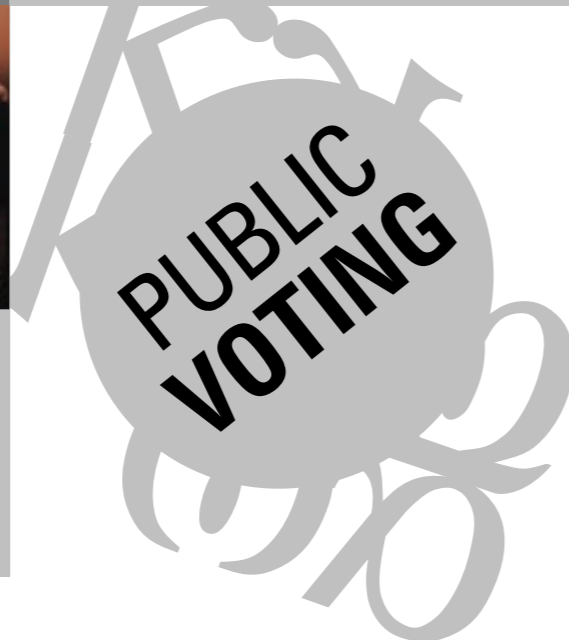


BEYONCE is the Presidents daughter and will stop at nothing to win the heart of her beloved Raj- though he belongs to someone else. This film tells the story of a young woman who uses her power and wealth to win the man she loves at whatever the cost. This film is a definite must watch with its heart racing action.

AMAZING GRACE



Jeta Amata's is one of Nigeria's most prominent directors. Based on a true story, AMAZING GRACE explains how the British slave trader John Newton's journey to Nigeria in 1748 led him to write the renowned hymn. This film will definitely draw a wider public's eyes to Nollywood.



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VAN VICKER



As one of Ghana's rising stars, the handsome Van Vicker is a popular face in the African film industry. The Ghanaian movie star of the popular movie; BEYONCE THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER 1 & 2 and THE RETURN OF BEYONCE has a huge female fanbase all across the globe. Van Vicker is definitely destined to break the mould and move towards stardom in Hollywood.

RAMSEY NOUAH JR

Ramsey Nouah's face is better known around the African film world than the face of the president of Nigeria. Born in the early seventies, his face has sold many Nigerian movies at home and abroad. Ladies melt with love for him, especially for his numerous "lover boy" roles in romantic movies.



GENEVIEVE NNAJI

Genevieve Nnaji is a 28 year-old Nigerian Actress/singer/TV presenter. Dubbed the Nigerian 'Sharon Stone' she is best known for her performances in Blood Sisters, and the Games Women play. She has already received an African Movies Academy Award for Best Actress in Africa.



KATE HENSHAW-NUTAL



Kate has been very busy this year working on many new films, all of which promise to be big hits. Her latest films include Blood On Ice, A Million Tears and The Games Men Play. Beauty, talent and a great work ethic makes Kate a leading contender

OLU JACOBS



He is the father of Nigeria's contemporary film industry. His acting career goes back to the 1960s sixties, which started in the United Kingdom. Mr Jacobs has acted with the likes of Roger Moore, Richard Burton etc while abroad. On his return to Nigeria, he continued his acting career in television and on stage. Most epic film producers seek to get him on board. Olu Jacobs is a professional to the core.

RICHARD MOFE DAMIJO

The man popularly referred to as RMD is a source of excitement to millions of film fans and enthusiasts in Nigeria and beyond. Any film which has RMD's signature is most likely to be a blockbuster. He is recognised as a brand by major African movie institutions and undoubtedly one of the exceptionally gifted actors in the Nollywood film industry.



RITA DOMINIC



A radiant actress with style grace and charisma, Rita shines in every role she plays and is loved by millions. She is one of the few Nollywood actresses capable to take America by storm if given a chance.

PETER ENE



Peter Ene is a talented actor whom we're sure will continue to grace our screens in many years to come. Ene is a versatile and committed performer and a new breed of Nollywood actor that stretches himself every time he performs.

STEPHANIE OKEREKE

Stephanie is a deserving nominee who without a doubt can be described as a star. She has a long career ahead of her and with the right film choices could become not only the biggest actress in Nigeria, but also across Africa and the Diaspora.



NADIA BUHARI



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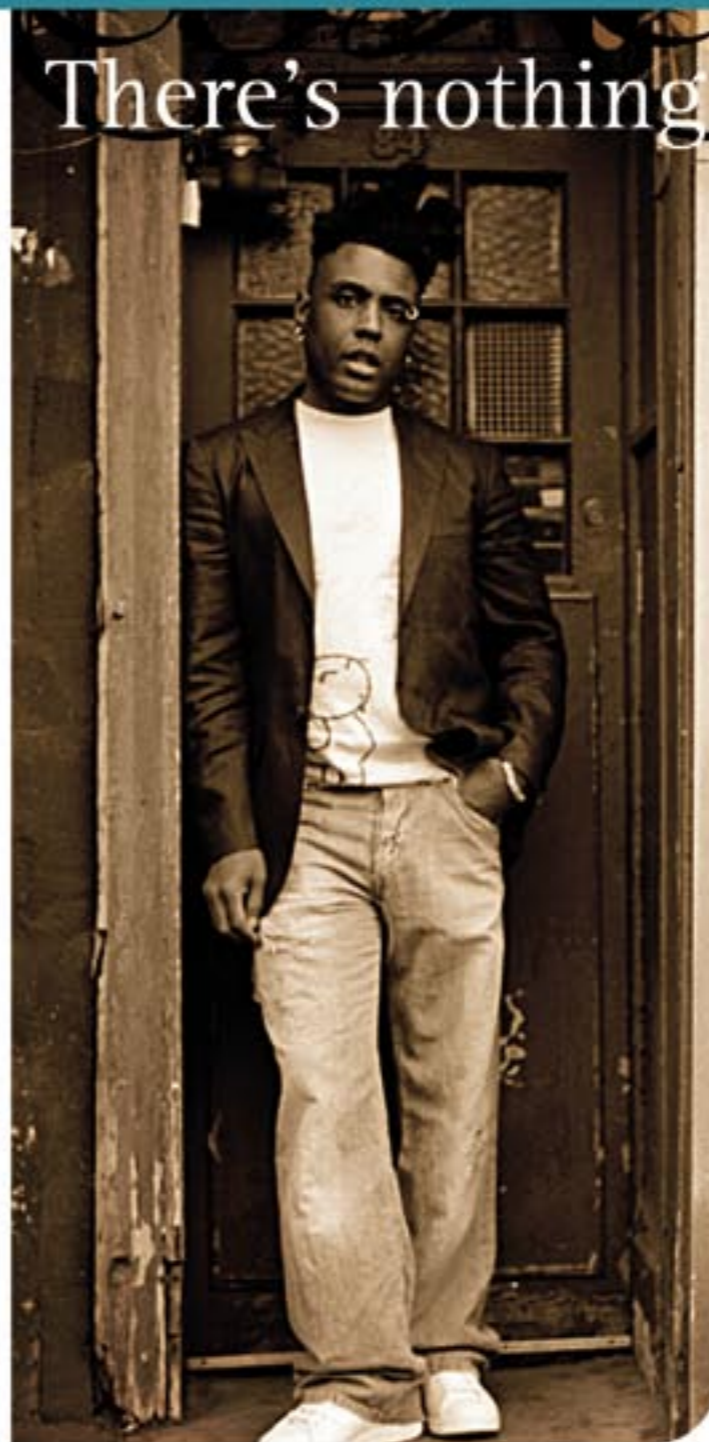
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WINNER



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Since his massive hit *There's Nothing Like This* in 1992 Omar has been involved in working alongside names such as Stevie Wonder, Angie Stone and Syreeta Wright, to mention just a few. He has recently released his new album *Sing (If You Want It)*.



"Thinc and Lea have provided a one-stop shop for building my property portfolio. The service and guidance have been excellent and staff are very friendly" – Len Lawrence

Len has been drumming for over 15 years and his style ranges from Irish folk, jazz and reggae to traditional African beats. His drumming has been in demand across the globe and he is currently involved in a high-profile West End show.



"In our view, Lea is No 1 in her field and we fully endorse what she does for her clients" – Rick Clarke

Rick is renowned for his classic hits such as *I'll See You Along The Way* and his recent collaborations with Soul 2 Soul, Omar and Donny. Rick and his wife Glenda also run London Elite, a specialist travel company, and in 2005 were the first in their field to win the award for The Most Entrepreneurial Travel Group, endorsed by the St Lucia Tourist Board.



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Managing Director of West End DJ and winner of Best DJ Retailer of the year 2007, Chris is also founder of RJS Promotions who are currently celebrating 21 years in their specialist area.

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FILM + TV REVIEWS

> AT THE MOVIES
THE KINGDOM

One of the hottest action movies this year in my opinion is *The Kingdom*. Comic turned Hollywood hot-property Jamie Foxx takes the lead role as government special agent Ronald Fleury alongside Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper (*American Beauty*, *The Bourne Identity*, *Jarhead*) and Jason Bateman (*The Break-Up*, *Smokin' Aces*). The plot surrounds a fatal terrorist attack on a community of US citizens living and working in Saudi Arabia. Ronald Fleury (Foxx) must assemble a team (Garner, Cooper and Bateman) to find out who was behind the deadly attacks. In the aftermath of 9/11 and on-going unrest in Iraq the plot may just sound a little heavy but the fast-paced action and poignant comedy moments keep the viewer entertained. Ashraf Barhom (*The Syrian Bride*) gives a wonderful performance as

Saudi Colonel Al Ghazi who is assigned to look after the elite team whilst on their mission. With Michael Mann (*Heat*, *the Aviator*, and *Miami Vice*) in the director's chair you are guaranteed a white-knuckle ride with explosions and car chases galore. This is one to watch this autumn.

> ON THE TV
DUBPLATE DRAMA

Dubplate Drama is one of a kind. Returning for a second series this time the drama has a lot more comedy and will appeal to young and old. Fans of UK grime music and rap music will once again be in their element as the show features N Dubz, Mike GLC, Rodney P, New Generals, Big Narstie, SAS, Boya, Plastician and Dynamite MC amongst others. Shystie returns again as Dionne in her quest to bag that elusive record deal and viewers will once again have the opportunity to

decide the outcomes of the decisions faced by the main characters. Veteran actor Roger Griffiths is excellent as the old has-been D.Brain, an ageing MC trying to re-live his youth through some of the younger characters. With a banging soundtrack and perfect comic timing my only gripe is that the show is on so late. Come on Channel 4 we're not all night owls! For those of us who can't fight sleep you can watch the show all week on MySpace e – www.myspace.com/dubplatedrama.

Dubplate Drama broadcasts September 2007, 14 times a week on Channel 4, E4, MTV One, MTV Base, MySpace and all mobile networks.

www.dubplatedrama.tv

Turn to page 79 for our interview with Shystie, Dubplate Drama's leading lady.



Image by Pixel Capture, courtesy of Ghanaian designer Tina Attemo



DIARY OF A SCREEN NATION WINNER

Welcome to the world of Wil Johnson, actor and family man

MONDAY

Woke up the usual time of 6.30am to go for my early morning run. Quick shower then get my son ready for nursery. Back home, I call my PR outlining my schedule for the day. Meetings are out the way; back on the train home to cook tonight's dinner...my specialty, roast chicken, rice, veg and a healthy dose of salad. Get my son ready for bed. Three stories plus flashcards and finally I can put my feet up with my better half and chill.

TUESDAY

The run and workout were harder today. I have lots of paper work to do as my accountant's been riding me for stuff that I've been putting off for too long. Have to run into town to see him later (and to find out how much Mr Taxman wants from me...YUCK!!) Pick up my son early from nursery, he's been on at me for a new Spiderman suit and Webslinger. Made sure a good amount of time is put aside for my wife and the twins plus my older daughter whose been working very hard at school is getting straight A's (so proud of her). Get the call from Waking the Dead and the final shooting script should be whizzing my way as we speak by bike. Can't wait to read it.



BINGO! Script arrives 6pm sharp. Feed the kids and have some nice downtime with the Missus and we have a good laugh about how we met and how I tried to woo her much to the children's amusement. Get them ready for bed then settle down for that all important first read of the brand new crisp biscuit script.

WEDNESDAY

Good workout this morning and feeling chipper. My son's up early so that makes my job of getting him ready a whole lot easier. Twins up early and we scramble downstairs to the toaster! My boy wins so he gets his brekkie first. Off to nursery early as they've got a field trip on today (he's so excited!). Back home and look after the twins while the Missus is out for the day. Get a call from my PR telling me I'm off to LA this Saturday for a week.



Wil Johnson with actor and close friend Treva Etienne at a diner in Burbank late Saturday afternoon.

Just enough time before Waking the Dead starts. Quick call to my director (I need to see some of the rushes before I leave as he's putting together the first assembly of our movie) we arrange for Friday but that's looking doubtful. My older girls have come over for dinner bringing my grandson with them. He's such a little geezer and full of life and energy. I am, drop them home. Bwoy! It's been ah long day and me bed ah call me.

THURSDAY

Run this morning no workout. Yippee! My boy's up early again and I get him to nursery on time. Have some nice down time with the girls and the Missus.



Today's the day for staying in, relaxing and putting my feet up. Phone is switched off as it's strictly family day. My son and

daughter are home early so we go out for an evening meal, Thai (my favourite). Back home, kids to bed, DVD time for me, Lady in the Water.

FRIDAY

Fast and furious day with lots of last minute things to do before travelling to LA. Spent most of the day on the phone to my PR. Oh God!! Haven't packed yet!! Can't see my director and get on the phone to him, we'll rearrange for when I get back. Cook dinner, veggie soup. Nice. Phone dad, brother and sister and then back on the phone to PR. Ring my mate in LA letting him know I'm flying in tomorrow and he's chuffed. PACK! Its 2am now everyone's asleep, I've got to be up at 6.30am.

SATURDAY

Arrive at the airport three hours before check in. That's ok, duty free shopping - YEEEEAAHH! Flight leaves at 12 noon. Now I can sleep. Wake up for meal time, back to sleep. We're landing. Pick up my car and off to the hotel. Phone my boy and we hook up in Burbank for some food. Long chin wag. I'm knackered. Off to bed and another long sleep...night.

Dubplate Drama, the world's first interactive drama returns to our screens for a second series this September. Featuring the cream of talent from the UK music scene the stellar cast list includes Adam Deacon, Roger Griffiths, Tim Westwood, Sean Brosnan, N Dubz, Rodney P and of course Shystie who returns in her lead role of Dionne. Screen Nation caught up with the female MC at the recent press screening to find out a bit more...

Tell us a bit about your character Dionne.
Shystie: Dionne is an aspiring artist trying to make it in the music world but she just gets pulled back a lot of the time by negative people surrounding her. In this series she is a lot more mature and makes better decisions, I think. I like playing her character a lot more this time because now that [the show] is half an hour long you get to see more about her and other characters around her.

What do you think the appeal of Dubplate Drama is?

Shystie: I think because it's interactive and positive Also the younger kids can relate to a lot of what is going on in it.

Most people know you as an MC. Are you acting full-time now?

Shystie: It depends what the money is like (laughs). I would like to. I'll probably go to acting classes to learn a bit more about it but I wouldn't mind.

What do you think of the portrayal of black females in the media.

Shystie: I don't really see it. All I see is Ms Dynamite; she's seen as the conscious black girl. Then sometimes they'll throw Jamaica into the mix and that's about it. It's true (laughs)! There are a lot more positive black females out there that are doing a lot of things.

The characters each face a lot of hard decisions. What is the most difficult situation you have been in?

Shystie: I did my first year at Tottenham College. I passed the first year and that was when I was

putting out my music. I did *I Luv U*; my first white label and it started blowing up and then the majors came and I was like, 'money, money'. I had to decide if I was going to go back to college and finish my last year or to put that on hold and go with the majors. Music is what I wanted to do anyway and college was just for me to learn a bit more about studio and I passed my first year and decided that I was going to go with the majors.

What do you think of the current 'gun culture' that is surrounding the youth of today?

Shystie: I've got a younger brother and I'm scared of him going out. I don't want him to be involved or get shot. I know it doesn't happen all the time; he can go out and be all right. He's 18 now and he's at that age where he could be walking down the street and guys could be looking at him wanting to do something. He's a good guy he's not into all that stuff. It's a bit scary.

What is next for you?

Shystie: I've got my album coming out in 2008 called *Dear Diary*. I'm still with Polydor and I had the option of if I was going to go with them but we're not going to go with them. I've just shot my video and my manager sorted it all out by himself. You save so much money.

When it's the majors they say they put all this money into you but you don't know where it goes.

So we just done it and it looks just as good as any video I've ever done. We'll probably be independent and it's going to have better results than the majors; to show you don't need the majors.

www.dubplatedrama.tv

MEET SHYSTIE DUBPLATE DRAMA'S LEADING LADY



MALCOLM FREDERICK

We caught up with acting, writing and directing veteran Malcolm Frederick

We're at Malcolm's south London home as he tells me about his journey in the film and television industry and his battle with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. It is an aggressive form of the cancer, Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma of which he has suffered from for the past six to seven years.

To raise awareness and funds for Malcolm and the African-Caribbean Leukaemia Trust [ACLT], an event was held at north London's Tricycle Theatre called Sweet Inspiration.

Guests at the spoken word event included Rudolph Walker, Janet Kay, Victor Romero Evans and Malcolm Frederick, who were joined by guest artists, Kwame Kwei-Armah, Robbie Gee, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Danny John Jules, Eddie Nestor, Carroll Thompson, Larrington Walker and Angela Wynter. Singers were mostly from the London Community Gospel Choir.

It was an evening where the guests paid tribute to pioneers such as Nobel Prize winners for Literature Derek Walcott, V. S. Naipaul [Miguel Street] and Samuel Selvon [Lonely Londoners]. These were just a few of the Caribbean's greatest who were honoured on the night.

Malcolm Frederick is also one of the Caribbean's finest exports. The Trinidadian who has made an outstanding contribution to theatre, film and television, said of the event: 'It's to raise awareness and funds for myself and the ACLT, African-Caribbean's need to pay attention to the fact that we need to donate blood. It's also a celebration and a reunion for the cast of No Problem and Get Up, Stand Up and an opportunity for black actors to show solidarity.'

It's great to talk about the fun side of the event but there is an underlying reason why the event was held at all. Difficult as the subject may be to broach I ask Malcolm how he is feeling, health wise. He replies,

'I'm in remission at the moment but have a permanent flu.'

It was around six or seven years ago when Malcolm noticed some growths over his eyes. His doctor referred him to hospital where he was told he had an 18-month wait. This was obviously not good enough so Malcolm took matters into his own hands and went to see a specialist on Harley Street who then referred him to St Bart's. It was here where they diagnosed him as having Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. He was told that it was not dangerous and treatable.

However, there had been some developments. In mid-2006, which Malcolm calls a 'dark year', during a routine check he was told that he actually had a more aggressive form of the cancer and his prognosis was two to five years.

With this devastating news Malcolm and his wife Beverley decided to 'bugger off' and take their two children Remi, 9, and Kamal, 7, out of school so they could spend time in

number of people registered with the ACLT is through increased awareness. Also with more donations they will be able to build a proper register. Malcolm reiterates the fear factor associated with giving blood by saying, 'The ACLT need help in persuading people that it's not mumbo jumbo, these are modern times'.

As Malcolm is in remission, it is now vital that he finds a bone marrow donor as this is the only time a transplant can take place.

The graduate from the Trinidad Theatre Workshop is the co-producer, writer and workshop director of the country's EastEnders equivalent, Westwood Park [it can be seen on the Sky channel BEN TV].

At 13, he emigrated to London with his parents and with acting a firm part of his being studied drama with Melwyn Coles at the age of 17 and co-founded the Louverture Theatre Company.

Malcolm has been in the industry for over 25 years as an actor, producer, writer, director and organiser of workshops and tours. As an actor, one of his most memorable roles was when he starred as Beastie in No Problem! This was the first British-



Trinidad. Malcolm and Beverley made the personal decision not to tell Remi and Kamal about his illness because, 'I am worried, my wife is worried and there's no point in worrying them too. Obviously they know I'm not well because I'm often in and out of hospital.'

It's difficult for everyone and it seems men find it harder to directly discuss it with Malcolm. He said, 'People find it difficult to talk about it - they ask 'How are you' without referring to the cancer. The wives of my male friends will phone on their behalf. People see me and see that I look well, but expect to see something different. We all die sometime.'

There is a 25 per cent chance that you can get a bone marrow match from a sibling but sadly none of Malcolm's three sisters' were a match. This is why a donation from someone from the community is so important. There does seem to be some sort of stigma or fear in the black community when it comes to giving blood. The statistics speak for themselves.

It seems that the only way to increase the

made sitcom specifically made for a black British audience. Working alongside Chris Tummins,

Janet Kay and Victor Romero Evans, he said these were 'very exciting times'. He recalls, 'We were young and more or less acting like young people our age on that show. No Problem won awards in the US'.

No Problem ran for four years and was axed when Farrukh Dhondy, a co-writer for the show was appointed as commissioning editor for C4.

In 1980 the cast set up the Black Theatre Cooperative [renamed NITRO] so when the show came to an end they continued touring England and Europe. They staged shows such as Welcome Home Jacob, Trinity and Mama Dragon. They had a strong following and fans

used to 'come screaming'.

Malcolm's success includes bringing the popular Jamaican comedian and actor Oliver Samuels over to the UK to perform. In the early nineties he also worked on Get Up, Stand Up with Angie Le Mar and Chris Tummins where he was both a writer and performer on the sketch and comedy series. The nineties was a good time for black UK comedy as Malcolm also worked as producer for Blouse and Skirt in 1992.

These are just a handful of examples of Malcolm's contribution to the UK's television and theatre industry but he has also contributed to radio and starred in feature films including The Fruit Machine, Burning an Illusion and Babylon.

These are of course great achievements but Malcolm does feel that in the UK, actors are victims of racism both in terms of the difference in how they are paid in comparison to their white counterparts and in the limited opportunities. He remembers turning up to auditions where he was openly told 'no blacks' and describes the effect of racism in the industry as 'debilitating'.

However it was also a time of great inspiration for him especially from people like the late Norman Beaton [Desmond's], Corinne Skinner-Carter and Rudolph Walker. He said, 'They were mentors to me and encouraged me to keep my accent. They were confident in their skin and made it alright for us to be ourselves.'

In turn, Malcolm is inspiration to the actors of tomorrow as he teaches at his local Pollards Hill Youth Club. It's probably true to say that his career influenced his older son Jamal's decision to join the television industry as he works as a freelancer and is one of the editor's on the Discovery Channel. Malcolm said, 'I used to take him to rehearsals and I guess he was taking it all in'. At this point, Malcolm gets up to show me a picture of his beautiful granddaughter, China.

As the interview comes to an end Malcolm is preparing to go and see his long time friend, Percy who has installed a giant screen in his living room. Tonight is their black man's cinema club, where they'll watch a classic film, relax and enjoy life.

For more information on the African-Caribbean Leukaemia Trust visit: www.aclt.org Westwood Park - Season 1 (10th anniversary edition) is now available on DVD from Amazon US.





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BARB WIRE
 Published by Barb Wire Enterprises

EDITORIAL: Aims and Objectives

Black History has been celebrated in America (February) and the UK (October) for over 30 years. Each annual publication of Black Heritage Today UK is a collectable timepiece, unique in that its multi-disciplinary approach will marry academic research and community-based scholarship and practice with the celebration and manifestation of Black heritage in the field of the arts, literature, education, music, film and tourism.

Barb Wire Enterprises has been producing their black history month publication since 2000 and has grown from strength to strength, recognized as the leading magazine to promote knowledge of Black History and experience; raise issues relevant to the target community; disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society; heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage; highlight and celebrate the achievements of the black community and uncover hidden history about our communities and serves as a platform for information-sharing and critical debate in a style that is cutting-edge and positive.

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GHANA'S MEDIA

A SLICE OF THE ACTION



Antonia Hines dips into Ghana's media culture

All the great stories you may have heard about Ghana are true. The country is rich in history and culture, and you can't help

noticing the calm nature of its citizens.

Some people say that these factors have contributed to Ghana's media industry. Others put it down to political stability. But, one thing is for sure, the media is dedicated to assisting the country's peaceful, democratic development.

I travelled to Ghana for a journalism work placement at the Daily Graphic, the country's leading newspaper. It was there that I saw the commitment each journalist, broadcaster and filmmaker had to the well-being of the community – a declining factor in the UK.

The sensational media tactics we see in Britain take a back seat in Ghana, with the Press dedicating their time to constructive news stories. The State-owned newspaper, The Daily Graphic, go for informative content, especially concerning political and economic affairs, considered priority issues.

The same goes for the independent newspapers – no melodrama, just useful, analytical stories with purpose. A similar train of thought is taken by radio stations.

The Press don't completely shy away from tabloid reporting. The Graphic, for example, has a number of weekly newspapers like The Mirror, Graphic Showbiz and Graphic Sport offering human interest stories. And those people with a taste for high society can opt for glossy magazines such as Ovation International – the African version of Hello.

Popular culture is also reflected on television. Many music lovers tune into TV3's Music Music. The live music show offers a platform for local artistes and debutants to perform tracks ranging from High-Life to Hip-Life music. There's also Idols West Africa on M-Net Africa, which is proving to be popular. The show based on the Pop Idol

concept features Ghanaian Hip-Life artist Abrewa Nana as one of the "soft-spoken and finely finicky" Idol judges.

Many people also sit in front of the box to watch Ghanaian soap operas, which try and home into the realities of daily life. Sitcoms like Taxi Driver and Home Sweet Home are on par with British soaps like EastEnders and Coronation Street in terms of popularity.

However, the viewing figures are different for Ghanaian films. The saturation of Nigerian films (Nollywood) in the country has overshadowed the Ghanaian film industry, which was once considered the best on the African continent.

Movies like Kwaw Ansah's Heritage Africa in the 80s were globally-recognised for providing educational value to Ghanaians, Africans and people in the Diaspora. Since then, the film industry has taken a nose dive with many Ghanaians favouring the glitz and glamour most Nollywood productions offer.

Time will tell whether the film industry will return to its heyday, but with filmmakers like Emmanuel Apea behind Run Baby Run and Nana King responsible for Omama: Royal Blood there's a chance for the Ghanaian film world to return to its former glory.

Whether it's the press, radio, TV or film, the media in Ghana seem focused on developing the nation to be the priceless gem of Africa's west coast.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Nana King Mensah – best known as Nana King – is one of the few people with the potential to revolutionise the Ghanaian film industry.

The director, actor and screenwriter started out as a poet and later progressed into the world of film. His first movie was Shoeshine Boy (1990s) about a young girl in Ghana disguised as a boy to get work. He often works under the umbrella of Nanaganaba Productions and lives in the US.

FILMOGRAPHY

- > The Beast Within, characterisation between African religion and western Christianity;
- > The Noise of Silence, a rich African family adopt a girl going blind;
- > Omama, a young man is sent to the US to help his people in Ghana

I ♥ GHANA BECAUSE.....

...of the peaceful, God-fearing nature of the people. It's my second home - even though I've only visited the country once and I'm not even Ghanaian!

ANTONIA HINES, WRITER
If you were to host a party to celebrate 50 years of Ghana's independence who would be your guest of honour?
 President of Ghana - J. A. Kufuor
Ghana's finest export?
 Tic Tac, VIP (Hip-Life artists) and Nana King - film producer, director and actor.

Screen Nation caught up with an eclectic mix
 of Ghanaian influenced designers....

THE TAPESTRY OF GHANA

Welcome to the wonderful world of Tina Akosia Afiemo – fashion designer, greeting card publisher and general bundle of loveliness.

Name: Tina Akosia Afiemo, 35
Occupation: Greeting Cards Publisher and Fashion Designer

How did you get into the fashion industry?
 My mum bought me a lovely green fabric which I created a design with just in time for my 27th birthday. I wore the dress to a friends wedding which fell on the same day, it was admired and my first orders came through. Each time I wear that dress I get the same reaction with it. It's such a simple, no frills design, but I guess that's what makes it classic. Now it's my vintage dress.



What do you think of the Ghanaian Fashion scene at the moment?
 Ghanaians know fashion! Particularly in Ghana where you might least expect it, we take pride in the way we carry ourselves and that also extends to what we wear and how we dress. Ghanaians have a classy fashion sense.

Does your work have a Ghana influence?

Definitely, there is something in the way the Northerners dress that I find appealing which is evident in my work. I've also designed adaptations of the Kaba and Bou-bou which are a constant theme that I work with.

What has been your career highlight so far?
 Being offered the role of costume designer for an up and coming Hollywood film about a story from Ghana. I'm excited not only because I get to dress my favourite actress ever, but this is also something that will take my career to another level.

Who or what is your inspiration?
 It's different things at different times. Makola market in Accra is an interesting one. Getting

>> "Ghanaians know fashion! Particularly in Ghana where you might least expect it, we take pride in the way we carry ourselves".

there before the sellers arrive at dawn and suddenly seeing them marching through and setting up...colours of the clothes and cloth they're wearing illuminating with the rising sun, and the volume gets louder and larger and it all happens in the blink of eye.

Best dressed Ghanaian?

Ghanaian radio and TV personality Dede Mantey. Dede's style is individual to her, and she has a creative way in how she puts it all together.

What are your plans for the future?

I took a long break to re-energise, but I'll be springing back with some interesting projects in the pipeline.

myspace.com/tiamodesigns

Ozwald Boateng has put Ghanaian designers on the map, but there are new kids on the block- Screen Nation spoke to three designers – one lives in the states, another in the UK, and the last is from East Germany – but they have one thing in common – their love for Ghana and her style.

KOFI ANNAN

Born in Accra, Ghana, Kofi Annan grew up in the USA and stumbled onto the fashion scene by chance. He began producing college fashion shows and then started studying graphic design. He then began volunteering at New York Fashion Week, and was struck by the lack of African representation in popular American fashion.

Annan said, "I took a chance and created a few sample designs for what I thought an Africa-themed contemporary line would look like."

He continues, "One of my biggest sellers was a shirt I did early on of Dr Kwame Nkrumah. You'd be surprised how many non-Ghanaians recognise and respect him."

Kofi's work includes intricate symbols and patterns, and his early designs incorporated Adinkra symbols and images of Ghanaian life.

He was nominated for the Rising Star Award by the Fashion Group International; his shirts were included in the celebrity gift bag at the American Music Awards, and he also lists Akon as a fan of his work.



ANNEGRET AFFOLDERBACH

Annegret Affolderbach is an unlikely ambassador for Ghanaian fashion. Born and raised in East Germany, Annegret studied fine art in the UK and stayed on for further study. Sparked by adventure and innovation, she launched her lifestyle design company 'CHOOOLIPS', and then went on to show at London Fashion Week 2003 supported by a Prince's Trust grant.

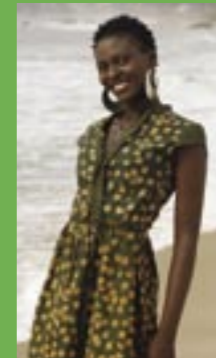
CHOOOLIPS have won numerous awards for innovative textile developments, and in 2006 Annegret won 'Best Global Commercial Print & Design' in the Design4Life Ghana competition.

She understands that fashion can nurture well-being, and create sustainable resources and opportunities at every level.

"Ghana's rich natural resources, its local textile traditions and the colours of its landscapes in a marriage of silhouettes, colour schemes & print layouts popular in the West."

In the near future, CHOOOLIPS are hoping to launch 'Kimono – fly in African skies', fusing African, Japanese and British textile traditions aiming "to raise the public's awareness of HIV and poverty in Africa".

Annegret's dresses will be launched by TopShop at the beginning of April as the first Fairtrade range to hit the UK High Street. chooolips.blogspot.com



SAMATA ANGEL

Samata Angel is an up and coming clothing designer (her company is called Samata's Muse); she is also a musician, writer and the fashion editor of The Talent Magazine.

After moving from Cambridge to London, Samata began customising for friends and family, and then moved on to participating in fashion shows and events such as the Face of Asia at Clothes Show Live.

Winner of the UK Urban Fashion Award for Best Couture Line of 2006 was a huge compliment for the British Ghanaian. On a trip to the US, Samata was asked also to join J.Lo's design team.

But no matter where she will work, her designs will also have an underlying Ghanaian influence – "bold statements and colour and an underlying spirituality".

"Ghanaians have an inherent understanding of the power of colours and are vibrant people so their attire will always reflect their energy in a strong but always appropriate way".

www.samatasmuse.com



Samata X modelling one of her designs

Watch out : Ghana 50 @ the V&A Museum - Summer 2007 www.vam.ac.uk

I GHANA BECAUSE.....

...a good part of it has helped in shaping who I've become.

How are you celebrating Ghana's 50 years of independence?

I've been invited to take part in my second fashion show featuring Ozwald Boateng in London. So it's a privilege to be part of a programme that will also be honouring one of Ghana's biggest achievers in the western part of the world.

If you hosted a party to celebrate 50 year's of Ghana's independence who would be your guest of honour?

I'll invite the spirit of freedom & justice and all things nice for my people, then after that the doors are open.

Who is Ghana's finest export?

Former secretary general of the United Nations Kofi Annan. He played a big role in putting Ghana on the map.

When you think of Ghana what is the first thing that comes to mind?

Sweet Cape Coast pineapples in my juicing machine.

What is your fondest memory of Ghana?

There was a lady that lived across the street from my house and she taught me how to make meat pies, bo'float (dumpling), achomoh (pastry sticks) and condensed milk toffees. I'd dress up with my floppy pair of aluminous green frame sunglasses and a head wrap and sing a 'bo'float' rhyme I'd made up in Twi to attract my customers.

Why are you proud to be Ghanaian?

I feel privileged for the tiny portion of what I do and can do to contribute to the big pie that makes Ghana so realised around the world....and of course THE BLACK STARS!!!

I GHANA BECAUSE.....

...it is my home and inspiration.

How are you celebrating Ghana's 50 years of independence?

With some kenke and fish at home with my family and friends

If you hosted a party to celebrate 50 years of Ghana's independence who would be your guest of honour?

Dr Kwame Nkrumah. I'd love to hear him talk about the old days.

Why are you proud to be Ghanaian?

Because Ghanaians have been at the centre of so many important events, also it's my home and a fine one at that.

I GHANA BECAUSE.....

...you simply cannot NOT LOVE IT. It leaves an imprint all over you once you have had a true taste of it.

When you think of Ghana what is the first thing that comes to mind?

When can I go back please?

I GHANA BECAUSE.....

...Ghana is known for being one of the friendliest (if not THE friendliest) and welcoming African countries. We take people as family and make them feel at home.

I am proud to be Ghanaian because we are friendly, hardworking and spiritual people who achieve.



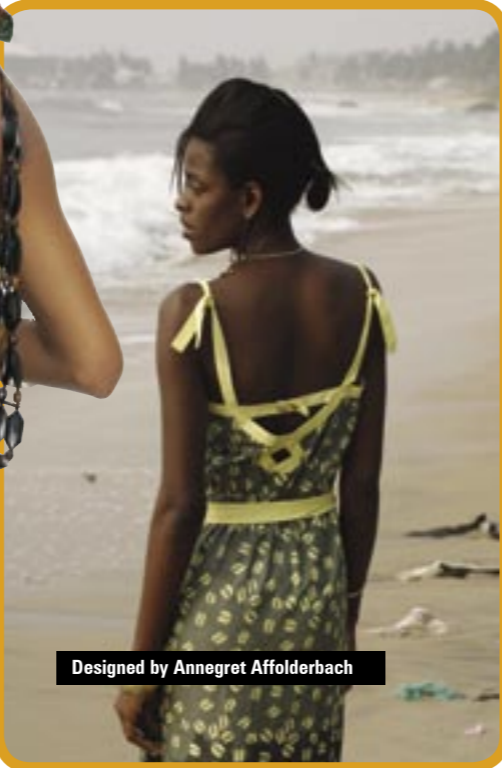
THE TAPESTRY OF GHANA
THE TAPESTRY OF GHANA



Designed by Tina Atiemo



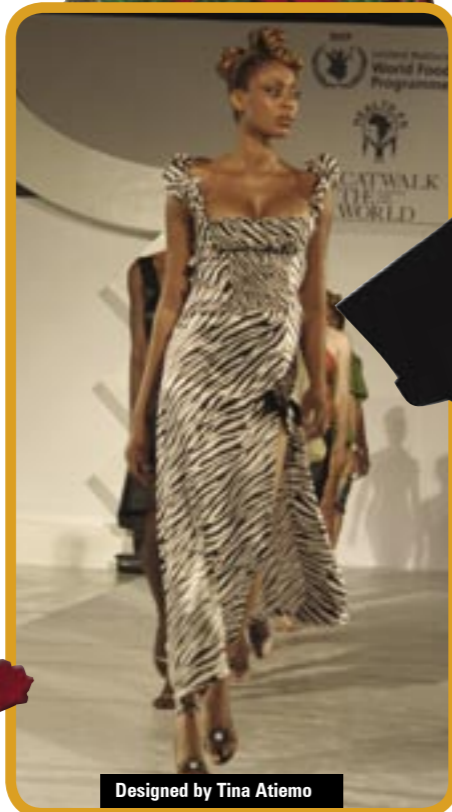
Designed by Tina Atiemo



Designed by Annegret Affolderbach



Samata and a model wearing her design at the clothes show live



Designed by Tina Atiemo



Designed by Kofi Annan



Samata's Muse clothing label for women was created by award-winning designer Samata Angel. The label focuses on creating stunning, unique pieces for women and counts Jennifer Lopez, Dawn (Dainty Kane) and Gwen Stefani as keen supporters.

In 2007, The Muses - Unique online collection launched and is currently selling online through the official company website, www.samatasmuse.com.

Samata's Muse Spring/Summer 2008 collection was unveiled in September at the Nolcha Fashion Week in New York, and this highly anticipated collection will hit stores next summer.

For further information visit www.samatasmuse.com

Sales enquiries - sarah@samatasmuse.com
PR / Marketing - marlama@samatasmuse.com
/ habiba@samatasmuse.com



SAMATA'S MUSE
STUNNING, UNIQUE PIECES FOR STRONG,
AMBITIOUS WOMEN

FILM AFRICA



Nollywood – A Rising Dawn in the UK Cinema scene. FilmAFRICA aims to pioneer change and provide a model for theatrical exhibition of such films in the UK.

For years the question has been asked, when are Nollywood (Nigerian) films going to start showing in mainstream UK cinemas. With the proliferation of multiplexes since the late '80s, UK cinemas have provided exhibition home to films from different parts of the world. Hollywood dominates it, but even foreign language European art-house films are accommodated. Nollywood has come knocking as world films vie for limited screen space in the multiplexes.

NOLLYWOOD A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Nollywood as a film industry came to the fore in the early '90s in Nigeria when television programme makers seized on a chance opportunity to exhibit their production contents on home video format. This was then 'christened' Nollywood in the wake of the Hollywood and Bollywood brands. Nollywood releases over 50 different film titles into the Nigerian market every month making it the largest film producing industry in the world – larger than Hollywood and Bollywood. The average annual turnover generated from Nollywood home videos is between \$90-100 million with over 80% of this generated in the Nigerian market alone. Some of the best selling Nollywood films

include Osuofia in London, Living in Bondage, Igodo and Games that Women Play.

NOLLYWOOD IN THE UK MARKET

In the UK, Nollywood films have a huge appeal and fan-base not only within the Nigerian community but also amongst the larger African-Caribbean community, particularly in London. As a matter of fact, it can be argued that Nollywood films are progressively displacing Hollywood and Western films in African homes. The African market on the continent (especially in West Africa) still provides the primary audience for Nollywood films but with the growth of African communities in the UK demand for these films has equally grown here. Historically the Nollywood film industry with its low-budget financing model had largely focused on VHS and VCD (video CD) formats for the African continental markets but in recent years we are seeing a growing shift to DVD format particularly for the markets in Western societies.

NOLLYWOOD IN UK CINEMAS

Although there had not been a mainstream commercial release of a Nollywood film in UK cinemas, attempts had been made over the years by film producers as well as event organisers to showcase Nollywood films here. But these films, when they got the rare screen time in the UK were mainly shown in non-cinema venues or in low-key, independent venues. But this was changed September 2006 with the release of the Nollywood film, The Successor, in Odeon Cinemas by FilmAFRICA UK Limited.

ABOUT FILMAFRICA

FilmAFRICA is a film entertainment company focused on providing expertise and consultancy services for UK production,



distribution and exhibition of Nollywood and African-oriented films in the UK.

Kene Mkpuru (Managing Director) has over 15 years experience in business management and cinema operations management. He is a General Manager with Odeon Cinemas, UK's biggest cinema chain. His film credits as producer include The Successor (2006) and Lucky Joe (2006). 1998-99 he was guest presenter on a weekly film review show on BBC Hereford & Worcester radio. 2001-2004 he wrote weekly film review columns for The Streatham Post and London Extra newspapers. He presents a film review show for BEN TV.

Nkem Ajoku (Chairman) is an acclaimed investment banker with portfolio in the stock exchange, capital market, fund & asset management, mergers & acquisition, corporate finance, public sector finance, private placements & public share issue as well as general banking. Nkem is Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Maninvest Asset Management Limited in Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria. As a film enthusiast, Nkem is the Executive Producer of the Nollywood romantic drama The Successor (2006) and the Nollywood comedy Lucky Joe (2006).

Obi Emelonye (Creative/Executive Director) is a film director, writer, editor and lawyer. He is a member of the Director's Guild of Nigeria and The Law Society. His film credit as writer/editor/director includes Damned Good Friends (1998) a comedy set in South East London, Who's Next? (2001), which has since been translated into and re-voiced in French (Qui Suivra?), Two Weeks to Live, (2001,) a love drama, Voodoo, Enemy's Fate, Final Assignment, The Picture of a General and Sweet Betrayal. His most recent titles include Echoes of War (2003) which was nominated for Best W African Film Award at the Screen Nation Film Awards 2004, Ebony (2005), The Successor (2006) and the comedy Lucky Joe (2006).

FILMAFRICA FILM RELEASES

> THE SUCCESSOR – (UK/NIGERIA) A FILMAFRICA PRODUCTION

Starring: Stephanie Okereke, Olu Jacobs, Monjaro, Dakore Egbuson, Miquel Brown and Yasmine Maya.
Synopsis: Largely set in Eastern Nigeria, The Successor is a moving romantic drama that tells the story of a royal family's contention with cultural prejudices amidst their obligation to uphold traditional values.
Cinema release: September 2006. Played in 4 Odeon Cinemas in London
Awards: AfroHollywood Award 2006: Best Actor UK, Best Actress, Best Producer UK and Best Director UK



> LUCKY JOE – (UK/NIGERIA) A FILMAFRICA PRODUCTION

Starring: Patience Ozorkwo, Okey Bakassi, Monjaro, Jide Kosoko, Uru Ekeh
Synopsis: A hilarious comedy with two friends who live from hand to mouth in the slums of Abuja but have their fortunes changed overnight when their paths cross a corrupt government official on the run from the law. A deadly cat and mouse chase ensues.
Cinema release: November 2006. Played in 6 Odeon and Cineworld cinemas in London and Manchester



WARRIOR HEART – (NIGERIA) A FILMAFRICA PRODUCTION

Starring: Genevieve, Olu Jacobs, Okaro
Synopsis: An epic native Nigerian war drama with a romantic twist.
Cinema release: March 2006.
To play in Odeon cinemas in London

> A GOAT'S TAIL – (UK/GHANA) A FILMAFRICA DISTRIBUTION, COMING SOON

Starring: Godfred Nortey, Leslie Cook, Simon James Morgan, Jason Ramsey, MC Creed
Synopsis: A Julius Amedume drama on the true story of a Ghanaian man's struggle to earn a living when he relocates to the UK. Nortey plays the Ghanaian taxi driver who meets a British tourist in Ghana and befriends her. She promises to help him come over to London but he soon finds that life in London is not as he had imagined.
Proposed cinema release: March 2006.
To play in Odeon cinemas in London

> ALI & AWRALA – (DENMARK/UK/SOMALIA) A FILMAFRICA DISTRIBUTION, COMING SOON

Synopsis: A romantic drama about a young Somali couple whose relationship is opposed
Proposed cinema release: March 2006.
To play in Odeon cinemas in London

FilmAFRICA hopes that these screenings will be the beginning of regular and commercial releases of Nollywood films in UK cinemas. The market is out there, particularly in London, and the cinemas are within easy reach of this market. All that are needed now are the right films of the right production standard for theatrical release as well as the right company with a good understanding of the UK film exhibition industry to distribute them. This is where FilmAFRICA steps in with its wealth of expertise in the creative, distribution, exhibition and business sectors of the film industry.

Contact:

Telephone: 020 7529 1493 / www.film-africa.com
Email: kenemkparu@film-africa.com;
obiemelonye@film-africa.com

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“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.”

Martin Luther King (Jr) – 1963

ME ME ME

ORTIS KWAME DELEY

Screen Nation caught up with entertainer and qualified pharmacist, Ortis Kwame Deley, and talked Marcus Garvey, French kissing and why he would never do a reality TV show

What's your favourite book?

'The Killing Joke' (written by Alan Moore and drawn by Brian Bolland). It's a graphic novel about Batman and Joker. It's dark and brutal.

What's your most inspirational quote?

Marcus Garvey said: "If you have no confidence in self you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence you have won even before you have started."

Tell us about your humble abode

A family home in a modest place in London. It's not the bling lifestyle, but that's the way I like it - it's a warm house, full of love. But I

do have a few of my own properties. **What jobs have you done in the past?**

I've been a cashier at Boots and Sainsbury's, and also a ride operator at Chessington Park and Zoo.

What are your top three films?

I'm Gonna Get You Sucka, Spiderman 2 and Rocky 4.

If you weren't an entertainer, what would you be?

A pharmacist - I have a degree in Pharmacy and so I am a qualified pharmacist.

What's your most memorable acting moment?

I have been blessed in my career to have had many, so I don't know. Will Smith and Sting were cool. I have had too many - I've been spoilt.

What's your worst presenting moment?

I don't let any mistakes I make faze me. But the worst thing about presenting is waiting around!

What do you do to unwind?

The way other people do - chill out with my friends, listening to music, music, music, music, music!!! I do martial arts, go out on my motorbike...I like variety in my relax time.

When did you have your first French kiss, and who was it with?

It was with Saith when I was 15 or 16. It took a while to get past the teeth knocking!

Who is the love of your life?

I have experienced love twice, and I am experiencing it now.

What is your most treasured possession?

At the moment, my family

Did you go to drama school, or have any acting lessons?

No, didn't even go to a drama class!

What did your parents want you to do when you grew up?

Whatever I wanted to do, as long as I went through the whole system of education **Do you feel your best is yet to come?** Definitely! I am still learning and still



enjoying it.

What do the Screen Nation Awards mean to you?

It's nice to get a nod in terms of black achievement. But it is an odd one sometimes, because if BAFTA turned round and said they were black only, there would be uproar. I hope that one day we will all have an Oscars/BAFTA's which includes all cultures.

Who would you like to work with?

Well, my favourite presenter and best mate - Angellica Bell. In the future, I would like to work with anyone who can challenge and educate me at the same time.

Would you ever do celebrity Big Brother?

Nope, nope, nope! One - I see it as a way of getting lots of attention in a desperate way! Two - I want my work to speak for itself and Three - Real stars have an air of mystery about them.

Besides...I have a mouth that will open up and get me in trouble!

I ♥ GHANA BECAUSE.....

...one, that's where my roots are at; and two, it's a country of some of the most beautiful people of this world - inside and out.

ORTIS KWAME DELEY, 33, PRESENTER AND ACTOR

How are you celebrating Ghana's 50 years of independence?

I will be in Australia seeking out other Ghanaians and waving my Black Star flag!

If you hosted a party to celebrate 50 year's of Ghana's independence who would be your guest of honour?

My parents

Who is Ghana's finest export?

Amma Asante

When you think of Ghana what is the first thing that comes to mind?

It's the colours - the lush greens and reddish-brown of the soil - the beautiful countryside.

What is your fondest memory of Ghana?

The size of my family and the amount of love they showed me; a total stranger.



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ME ME ME

AMMA ASANTE

Filmmaker Amma Asante offers her all to Screen Nation

What's your favourite book?
Back Roads by Tawni O'Dell – It had quite an impact on me when I read it

What is your most inspirational quote?
Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure, it is our light not our darkness that frightens us most - Nelson Mandela

What's your favourite Restaurant?
The Wolsley

Favourite Perfume?
Paris

What jobs have you had in the past?
The Box Office of the Dominion Theatre and a hotel receptionist

What are your top three films?

Kes, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, the Godfather Prequel

Who are your top three singers?
Patti LA Bell, Mariah Carey and David Gray – Music is My Life

What is your favourite TV Show?



Coronation Street –
Because it is so bloody well written and when its funny its so funny!

If you weren't a filmmaker what would you be doing?
I think I'd work for some form of charity, probably in the medical field.

What's your most memorable career moment to date?

Seeing a rough assembly of my rushes for my film A Way of Life, and collecting my BAFTA.

What's your worst career moment?
Coming down from the high of being commissioned to write seven scripts, spending three years writing them only to find the project gets dropped.

What was it was like on your first day of your first feature film?
I have a horrendous fear of dogs, I stepped onto the set bright and early ready for breakfast, and all of a sudden an Alsatian ran onto the unit. I was mortified because my location manager ended up protecting me from this dog. Other than that it was a great day!

Favourite filmmaker?
Ken Loach – He never compromises on his vision.

What do you do to unwind?
I listen to music.

When did you have your first real kiss and with whom?
At school in the girls toilet with a fellow actor Lee Whitlock

Who is the love of your life?
My Husband Charlie Hanson of course!

Who was your first celebrity crush?
Probably John Travolta!



Which school did you attend?
Barbara Speake Stage School

What did your parents want you to be when you grew up?
My parents were quite liberal and my Father would listen to us and work out what we wanted to do and then they would do what they could to help make it happen.

Do you feel the best of you is yet to come?
Absolutely, if it had already come and gone I'd want to just roll over and die!


What do the Screen Nation Awards Mean to you?
It's important for us to take time and basically pat ourselves on the back for the work we have done, as a community it's important for us to acknowledge the impact and sensibility, its encouraging and its necessary for us to work towards bettering ourselves.

Who would you like to work with?
I'd like to work with Robert De Niro and Oprah Winfrey.

Have you ever said to someone "Do you know who I am?"
Not Exactly, when I was 15 I was in Grange Hill, I was trying to get into a club and the bouncers wouldn't let us in I turned to one and said "I'm really special" and he replied "Yes, to your Mother! Now go home!"

Would you ever do reality TV?
NO! I look too horrific in the morning plus I wouldn't be able to get my weave done!

Who is your screen icon?
Halle Berry

I  GHANA

How will you be celebrating Ghana Independence?
I might be going over; I just need to work out if I can make it to the parade!

If you hosted a party to celebrate Ghana's independence who would be your guest of honour?
My Mom and Dad!

Who is Ghana's finest export?
June Sarpong is doing a fantastic job and Kofi Annan.

When you think of Ghana what is the first thing that come to mind?
My two Grandmothers, family and roots are the most important things to me.

Why are you proud to be Ghanaian?
Because we are leaders!



KWAW ANSAH

The Father of Ghanaian Cinema

Steve Ayorinde: Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. The name of Kwaw Ansah is to a large extent one of the most significant of African Cinema. Has there been a break or change in focus since that outstanding film?

Kwaw Ansah: No, there has been rather a pause to reorganise, perhaps to meet a bigger challenge. There was a time when cinema in Ghana was active. When colleagues like Ola Balogun or Ousmane Sembène and Co. were meeting at various forums to discuss the future of the industry. Of course, it was expensive and to make one film, it took nearly a million dollars. Having no colour laboratory, we had to do the post-production outside, in our, shall I say, masters' countries! So we had to struggle on our own to do the little we did. Whenever we met at any festival, there were very few English speaking filmmakers, not because we couldn't make films, but because the support to make the films was not there. That is why it took me

eight years to come out with *Love brewed in an African Pot*. The whole story is a film story: being able to do it in the private sector and to get it out was quite a challenge. I collapsed several times. Fortunately, the film became a success. I remember when it was first premiered in Lagos at the National Theatre, Mko Abiola was the guest of Honour. Before the film started, he said: "My brother, I have to fly tonight and I don't have much time for films, but amongst the things I understand, one is the jingles of money. As soon as the film starts, I will beg to leave." The film started and Abiola sat through it to the end and he said that it was a long time since he had sat through a film. He donated 5,000 Nairas. In 1981, it was a lot of money: you could buy three or four cars!

I have a TV-series called the *Good Old Days*. I want to show children of Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, because we all had one tradition of upbringing. Those were the days of community life; each child was a child of

>> Those were the days of community life; each child was a child of the community. We must bring back some of these nostalgic things for parents to share with their children

the community. We must bring back some of these nostalgic things for parents to share with their children. When I was struggling with all the handicaps in my quest to make a film, I had been hardened. It didn't kill me: I'm still alive.

Olivier Barlet: You spoke about financing.

Kwaw Ansah
> Steve Ayorinde and Olivier Barlet

DISCUSS

>> I told the Americans that I knew how to tell my own story. I had the trust of my African colleagues and I didn't want to abuse it. I didn't want history to be distorted. I knew that at the end of the day they would want to please their American public.

How did you manage to make your films? Was it private money?

K.A.: I had to go to the bank and let me tell you something. I had gone all over the place and everybody said: how can a private make money? The bank says it is a risky business: we are not prepared to finance it. But one said: ok, we will try it, but we need a house from you. I didn't have a house. My wife got to tell her father. My father-in-law calls me and says: I heard you had a lot of hard time and you want to make a film and the bank wants a house. Why didn't you tell me? I have faith in you; I believe you can make it. Here are the papers, take it. I nearly collapsed: your father-in-law is giving you a house: if you are not able to take the house back, there's a chance of losing your wife too! You can imagine: I couldn't sleep. Eventually, I did *Love brewed in an African pot* and paid off the loan and took the papers from the bank, which I brought back to my father-in-law. He said to keep them but I said: no please take them back! The second time, luckily I had my own house and I used it as a collateral.

O.B.: Did it then come to a time where it wasn't possible to finance a big production by private means?

K. A.: After *Heritage Africa*, the experience has been so bitter! I thought that the success of *Love brewed* would have open doors for me but even windows were shut. It was like starting all over again! And during that time it didn't take too long for Ghana to sell its industry, for the Malaysians to turn it into a TV Station. Alongside the films, my film production was starting its own advertising agency. Then I was selected to lead African filmmakers like Cheickh Oumar Sissoko to team up with Henry Hampton's *Blackside* serving as co-executive producer to produce *Hopes On The Horizon*, a Ford Foundation sponsored documentary series on the struggle for independence on the



African continent and democratic governance from 1945-1995. But before I took up that challenge, I told the Americans that I knew how to tell my own story. I had the trust of my African colleagues and I didn't want to abuse it. I didn't want history to be distorted. I knew that at the end of the day they would want to please their American public. The true story has to be told. They put 13 million dollars in the first episode, in just one episode! Then it came to telling the story and even the academics said that if you want to tell the African Story the first president you have to talk about is Nkrumah. It was agreed. My counterparts were African-Americans. Unfortunately, they wanted to please the American public. Henry Hampton said that the American public wouldn't be happy about Nkrumah and that there was a very famous farmer at that time. So they used that story and it was an insult. Then, it came to another issue: women. I said that we are always talking about men in struggle. They proposed an important woman in South Africa called Mama Ngoye. She actually led the thing. We took her. Another woman came to mind: Winnie Mandela. An African-American woman said: "But she's a murderer." I said: "No, this is getting too far." Then, they wanted an African achievement. We travelled to South Africa, to Ethiopia, to Eritrea and found a story there: Eritrea's independence was unique because they took it from another African country: Ethiopia. After Eritrea took independence they realised that the mass public transport had been damaged. Trains and tracks had been damaged: the sleepers taken to be used in the war and so on. They wanted to revive it and The World Bank offered 40 million dollars for the reconstruction. So they put out a call to all the old railway engineers and about 90 of them came, the youngest was about 75. They started work and they managed to put a train back on the rails, but it was a smaller train as they couldn't get the spare parts for the original train and they made their own

to produce a smaller train from what was left and we rode on it for about 60 kilometres. I thought that this would be a good thing to show. Then, my team came back and said that the World Bank wouldn't be very happy. I washed my hand and said: "You can have your project because I cannot tell a lie." And the project collapsed.

But as far as I am concerned, I am very hopeful. I want to believe that it's better late than never. The issue of for instance Nigerian films not really according the positive values of Africa to me is temporary. I'm sure it can be rectified very soon. One day minds will meet to really set the stage for the African cinema to continue.

O.B.: Is TV Africa taking this direction to show an emerging Africa?

K. A.: Yes. But I must say that the Ford Foundation project helped me quite a bit. 300,000 or 400,000 dollars were Foundation money. The rest comes from my advertising agency, the billboard, outdoors and whatnot. It has been quite a struggle for the past 20 years to get this far.

Courtesy of African Film Festival, Inc.

BIOGRAPHY

- > Born in Agona Swedru, Ghana 1941
- > Starts production company, Film Africa [Accra] 1977
- > First feature film, *Love Brewed in the African Pot* 1980
- > Second feature film, *Heritage Africa* 1988
- > *Heritage Africa* wins top prize at FESPACO (Pan-African Film Festival in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso) 1989
- > Moves into documentaries, *Crossroad of People; Crossroads of Trade* 1994
- > *Hopes on the Horizon* [Co-executive producer] 1996



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with
- NTROBA FRO
A fragrant blend of chicken, aubergine and rosemary
- BEEF & MIXED PEPPER STEW
- SPINACH & AGUSHI
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- NKATE NKWAN
Chicken in a creamy peanut sauce
- RED RED (V)
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GHANAIAN CUISINE

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recipes

Tatale - Ghanaian Plantain cakes

Bananas ripen quickly, as do plantains - this recipe needs ripe plantains for it to work well. This Ghanaian recipe is served as a savoury dessert but we rather like it as a starter. Traditionally, Tatale is prepared on the road side and is served as typical lunch-time snack. The chilli, ginger and palm oil combination really make this dish. Although Tatale is very spicy, I recommend a garnish of seasoned spring onions and crème fresh, which will soak up the spiciness for those of you who can't hack the heat.

- 2 over-ripe medium plantains (black and soft)
- 1 small onion, finely chopped or grated 25 to 50 g
- ½ tsp root ginger
- 1 tsp chilli powder
- 1½ oz self-raising flour
- 1 tsp palm oil (optional) salt and chilli
- Vegetable oil

Peel and mash the plantains well. Put into a bowl and add enough of the flour to bind. Add the onion, palm oil, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well and leave to stand for 20 minutes. Fry in spoonfuls in a little hot oil until golden brown. Drain on kitchen paper and serve hot.



Ghanaian Lemon and Honey Chichinga

Chi-chinga is commonly available from street vendors in Ghana as fast food. The marinating process is what really makes Chi-chinga so special. We suggest marinating the meat over night in the fridge for a fuller flavour.

Tender lamb cubes (1 inch) Honey 1 tbl sp grated ginger The rind from ½ a lemon and its juice 2 cloves garlic Red onion Cherry tomatoes In a blender, combine ginger, honey and garlic and process until smooth. Pour the marinade onto the lamb and place in fridge overnight. If using wooden skewers, soak in water for at least a couple of hours. This will prevent the stick from burning while grilling the Chi-chinga. When ready to cook the kebabs add add the lemon juice rind to the meat. Put meat on skewers, alternating with chunky pieces of red onion and cherry tomatoes and cook on the grill or bbq until ready.



Pacific Sensation King prawns

This isn't a traditional Ghanaian recipe, but it is delicious! This is a great way to serve prawns as an entree or as "finger-food" at a party - but be warned; it is certainly not low fat and is quite rich. The combination of the sweetness of the coconut, condensed milk and the fruit is offset by the tang of the lime juice and the chilli which gives it a little bite. Coconut is a very tropical fruit found on most coastal zones all over West Africa. It's used in a lot of West African cuisine, sometimes used as a relish, in sauces and is also delicious on its own. It's an extremely adaptable fruit that I feel can be used in lots of dishes.

- 16 medium king prawns (raw)
- Cup of sifted plain flour
- Cup of grated coconut
- 1 small tin of condensed milk
- The Sauce
- Cup of sliced mango
- Two teaspoons of sweet chilli sauce
- Juice of half lemon

Remove the head and shell from the prawns but leave on the tail to hold on to. This is definitely to be eaten with fingers. With a very sharp, fine blade knife slit down the back of the prawn and remove the vein and wash carefully in fresh water. Dry the prawns thoroughly with kitchen paper and flatten-out (butterfly) with the back of a knife. Coat the prawns in flour (place the flour and prawns into a plastic bag and give a good shake). Dip the floured prawns into the condensed milk and then into the coconut and then put them onto a tray lined with paper towels and then into the fridge for 30 minutes. This will help to keep the coating on the prawns when cooking. Remove from the fridge and shallow fry in very hot, good quality oil for one or two minutes only - until the coconut is golden brown. Remove from the pan and allow to drain on paper towels before serving. The Sauce Place the mango, lime juice and chilli sauce into a blender and blend until smooth. Put the sauce into a saucepan and just warm through on the stove



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GHANAIAN CUISINE

UK FILMMAKING TALENT JULIUS AMEDUME



A Goats Tail is the first feature film written and directed by Julius Amedume of Amedume Films. The story is about a taxi driver (Kojo) who meets an attractive tourist called Cynthia whilst she visits Ghana for the day. Four months later he arrives on her doorstep in England. Filled with ambitions of succeeding as a poet Kojo soon realises where the grass is greener on the other side.

Making this film was a dream, a life changing journey, and a problem that I was constantly trying to solve. I started this process, which would eventually take three years, in a room with no windows for three months writing the script. The script was organic and constantly grew as the project went along as the budget was raised, actors came on board and we started to shoot. Filming took place in Ghana and England and had all the elements which first feature filmmakers are warned not to do. Like multiple locations, a bus full of actors including children and animals. Plus having a bi-lingual cast in which you need interpreters to communicate to. Some would call me ambitious with a project set up to fail, but nothing is worth doing if it isn't a challenge I say.

In October 2004 my small crew and I were on a plane taking off from Heathrow airport heading to Ghana. The film equipment exceeded our combined weight allowance at the airport and I got nervous as they x-rayed my film stock which could have damaged the unprocessed film. Sitting on the airplane I felt anxious, scared and at the same time confident. As I sat there in that moment of realisation, and I got closer to the destination, the adrenalin started to kick in and I couldn't believe how lucky I was that my perseverance and willpower had brought me so far and I was on a plane going to make a film which I wouldn't trade in for anything in the world.

We stayed in Accra, Ghana's capital and I had purposely decided that all the actors and crew should stay together in the same house which would be a sort of boot camp. We were in Ghana for only a month, which was a short schedule to complete such a large amount of scenes. My lead actress Lesley Cook arrived a week after us and my lead actor Godfred Nortey was a Ghanaian resident. Godfred had never acted before so my first task was to teach him how to act and destroy his personal insecurities and fears.

I knew this trip would be problematic, and these problems would be hard to tackle. In Ghana everything takes twice as long to do and three times as long for people to understand. It took days to find a man

who I needed to collect some paperwork off to film in certain land marks and days to find an interpreter who spoke the different languages the unprofessional actors I chose to act in my film spoke. I remember going to the slaughter yard to look for a goat and remembered the stench of dried blood and the swarm of vultures, perching in wait for any discarded goats flesh, on the roof tops overlooking the yard. I remember thinking that if I fail, that I would be the vulture's next meal. I didn't find a goat but I did find a goat's horn which was to be my main protagonist's memento of his childhood.

Rehearsing with some of the non professional actors was a big headache, some of the long distance phone conversations and character breakdowns I had emailed them helped, but trying to talk to someone through an interpreter is a difficult and challenging thing. When Lesley Cook arrived she was thrown straight in at the deep end.

On the first day of principle photography we shot the scenes which took place in the Grandmother's courtyard. Everything that could go wrong, did. It started with the film camera constantly jamming. It was the hottest day of the trip so far and the light meter readings which were high exposures. My child actor disappeared for an hour, five minutes before we were going to do a take and a fight broke out half way through filming. But looking on the bright side of things I was one step closer to my goal, I was doing something I loved and these problems were only making me stronger as a filmmaker and as a person.



The one thing I've always remembered is that things happen for a reason. The next day of shooting was at Labardi beach. The lighting broke down, and we had to improvise with flash lights plus one of our sound machines packed in due to the moisture in the air from the ocean. Since arriving in Ghana it was just one problem after another, it was a testing time me and I found myself questioning myself, how much I wanted to make this film, was prepared to take and I started examining my own abilities as a writer, producer and a director.

The problems became more and more stressful and I remember getting a phone call from a friend of Godfred saying that he had been arrested for some domestic fight he had gotten himself into. I then had to visit him in jail and talk to the police officers to try and get him out. The next couple of days I realised that Godfred didn't know how to drive, even though he had two driving lessons and then eventually ended up towing the car to film his scenes. The goat died of heat stroke before we could shoot its final scenes and I had to run around for two days trying to find an identical one.

With the Ghana shoot behind me I had to tackle the London shoot. This brought a whole lot of problems on its own. I could talk about how my film was delayed by nine months whilst I had to go to court in London to get Godfred a visa since he was denied one in Ghana; or how I funded the rest of the project on credit cards when the budget ran out. Or how I sourced the rest of the equipment I needed to complete the film through eBay; or getting myself and some of the actors nearly arrested whilst filming scenes in London's West End.

On the whole, I think it was an interesting experience, I learnt a lot and I achieved a great deal when looking at all the obstacles that I overcame. I grew stronger and became more focused and re-evaluated myself, my beliefs and my career. I learnt about some of my strengths and weaknesses, I became more confident and happy that I am fortunate

to be able to be working within my chosen career path. If there is a moral to this story or a way to end all the trials and tribulations I experienced throughout this project is that three years later after completing the film I have had four major screenings and all of them have been sold out. Two in London's West End went very well and two in Los Angeles at the Pan African Film Festival where I met loads of established actors who are interested in me and my next project. I got nominated at this festival and won an award there for directorial vision. There's a



distribution deal on the cards and a DVD deal. The film's soundtrack is in the shops in the UK and America, and the music videos are being rotated on some UK music channels. But most of all I feel proud that through thick and thin I persevered to see my vision

onto screen and made a body of work that will not only benefit me, the actors and the crew involved but will hopefully inspire others to make their film ideas into reality.

A Goats Tail will be in selected cinemas in march and the soundtrack is available from www.Agoatastail.Com and good record stores.

I  **GHANA BECAUSE.....**
...it's the land of creation

JULIUS AMEDUME, 29, FILMMAKER
How are you celebrating Ghana's 50 years of independence?

I wanted to screen my film A Goat's Tail in Ghana as part of the celebrations. If not I'll have a big plate of fufu and light soup and chill out with my parents.

Who is Ghana's finest export? Kofi Annan
When you think of Ghana what is the first thing that comes to mind? The constant sunshine and evenings spent chilling on the beach.

What is your fondest memory of Ghana?
Being a child and playing on my dad's farm.





Part of the Mobsvideo Group, MobsAfrica brings African music, news, video, competitions and entertainment to the worldwide mobile community.

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For more information contact:

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www.mobsvideo.com



LIGALI FLIPS THE SCRIPT

Seeing Representation: Who's Imagination?

In March this year, we released our first documentary film, *Maafa Truth 2007*, which reveals the truth about British slavery, African resistance and the disingenuous 2007 bicentenary. The documentary has been widely and well received nationally and internationally which reinforced to us the hunger that African audiences have for quality film and documentary that is unashamedly focused on the political, cultural and social realities of African people in light of the poverty of representation that has resulted in African film being marginalised or worse, not being made at all. This hunger is further evidenced by the many hours I have spent in Maarifa bookshop in Dalston, watching people purchasing DVD's of *Lion Mountain* (Dir: Louis Buckley), *John Henrik Clarke: A Great and Mighty Walk* (Dir: St. Claire Bourne) or Dr Joy DeGruy-Leary's *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome* amongst others.

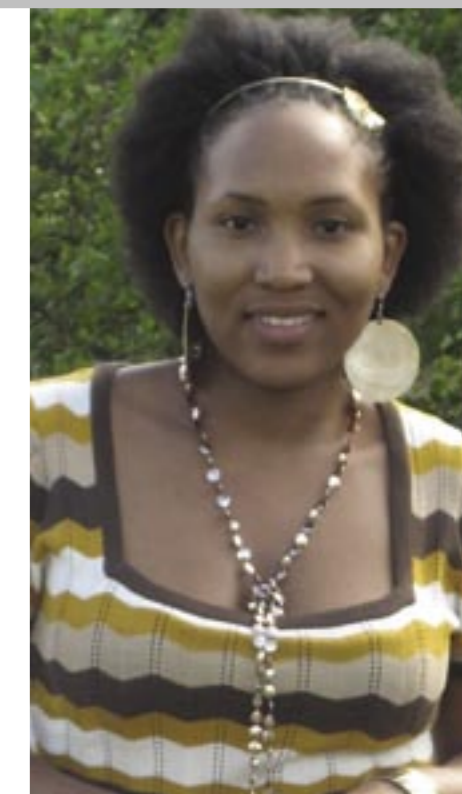
Some filmmakers will persistently assert that "because I am African, it doesn't mean I must make films about or for African people". I can't help but be perturbed by the subtle inference that underpins this statement. There is an implication that to make such films requires a limiting mindset, inhibits career development and ultimately does not appeal to the 'holy grail' of a wider audience. These films, and therefore their potential audience, are



seen as inferior or irrelevant. Yet, there is clearly a huge market for the consumption of documentary film made by African people that can articulate the political heart beats of a global community.

The other side of this coin is that non-African film and documentary makers fall over themselves to document the diversity of the exotic, fascinating lives of the Other, leading to a perverse situation where we see ourselves through the eyes of a 'white' supremacist lens. In her book, *Race, Sex and Class at the Movies*, an essay about the American documentary, *Hoop Dreams*, (about two African-American teenagers who aspire to become basketball players) cultural critic, bell hooks states that Europeans "...wanting to see and "enjoy" images of [African people] on the screen is often in no way related to a desire to know real [African] people". Additionally, they will resort to worshipping "at the throne of 'black' mediocrity... [which] will always seek to nurture that which is half-formed in the 'black' (sic) expressive culture." I am having hideous flashbacks of the low grade polemic tabloid journalism in the guise of *The Trouble with Black Men*, *Black like Beckham* and *White Girls are Easy* all of which were made by African people and served to superficially entertain the masses through their demeaning representation of what they all termed 'black culture'.

Hooks also reminds us that 'representations colonise the mind and the imagination'. No one is more capable of realigning the way we think and imagine than ourselves. We are in the process of making a documentary that examines the cultural and political motivations behind the destruction



and reconstruction of the African aesthetic identity. During the pre production stage, it became clear that there is a huge demand for a documentary about this multifaceted issue that provides a much needed historical context.

The ethnic majority in Britain are proudly expanding their colossal body of work that documents their history, their diversity of social experiences and even their perspective on other cultures. This is not to say that we should only ever make films about or for African people, our social and cultural responsibility implores us to document and consequently cement our histories, cultures, experiences and perspectives. I close by saying this movement has already begun to positively snowball. Along with the increasing availability of African cinema from the Continent, documentary films such as *Malcolm's Echo* (Dir: Dami Akinnusi) and *Slave Catchers, Slave Resisters* (Dir: Menelik Shabazz) are quenching the thirst for the much needed cultural media that will revolutionise the way we see world and ourselves.

Ligali is a non-profit, African organisation committed to promoting self determination through education and the media by creating resources of diverse historical, social, cultural and political interest for and by African people.

Web: www.ligali.org
Email: mail@ligali.org

“ There is clearly a huge market for the consumption of documentary film made by African people that can articulate the political heart beats of a global community. ”

THE SWEET SOUND OF GHANA

Screen Nation delivers a beginners guide to some of Ghana's succulent sounds. Go on, have a dabble and experience the raw West African passion

The Ghanaian music scene is a concoction of goodness. Genres are crossed, dissected, and then put back together again to create a mish-mash, which actually works really well.

The unique blend of musical genres, and development of sub genres are slowly becoming more popular with non-Ghanaians. So, where do we start?

HIGHLIFE – THE FOUNDATION

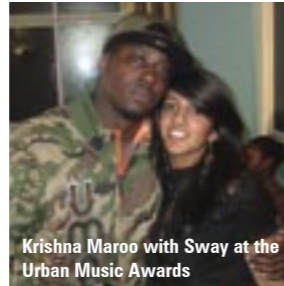
Africa is a gold mine for music and infectious beats. Highlife was a term coined by Ghanaians during the British colonial reign, when wealthy Europeans attended society parties. The music consisted of a fusion of European brass bands and traditional

African beats. The laid back vibes of West Africa transcend into something special with the addition of some brass.

Ghana's rich history of popular music reflects the republic's rich history. Highlife not only represents Ghana's struggle and then triumph, but it documents the history and the transitions Ghana has made.

During the 60s a hybrid of highlife, 'afropop' surfaced, with stars such as Pat Thomas and George Darko taking the lead. Also at this time, a young man named Daddy Lumba was also making waves – but in Europe.

When immigration laws in the UK changed, many Ghanaians migrated to Germany. Thus, a new sub genre was born – with Daddy Lumba grabbing the genre wholeheartedly and making it his own. He is one of Ghana's most successful artists, and is now on his twentieth album!



Krishna Maroo with Sway at the Urban Music Awards

HIPLIFE – THE SITUATION

The only way Hiplife can be described is that it's a fusion of Highlife and hip-hop. It's a global sound, mixing elements of African, British and American vibes.

Following a stint in the US, Reggie Rockstone, the founder of Hiplife, delivered rap in a local Ghanaian dialect with a distinctive mixed-up sound. The genre is now one of the biggest in Ghana.

The genre takes traditional elements of Highlife, and fuses them with the big beats from the US and UK hip-hop scene. The sound reflects the changing face of young Ghanaians.

Drum machines are traded in for traditional African beats, creating a signature

MY GHANA, MY MUSIC

Adelaide Damoah, artist

"I only listen to Ghanaian music when I am at my parent's house, but I have grown up on it. They listen to Highlife, Pat Thomas, Ben Braku. Certain songs remind me of growing up, from Christmas, parties and just travelling in the car with my dad playing the radio".

Le*Jit, rapper/vocalist (myspace.com/lejitime)

"Reppin' on my ends, Ghana and UK; So that we can battle the big USA" – Rise Up UK artist

Dame Betty Asafu-Adjaye, founder of the Mission Dine Club:

"Land of our birth, we pray to thee" This Methodist hymn is a signatory Ghanaian tune. Note: Dame Betty sang down the phone to us!

Charles Thompson, CEO, Screen Nation:

"My favourite artists are the band Osibisa, but my favorite tracks are any Mapouka type track by any Ghanaian artists."

sound for the league of new Ghanaian musicians. It's all about energy. The sounds represent where you are from and where you are at.

Moving away from the African continent, we see Ghanaian Diaspora representing. British-Ghanaian artists include Dizzee Rascal, Lethal B, NaNa, The Mitchell Brothers and Sway, with broadcaster Ras Kwame paving the way. Ghana has directly and indirectly, produced some memorable artists, genres, and styles.

Check out these wonders, and savour the flavours Ghana has to offer:

Tic Tac, E.T. Mensah, Ashanti Brothers, Genesis Gospel Singers, Hi-Life International and Rex Omar.

>> **Did You Know? Obrafo released a track called 'Kwame Nkrumah' honouring the great leader. He even recorded a song about his mother, and the mother's of the African Nation.**



COMING SOON ON SKY

I ♥ GHANA BECAUSE.....

NaNa: It's beautiful
RK: It's the land of my knowledge

NANA, SINGER, 28 AND RAS KWAME, BROADCASTER, 34

How are you celebrating Ghana's 50 years of independence?

RK: Hoping to go to Ghana. If not I'll be going to a local Ghanaian food spot and dipping my hand in a big bowl of Fufu

If you hosted a party to celebrate 50 years of Ghana's independence, who would you invite?

NaNa & RK: Dr Kwame Nkrumah

Who is Ghana's Finest Export?

RK: Michael Essien

When you think of Ghana, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

NaNa: Red clay floor and palm trees
RK: Fufu and light soup and chicken

What is your fondest memory of Ghana?

RK: The five years I was studying my O'levels





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ALRICK RILEY

We caught up with stylish, savvy and switched-on director Alrick Riley to talk about his career and black British cinema.

Acclaimed black British director, Alrick Riley has directed some of the grittiest, slick and stylish programming to have graced our screens.

Credits include the much missed *Babyfather* and the much respected *Judge John Deed*, with *Hustle*, *Spooks* and *Silent Witness*, being a handful of dramas that Alrick has waved his magic wand over.

In the early stages of his career he played a rude boy in *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em* (1975), appeared in *Scum* (1979), and also

wrote for *Desmond's*.

With these credentials, it's hard to believe the man wants more, he explained: "When you're in this job, all you want to do is get better, find new challenges. And that's what I'm always trying to do. All I'm thinking about is what is the next challenge? How can I raise my game? How can I improve myself as a director?"

By always striving to be better, Alrick ensures that he remains at the top of his game. His career highlights include working on TV drama *Cops*, which won BAFTA's for two years in a row, and the groundbreaking *Babyfather*, the BBC's first black mainstream high budget drama.



There has never been a proper black film movement, with possibly the exception of what is currently happening in Nollywood at the moment



Speaking of an incident earlier this year, he said: "I was walking down the road with one of the actors, the reaction is absolutely fantastic, and women can't contain themselves – they scream and shout, they cry, they want his autograph, demanding to know when *'Babyfather'* is coming back."

The impact of the show is undeniable, within the black community and outside it. Slick and stylish drama's such as *Spooks* and *Hustle* have allowed him to tap into the stylised simplicity of a new era in British drama.

The future looks bright for Alrick, with new documentary projects on the horizon, as well as writing and making the transition to long form feature length films.

Many believe that black British cinema leaves much to be desired. Alrick reveals that "there needs to be more of everything."

The core complexities need to be surfaced, as "we have barely scratched the surface of the things which are going on with our community."

He has nothing but praise for pioneering black films such as Menelik Shabazz's *Burning an Illusion*, but cannot help but feel like we have not reached the stage where we can create waves in the media.

"There isn't a cinema movement. That's how I see it – that's the problem. There has never been a proper black film movement, with possibly the exception of what is currently happening in Nollywood at the moment. They need to make films that interest them - its more likely that then they will find an audience. With the explosion in digital media, I think it is possible to make pretty low budget stuff and get them out there and really learn, and really let people know what they're thinking," he said.

Alrick continues: "I just think that we need to talk about it in an intelligent, responsible, strategic way, so that people might understand where it's coming from, and we don't fall into the trap of glamourising gun violence."

With the complexities within the black community, the more black British films there are, the more room for debate and progression. So what are Alrick's thoughts on this?

He commented: "I think there is a huge canvas for which to paint these contractions, so we can see them and discuss them and argue about them, but also laugh and enjoy them as well".

I NEED ME SOME SCREEN NATION



Dona Croll first graced our screens in 1976, read on to discover the changes she's seen in the prickly game they call show business

Another year, another Screen Nation Awards Ceremony, another frock!! Let's all congratulate ourselves that we are all still here practising our crafts and are able to big up each other in the spirit of love and support for another year.

For me the Screen Nation Awards provides a yearly forum where we can meet to network, exchange information [not gossip!] and congratulate ourselves on our continuing contribution not only to our industry but also to our community. It is an important event not only for its continuing success and survival but also for its role in affirming our impact on the cultural life of this country. We all need some sort of public approbation, sometimes it is forthcoming in other fields of the industry but this is "Fi we t'ing" and as such holds a special place in our hearts.

“ Another year, another Screen Nation Awards Ceremony, another frock. ”

Screen Nation probes the parts that other events do not reach. In this forum we can acknowledge and celebrate work which has yet to reach a wide audience but is good work made in the face of much and well documented adversity.

At each ceremony I am reminded that we are still at the "we" stage. By which I mean that we all work together to ensure our rightful place in the industry. We are mindful of our place in the world and give as much help and support to each other and mentor younger people both in front and behind the camera to ensure a greater chance of all of us being successful. We also remember the older practitioners who have carved out the paths on which we now tread. It was my pleasure last year to present Mona Hammond with a lifetime achievement award. Mona, along with others, was instrumental in forming my attitude to my work when I was a young girl. "A long time ago" I hear you all heckle!

I am encouraged yearly to meet and greet new young talent at the Screen Nation event. It is a confirmation that as a creative force we have longevity, courage and a presence which is echoed in other fields of artistic achievement, such as music, fashion, photography, literature and fine art.

Film and TV is the most powerful art form that exists, because it can change people's perception of their lives and the world. As an example, we all know that cowboys killed "injuns" because many films tell that story but how many people know that were it not for the "injuns" the cowboys would not have survived? Not many, because there are few films that tell us that story. Big up to our

BIOGRAPHY

Most notable TV appearances since 1976

- > Boys from the Black Stuff
- > Casualty
- > Desmonds
- > Us Girls
- EastEnders
- > Bremner Bird and Fortune
- > Family Affairs
- > The Bill
- > Gimme Gimme Gimme
- > Silent Witness
- > Doctors 2007
- > Little Miss Jocelyn 2007

Her many films include

- > Hallelujah Anyhow
- > Tube Tales
- > I Could never be your Woman
- > Manderlay
- > Eastern Promise.



Theatre

- > Elmina's Kitchen
- > She has also been a constant presence on the stage, most recently in The Christ of Coldharbour Lane in which she played a pole dancer.

many talented writers who are giving the world the stories from our point of view and in that direction the future lies.

As an actress I have seen many changes over the years. We have much to applaud in the attitude of the BBC in their efforts to change the whole ethos of broadcasters. Public service broadcasting after all has a responsibility to the public. The result of their shift in attitude means we see fewer examples of "tokenism". As diversity becomes a serious social philosophy, we are now being cast with regard to talent and temperament. I am now encountering many more black crew members than I used to and many more decision makers in the departments of make up, costume etc. We still have a long way to go but we have to recognise and celebrate the steps we have taken and plan strategies for the steps yet to be taken.

Much has been written lately of our successes across the pond. I see it as a positive development. We are actors who can attract an international market and we belong to a global community. Not Screen Britain but Screen Nation.

I will certainly enjoy this years' event for all the reasons above but also to show off my new frock.

Mahogany MODEL 2007

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SCREEN NATION'S

A list of only 100 Black Screen Icons is too short to pay homage to our burgeoning film and TV industry. Therefore Screen Nation has decided to bring you a list of just some of the talents that did not make it.

In July 2007 Every Generation Media and BFI launched 100 Black Screen Icons. Via an online poll the public were invited to vote for their icons. The results saw Denzel Washington (All-time Black Screen Icon and Black Screen Icon: Actor) and Oprah Winfrey (Black Screen Icon: Woman & Black Screen Icon: Producer) come out on top. Here's ten that didn't make the list.

1> MEKHI PHIFER

As a young heartthrob he even had Brandy & Monica fighting over him. Harlem born Phifer's decision to attend an open casting call for Spike Lee's Clockers paid off as he landed a lead role as drug dealer Ronald "Strike" Dunham. After this impressive debut he won roles in High School High,

Soul Food, I Know What You Did Last Summer and 8 Mile amongst others. In 2002 Phifer upped the stakes by landing a starring role in popular US medical drama ER as the hot-headed Dr Gregory Platt.

2> PAUL BARBER

Liverpudlian veteran Paul Barber is probably best remembered as Del Boy's friend the dim-witted Denzil in long-running sitcom Only Fools and Horses. Earning his place in the history books in 1997 he played steel-worker turned

stripper

Horse in The Full Monty which is still one of the top ten highest grossing films at the UK box office. His TV credentials include appearances in Porridge, Minder, Cracker, Coronation Street, Brookside, Casualty and Holby City.

3> NAOMIE HARRIS

For former child actress it's only a matter of time before a big budget leading role beckons. In 2002 her role as Selena in Brit horror flick 28 Days Later was the big break she needed and she has not looked back since.

4> LARENZ TATE

With the inclusion of the Hughes Brothers in the list it seems strange not to include Larenz Tate who played the leading man in their films Menace II Society and Dead Presidents. After moving to California at nine-years-old and enrolling onto a drama program with his two elder brothers the trio began receiving small roles a year later. As a youngster Tate made appearances in 21 Jump Street, The Wonder Years, Matlock and The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air amongst other. His film career kicked off when he reached 18 with the role of O-Dog, the gun-toting teenager in Menace II Society. Other credits include Love Jones, Why Do Fools Fall in Love, Ray and Crash.

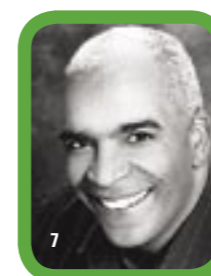
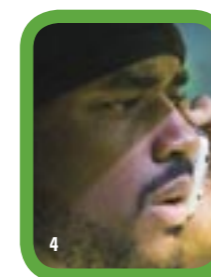
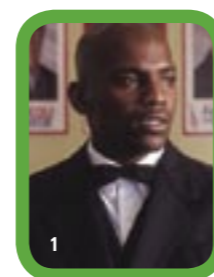
>> "The omission of Naomie

Harris just further indicates we do not value our own home-grown talent. Let's not forget that among her many accomplishments she has played a very pivotal character in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise, which is one of the most successful franchises to date."

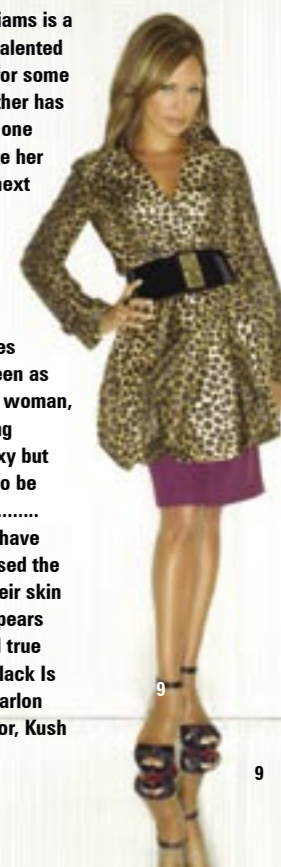
Michael Morgan, Film Editor,

Touch magazine

3



"Vanessa Williams is a beautiful and talented actress, who for some reason or another has never got that one big role, to take her career to the next level, but she has always carried herself with dignity and style and comes across on screen as a strong black woman, who's charming whilst also sexy but definitely not to be messed with..... Where others have sold out and used the lightness of their skin colour, she appears to have stayed true to her roots. Black Is Beautiful!!" Marlon Palmer, Director, Kush Films



9

9> VANESSA WILLIAMS

Former Miss America Vanessa Williams' hard work finally paid off once she landed the role of Wilhelmina Slater in the hit comedy series Ugly Betty. A credible recording artist Williams won awards for her lead role in the 1997 movie Soul Food. In March 2007 she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

10> VIVICA A. FOX

Ms Fox is rumoured to be starring in an upcoming movie about the rise and fall of pop legend Whitney Houston. Early on in her career Vivica won small roles in Days of Our Lives, Who's the Boss, The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and Beverly Hills: 90210. Her big break came in 1996 when she starred in Set It Off and Independence Day. As well as her lead role in Tarantino's blockbuster Kill Bill Vol. 1 Fox secured roles in Soul Food, Batman & Robin, Why Do Fools Fall in Love and Juwanna Man. She is currently filming Major Movie Star co-starring Jessica Simpson due for release in 2008.

5> OMAR EPPS

Omar Epps made his feature film debut alongside the late Tupac Shakur in Ernest R. Dickerson's Juice. Two years later he landed the lead role in John Singleton's thought-provoking drama Higher Learning. Roles followed including the Wayans' spoof Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood, Scream 2, The Wood, Love & Basketball and Alfie. After playing a brief recurring role as Dr. Dennis Gant in ER back in '96, Epps donned the white coat again to star alongside Hugh Laurie as Dr. Eric Foreman in the award-winning US medical drama House.

6> MARTIN LAWRENCE

Like Richard Pryor and Eddie Murphy, Lawrence is part of the league of black comedians who made the successful transition from stand-up to the silver screen. A small role in Spike Lee's Do the Right Thing was followed swiftly by supporting roles in House Party 1&2 and Boomerang amongst others whilst from 1992 to 1997 his hit sitcom Martin was aired on the Fox Network. It was his 1995 film Bad Boys co-starring Will Smith that established Martin Lawrence had "arrived". Since then Martin Lawrence has co-starred alongside Tim Robbins, Eddie Murphy, Tim Allen and John Travolta. His 2000 film Big Momma's House grossed over \$117,000,000 at the US Box Office.

7> STAN LATHAN

Father of actress Sanaa Lathan unless you're a film buff his name may not instantly ring a bell. His directorial career began on the pioneering children's educational programme Sesame Street. In the 70's and 80's Lathan worked on high profile award-winning dramas such as Sanford & Son, The Waltons, Hill Street Blues, Fame, and Miami Vice. In 1984 Lathan directed the Harry Belafonte produced Beat Street, a ground-breaking film on the hip hop genre. In the 90's his forte was comedy and he produced and directed episodes of Moesha, Def Comedy Jam, Cedric the Entertainer Presents, The Steve Harvey Show, Dave Chapelle specials, The Rosie O'Donnell Show and The Bernie Mac Show.

8> BILL DUKE

At 6'4" Bill Duke portrays characters you'd hate to get on the wrong side of. During the 80's when action flicks were all the rage he co-starred alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger in Commando and Predator. He has also shared billings with Goldie Hawn, Mel Gibson, Whoopi Goldberg, Steven Seagal, Sir Ian McKellen and Anthony Hopkins. As a director he has an impressive list of credits including Dallas, Hill Street Blues, Cagney & Lacey, Fame, Miami Vice and Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit.



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GINA'S TRAVEL TALES



From Acapulco to Iraq, Screen Nation discusses all things travel with comedy veteran Gina Yashere

Most memorable holiday?
It would be Sydney, Australia – that was fantastic or Ghana, either one or the two. They're

both fantastic for different reasons.

Favourite holidays?
Yeah, they were my favourites.

Worst holiday?
I went to Acapulco, Mexico. I had seafood on the beach that made me violently ill, and I ended up on a drip for dehydration. And then we decided to drive from Acapulco to Mexico City, which was about a six hour drive. It was a lovely sunny day when we left, and we had a convertible jeep. About three hours into the drive, it started to absolutely rain, proper storms, thunders and we realised then, we didn't have a roof for the jeep. So, we ended up getting absolutely soaked and miserable, cold. And we didn't have any cash, only credit cards, and no petrol station would take credit cards and we were running out of petrol. So it was quite precarious I should say. It was horrible.

Nightmare holiday?

Yeah that was my holiday in Mexico that was the worst.

Is there anywhere you would love to go?
I would love to go to Thailand. It sounds like a fantastic place, a nice mix of cultures, people. I wouldn't mind trying out a bit of Tai Chi...and Buddhism.

Is there anywhere you would never go?
I did say Iraq, but then I ended up going. I got booked out there to do some shows for

soldiers and I thought 'hmmm, a challenge'.

So I took the challenge and went and did it.

What was it like?
Iraq was awful, but the gigs were great!

Do you prefer big cities, or undiscovered places?

I like a bit of both.

Have you ever holidayed with a partner?

Oh yeah, yeah. We get on very well, so it's easy.

What's your ideal honeymoon location?

Anywhere in the Caribbean. I'd love to go somewhere where there's a cross between nice beaches to hang out and sleep on, but with a

bit of activity thrown in.

Do your prefer going on holiday with a partner, friends, or family?

Mmmm. I prefer to go with my partner actually. 'Cos we have a good time together, and there's not too many people to think about. None of the 'Ah what do you want to do today?' You're always under pressure to fit in with the group. When there are two of you, there's not too much to think about.

Have you ever been, or would you go to a nudist beach?

(Laughs) Not until I lose about four stone! But that's a no!

Is there a celebrity you would never dream of going on holiday with?

Jim Davidson.

(Laughs) **Have you always lived in England?**

Yes.

If you were to live

somewhere else, where would you live?
It would have been Sydney, Australia, if there were more black people there. Canada, I think. I love Canada. I have just come back from Montreal, and that was the perfect mix of cultures and friendliness. So it would be Canada.

Where's the best place you have travelled to through work?

Wow, I have been to so many places through work. Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai. I think Hong Kong was my favourite.

Any particular reason?

I love shopping when I'm away. And it's fantastic for gadgets and diamonds, which are my two favourite things in the world.

Which three essential items do you always take on holiday?

Always two good books at least. Music – me iPod and speakers. And me jewellery — I feel naked without my jewellery.

If you had to flog your town as the hottest tourist location, how would you sell it?

Well, I'm in London. It's the best mix of cultures, it's the least segregated, and best culture. Shame about the weather!

Gina Yashere is embarking on a worldwide tour, visit www.ginayashere.co.uk for further information.



Fashion fool? Art fool? Gardening fool? Wedding fool? Graduation fool? Pet fool? Love fool? Golf fool? Retirement fool? Travel fool? Office fool? Anniversary fool? Christmas fool? House fool? Shoe fool? Corporate fool? Birthday fool? Hat fool? Football fool? Politics fool? Literary fool? Cooking fool? Easter fool? Music fool?

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KOJO'S WORLD

Krishna Maroo caught up with travel bug and comedy and poetry entrepreneur, Kojo.

Most memorable holiday?

February 2006, I went to Disney World in Florida. The real one as I like to call it. It was just an amazing experience.

Favourite holiday?

When I went to Miami for Spring Break with the boys. That was a week of partying non-stop. It's got a beach, the weather was nice, and it's laid back so that was cool.

Worst Holiday?

When me and my mum went to Chicago, and we were just arguing all week.

Where would you love to go?

I would love to go to a tropical island, like Hawaii. Somewhere that's laid back, where you can just chill, walk around naked and do nothing.

Where would you never go?

Ukraine. There's no reason for me to ever be in Ukraine. In this life you never know where your job takes you sometimes. But I can't see any reason why I would ever end up in Ukraine.

Have you had any holiday nightmares?

When we [some friends] were coming home from Miami, the cab driver was late and made us miss our flight. There were, eight of us and we had to get on separate flights. So that was quite funny, but it was horrendous.

Do you prefer going to big cities or would you rather go somewhere undiscovered?

I'm a city boy, I'm used to that. I don't think I'll be able to go on holiday without hearing a car horn...or an engine.

On the beach, are you a speedo or shorts kinda guy?

Shorts, man. Damn...hooohoo. Make sure that's capital letters – SHORTS!!

Have you ever been on holiday with a girlfriend?

Yes to Orlando. It was nice. I don't think we went for a romance holiday, we just went to go out and have a laugh really.

What would be your ideal honeymoon location?

Ummm...Ideal honeymoon location...Wow,

I don't know, probably Hawaii. Or Jamaica.

Not Kingston or nothing ghetto like that. There's lots of beautiful places in Jamaica.

Who would you rather go on holiday with? Your girlfriend, family or your friends?

My boys, yeah 100 per cent my boys.

Have you always lived in England?

I had one year when I lived in Ghana, when I was about seven. Other than that, the rest of my life's been here.

Do you remember much of it?

Yeah, I went to school there. Looking back now, it was an important part of my life, I found out about my background, first hand. And I think it gave me a little bit of discipline as well.

Would you go and live there again?

No, I don't think I could ever live there, but I will have a house there. It would be a place I would visit at least once a year.

Best place you have travelled to through work?

Wow, I'd have to say Germany, only 'cause it

was the World Cup. We were filming for the childrens TV show, Mighty Truck of Stuff, so that's been the best place to go to. Going to the World Cup was an amazing experience.

What are your three essential items to take on holiday?

My phone. I could not breathe without my phone. Umm..oh yeah, I've got asthma as well, so my asthma pump (laughs). A partner, yeah, a female definitely.

If you had to flog your home town as the next best tourist location, how would you sell it?

Oh good Lord. I wouldn't call it Hackney, I would probably call it Hackney-Upon-Sea. So, I'd lie and say that it's got a nice seaside when it's just a river. I'd say that there's a massive black community down here. You got the Hackney Empire. So many famous people in the past have performed down there. Various different foods. You've got African food, you've got West Indian food, you got Chinese food. And you got Kojo – Oh yeaaaaah.

Oh good Lord. I wouldn't call it Hackney, I would probably call it Hackney-Upon-Sea. So, I'd lie and say that it's got a nice seaside when it's just a river. I'd say that there's a massive black community down here. You got the Hackney Empire. So many famous people in the past have performed down there. Various different foods. You've got African food, you've got West Indian food, you got Chinese food. And you got Kojo – Oh yeaaaaah.

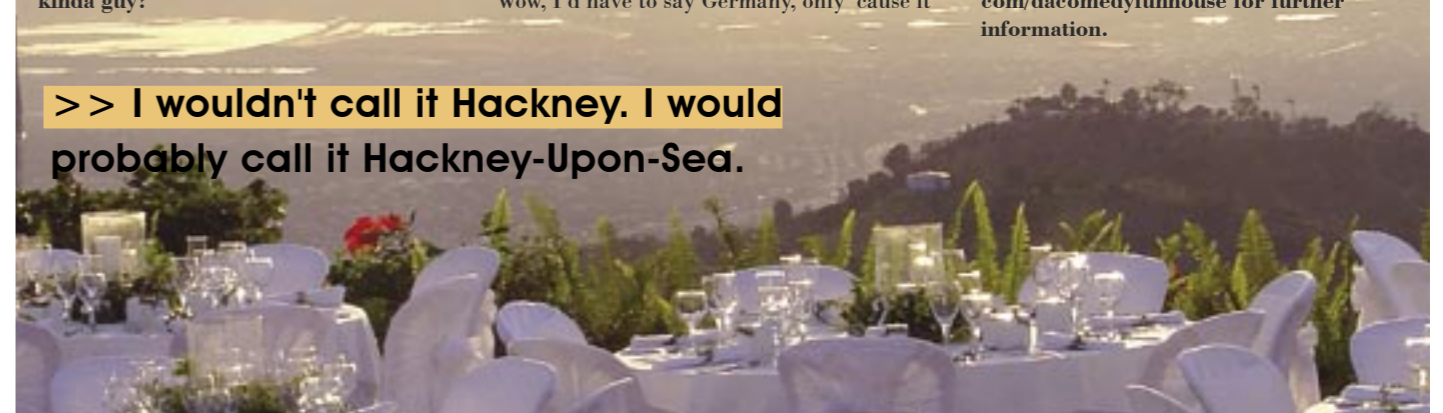
Any last words?

I love travelling. I travel at least twice a year. I'm going to LA on Monday. I try and get out as much as I can.

Kojo can be seen in the Mighty Truck of Stuff on Saturday's 9 am, BBC 2/ CBBC. Kojo's Da Comedy Funhouse at Corks, London W1. Visit www.myspace.com/dacomedyfunhouse for further information.



>> I wouldn't call it Hackney. I would probably call it Hackney-Upon-Sea.



THE CELEBRITY CHEF

Patrick Williams, chef and proprietor of The Terrace Restaurant gives Screen Nation readers a chance to try one of his popular dishes at home.

British-born Patrick Williams' passion for cooking began at school where he had his sights set on being a top chef. His Jamaican parentage and family love of food further inspired his interest.

Today, he is a renowned chef and restaurateur credited for cooking modern and traditional British dishes with his unique Caribbean stamp. His mission is to educate and inspire his diners, broadening their culinary knowledge of Caribbean ingredients.

"The British have a rich and diverse cultural palate and this has been influenced by a broad range of international ingredients used today in top restaurants as well as domestically. British cuisine truly reflects the melting-pot nature of British Society, yet Caribbean influences are still untapped. It's my aim to help de-mystify Caribbean ingredients by serving this produce alongside modern and traditional British classics. This cuisine is part of our society and it's time that these influences spread throughout the cultural mix and into high street restaurants too."

Patrick has followed a varied career path that's firmly rooted in classical French cooking. He commenced training at Mirabelle under Herbert Berger, moving onto top London eateries including Café Swiss, The Ivy and The Canteen. As head chef at Greens Oyster Bar and Restaurant in 1998 Patrick

truly started to make his mark.

Whilst working at the Criterion in 1999, Patrick started to explore his interest in Caribbean ingredients, developing and re-crafting dishes in his spare time. This inspired the inception of his successful book, *The Caribbean Cook*.

In October 2005, Patrick opened The Terrace in London's Lincoln's Inn Fields. The Terrace is Patrick's first solo venture following the success of his co-owned bar and restaurant, 'The Green' in NW2. The Terrace, is a stylish purpose-built restaurant within a stunning London setting, providing fine dining and good service all at an accessible price. This project was the result of a chance meeting and a tender bid to Camden Council. The Terrace is the perfect platform for Patrick to showcase his unique cooking talent. At the core of Patrick's offer today is his classical French training which he combines with his love of Caribbean ingredients and a ceaseless commitment to using fresh produce. In turn, Patrick's energy and inspiration is fuelled by his passion for re-crafting traditional British and Caribbean staples; focusing on clean and simple flavours, injecting new vitality with a tweak of ingredients and successfully re-introducing these to his clientele.

The Terrace's menu and ambience adapts according to the changing demands of diners throughout the day, from breakfast to dinner, and includes a wi-fi system to meet business needs. There is also an extensive wine list of over 40 new and old world wines including 16 varieties offered by the glass or carafe.

The Terrace's unique pavilion style hideaway, offers a refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of busy London life and an exceptional dining experience. Taking advantage of its idyllic location the Terrace restaurant also offers a stylish Al-fresco dining experience and a pre-booked bespoke silver service lunchtime or early evening picnic.

In addition, Patrick and his team caters for private and corporate events including parties, launches, receptions and seasonal barbeques at The Terrace.

CRAB & MANGO SALAD

Serves 4

400g/14oz white crabmeat

Juice of 1 lime

2-3 tablespoons of mayonnaise

3 mangoes, peeled, deseeded and diced

Fresh coriander leaves

For the dressing

3 tablespoons coconut water

2 tablespoons lime juice

1 tablespoon pimento oil

1 red chilli

3 tablespoons freshly grated coconut

1 tablespoon olive oil

A splash of lime juice

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Mix the crabmeat with the lime juice and mayonnaise and refrigerate.

Combine the dressing ingredients. Add mangoes. Spoon half the mangoes into a ring and top with the white crabmeat. Top with the rest of the mangoes. Garnish with coriander leaves.

The Terrace restaurant is located at: Lincoln's Inn Fields London, Holborn, London WC2A 3LJ.
www.theterrace.info, 020 7430 1234

Opening times:

Breakfast: 8.00-11.00am

Lunch: 12.00-3.00pm

Dinner: 6.30-9.00pm

The restaurant is a non-smoking environment and is closed on Sundays.



>> Anthony Cumberbatch Executive - Chef for 2007 Screen Nation Awards Banquet



AZOU

> **Antonia Hines and Jennifer Rock**

They say that cooking is indeed a science, so it is no surprise that former biologist Chris Benarab from Algeria has managed to balance the right ingredients to make Azou a unique dining experience.

He is the owner and head chef of the homely, west London eatery that offers authentic North African cuisine in intimate surroundings. Think flavours from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

Set in a small-sized room, you are immediately drawn to the powerful décor. Sachets of silk cloth draped along the ceilings, eclectic ornaments and warm earthy tones all helped to foster a Mediterranean feel.

We decided to go for the corner seating area with the customary North African low-table surrounded by jumbo-sized cushions.

Our starters were a haven dedicated to seafood and marinated vegetables dipped in authentic herbs and spices served with Algerian flat bread. Choosing the spicy prawns with coriander and the savoury

triangles of light pastry filled with brie and goat's cheese was a winner.

Our portions were healthy in size and price (averaging out to £9 per head), but our choice of the Tagine Constantine – tender lamb, potatoes and chillies in a hot spicy sauce – was more like a heavy soup dish. Another option could have been Azou's special couscous dishes served with vegetables, chicken or lamb shank, apparently a house favourite.

The hospitality in Azou makes the dining out experience extra special. Chris often came out of the kitchen to greet and exchange pleasantries with guests who appeared to be a regular clientele.

It's that personal touch that probably draws actor-comedian Ricky Gervais to Azou, just one of the celebrities Chris named as his guests. For us it was the hospitality, value for money and sheer North African ambience, which you will get from this restaurant.

*Azou, 375 King Street, Hammersmith, London, W6 9NJ
020 8563 7266
www.azou.co.uk*

>> 'the spicy prawns with coriander and the savoury triangles of light pastry filled with brie and goat's cheese was a winner.'



MOMO

> **Sam Fernando**

The wonderfully located Momo restaurant is a little piece of North African escapism in the centre of London. The space within, and authentic design are just some of the elements in the plus column, although these don't add up to a top quality experience, thankfully the service and food are also of the highest order. Regardless of your culinary needs (vegetarians and those who require Halal food rejoice!), there is something mouthwatering delightful for everyone.

Having been established several years ago, the restaurant has developed something of a cult following, which means taking anyone there will result in a positive reaction (you really could impress people if that's what you're after...).

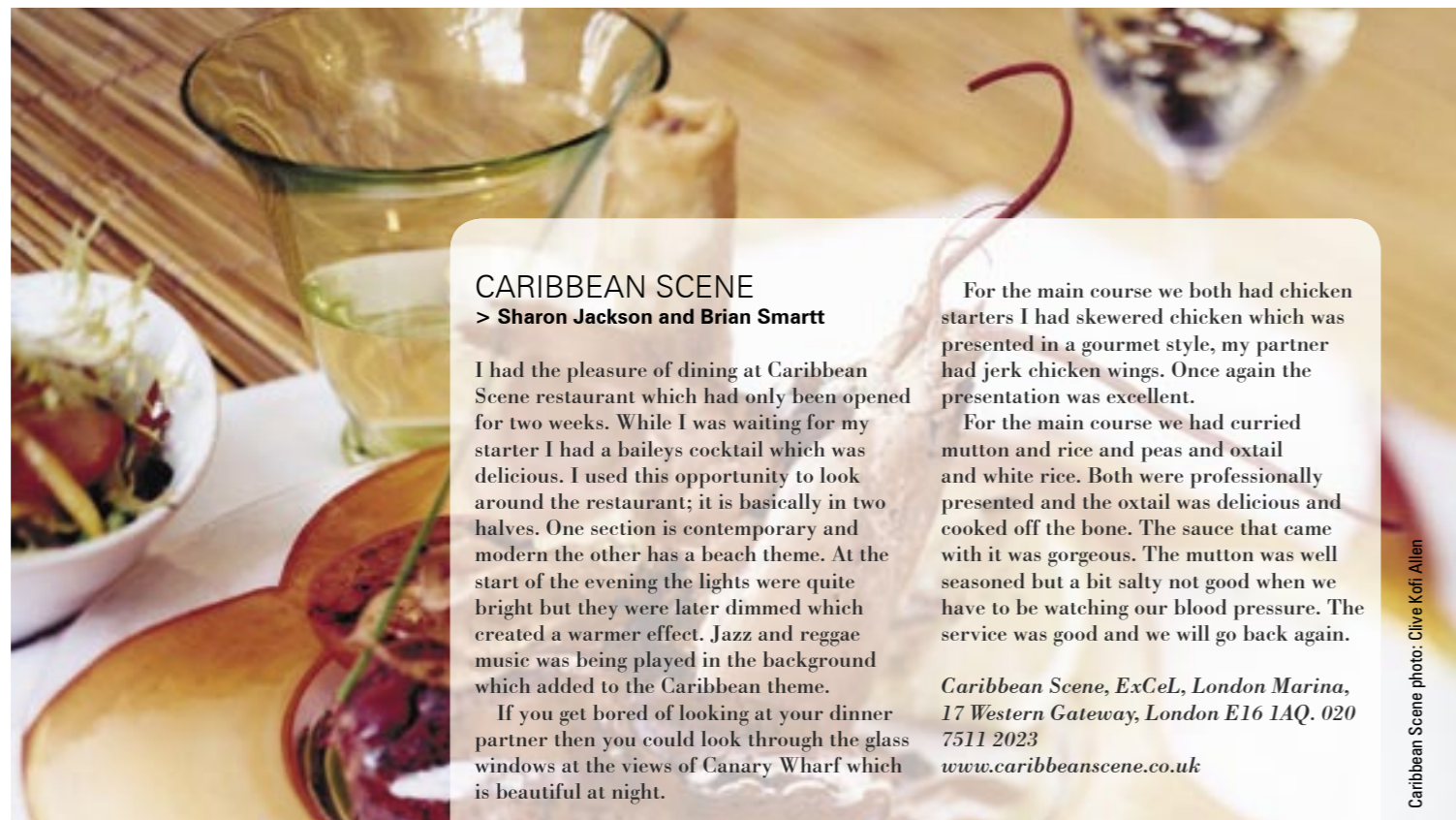
Although there is a bar, tearoom and bazaar attached to the site, we only tried out the restaurant and every aspect of the place looked enticing and exciting. Of the two non-

alcoholic cocktails on offer, the Emerald is a refreshing and thirst-quenching alternative.

The starters were just as good with a warm mozzarella salad proving to taste as good as it looked and for the more adventurous of you a wild pigeon dish tasted sublime. I am assured that the pigeons came from Scotland and not Trafalgar Square, either way I don't care they were delicious!

With a variety of main courses the one that stood out (and something of a specialty) was the Lamb Canon rolled in filo pastry served with wild mushrooms. I was tempted to try something else, but when something is this good you can't go wrong. As a side dish the Merguez (spicy lamb sausages) were finely flavoured and authentic to their North African origins. With a reasonably priced menu and superb service; I want more, more.

Momo, 25 Heddon Street, Regent Street, London, W1B 4BH, 020 7434 4040



CARIBBEAN SCENE

> **Sharon Jackson and Brian Smartt**

I had the pleasure of dining at Caribbean Scene restaurant which had only been opened for two weeks. While I was waiting for my starter I had a baileys cocktail which was delicious. I used this opportunity to look around the restaurant; it is basically in two halves. One section is contemporary and modern the other has a beach theme. At the start of the evening the lights were quite bright but they were later dimmed which created a warmer effect. Jazz and reggae music was being played in the background which added to the Caribbean theme.

If you get bored of looking at your dinner partner then you could look through the glass windows at the views of Canary Wharf which is beautiful at night.

For the main course we both had chicken starters I had skewered chicken which was presented in a gourmet style, my partner had jerk chicken wings. Once again the presentation was excellent.

For the main course we had curried mutton and rice and peas and oxtail and white rice. Both were professionally presented and the oxtail was delicious and cooked off the bone. The sauce that came with it was gorgeous. The mutton was well seasoned but a bit salty not good when we have to be watching our blood pressure. The service was good and we will go back again.

*Caribbean Scene, ExCeL, London Marina, 17 Western Gateway, London E16 1AQ. 020 7511 2023
www.caribbeanscene.co.uk*

Caribbean Scene photo: Clive Kofi Allen



ZIGNI HOUSE

> **Krishna Maroo**

Eritrean and Ethiopian food are a rare find in this country, so I recommend you delve into the depths of Islington and sample a mix of flannelly sour bread, spicy curried meat and casserole vegetables at the Zigni House. Absorb the African artifacts adorning the walls, the animal hinds beneath your rear and bargainous £8 buffet at this splendid family-run East-African restaurant, bar and cafe.

Chef, owner and author of two cookery books (in her native language Amharic), Tsige Haile, suggested we take 'small small' samples of the dishes, which ranged from casseroles and curries to spicy humous and spinach based dishes.

The filling Injera bread is a staple at Zigni. It is a white, sour rolled up pancake made of wheat and rice flour which is then fermented, and has a bizarre consistency. It's not quite bread, but doubles up as a scooping device for succulent pieces of meat or curried vegetables. Cutlery is available for the faint-hearted.

One of the most distinct, yet spicy flavours encountered was through the Zigni sauce – a rich mix of over 40 stone ground spices in a slow-cooked curry. The taste is similar to some Indian food, but has a distinct African flavour to it.

The buffet seems overwhelming as there are a lot of different flavours. Don't underestimate how full the Injera bread will make you feel. My advice is to try a little, and then taste the individual dishes.

The menu has a good mix of meat and vegetarian dishes, and the venue also caters for large groups, so get in touch beforehand and special arrangements will be made.

Service could be improved, but on the whole it's delightfully laid back and inexpensive. It's a shame that the dessert menu is so European, but be sure to try the traditional beer or coffee.

*Zigni House, 330 Essex Rd, London, N1 3PB
020 7226 7418
www.zignihouse.com*

Jefferson Sixty-Six

....“Listening to this album evoked memories of classics such as the song writing and voices of Carole King, Carly Simon and Joni Mitchell”. -Andy Isaac- Director: Notting Hill Film Festival....

...“Jefferson Sixty-Six’s piano led tunes roll along with bounce and liveliness. Both laid-back and rocking at the same time, its music to live your life to, music that stirs something in your soul.” -Music On-Air....

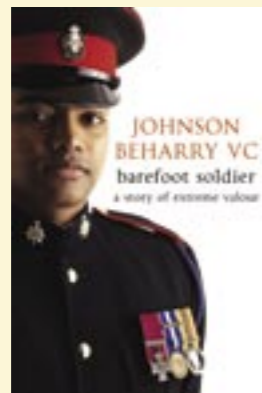
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www.myspace.com/jeffersonsixtysix

HOOKED ON A BOOK

Had enough of film and television? Then curl up with one of these hot reads



The decibel Penguin Anthology, volume one: new voices from a diverse culture Contemporary Britain is given a literary makeover in this anthology of stories from a diversity of non-mainstream voices.

Ten writers from various backgrounds including South Africa and Pakistan to Manchester and Hackney were the competition winners whittled down by a panel of judges.

Tottenham MP David Lammy, minister for culture is the patron of the decibel, Arts Council England and Penguin collaboration. He said: "We are known all over the world as a country that produces great writers. We are familiar with the novels of best-selling authors such as Zadie Smith and Monica Ali,

but these are only the tip of the iceberg that consists of a wide range of writers who have emerged from the migrant communities in recent years."

Fellow judges include television presenter June Sarpong. The global short stories are thought-provoking and captivating in the way they tackle issues of generational discourse, assimilation, freedom and restriction and good old fashioned love.

Johnson Beharry VC, Barefoot Soldier: a story of extreme valour by Johnson Beharry

This is the inspiring and compelling story of Grenada's Johnson Beharry. His heartbreaking, brutally frank but humorous tale is one of remarkable courage. In March 2005, the honour of being the first living recipient of the Victoria Cross – the highest reward for gallantry — for almost 40 years was bestowed on him.

Beharry was a private with the 1st Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. During his time in the British army, he saved lives at the risk of endangering his own and survived near-death experiences.

Aged 19, he arrived in Britain from a family of eight and leaving behind his violent, alcoholic father. Young Johnson Beharry came in search of a brighter future but walked straight into a life of more dangers than what he left behind. He decided to join the army before his life took a turn for the worse and became an unsuspecting hero.

At 24-years-old, in southern Iraq he saved the lives of 30 comrades in an act of bravery. As if this wasn't enough, he then went on to reverse his vehicle out of an ambush zone, having survived a rocket-propelled grenade

exploding just six inches from his head.

Although no one thought it possible, he survived intense bouts of brain surgery having emerged from a coma. This is a book of bravery which will leave readers inspired and ready to take on the world.

Ghana 50

Black Gold of the Sun, by Ekow Eshun

I felt the book was excellent. I could immediately identify with the experiences of Ekow Eshun for the reason being I was born in London, schooled in London, but always tried to maintain that essential connection to home, Ghana. When I was younger, I at times, found it difficult to adapt to British culture. Having said that, going home to Ghana was equally challenging at times because I wasn't really seen as Ghanaian, being that I was born in UK. The way in which I made the process easy was simply to embrace both cultures, which I feel Ekow successfully did. I appreciate the book because it goes deep into the culture of Ghana and uncovers some of the true riches and beauty of the country.



I GHANA BECAUSE.....

It's who I am, it's where I am from and it's the essence of me.

**JUSTIN DARKWAH, 32
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

How are you celebrating Ghana's 50 years of independence?

By returning home to be with my parents and enjoying what Ghana has prepared.

If you were to host a party to celebrate 50 years of Ghana's independence who would be your guest of honour?

I'd try and get Lauryn Hill to be the MC, for she is the essence of a beautiful black African woman that could consciously engage an audience and throw down some entertaining vocals, being that it's a party.

Who is Ghana's finest export?

Kofi Annan

When you think of Ghana what is the first thing that comes to mind?

Family, home and good food.

NEWS

Penguin Books and decibel, Arts Council England have joined forces for the second time to give new writers the opportunity to showcase their work. Writers are invited to submit non-fiction personal accounts of the experience of immigration to the UK for the competition. The winning authors will see their stories published in a Penguin anthology entitled Volume 2: Personal Tales of Immigration to Britain in November 2007. The closing date for entries is Monday 2 April 2007, and the anthology of the winning entries will be published by Penguin in November 2007. Visit www.artscouncil.org.uk for more information.

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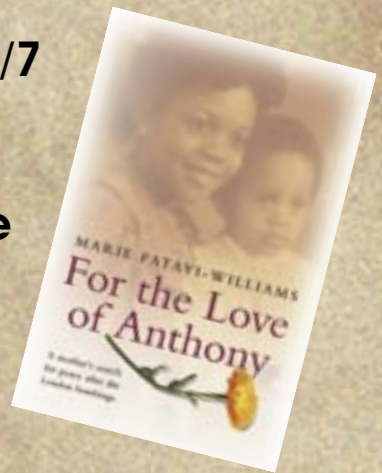
color blind cards

'The only thing that should be separated by colour is laundry'



FOR THE LOVE OF ANTHONY

In the wake of the London Bombings of 7/7 Marie Fatayi-Williams touched the hearts and imaginations of a nation when she delivered her iconic speech in desperate attempt to find her son, Anthony. He is now known to have been one of the 52 innocent people who lost their lives that day. For the Love of Anthony is a tribute to her only son, taken away in a vicious unthinkable manner. Marie's strength and raw passion have brought to life a story that will move anyone who has ever grieved for a child. Here's an extract.



“

Today has been a day of agonies, and also of a miracle.

”

I'm writing this on Valentine's Day. It is seven months and seven days since my son was killed, and recalling the events of that awful day and night are almost too much to bear, almost too much to tell.

I think of that moment when the phone rang, when I was so desperate for news, when I was surrounded by friends yet feeling so alone, and it seems as though that instant has been repeating itself endlessly, for seven months and seven days.

Whenever the phone rings, whenever I see a young man in the crowd who has Anthony's build or Anthony's smart clothes, whenever I hear a door open or catch a movement from the corner of my eye, my heart lurches. I know I can never

see him or speak with him again physically in this life, but my heart still expects it. My heart is maimed, and it does not understand.

Today has been a day of agonies, and also of a miracle.

There was one special letter that Anthony wrote to me, which I very much wanted to put in this book. I remembered I'd had it a few months earlier, but now I could not find it. I told everyone I had lost it, and I was so upset. Believe it or not, it has turned up, mysteriously and miraculously, today, on Valentine's Day.

This morning, feeling very sad and full of pain, I prayed in front of my little altar where I have placed Anthony's photograph.

I shed a tear; I talked to him and I said,



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'This time last year I was in London and you sent me a huge bouquet of flowers.'

On that day, he really surprised me! The doorbell rang and I opened it to a huge vase crammed with roses and greenery. I said, 'Wow, from who?' And the card said, 'For my mummy, with all my love. Anthony.'

He had ordered it through a florist from work. He called me later and said, 'Hi, Mummy, are you having a nice Valentine's Day?' I said, 'Yes! You made my day!'

I could hear a smile in his voice as he said, 'Yeah, yeah, I love you lots, I hope you're happy, I really do.' I said, 'Me too.'

When he came home, he warned me, 'I'm taking my girlfriend out tonight - I know you understand I can't spend Valentine's Day with you.'

I said, 'But you've done it already, because you sent me this huge bouquet. So off you go, enjoy your dinner.' That was how it was last year, so this year I felt so sad. I was in agony. Can you imagine if anyone had told me that that was the last Valentine's Day he would ever phone me or tell me he loved me? I would have said, 'It can't be true.'

About an hour after I had steadied my emotions, I was sitting at my computer. Anthony's picture is beside that too. I had decided I had to do some work. There were books and paper bags scattered all around the table and the computer, and I have

never let that sort of clutter bother me. There were so many things on the floor that I had simply put down and left there.

But something inside me prompted, 'Why don't you take a look around here?' I said, 'Look for what? I'm not searching for anything in particular at the moment.'

There are old things down there, new things, what could I possibly want from this lot? But actually I think I do need to tidy this corner a little bit . . .'

So I just kept removing things, saying to myself, 'Oh, this old thing, I'll put this here. I'll put that there.' There is solace in small tasks. And as I moved three little bags, there at the bottom was one more, an airline bag, the kind of plastic carrier that you use to carry all the free bits and pieces they load you with.

I picked it up, thinking, what's this bag doing here? What could be in it? I looked into it and there were a couple of books and some papers. The first book I pulled out of this bag was a spiritual book. It was one of the books that I have bought for comfort during the time that I have been grieving. I'd read it and put it away, and I couldn't for the life of me think where I'd put it, because someone had given me another book and I'd started reading that.

I just took this book out of that bag, opened it, and from the page I flicked open, Anthony's letter fell out. I took the letter and my eyes filled with tears. I held it to me and said, 'Oh! On Valentine's Day, you showed me this book and you gave me this letter to calm my heart.'

Oh, how I have been searching for it. Oh my Anthony, you have reached out to me today with love even from beyond.' I read the letter again and again, and at the end it says, 'Love you lots, Mummy, Anthony xx'. So a little smile came back to my face, after everything that had happened that day. I got down on my knees and just said, 'Thank you.'

To order your copy of For the Love of Anthony by Marie Fatayi-Williams, (Hodder & Stoughton Publishers) at the special price of £10.49 including p&p (RRP £12.99), please call 0870 755 2122 and quote offer code BSH316.



There are old things down there, new things, what could I possibly want from this lot? But actually I think I do need to tidy this corner a little bit . . .'



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PURE GOLD

BLACK BRITISH TALENT



“My work is inspired by my physical and emotional pain, with each painting telling a story”.

Screen Nation caught up with Adelaide Damoah - artist, entrepreneur and all-round goddess.

Adelaide Damoah is actually incredible, and so is her work. The self taught artist made her debut exhibition 'Black Brits' in 2006 and has now set up her own company - Damoah Arts, which represents independent world artists. **Who/what are you influences/inspiration?** I first became passionate about art during my secondary school years when I studied the life and art of Mexican artist Frieda Khalo. Her work was so deeply personal and autobiographical that I could not help but be drawn in and her way of drawing inspiration from her own life was the catalyst that got me moving in the same direction. My work

is inspired by my physical and emotional pain, with each painting telling a story. I am also inspired by my own life experiences along with issues which affect the society in which we live.

Do you come from an artistic family? The short answer is no! My Dad once sat down with me in my house and tried to produce a portrait of my Mother who was sitting next to him, let's just say that she was not impressed!

What are your plans for the future? In terms of my work, I have eight exhibitions planned for the next five to six years. The exhibitions will be mainly solo shows, but I also plan to start to include other artists in group shows organised by myself. The ultimate aim is to set up the gallery.

Where do you see yourself in ten years time? The plan is that I will be an established and respected artist with a successful gallery called Damoah Arts representing independent world artists. **In your opinion, who or what defines black British talent?** Talent according to the dictionary is defined as a person who possesses unusual innate ability in some field or activity. But in my opinion, there are many different forms of talent, I come across them all the time, from the every day unsung heroes to the performers and artists who are in the mainstream and underground. There are so many examples I could give, for example the singer Mr Alexander, the actor Aml Ameen,

actress Thandie Newton and comedienne Tameka Empson. All of these people define black British talent. **What do you do in your spare time?** Apart from paint? I like to swim, I read when I get the chance and I like to party, a lot. **Do you have a favourite TV/radio programme?** Not really, because I work from home, the TV is always on whilst I work and when I rest, so I am a self-confessed TV addict and I watch all sorts of films, dramas, documentaries, soaps and reality TV! Whilst driving, I do like to listen to BBC London and LBC 97.3 **Do you have a favourite black actor?** I love Denzel Washington, Blair Underwood and Hugh Quarshie for their talent and their ability to make my heart skip a beat! Angela

Bassett is an amazing actress who deserves more recognition than she gets. **Favourite film?** My favourite films change on a weekly basis! Right now my favourites are the last two that I watched - Japanese films called Old boy and Battle Royale. Amazing cinematography, crazy storylines and gory fight scenes! **Do black British artists get the credit they deserve?** No they do not in my opinion. There are plenty of talented black individuals in this country plugging away doing what they do best and not getting enough or any recognition at all. However, the work that Screen Nation has been doing over the years is starting to change that so that is a positive thing.

What do the Screen Nation awards mean to you? A positive way of recognising and rewarding black talented individuals in the film and TV industry, a very good thing. **For more information visit:** <http://www.myspace.com/adelaidedamoah> <http://uk.youtube.com/adelaidesart> <http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/yourgallery/artist/details.php?id=575> **Pictures Images provided by Adelaide Damoah**

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LONDON
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BLACK
HISTORY
SEASON 2007

Poetic Justice

> Carl Ramsay, Ishea Brown, Fiona McKinson, Simon Watson

INSPIRE

POETIC JUSTICE

Screen Nation asked four talented poets to inspire you with their lyricism.

TV ON BLACK

ISHEA BROWN

LET US CELEBRATE OUR COLOURFUL BEING

SIMON WATSON

“ I remember when I was young and No Problem was on TV, I felt so at home when it used to come on because these people on TV, they looked like me.

The Cosby Show was another one that made me feel proud as there was a successful black family on the TV, could that one day be me?

I remember the thing that really used to annoy me, you know the stereotypical image of a black female, dark-skinned, low cut hair, plain Jane looking and just ridiculously boring token kind!

Pimps and single mums on a low income strung out on drugs living on a council estate the stereotypical list goes on. The set images of how all black people supposedly communicate, live and generally carry on.

Over the years there's been a change have you seen? There are a lot more positive images on the TV.

You know the ones that really turn stereotypes on their head.

You know the ones with black men who advise on how to budget your money and pay off your mortgage in two years.

Black British female book writers who win awards and wrap their heads in African material, not trying to escape from their roots and heritage.

Black news readers with hardcore African names and they state it proudly without feeling any shame.

Black representatives in Parliament contributing to the changing face of those in control, few are these but it's a start.

Where are the leaders of the new world the ones to bring the change?

You know the ones with a real heart, vision and the will to bring real change.

With the courage of a warrior and the wisdom of a wise soul, a change is gonna come, remember that song?

What's your contribution in this time of change?

Onward soldier's those who answer the call, to break down and throw away the boxes we have been placed in for so long.

Write a new chapter that allows real expression of who we truly are to live on.

Follow your dreams make a positive contribution by letting the world see how diverse, talented and special we are.

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“ Visually vision is a poetic lover
Time to industrialise these movements of colour
All brilliant minds inspire worth

The self is to be celebrated
Though greed tries to have us taint's fix
We shall not be in vain idols
Joyous our souls to timeless scene revival

Celebrate that we are not coloured but colourful
We shine and rise on every screen
Nothing like that token paradoxically original
Every hue has powerful story to tell
A script that many hearts feel fulfilled
Arousing emotions once before lost
Finding ourselves again in remembrance of
The colourful drama theatrical

4 all British citizen of hot descent it is for us to know
That our procreating brings warmth to the world,
Rest assure ears are drawn
And lips quiver in suspense at how we act on
Actors to everyday issues
Only true conviction
Strongest through those of harassed melanin
Heroes and warriors untold
Are given an opportunity through future children
Where fate is yet again composed

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MORE THAN ONE GOD

CARL RAMSEY

ff

Would U believe
that we believe
in more than one
God?

We line up and
sign up and dance
in the raving church

of wine up.

As we praise the God of rave

A God who doesn't soul save or give gifts to
the brave

But preaches the gospel of sex appeal
Where DJ's and MC's act as pastors of the
touch and feel

As women cavort and dance in their outfits
like a second skin

Where confidence comes from the bottom
of bottles of Brandy, Vodka and Gin
And ravers spin

Out of their minds

Leaving their reason and troubles behind

As they get caught up in the world of
televised musicality

Where promo videos inform local gangsters
and their next-door hoes

How to dress to express that they are in the
know - of not owning your own soul

Music and fashion Gods have a firm hold
with one doctrine that if U don't look the
part then stay in the cold

So now we have a queue of the Young and
the Old who are desperately trying to re-
capture that euphoric high

Attempting to find his Miss Right and her
Perfect Guy

Just as the musical video suggests

A place where men are judged by their
money and thuggery

Whilst wannabe Princess is valued simply by
the size and shape of her breast on chest
It's one confused mess

With no apparent beginning or end

So even if U spend the next Ten nights in
- realizing that this is not the answer

Guaranteed within the next few weeks U

transformed back into that mindless dancer
Better we welcome the disaster and just pay
contribution to whoever your master

Live life a liddle piece faster - While away the
years/with wilder peers who shed secret silent
tears about wanting something different but
don't quite know how to go about it
Pick up the Bible/ Read the Qu'ran but still
doubt it

We still believe in more than one God
How many of us roll up the gum papers to
sniff the vapors of our imagination
Need to break down the weed and crush up
the Seeds / B4 we can truly speak elevation
/ Stop smoking and look at the state our
children are in

We see this but still no building or owning
buildings where each one can teach one.
Put down your issues for a second - listen to
and reach one.

It doesn't have to be as heavy as taking on
full personal - responsibility.
Just know that U have the ability to respond
and do so.

So that we can at least acknowledge the
beast and move slow.

Towards a greater sense of content / Where
money is better spent and heightened
attention is lent to what really matters.

The dreams of grandeur of my Grandma
have been shattered. Whilst hope for us all
has been battered.

But not yet to non-existence.

All we really need is the want to and some
persistence

Developing a greater resistance to the selling
of our mind space.

I'm not just detailing what some might call
the black race.

But each and all a' dem face in our
community - where there is no common
unity.

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”

BLACK JEWEL BY

FIONA MCKINSON

ff

Jet: like black jewel
charming, shining bright
Set in stone screen
beyond action,
camera, and light!

Dazzling spectators with creative
talent and grace.

Yet some won't risk remembering.
Instead they forget your face.
When Decoration Day dawns
You lie unadorned.

So unembellished black jewel must be
pawned.
Relinquished in times of impoverishment
black jewel goes missing. Untraced steps
mark your journey on your way to future.

Like black bird with clipped wings you
travel to new belts.
A far you find blind eyes opened,
Curtains drawn,
They see you and the many who came
before you.

No more partitions, no more hidden
talent.
The window of the world has exposed you
and them.
The shining glass reflects some difference
in high definition and on widescreens.

Reflecting you as me or he or she
Turning fiction into fact
Telling stories untold
Breaking the mould.

But black jewels shine brightest beyond
the glass.
When like goldsmith they
engrave their own cases.
And like onyx or opal they
define their own roles in their
airy cyber jewellery boxes.

”

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Kambani Arts



Kambani Arts is a UK based international non-profit-making NGO focused on the promotion of contemporary African art and children's creative writing. African art is arguably the richest, most vibrant and diverse form of art in the world. Sadly it is also the least represented. Kambani is committed to increasing awareness of Africa's rich cultural heritage through its documentary projects and campaign of international exhibitions.



For the fourth year running, Kambani Arts is supporting the Screen Nation Awards with an exhibition of African Art. The awards are taking place during Black History Month in October and is one of a number of events Kambani is participating in. Details of events are available on the website. Kambani has held a number of exhibitions in venues shown here including HM Treasury, The British Museum and the National Theatre, Lagos.



Kambani's mission is focused on a programme of creative writing which engages children in projects that enhance their writing skills, creates greater awareness for African arts and culture, instils an appreciation of positive diversity, and most of all creates a fun filled learning experience. Children from all over the world can currently participate in our creative writing greetings cards project, details on the website homepage.



United as One
Different people of the world
Different colours, shapes and sizes
The good and the bad,
The happy and the sad
Stand together United as One
Molly Ramalhoso – Aged 10



For full details of Kambani Arts exhibition programme, log on to their website, details below. You may also be interested in supporting Kambani's charitable initiatives by making a donation, commissioning an art piece or by simply investing in an impeccable quality authentic African work of art.



Ghana's history has been a turbulent and difficult one; however the essence of Ghana has remained a people on the rise, working hard to overcome any and all adversity. After 50 years of struggle, transition and development, it is with excitement we wait to see, as well as contribute, to Ghana now so in 50 years time we have something to look back and be proud of.

Ghana is a name which represents a country rich in gold, culture, warriors and building relationships for trade, growth and sustainability.

Ancient Ghana was located 400 miles North-West of where modern Ghana can be found today. Ghana was the name given to the kings in the Wagadugu Empire; in 1240 AD it was absorbed into the larger Mali Empire. There are descendants in modern Ghana who can be traced to the Mamprussi, Dagomba and Gonja people of the North.

Before Ghana became known by its current name it was given the name of Mina by the Portuguese, before receiving the name Gold Coast by the British which is the name that held the longest. As its name sake suggests Ghana's land was rich with gold this quickly attracted the attention of traders from the Arab world and Europe.

In 1482 the Portuguese erected a permanent structure, Elmina's Castle, this was to trade in gold, ivory and slaves. In 1958 the Dutch arrived and built forts at Komenda and Kormantsil. It was during this period that interest focused on slaves as the needs of the plantations in the Americas and

the Caribbean were on the rise. By the 18th Century there were English, Danes, Swedes and Portuguese residing and trading in Ghana.

By the 19th century there remained only the British and the Danes, in 1874 the Dutch withdrew and the Gold Coast became a crown colony.

The influence of the British on the Gold Coast was far reaching impacting on culture, the geographical structure of Ghana and the forms of industry and trade that took place.

Following World War I Germanic Togoland was added to the Gold Coast extending the land mass of the British colony and creating the geographical boundaries we know as modern Ghana.

Movements for political freedom started soon after World War II, this movement of thought was influenced by a realisation that colonisation was a form of oppression similar to what many had seen while fighting for their colonial rulers. At the same time there were a number of Ghanaians who were studying in various European countries including Britain, France, Germany and Russia. They were being taught ideas of freedom and equality, as a result social consciousness was developing fast.

In 1945 a monumental conference took place in Manchester, a number of prominent member's of Africa's history were in attendance such as Hastings Banda, Dr Kwame Nkrumah, Obafemi Awolowo and Kenyatta. This conference ignited action in those who had been thinking about freedom for their home countries and pan-Africanism.

In 1947 the united Gold Coast Convention (UGCC) emerged comprising of Kwame Nkrumah, George Grant, Akuffo Addo, William Ofori Atta, Obetsebi Lamptey, Ako Agyei and J Tsiboe. Their aim was to 'lead their country into a new age'.

Ten years later their dream became a reality when on the March 6, 1957 Ghana emerged as the first Sub Saharan African country to gain Independence. elvina@ghanablackstarsnetwork.com



LEADERS OF GHANA 1957 - 2007



> 1957: Mar 6 - Dr Kwame Nkrumah is inaugurated as President of Ghana, the first Sub Saharan African country to gain Independence
> 1966: Feb 24 - While Nkrumah is in China, a coup takes place bringing the

National Liberation Council (NLC), led by General Joseph Ankrah, into power.

> 1969: General Ankrah replaced by Brigadier Akwasi Afrifa

August - an election for a new National Assembly is held, the Progress Party (PP) wins and is led by Dr Kofi Busia, who is subsequently appointed President.

> 1972: Lieutenant Colonel Ignatius Acheampong leads a military coup that brings National Redemption Council to power.

> 1979: May - A coup is attempted and fails led by Flt-Lt Jerry Rawlings

June 4 - Junior officers stage Ghana's first violent coup. Armed Forces Revolutionary Council formed under Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings.

July - Hilla Limann elected president in July.

> 1981: Rawlings stages second coup, December 31. Provisional National Defence Council established with Rawlings as chairman.

> 1992: Jerry Rawlings elected president November 3 in national presidential election.

> 1993: Ghana's Fourth Republic inaugurated January 4 with the swearing in of Rawlings as president

> 1996: Jerry Rawlings re-elected president for second and last term

> 2000: Presidential and Parliamentary elections took place on 7 December. Opposition leader John Kufuor becomes the new president of Ghana

> 2001: Kufuor sworn in as the new president on January 7

HISTORICAL GHANA





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**HOW TO
 BEAUTIFY
 YOURSELF FOR THE
 SCREEN NATION
 AWARDS**

Ladies, read on for the most glamorous beauty products to use for the hottest awards ceremony of the year

Yippee! You've just received your invitation to the Screen Nation Awards. Without further ado, let the preparations begin.

4 WEEKS TO GO

Pop down to Harvey Nichols and pick up Dior's new wonder body gel, Plasticity (£30) this gel does exactly what it claims. It can actually give your body slimmer appearance. Even after 8 days your skin can appear up to 30% smoother. This gel should be massaged into your skin twice a day for maximum effects.

This is the time to start to book your weekly facials, to achieve the most from your skin. Dermalogica offer a 'face mapping' service. Prior to you facial, every area of your face will be analysed and a specific facial

treatment will be devised, according to your skin type. Your daily shower routine will now include a daily exfoliation (Instead of every 3 days). After showering slap on Clinique's Sparkle Skin exfoliator (£16.50) to slough away dead skin cells, leaving your skin sparkly and smooth.

2 WEEKS TO GO

Now is the time to take a trip down to your local hairdresser to discuss possible styles for the big event. Try not to stick to your usual everyday style, which is why it's wise to attend this visit to your stylist. This season hair still seems to be following the natural trend. If you want to wear your hair down for this event then I would suggest opting for a style with loose curls, almost waves, allowing your hair

optimum movement. Shorter styles should opt for a dramatic change, (which still should suit you) adding hairpieces to create a soft 'updo' style leaving strands to frame the face.

1 WEEK TO GO

This should be the last week of your Dermalogica facials, however now is the time to book the 'special' for the big day. This is the Crème De La Mer exfoliation facial treatment (£95). This can be booked at Harrods (0207 734 1234). Although this may appear costly the results, I can personally say are amazing! And well worth the price. This should be booked now for the day before the event. This is also the time to book you manicure, pedicure and eyebrow shaping. If your wallet is feeling generous then this all can be done at Harrods's Urban Retreat. If not your local salon should also have manicurists and beauticians on site. Don't forget this should be booked for the day before the event.

THE DAY

This is the day after your Crème de la Mer facial and your skin will look like honey and feel like silk, this creates a perfect base for your make up. Begin by applying MAC's Select SP15 liquid foundation with a brush. This ensures that you get an even, yet light finish. (Don't worry if you look a bit chalky initially but it needs a good five minutes to blend into your skin).

Simple yet dramatic should be the theme of the night, focusing on the mouth or the eyes. If you are of a darker complexion, the latter should be your choice.

For the eyes, use NARS eyeshadow in Night porter. This is a black eye shadow with green and gold specks. This gives a shimmery smoky effect. For the rest of the face I would suggest Using MAC products, as they always lead with current seasons trends. After applying the eye shadow, follow with lashings of pro lash mascara in black and line the lower inner eye with their eye pencil in Engraved. As this is such a dramatic look, the rest of the face should be kept quite nude. For your cheeks, use a bronze style blusher; try Format, a peachy brown shade that also acts a bronzer when brushed over the cheekbones. To finish add a slick of lip-gloss in the form of their lip gelee in Slicked Pink.

So now your hair's done and your nails are looking good too, you're good to go and enjoy the do.



MIRROR

Kyra Pitter, owner of The Fitting Studio breaks down the benefits of wearing a good-fitted bra.

The media is full of people on the good-fitted-bra band wagon including Oprah Winfrey.

With nearly 80 per cent of women in the UK wearing incorrectly fitted bras, for the sake of boobs everywhere let us hope and pray that this is one wagon that does not run out of steam.

Discovering your right bra size can be life-changing. This might sound a bit over the top but it is easy to underestimate how much your figure can change when your boobs are in the right place and not sitting on your stomach, knees or toes. You can even look pounds lighter and it is cheaper than any boob job.

But, "Hello?", even if you suspect that you are wearing the wrong bra size how do you go about finding the perfect fit?

Men, read on to find out how you can do your bit for the cause and help the lady in your life solve her bra related issues. Next time you see her in her bra, take a sneaky peak and see if any of the points below relate.

Ladies, the following bra-fitting hints and tips should help you find your bra nirvana.

1> Back sizes correlate roughly to a dress size. For example, a size 10 woman should probably wear a 28-30 bra back size, size 12 a 30-32, size 14 a 32-34 and so on.

2> Raise your hands over your head. Is there 'fallout'? Are your boobs poking out from beneath the bottom of your bra? Does your bra ride up at the back? This could mean that the band size of your bra is too big, which also means that your boobs are not being supported.

3> Does your cup runneth over? Also known as the 'four-boob syndrome'. Your bra is too small for your breasts, making excess breast tissue pop above the cups. This looks terrible (especially in a closely fitted outfit), but is easily avoided by a bigger cup size.

4> Not all bras are equal. Every brand or style within a brand measures slightly differently in the cup and band. Just as you would never buy a pair of shoes without trying them on for size, bras can differ depending on their exact cut and make, so always try before you buy.

5> The feeling of wearing your right bra size can feel very strange in the beginning but, please, please bear with it. Be prepared to be pleasantly shocked at the different 'bra-d' image you see in the mirror.

THE LIST: WHAT'S THE POINT OF WEARING THE RIGHT SIZED BRA?

6> No matter what your age your boobs can look up and perky.
7> It is a myth that sexy, fun or beautiful lingerie is reserved for the smaller cup sizes.
8> There is no such thing as multi-purpose bra. Is the bra you are wearing enhancing your outfit? Or giving the critics more to bitch about. Maybe you should consider the following basic bra shapes to create the perfect shape and outline?

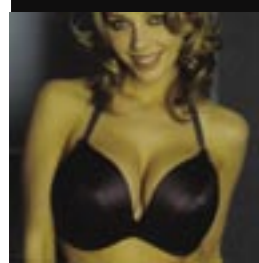
A plunge bra offers superb shape and support and maximises your cleavage for those sexy low front numbers.

A strapless bra is ideal for off-the-shoulder, strapless, or strappy outfits.

A t-shirt bra is great for really close fitting tops. It is seamless to create a smooth and clean silhouette.

Once you have been fitted correctly, you too will be feeling the rather strong urge to go over to women who are so not getting it right and shout "Woman pick dem up!"

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SPECIAL VALUE



ON THE COVER

Here's a sneak behind the scenes on the Screen Nation cover shoot and an interview with our cover girl Jamaican-born Margo Morrison, 24

Cathy Hassan, photographer and creative director behind the striking Screen Nation magazine cover reveals the magic behind the concept:

"I wanted the cover to convey the laughter and sadness that goes hand in hand with the different masks that actors wear and the way they morph into different roles. The model's image was shot and then the Screen Nation award mask was morphed over her face.

"I got a vision and it's great to actually see it make daylight. It was interesting to shoot and see the vision work. Margo's [the model's] face works perfectly as she's quite sculptured.

"We used gold body paint on the model and it took four hours to achieve the look we wanted but Margo didn't moan. She kept her dignity. She helped to bring the mask to life and make it organic. It was interesting the way this inanimate object comes to life and Lena Hrnarova's, the make-up artist followed the brief closely. The model had the perfect face and features to replicate the mask's African features and heritage [it originates from Ghana]. I wanted it to represent the essence of Screen Nation which reflects the experience of African people in front of and behind the camera.

"It was important to keep the concept tight as we were using raw materials so had to make sure the paint didn't dry, that it was the right kind of gold. If it was too much of a shiny gold it would have looked chintzy and cheap. We chose to shoot on white to keep the image aesthetically clean. If we had shot on black like the 2006 Screen Nation Awards magazine cover I did, it would have looked moodier.

ONE-TO-ONE WITH THE SCREEN NATION COVER GIRL - MARGO MORRISON

Screen Nation: How did you get into modelling?

Margo: I went to an all-girls school and was discovered in High-School by a scout [Dwight Peters] who was looking for models to introduce to the international scene. He met my mother and at 16 during the Easter vacation I went with him to New York for two weeks and took more photos. I then finished school and took my A-levels. At 19 I took a year out and came to the London and worked

with Oxygen Models.

Screen Nation: If you didn't get into modelling what would you have liked to do?

Margo: I would have gone to university and studied French. I thought about teaching but know now that I don't have the patience. I always wanted to be a model but in Jamaica there are no real opportunities to go abroad apart from Miss Jamaica and I wasn't interested in that. When I met Dwight Peters I ran with the opportunity. I am still going to do a Psychology degree with the Open University, though.

Screen Nation: So, what's it like being a model?

Margo: It's great.

It's an easy lifestyle. My first love is travelling and I've been to Libya which was the greatest trip of all as I

met Colonel Gaddafi. I have also worked in France, US, Spain, Italy, South Africa and enjoy meeting different people. I've made amazing friends. I feel lucky I can do what I do. I work on commercials, prints and the catwalk - I do everything. The bad side is the work can get slow and it's competitive. Also, the rates have gone down because there are so many models. The industry is saturated. You also have to be so careful not to be tricked by dodgy agencies, too.

Screen Nation: What was your first catwalk experience like?

Margo: It was scary and my knees were trembling - I thought I would fall. Now, I love doing fashion shows because as soon as you get on stage you just forget everything.

Screen Nation: What qualities do you need to be a successful model?

Margo: Beauty is not enough as there are so many beautiful girls but you do need to have good skin. Also, a nice personality and be calm, easy to get along with, professional and have good time-keeping - not just tall and skinny.

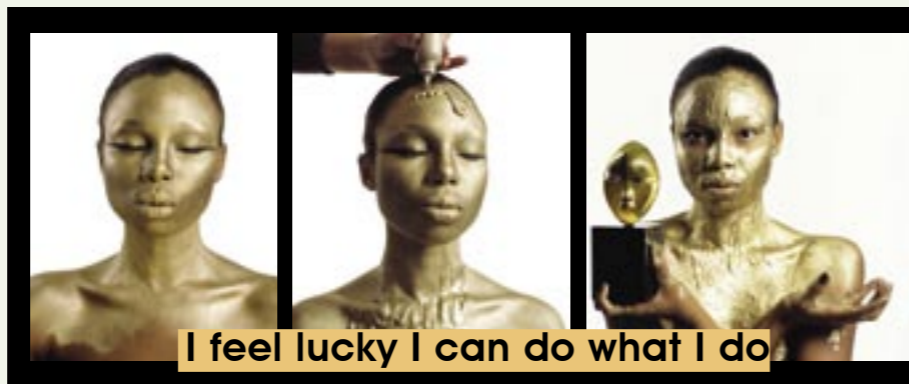
Screen Nation: What kind of food do you

eat and how do you stay slim?

Margo: No. Although I have a healthy appetite, my body is naturally slim but I do jog and exercise to feel energised but generally the women in my family are busty and voluptuous. I drink a lot of water because as a little girl I liked the taste of water and eat a lot of fruits and vegetables as that's how I was brought up. I love jerk chicken, ackee and saltfish and everything Jamaican.

Screen Nation: Is there less work for black models?

Margo: Yes. It's a real shame that there's less work for black models and there's still major room for improvement. There are a



I feel lucky I can do what I do

lot of hairstylists who don't know anything about afro hair. I don't wear weaves or hair extensions and some stylists freak out and I just think 'be creative - you're a hairstylist'. Also, some make-up artists don't have your skin tone so your skin looks funny.

Screen Nation: Who do you admire in the modelling industry?

Margo: Naomi Campbell - I think she's a good model and has been doing it for ages. She wanted it, went for it and is still holding on. She's fearless. I admire her. I like Tyra Banks and any really good, successful black model.

Screen Nation: What was doing the Screen Nation cover like?

Margo: Everyone was fun to work with and Cathy Hassan [the photographer] was good. The hairstylist was cool and the make-up artist was good. She used gold, liquid make-up to paint my face and wanted me to look like I was melting. I was topless and it was cold and by the time we'd finished my trousers were gold and I went home on the tube with gold all over me. I'm looking forward to seeing the front cover and it's great to get covers in your book.

LET'S MAKE UP



Our amazing cover shot this year is courtesy of make-up artist Lena Hrnarova

Lena Hrnarova's credits include shows for Siemens, Swarovski, Firetrap, Red or Dead, Reebok, L'Oreal and Vidal Sassoon amongst others. She has worked with celebrities such as supermodels Jodie Kidd & Erin O'Connor and presenter Melanie Sykes. TV-wise her projects have included Britain's Next Top Model and The Clothes Show 2007. The rising creative star speaks to Screen Nation about the ups and downs of the make-up industry and shares some insider secrets.

Screen Nation: What was the inspiration behind the cover shoot?

Lena: We tried to do something different rather than taking a picture of a model with the mask. We decided to make her into the mask. For the cover we used the inspiration to make her into the mask but you can see a little bit of skin with the paint dripping so it looks like it's melting.

Screen Nation: When did you decide you wanted to be a make-up artist?

Lena: I was studying at the time. I'd been studying Business, Leisure & Tourism and make-up became one of my projects. I'd always been creative; and I had to do so much research on it and then I decided to study make-up. That was four years ago.

Screen Nation: What has been the most difficult brief you have had to fulfil to date?

Lena: This has been one of the most challenging. There have been times where I have had to do make-up in [difficult] conditions; in the rain or outside. This was challenging.

Screen Nation: What are the best and worst things about your job?

Lena: The best things are that with make-up there are no limits. You can express so much with make-up. There are no boundaries. You can really change people and give them more confidence. The worst things I would say are the conditions that you have to work in; sometimes the long hours. Sometimes you don't know where the location is going to be until the last minute. But, I would say there are more positives than negatives; I love my job.

Screen Nation: Which beauty essential do you never leave home without?

Lena: There are a few (laughs). As a make-up artist it's hard. I would say mascara, eyeliner and an eyebrow pencil.

Screen Nation: Do any other make-up artists inspire you?

Lena: Of course I have to be aware of the fashions and what is on the market so I get the magazines from abroad. There are many make-up artists that I've had the chance to assess like Gina Brooke, Ashley Ward and Kay Montana. I've learnt lots from them.

Every time you work with someone different you always learn from each other. When you stop learning you become uninspired.

Screen Nation: Which celebrity would you love to make up; for good or bad reasons?

Lena: Jennifer Lopez. The person who needs a makeover is Amy Winehouse. She needs a make-over and so does Britney. But I would love to make up J Lo; to see if she really is so beautiful.

Screen Nation: Do you have any trade tips you can give to achieving flawless makeup?

Lena: Never leave the house without mascara! There are little tricks you can learn. One of the best tricks is eyelash curlers which not many people use. Eyelash curlers, mascara, lip-gloss and a little bit of blusher if nothing else. A little bit of concealer goes a long way. Screen Nation: What advice would you give to anyone who would like to get into the industry?

Lena: That it can be deceiving. It is a hard industry to get into. Keep going and you have to keep creative. I would say you have to be in the right place at the right time. Get as much inspiration as you can.



Never leave the house

without mascara!



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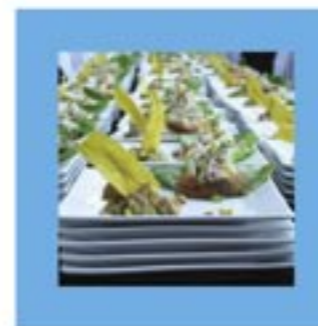
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Ellen Thomas



Aisleyne Horgan-Wallace and guest



Simon Webb & Naomi Taylor



Josie D'arby and Colin Salmon



Geoff Schumann & Keisha White



Group hug



Ainsley Harriott & Ray Fearon



Sky Andrew & Gillian Joseph



Antonia Okonma & guest



Kelly Bryan



Vas Blackwood



Mica Paris & Guest



Colin Salmon & wife



Barbara Campbell, daughter and Ulric Brown



Krishna Maroo, Sophia Jackson and Nicke Adebowale



Keiton Knight's Family



Sara Powell & Trisha Goddard



Noel Clarke & Aml Ameen



Rakie Ayola, Wil Johnson, Kwame Kwei-Armah



Tameka Empson



Adrian Lester & Wife



Angela Wynter



Cyril Nri & Sara Powel



Makosi and guest



Leon Herbert and Mona Hammond



Miki Turner



Naomi Ryan & Partner



Danny John Jules



Dona Croll & Guest



Pikki Fearon and Crew



Jazzcotech



Jocelyn Jee Esien



Sue Caro & Kate Rowland



Fola of Afterglow Blu

SCREEN NATION XMAS PARTY



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Dionne, X Factor



Makosi



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Adelaide Damoah



Konye



Party people



Charles Thompson and Gary Beadle



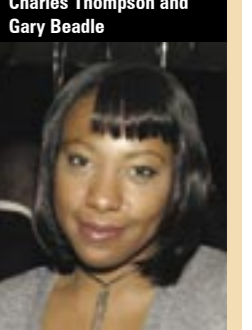
Chucky Venice, Charles Thompson and Tim Campbell



Caroline Chikeze



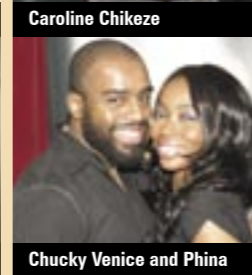
Rachel Williams(r), Miss Black Britain & Sister



Anjela Lauren Smith



Charles Thompson, Lyricist and guest



Chucky Venice and Phina Oruche



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THE WISDOM PAGE

Screen Nation gives you some amazing facts so you can impress your fellow diners at this year's awards night.

> **The Color Purple** shares the record for the most Oscar nominations without a single win; it got 11 nods in 1985 but no prizes!

> **John Singleton** is the youngest person ever to be nominated for a Best Director Academy Award for his debut feature Boys 'n' the Hood at the tender age of 24.

> **Jamie Foxx** is part of an elite group of actors (just 10) to be nominated for both Best Leading and Best Supporting Actor in the same year.

> It wasn't until 2004 that **Phylicia Rashad** became the first black actress to win a Tony award in the 'Play' category for Lorraine Hansberry's Raisin in the Sun.

> Desperate Housewives star **Alfre Woodard** is one of the most honoured African-American actresses ever, with 4 Emmy's, 3 Screen Actor's Guild awards, a Golden Globe and a 1984 Oscar nomination.

> **Sidney Poitier** won a Best Actor BAFTA award for The Defiant Ones, five years before his ground breaking Oscar win for Lilies of the Field.

> BAFTA winner and Academy Award nominee **Samuel L (Leroy) Jackson** is the highest grossing box office actor in the world. The \$3 billion dollars his films have taken in surpasses the previous record holder Harrison Ford.

> **Marianne Jean-Baptiste** the first black British actress nominated for an Academy award is also an accomplished musician. She composed the score for Mike Leigh's Secrets and Lies follow up Career Girls and has recorded an album of blues songs.

> 2005 best supporting actress BAFTA winner **Thandie Newton** was first choice for Lucy Liu's role in Charlie's Angels. She had to pull out when the Mission Impossible II shoot overran. MI 2 went on to gross over \$200 million almost twice as much as the US box office than Charlie's Angels.

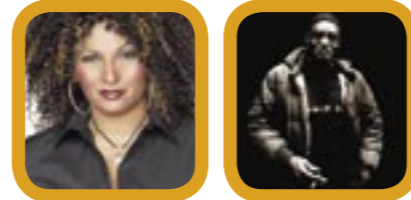
> 2002 Academy Award nominee **Queen Latifah** was the first female hip-hop artist to be awarded a star on the Hollywood walk of fame.

> **Gordon Parks** who sadly passed in 2006 was the first African-American to direct for a major Hollywood studio.

> 2005 Screen Nation award winner **Melvin Van Peebles'** family have a love of the letter M and filmmaking. With 3 generations worth including Mario, Megan, Max, Maya, Marley and Mandela all featuring on celluloid.

> Academy Award nominee **Spike Lee** is a huge Arsenal fan and boasts ex-Gunners talisman Thierry Henry as a personal friend.

> Screen Nation Award winner **Pam Grier** lived briefly in England at 8-years-old. Her



father was in the US Air force and much of her early childhood was spent in Europe.

> **Oscar Micheaux** was the first African-American to make a film with 1919's The Homesteader. He also gave screen legend Paul Robeson his first film role in 1924's Body and Soul.

> **Denzel Washington's** Academy Award nominated turn as Malcolm X was voted as the 17th greatest performance of all time by readers of Premier Magazine.

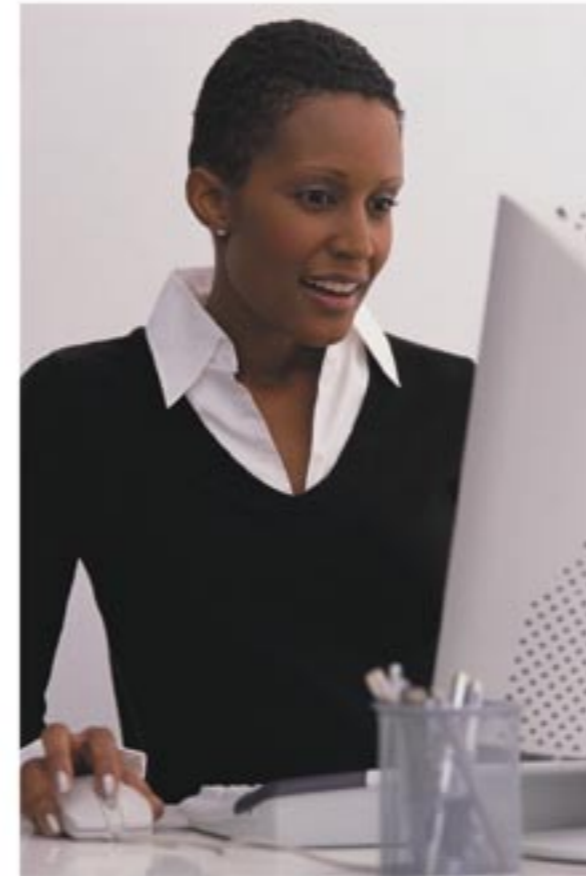
> In 1994 **Whoopi Goldberg** became the first woman to host the Academy Awards; she did the job again in, 1996, 1999 and 2002.

> **Stevie Wonder** won Best Song at the 1984 Oscars for 'I just called to say I love you'.

> In 1966 **Bill Cosby** became the first African- American to win an Emmy award for his performance in I Spy. He won two more Emmy's in 1967 and 1968.

> **Diane Parish** the Royal Television Society best Actress award winner in 2001 for Babyfather studied at RADA. Academy nominees Marianne Jean-Baptiste and Sophie Okonedo were in the year above her and 1996 Olivier Award winner Adrian Lester was in the year above them.

> Lost and Get Rich or Die Tryin' star **Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje** was born and raised in London and has a masters in Law from Kings College, University of London. He speaks fluent English, Italian, Yoruba and Swahili.



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