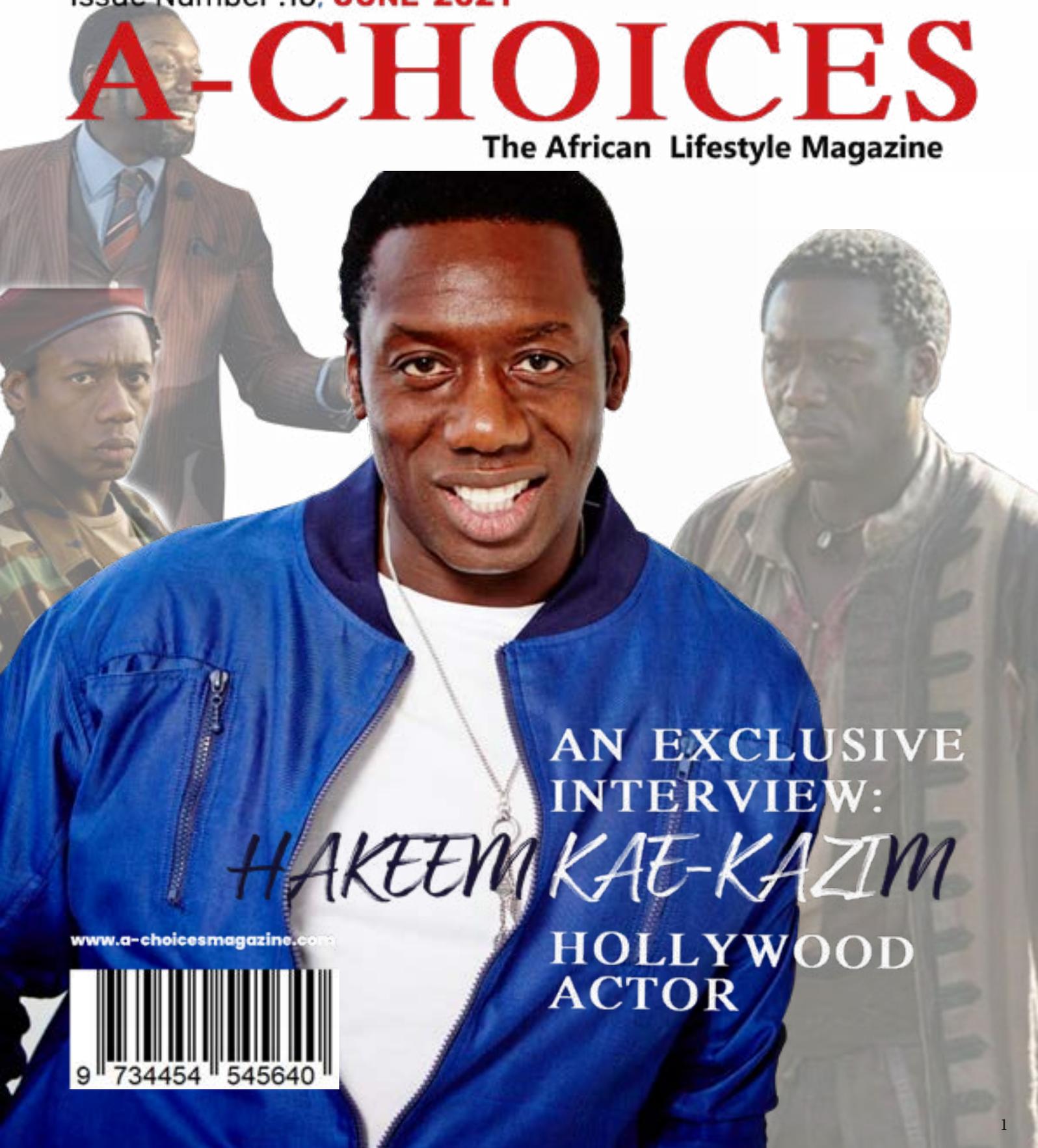


Issue Number .10, **JUNE 2021**

# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine



AN EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW:

*HAKEEM KAE-KAZIM*

HOLLYWOOD  
ACTOR

[www.a-choicesmagazine.com](http://www.a-choicesmagazine.com)



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# ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

A -CHOICES magazine is an online African lifestyle magazine for ordinary-ed-ucated reader in English. It is not entirely about entertainment but covers other broad topics including business and economy(market) arts & culture fashions, personality stories, sports, etc. It is a channel through which we celebrate African achievers at home and in the diaspora. A-CHOICES hopes to entertain, empower and inspire Africans around the world.

### *Write for Us*

*We're accepting submissions from writers, thinkers, makers, scholars, and readers of online publishing and editorial work. We re currently accepting submissions for our next Issues . We accept submissions on a rolling basis, and generally don't close sub-missions until halfway through a given issue, so there are no set closing dates.*

*We do not accept work that has been previously published o blogged.*

*Please send submissions to [achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com](mailto:achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com)*

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# EDITOR'S LETTER



*Hello,*

Welcome to our June edition full with interesting stories. I joke with my very few close friends when each issue of A-CHOICES comes out, “This one is my favourite”. True, there are some issues that stand out in my mind more than others over the past ten months since we started. (And there are a couple that I recall thinking, “Well... we’ll do better next time.” Such is life.) But for real—this issue is my favourite. I had the pleasure of interviewing the talented Hollywood Actor Hakeem Kae-Kasim. The charismatic actor talks about his career and lots more...I genuinely enjoyed every minute of it. When Hakeem speaks, all you want to do is listen. It occurred to me as I sat down to write my note to you this week that we’ve made it to the halfway point of the year. I’d really like to take this moment to congratulate us all. We are alive

**Cheers**  
**Editor-in-Chief/Publisher**  
**Gbenga Teejay Okunlola**



## AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: HOLLYWOOD ACTOR HAKEEM KAE-KAZIM TALKS ABOUT HIS CAREER AND LOTS MORE...



By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola.

London. UK

**F**rom Blockbusters to the prime time small screen, Hakeem Kae-Kazim has made his impact in the world of entertainment and has worked alongside many industry greats.

*This talented actor gained international notoriety for his wonderful portrayal of George Rutugunda in the Oscar-nominated film Hotel Rwanda, which led to leading roles in the TNT movie Librarian 2; opposite Noah Wyle, and The Triangle opposite Eric Stoltz and Sam Neill.*

*Enjoying playing feisty and exciting characters, Hakeem's list of impressive credits include Pirates of the Caribbean III, Lost, Cane with Jimmy Smits, Law & Order: SVU with Mariska Hargitay, The Triangle with Sam Neill, The Librarian with Gabrielle Anwar, X-Men Origins, Wolverine with Hugh Jackman, The 4th Kind alongside Milla Jovovich and Darfur with Billy Zane.*

*His distinctive voice has also been shared in many popular video games including Halo, Call of Duty and The Bourne Conspiracy.*

*Hakeem both produced and starred in Black November with Mickey Rourke and Kim Basinger, as well as the award-winning film Man on Ground and Last Flight to Abuja.*

**A-CHOICES:** Hey! What's up bro?

**HAKHEEM:** I am good my brother what's up?

**A-CHOICES:** I am very well ,thanks. Please give a concise autobiography of yourself?

**HAKHEEM:** Thank you very much for having me here...

I was born in Lagos, Nigeria, where I spent my early years before my family re-located to London, England.

I trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre school my first professional engagement was at the Royal Shakespere company my first TV was for the BBC and my first feature film I think was a film I did starring Naveem Andrews and Kim Cattrell.

My interest in acting began with school plays and The National Youth Theatre, which is when I discovered that I had a love for theatre, and for acting.

**A-CHOICES:** How would you describe acting? What is the most memorable screen character you have played?

**HAKHEEM:** Acting for me is a passion I love it! It is a wonderful art form that borders on the spiritual and the more I do the more I learn.

The most memorable screen character for me to date I think is 'George Ruttagunda' from Hotel Rwanda.

**A-CHOICES:** How would you describe Black Sails?

**HAKHEEM:** It's set in the late 17th/18th century and it's all about pirates. I

t's about five or six years before the Treasure Island period.

The series is very earthy, very real and the pirates on our show are based on historical pirates.



**A-CHOICES:** What attracted you to the character of Mr. Scott?

**HAKEEM:** Mr. Scott was a former slave who has somewhat risen in stature.

Along with his former slave owner, they fence the goods from the pirates. Mr. Scott basically helps him run this fencing operation. I was attracted to him and I thought he would be interesting character to play.

**A-CHOICES:** Can you talk about the research you did prior to taking on the role of Mr. Scott?

**HAKEEM:** I did a lot of research actually. All the characters are based on people that existed at that particular time. The research I did was to see what it was like to be an African during that period and what black pirates did. I found that forty to fifty percent of the pirates at that particular time were of African origin. Many of them were former slaves who escaped or were on ships that were raided by pirates. They were all outcasts, so being a pirate, it didn't matter what

color you were. The most important thing was your ability, because everybody had to defend the ships in battle. The more able you were, the better position you had. The pirate life was very much a democracy in the true sense of the word. The captains were voted in and out.

**A-CHOICES:** Who was your inspiration to go into the acting industry?

**HAKEEM:** There were two people who really got me started as an actor and by default had great influence in my decision to become one.

My old English teacher at my grammar school in the UK - Mr. Guy Williams. He was always so passionate in class reading the classics, whether it was Shakespeare or Dickens. He put his heart and soul into every character like a man possessed. It was enthralling for me to watch and listen and he cast me in my very first play at school.

The second was a man named Michael Croft who started the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. I would spend my summer holidays doing



plays with other kids with different backgrounds and from around the country and with different backgrounds. He cast me as Othello and later I went on to play Henry V in the play of the same name, both of course by Shakespeare. He was a great encourager and had total belief in me as a talented young actor.

I spent many hours with him in conversations about acting and becoming an actor. I am also inspired by the great Sidney Poitier who paved the way for many black actors in Hollywood.



**A-CHOICES:** *Wow, that's really amazing! Was there a moment you contemplated walking away from acting?*

**HAKEEM:** It has never crossed my mind. I love what I am doing. I absolutely love my craft, you know what I mean?.

**A-CHOICES:** *Tell me, how do you feel when you watch yourself of the big screen?*

**HAKEEM:** Hmmm... Many actors do not like to watch themselves on screen and I am certainly one of them.

Psychologically I have to prepare myself before seeing myself on the big screen and I distance myself before watching.

**A-CHOICES:** *What's a typical day like for you? You haven't changed much still looking like the guy I saw in Hotel Rwanda. You are still looking strong and healthy bro?*

**HAKEEM:** There is no such thing as a typical day in my world, there are days when I am on set and get up at 4:00 am to film. Other days I get to spend with my lovely family. I exercise daily (mornings) and eat healthier. That's my secret of good living.

**A-CHOICES:** *What acting technique do you use, if you use any?*

**HAKEEM:** I would say I am closer to being a method actor, but I don't really consciously say this is the technique I am using!

**A-CHOICES:** *What is your favourite stunt that you've performed and the stunt that you've been most nervous about?*

**HAKEEM:** There was a stunt where I had to drive a car and do a rapid turn just before a car flips over, that was very exciting and nerve racking at the same time.

**A-CHOICES:** *Do you get recognised much in public and what sort of reaction do you normally get from people, as someone who's quite associated with playing 'bad guys'?*

**HAKEEM:** Well... I get recognised a fair amount and it's nice to get told that people enjoy my work. They also can look at me and think "why don't I like that guy?".

then they realise they have seen me in Hotel Rwanda or 24. Despite never feeling like I was actually in danger, I found it excruciating to deal with being harassed by photographers.



**A-CHOICES:** You are often recognised for your recurring role as Colonel Dubaku, through which you wowed audiences with your stunning performance in 24's Season 7, and in the prequel movie Redemption.

Which role are you most commonly recognised from?

**HAKEEM:** It is a mixture, it depends what is current at the time or what they have seen. It can be 24, The Fourth Kind, Hotel Rwanda, Lost or whatever is on TV at the time."



parents decades ago.

It was released onto the video streaming service on Friday 28 August and by Sunday 30 August had shot to the number one spot globally.

I was really delighted by its success! That Santana shot to #1 in the world for six straight days was completely unexpected. Netflix did an amazing job with the marketing.

**A-CHOICES:** Let's talk about SANTANA. It is a 2020 action film co-directed by Chris Roland, Maradona Dias and Dos Santos. Co-written by Chris Roland and Maradona Dias Dos Santos, the film stars Paulo Americano, Terence Bridgett, Amanda and yourself.

**HAKEEM:** Santana is an action packed film, it is based on the story of two brothers— one a narcotics agent and the other a general in the army— finally discover the identity of the drug lord who murdered their

**A-CHOICES:** What do you think audiences will get from watching it?

**HAKEEM:** Africans can be proud that it's homegrown.

**A-CHOICES:** What's it like working with the director and writer Chris Roland?

**HAKEEM:** It was fun and exciting working with everyone on the set. It is great working on that project with Chris. Chris is a good friend, a very talented film director and remarkable writer.

He is a consultant, who provides a wealth of experience that helps turn challenges into opportunities and ideas and dreams into realities.

**A-CHOICES:** What do you want from a director during a production?

**HAKEEM:** Depends on what sort of a director he/she is but for me I want a director that either leaves me alone as he trusts what I can bring or someone who understands actors and their process and knows how to communicate with them.

**A-CHOICES:** What do you like most about working on a television show?

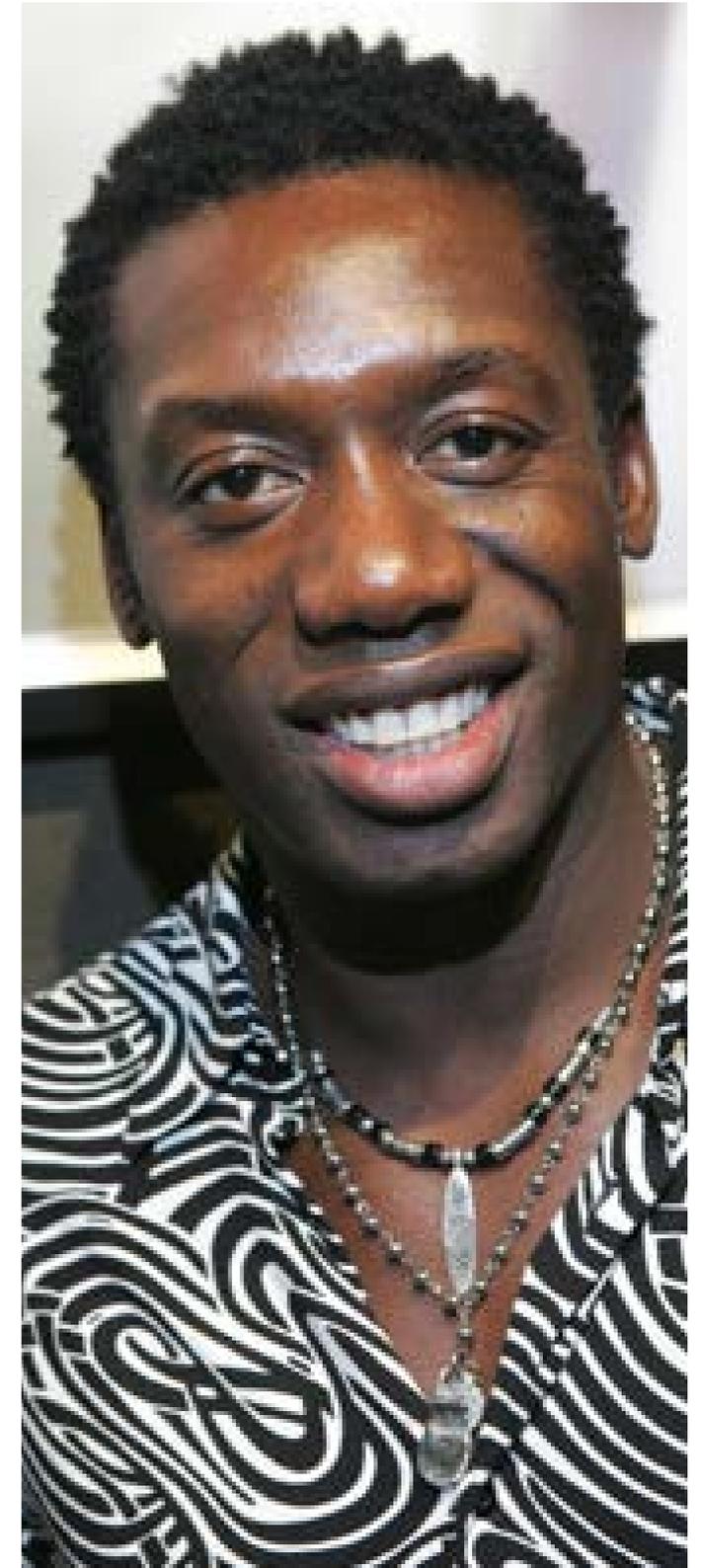
**HAKEEM:** Filming of a TV series is a longer time period than film, so it enables the character to be taken on a longer journey and I enjoy the ongoing discovery of a character.

**A-CHOICES:** How often do you visit Nigeria?

**HAKEEM:** I do visit frequently as much as time permits from my tight schedule.

**A-CHOICES:** What do you think it takes to get Hollywood, Bollywood to recruit Nollywood actors?

**HAKEEM:** I would say that improving the skills of Nollywood actors and productions.



## LEAVE THE PAIN BEHIND YOU DESERVE HAPPINESS AND SO MUCH MORE



By: Akosua Darko  
Senior Writer  
London, UK

Have you been hurt, betrayed, bullied or upset those who have trampled on you and left you frozen in time are moving on in glee. I won't be the one to bash you about holding on to the pain, minimise it or act like you're weak for not letting go or tell you you're only hurting yourself. I am going to plead with you to be kind to yourself. As an akan proverb goes a wise woman is like a cat, and so is a wise person.

A cat looks around, blinks, gives an eye attitude and then ignores whatever doesn't actually need violence or energy exerted for peace to reign. The cat is too busy living to worry about unnecessary foes and pain once caused that no longer needs to live inside.



## Lifestyle

Don't think I don't understand the pain you're going through. I do. I was an unforgiving champion and even to this day it's tough for me to move on. I have to remind myself often that I deserve to be happy and letting go is the only way I can be. Forgiveness is a gift for yourself not the other person. The other person is gone. The situation that caused the pain is gone.

Most often we hold onto the idea things could have been different and beat ourselves up for allowing ourselves to get hurt. Yet that's life, if we knew better, we would have done better, but we didn't. If we could see the future, we would have not made mistakes of letting them in, but we didn't. So why carry the burden of someone else dysfunction and their wrong behaviour on your gentle head.

It's taken me a long time to understand my anger, or revenge on them won't change what happened. Even if you get revenge, you're still wasting time on a nonentity that does not deserve any more of your time. No one is saying you have to restore a relationship because over my dead body will I even speak to some people who've hurt me. That's another thing cut people off.

I see a lot of people writing about haters and fake friends. The truth is, you're the only one who can allow a hater or fake friend to get access to you. If you know they are the devil in sheep's clothing, cut them off. There's no need to be figuring out how you can co-exist, if they don't pay your bills, if you don't have to work with them (keep that strictly business) or they are not a necessary family member. There's no reason for you to have any relationship for the sake of being 'nice'. Be nice to yourself and stop being abused.

I know sometimes when you've helped a person and they throw it back in your face. You want to take back all the help. I can assure you someone who repays evil for kindness has a huge devil in their heart already tormenting them. Now they've gotten rid of someone who cares for them because I suggest under

no circumstances do you continue a relationship with someone who repays you evil for good. That person is not a human being.

Lastly, realise like I have your life is in your hands. No amount of bad someone else puts in it can stop you living your life to the full. They're gone and tomorrow is yours to create if you let go of them and the evil thoughts they brought to you with themselves of anxiety, depression, hurt, pain, the longing for justice and bitterness. Enjoy your life because you gave out love, let them carry their burden of hate on their head out of your life.

Endeavour next time to be around people with hearts as big as yours you can enjoy. Cut out the Judas's you gain nothing from them yet they take everything from you. The world is your oyster, leave the past and pain behind. It's hard, it's not easy but one day you'll realise it gets easier and no one can stop you living to full. Even Hitler was defeated, how bad can your enemies be.



# Strive Masiyiwa becomes Britain's first black billionaire



By: Dr. Funmi Beckley  
Lagos, Nigeria



Strive Masiyiwa has become a billionaire according to Sunday Times Rich List. Econet founder, Masiyiwa, who is based in London has been named Britain's first black billionaire with a net worth of £1.087bn. The 60-year-old telecom tycoon is a renowned philanthropist and businessman. He currently sits on the board of Netflix and Unilever. The Zimbabwe-born, and an African Union special envoy on COVID-19, has a more pressing goal in mind - attempting to get Covid vaccines to Africa.

Recently, the father of six secured 400 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for Africa. Masiyiwa's rise to wealth is a notable one, having fled with his parents from his Rhodesian (Zimbabwe) homeland to London in the '60s, due to the unrest in the country after its independence.

Having moved to the United Kingdom as a child, he attended secondary school in Scotland and had an engineering degree from the University of Wales. For a short time he worked in Cambridge in the computer industry, but later returned to Africa.

Upon his return to Zimbabwe in 1984, he began to work in telecoms. In 1993, he founded the Econet Group - a telecommunications company, which has now expanded its operations into Africa, Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East region. In 2016, Masiyiwa was appointed as a Non-Executive Director in Unilever, while in 2020, he became a member of the board of directors of Netflix.

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# SERIAL RAPIST STRIKES AGAIN

By: Lidna Jones  
London, UK



Serial rapist Milton Brown, has raped again following his release from prison. 'Evil' Milton Brown who cross examined his own victims has been convicted of another violent sexual attack. Brown, now 67, provoked a change in the law after he spent days in court questioning his victims before being jailed in 1997. On 24th of May he was found guilty of two counts of rape, one count of assault by penetration and one count of attempted rape, after an attack at his London home in May last year. Wood Green Crown Court was told that Brown, befriended his latest victim, 29, at a Sainsbury's in Hackney during the first coronavirus lockdown. Jurors were also allowed to hear about Brown's previous offending after an application from the prosecution.

The victim had agreed to go to Brown's nearby home in Stoke Newington to take drugs on May 2. But when she told him she had to leave, he grabbed her by the neck and put her in a headlock, before violently raping her in an ordeal that stretched into the following morning. After the attack, Brown calmly offered the victim some beer and asked her to try on some women's vintage clothing he had in his home.

The victim convinced Brown that they should go out to buy more drugs, but then jumped over a barrier and ran to some Thames Water engineers, who called the police. Brown was captured on CCTV cycling away from the scene. When police officers arrived, the victim was able to lead them to Brown's flat, where they found her rucksack and shopping bag. Brown handed himself in to police on May 11 following a manhunt.

The incident follows a notorious Old Bailey trial more than 20 years ago, when Brown fired his legal team and personally subjected two of his victims to five days of cross-examination.

After a public outcry, the law was changed to safeguard victims from being questioned by their alleged attackers in court. Victim Susan McDonald, who was attacked with a plank of wood embedded with nails, a pool cue and bottles, never recovered from her ordeal and took her own life at the age of 36.

Another victim was raped for a total of 15 hours. A detective involved in the case labelled Brown 'the most evil man I have ever come across', while a sentencing judge claimed he was 'lacking the feature that distinguishes man from beast - namely humanity'.

Crack addict Brown was released early after serving 14 years of his sentence. One victim of his rape spree in the 1990's was kept as a sex slave for three months in his Camberwell flat and only escaped as he attacked another woman. Brown, who has also been convicted of child sex offences, made headlines at the time for his depravity and because he enjoyed questioning his victims in court about their ordeal. Following Brown's early release from his sentence he was given his own flat in Tottenham, North London. He was allowed to cycle freely around London and return to the area where he committed his crimes in Camberwell on a weekly basis to see his probation officer.

Speaking after Brown's latest conviction, the CPS' Melissa Garner warned that the serial sex offender 'will always be a danger to women'. She said: 'In this case he lulled his victim into a false sense of security before violently raping her in his own home.'



# Prince Harry tells Oprah Winfrey how he dealt with Meghan feeling suicidal



By: Seyi Awolaye  
Los Angeles, CA  
USA



Prince Harry had previously told Oprah Winfrey he was 'somewhat ashamed' with how he dealt with Meghan Markle saying she was feeling suicidal but he admits he is now more confident in how to respond to someone feeling that way.

The discussion comes after Harry bravely discussed how he felt when wife Meghan Markle confessed her suicidal thoughts. "I'm somewhat ashamed of the way that I dealt with it," he had confessed. Meghan told Harry in 2019 how she wanted to kill herself just before the pair went to an engagement at the Royal Albert Hall.

Because of the system that we were in and the responsibilities and the duties that we had, we had a quick cuddle and then we had to get changed to jump in a convoy with a police escort and drive to the Royal Albert Hall for a charity event," he admitted. "Then step out into a wall of cameras and pretend as though everything's okay." Harry revealed how therapy had helped him deal with his mental health struggles and that it had helped "break the cycle". He confessed that if he hadn't gone to therapy to "fix himself" he wouldn't have had a future with Meghan.

And he told how he wanted to leave the Royal Family before he did but was rebuffed by certain members and he regrets not making his stance earlier. He continued: "It's like, 'Well how bad does it have to get until I am allowed to do this?'" She [Meghan] was going to end her life. It shouldn't have to get to that."

Elsewhere in the new episode, Harry admitted that while some people believe there are less medical professionals to help with mental health issues, more people with issues have "been through and come out the other side" and are able to help each other.



# Naomi Campbell: Supermodel becomes a mother



By: Ibukun Babatunde  
Lagos, Nigeria

Supermodel Naomi Campbell has become the mother of a baby girl. The 50-year-old announced the news on Instagram as she shared a picture of her hand holding the baby's feet." A beautiful little blessing has chosen me to be her mother, so honoured to have this gentle soul in my life," she posted on the social media website. Designer Marc Jacobs was among those to congratulate the London-born model, who had not previously revealed that she was to become a mother. British Vogue editor Edward Enninful also offered his congratulations, writing: "Seeing the two of you together made my year. You will bring each other so much joy."

Ms Campbell's mother, Valerie Morris Campbell, posted on Instagram: "I'm beyond thrilled as I've waited a long time to be a grandmother. "No further details about the new baby have been made available, but during a 2017 interview with the Evening Standard, Ms Campbell spoke about wanting to become a mother.

She was quoted as saying: "I think about having children all the time. But now with the way science is I think I can do it when I want."

The catwalk star was discovered as a schoolgirl and went on to become the first black British model to appear on the cover of British Vogue.

She is also known for her charity work, and in 2005 founded Fashion for Relief, a charity merging fashion and philanthropy.



# THE WORSENING SECURITY CHALLENGES

## Politics



By: Kangmwa Gofwen,  
Bureau Chief,  
Lagos-Nigeria

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria exacerbated various socio-economic with a proportionate impact on security challenges across the country. While the world grappled with this, young people in Nigeria stormed the streets of major cities to protest police brutality by a rogue unit of the Nigerian Police force code-named Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

The peaceful protest was soon hijacked by hoodlums who used the opportunity to carry out their nefarious activities. The Nigerian Army invaded the peaceful youths at Lekki Toll gate in the late hours of 20th October, 2020 while shooting at unarmed protesters. Mass casualties were recorded as the world condemned this unprofessional conduct by the Nigerian Army. Various states set up panels of enquiries to look into the extra-judicial killings and conduct of the police unit while the unit was also disbanded to be replaced by a new unit later.

2020 ended on that ugly note and other challenges. People were however hopeful that 2021 will be a better year and a time to recover from the horror of the past year, little did we know that more was still to come.

2021 ushered a fresh system of attacks on people and properties all over the country with reports of mass kidnapping, robbery, and a series of attacks on security outfits in the south of the country. These heightening attacks in the south are mostly targeted at security outlets and their personnel. The south has been a relatively peaceful region before the activities of some unknown gunmen began early this year. For over a decade, northern Nigeria has been



*Peaceful #ENDSARS protesters*

under attack by the dreaded Boko Haram terror group killing over 40, 000 and over 2million people displaced. In April, the Owerri correctional center and the state police headquarters came under heavy attack by unknown armed men releasing over a thousand eight hundred inmates, a day after the divisional police headquarters in Ehime Mbano local government in the same Imo state was attacked; these attacks formed the mother of major attacks on security outlets and personnel in the southeast

The attacks on security forces particularly the police have become a trend over the past months in the southeast, this led to the decision of the southeast governors to unanimously set up a local security outfit to combat the ugly trend.

The five Southeast governors in April launched the regional security outfit codenamed Ebube Agu meaning "a fearsome leopard".



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The five Southeast governors in April launched the regional security outfit codenamed Ebube Agu meaning "a fearsome leopard".

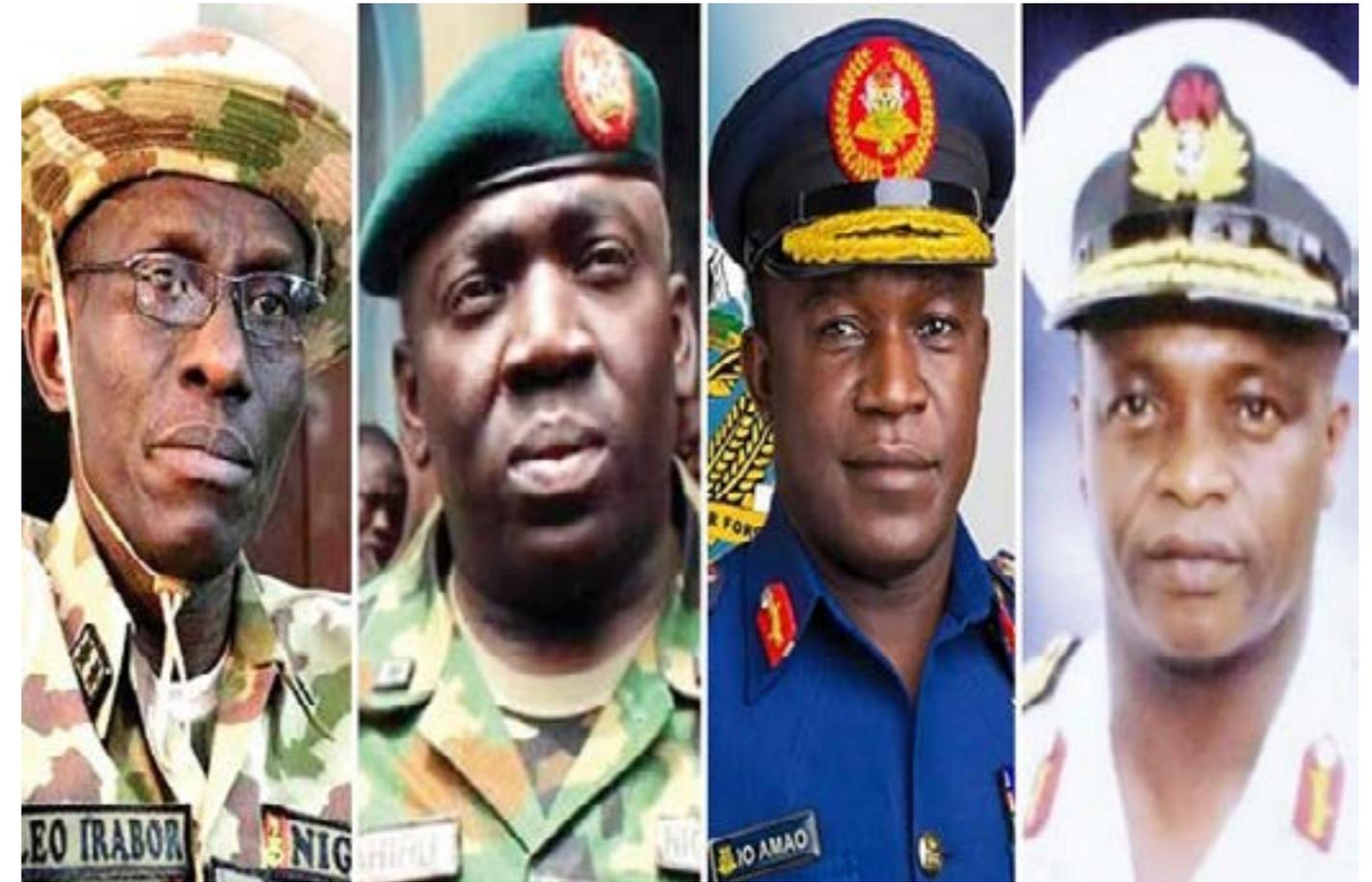


The decision came after over 40 attacks were carried out in the region. Though a step in the right direction, the decision is more like medicine after death.

The important question is, how effective will Ebube Agu be in the face of the rising insecurity? You will recall that in 2020 the southwest launched its regional security outfit known as Amotekun but has the Amotekun lived up to expectation?

Both Amotekun and Ebube Agu cannot face the fire from these blood-sucking criminals. The Amotekun and Ebube Agu does not have access to heavy firearms to face their opponents; unless both Ebube Agu and Amotekun are permitted to carry the same quality of weapons as these criminals, the decision to set up the outfit is little to nothing.

Since the breakout of series of attacks in the south, no group has taken responsibility for the attacks. However, government and the police have accused the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) of the attacks carried out in the southeast. IPOB has since denied involvement in any attack; they described it as being fictitious and propaganda to tarnish the image of the peaceful organization before international communities. Unlike the attacks in the northwest where bandits kidnap majorly for ransom, their attacks are carried out on civilians and school children. The trend in the southeast leaves a lot of questions unanswered. It is worrisome that the very body responsible for protecting the lives and properties of citizens is under such attack.



According to the Global Terrorism Index, Nigeria is the third most terrorized country in the world as of November 2020; according to Nextier SPD, about 724 people were killed, 802 kidnapped in 336 incidents in the first quarter of this year.

Responding to the deteriorating state of security of lives and properties around the country, President Muhammadu Buhari appointed new service chiefs of the armed forces. The appointment is coming after much hesitation from the president. The incumbent chief of army staff was the longest-serving service chief in the history of Nigeria since independence.

The appointment of the service chiefs in January offered a possible solution to the growing insecurity, however, citizens are yet to feel the commitment to duty of the newly appointed chiefs. There is an urgent need to review the response to the security of lives and property in the country.

It is high time the Nigerian government properly seek both local and international support to combat the rising wave of insecurity spread across the country.

For every time we seem to have reached the pinnacle of Nigeria's insecurity, we go even higher. The daily attacks have blurred the zenith of the violence out of focus to look like the bottom. How many levels higher can we go before we have had enough?

# ALEX EKUBO SET TO GET HIMSELF A WIFE.

## Entertainment



By: Kangmwa Gofwen,  
Bureau Chief,  
Lagos-Nigeria



One of the hottest Nollywood bachelors has exited the singles table. The tall, fair and handsome Alex Ekubo was snatched from the table by Fancy Acholonu.

The love birds announced their engagement on their Instagram personal handles on May 3rd, 2021, Alex captioned his post as 'I asked the love of my life to marry me' with a heart and ring emoji while his fiancée Fancy captioned hers as '& I said YES to the love of my life' with a ring and heart emoji.

According to sources online, the love birds have been dating for about five years, though his relationship was private as a lot of fans were not aware he had a relationship.

Alex Ekubo's journey into fame started in 2005 when he played a minor role in the movie 'Sinners in the House' by Lancelot Oduwa Imasuen. In 2010, he emerged as the first runner-up of the MR. Nigeria contest, that

victory brought several acting roles in Nollywood his way.

Though a Law graduate, he has featured in over fifty movies they include, Single Married and Complicated, Diary of a Lagos Girl, Gold Digging, Keeping my Man, What's Within, Omo Ghetto (the saga), Son of Mercy, Hire a Woman, Your Excellency, Hello, The Bling Lagosian and most recently After my Proposal.

Alex has won numerous awards right from his early years of acting some of them are, Most Promising Actor in Nigeria at the Best of Nollywood awards 2012, Best Actor in a Supporting Role at the Best of





Nollywood Awards for his role in 'weekend getaway' 2013, Best Supporting Actor at the Golden Academy movie award 2013, and Favorite Male Emerging Screen Talent (African) at the Screen Nations award.

Alex has brought much delight to the screens of many audiences, and when the news of his engagement broke out on the internet, his fans were excited and were also wondering who the lucky girl is.

The delectable Fancy Acholonu is a US-born Nigerian. She started her modeling career at a very young age, she did both runways and high fashion commercials in New York City, Los Angeles, and Nigeria; she currently owns a modeling and acting school 'The Fancy Kids' for children that are interested in acting and modeling.

Fancy is also an actress and a businesswoman, she has a jewelry company called Zodiaca, describing



the company in an interview last year with another media she said the jewelry line is for all things zodiac and astrology signs. She believes that the company is for everyone as we all have a zodiac sign.

Fancy has not allowed any of her chosen endeavors to suffer for another, she seems to have all of them running smoothly at the same time. While she runs her business and academy, she has also featured in a couple of movies; she appeared in an episode of an American comedy-drama series Lethal weapon in 2016, others are Running to live, living to run 2015, Gina's journey: the search for William Grimes 2017.

While expressing delight over her engagement to the love of her life, Fancy said She thought she was going with her sister for a photo shoot, only to be surprised with a ring from her lover asking her to marry him.

The love birds announced on May 10, 2021, that their wedding will hold in November this year. They tagged the wedding FALEXXFOREVER; the traditional marriage will hold on November 20TH, at Imo State while the white wedding will follow a week after in Lagos.

A hearty congratulations to them and we wish them the very best of their marriage.





# Filmmaker Noel Clarke Accused of Being a Serial Sexual Predator

By: Lidna Jones

London,UK



Noel Anthony Clarke was born to Gemma (née Clarke) and Alphaeus Baptiste "Alf" Clarke on born 6 December 1975.

Though his parents were divorced soon after his birth, however, he was brought up by his mother who still lives at council estate in Ladbroke Grove. He completed his education in media from University of North London. He has also taken classes at London's Actors Centre and formerly worked as a personal trainer.

## Clarke's career

Noel Clark though first appeared in TV serials and short films before appearing on big screen of films, however, he did not let his career to develop in film industry. He continued his appearance on several television serials as well as in short films.

However, he has a very limited experience in theater where he appeared in "Where Do We Live" in 2003. Besides this, Noel Clarke's career in short films is limited to "Native" (1999), "Take 2" (1999), "The Last Angel" (2002), "Licks" (2002, written and produced), "Plastic" (2006), "Reign of Death" (2009), "What If" (2012), and "My Butterfly" (2018).

Noel Clark first appeared in "Metro Sexuality" in 1999 followed by his appearances in several television series such as "The Bill" (2000), "Judge John Deed" (2001), "Waking the dead" (2001), "Casualty" (2001), "Auf Wiedersehen, Pet" (2002-2004), "Adventure Inc.," (2003), "A Touch of Frost" (2004). At the same time he entered film industry as a beginner but continued working on television series. He mainly raised his prominence in media industry for playing role as Mickey Smith in Doctor (2005-2010). He also played role in the TV series "Bulletproof" (2018-present) as Aaron Bishop, a TV series which is also written and produced by Noel Clarke. He has also worked in "Tardisodes" (2006), "Jane Hall" (2006), "Duplicate Drama" (2007), "West 10 LDN" (2008), "What If" (2012), "The Assets" (2014), "Chasing Shadows" (2014),

"The Throwaways" (2015), "The Level" (2016), "Urban Myths" (2017), "What Do You Think You Are" (2017), "Inside No. 9" (2018), "The Adventures of Paddington" (2020) and "Viewpoint" (2021).

Regarding his career in films, he started with "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead" in 2003.

However, he was more recognized for his appearance in films as Sam in Brotherhood (2016), Adulthood (2008) and Kidulthood (2006) which were written and directed by himself. He also appeared in "Doghouse" (2009), "Heartless" (2009), "Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll" (2010), "Centurion" (2010), "4.3.2.1" (2010), "Huge" (2010), and "Screwed" (2011). He also wrote and appeared in "The Knot" (2012), "Fast Girls" (2012), and "Storage 24" (2012). He also acted in "Star Trek into Darkness" (2013), "Saving Santa" (2013), "I am Soldier" (2014), "The Anomaly" (2014), "The Throwaways" (2015), "The Habit of Beauty" (2016), "I Kill Giants" (2017), "Mute" (2018), "10 X 10" (also written and produced in 2018), "Songbird" (2018), "Fisherman's Friends (2019), "The Corrupted" (2019), "Bulletproof: The Interrogation" (2020), "Twist" (2021, produced) and "SAS: Red Notice" (2021).

Clarke has won several awards since his early career when in 2003 he won the "Laurence Olivier Award" for "Most Promising Performer". He has also won award for Best Screenplay for Kidulthood at Dinard British Film Festival. Subsequently, in 2009 he won the "BAFTA Orange Rising Star Award" in 2021 he won "BAFTA Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema Award". In 2014, he has also won "Edinburgh International Film Festival's Audience Award" for "The Anomaly". Moreover, his work on Brotherhood led him to receive two more awards in 2017, i.e., "National Film Awards UK for Action" and "Screen Nation Film and Television Award for Achievement in Film Production".

Though being an award winning actor, director, performer, Noel Clarke was suspended on 29 April 2021 due to allegations of sexual misconduct.

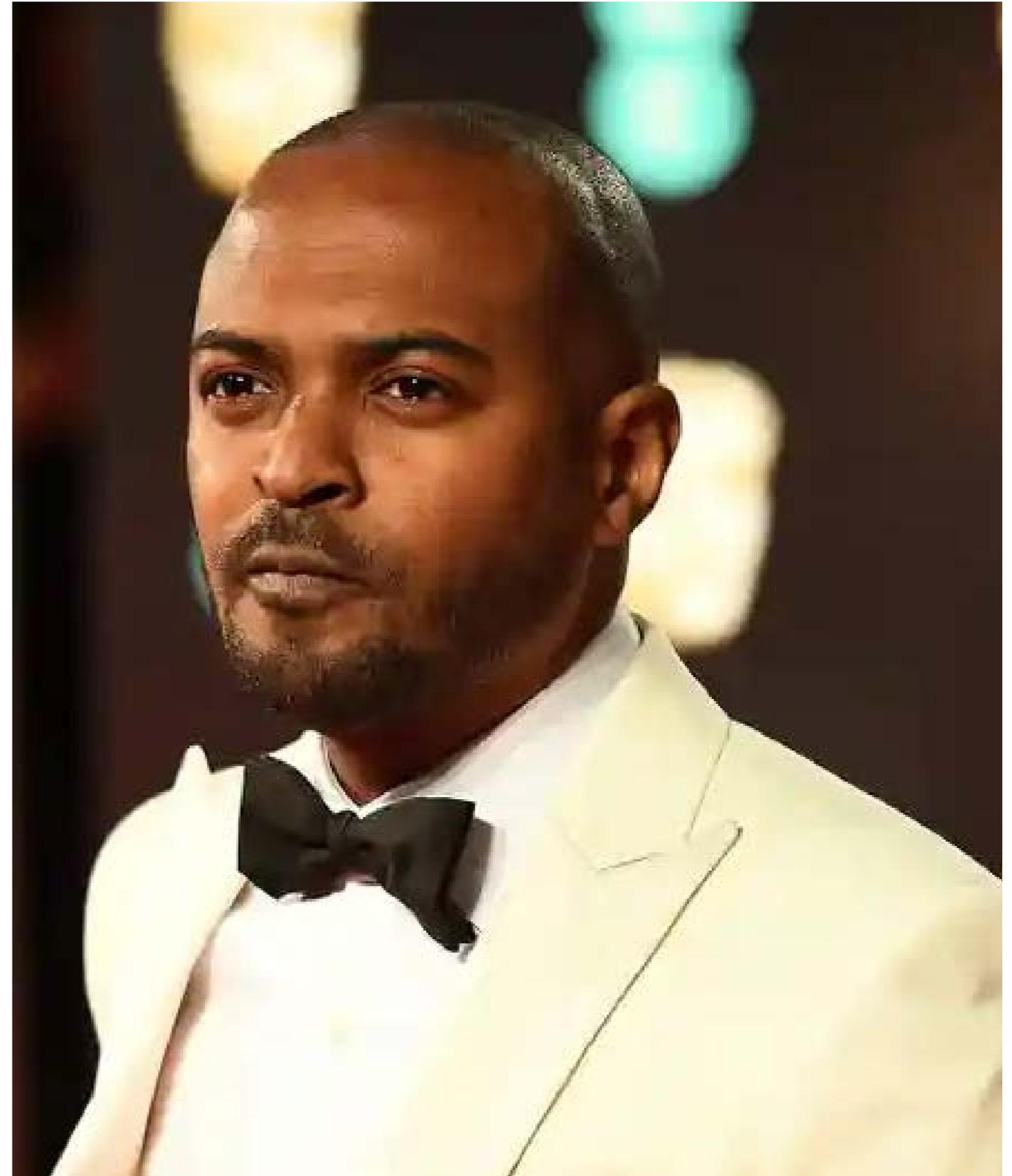
## Sexual accusation and police investigation

A recent case for sexual accusation against Noel Clarke was identified when on 29th April 2021, allegations by 20 women was published by The Guardian. The women reported professional misconduct, sexual harassment, inappropriate behavior, bullying, comments on set/ verbal abuse, and capturing and sharing nude and sexually explicit videos and pictures without their consent by Clarke between 2004 and 2019.

The interrogation by The Guardian to 26 people including those 20 women, one of them revealed that Noel filmed nude audition without her consent and disclosed it to his producer and co-worker. The same producer accuses Noel Clark of exposing his genitals to that women in back of a car and next day he groped her in a lift. Another actress, Jing Lusi, co-actress in film "SAS: Red Notice" also claimed that Clarke had threatened and sexually propositioned her. Moreover, few more women alleged that Noel had pressured them to act on nude sex scenes and got angry when they had refused. In addition to this, one of the actor said that he made advances on her and regularly asked her if she "wanted a piece of his dark chocolate". Moreover, the actor explained that upon rejection of his advances, Clarke had badmouthed her to other people in the media/ film industry. Likewise, another women accused Clarke for behaving inappropriately with the actor at an external function in May 2016 relating to his role in Doctor.

In response to the allegations, Clarke said in a statement that, "In a 20-year career, I have put inclusivity and diversity at the forefront of my work and never had a complaint made against me. If anyone who has worked with me has ever felt uncomfortable or disrespected, I sincerely apologise. I vehemently deny any sexual misconduct or wrongdoing and intend to defend myself against these false allegations". Noel Clarke denied all allegations for criminal wrong doings and any sexual misconduct. However, he held one allegation true that Clarke had repetitively made remarks on an employee's buttocks (Helen Atherton, an art director on Brotherhood). Noel apologized to her with a remark that he was looking for a way "to change for the better".

Though, the allegations were filed and reported to police on 21 April 2021 by third party for Clarke's sexual offences; however, by May 1st 2021 the police said that there was no current investigation to deal with the case and nothing has been proved against him. Nevertheless, in response to the claims against Noel Clarke, BAFTA had suspended his membership and his contribution to cinema award. Moreover, his final episode of Viewpoint was also not broadcasted and his global distribution of series was also adjourned after the announcement made by ITV. Sky and others in industry entertainment including All3Media announced that Clarke would not be represented in future or involved in any production.



# SOFIA WYLIE WILL 'BRING SOME REALNESS' TO THE SCHOOL FOR **GOOD AND EVIL**

By: Lidna Jones

London,UK



*"I'm certain this hotel's haunted,"* the actress Sofia Wylie says upon her arrival in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she is filming Netflix's adaptation of Soman Chainani's beloved fantasy series, *The School for Good and Evil*. In her first film role, she'll star alongside seasoned actors like Charlize Theron and Kerry Washington as Agatha, a brooding young girl with a flair for formless black dresses and a bald cat named Reaper – that is, not the kind of character who's afraid of ghosts. "My TV just turned on, that's not terrifying at all," Wylie adds. "I'm definitely going to call my parents to have them come over after this."



Haunted hotel rooms or not, the work never stops, especially for a Capricorn like Wylie, whose varied pursuits have taken her from dancing backup for Justin Bieber to a modelling contract with IMG, a top agency that also represents Bella Hadid and Ashley Graham. Sofia, started out her promising career in 2016, starring as Buffy Driscoll in *Andi Mack* on Disney Channel and later on made her film debut in Australian film *Back of the Net*. In 2019 she was cast as Gina Porter in the acclaimed Disney TV-series *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*, which has been renewed for a second season.



Being very involved into issues relating to female empowerment and diversity in the arts, she founded along with her father the production company called AIFOS, which promotes new and inspiring literary and creative pieces supporting crucial issues related to diversity and inclusion. The company is set to adapt Jenny Torres Sanchez's novel *The Fall of Innocence* "I think I would get bored if I ever just settled on one thing," she says. "I just want to keep growing as much as I can." When she's not acting, or modelling, or singing, or fending off spirits, Wylie is a normal teen, trying to earn her high school diploma, decide what comes after and, in her spare time, nail the latest TikTok dance challenge to her favourite Blackpink song. Ahead of the Season 2 premiere of *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*, Wylie tells MTV News about managing it all and what she's bringing to her debut feature-length role.

# Hollywood Actor-Michael Jai White To Open Studio In New Haven



By: Seyi Awoloye  
Los Angeles,CA  
USA

*The "Undisputed 2" actor, film director and writer with CT roots will launch "mini major" Jaigantic Studios in New Haven this summer.*

**NEW HAVEN, CT** — Michael Jai White is opening a film studio in New Haven this summer, he announced on social media.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Bridgeport, White attended Southern Connecticut State University.

Also a director and writer and martial artist, White

posted on his social media page that he

will be launching Jaigantic Studios, described as

Connecticut first

"mini-major" studio. Slated to open this

summer, while the New Haven production facility is being

created, the studio will initially operate out of

Fairfield's Studio One, according to the New

Haven Register. Variety reported that White has

"long wanted to return to his home state to expand the industry with a studio that

will provide jobs, professional training and apprenticeships for the local community."

The planned film studio in New Haven will be used for Jaigantic Studio's slate of productions that

span film, television and other commercial projects.



Jaigantic Studios will serve as an "accessible industry hub for students of Yale University's drama school," it's reported and the New Haven facility will house

"several sound stages, production offices, post-production and support facilities and motion capture stages, which will feature 360-degree virtual production volumes."

Variety reported that White's plan is to

"solidify New Haven as a primary entertainment market by combining

Connecticut's favourable film and TV tax incentives

with the tri-state area's talent pool, innovative technology and turnkey

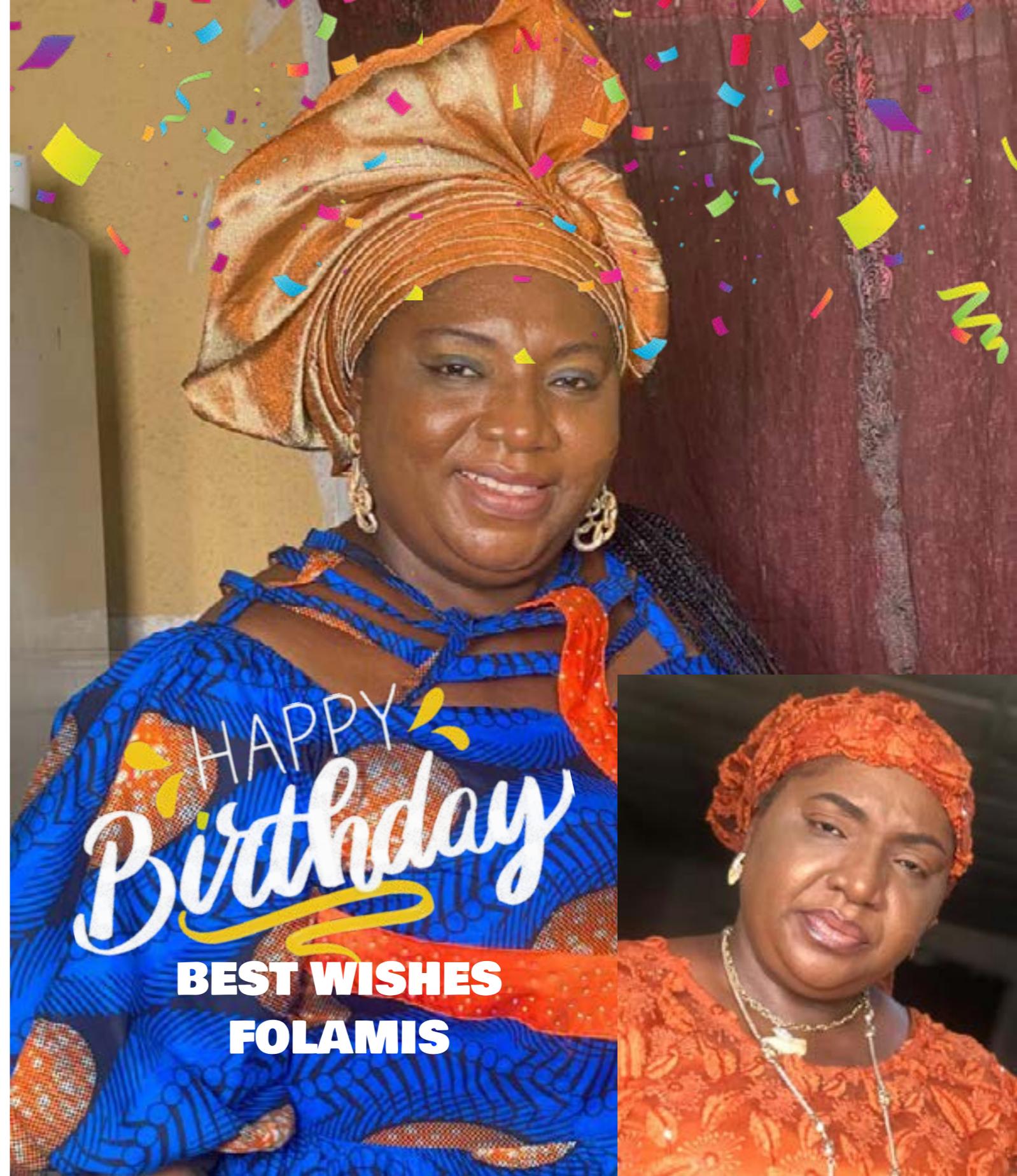
production facilities."

White is the first African American to play

a comic book superhero in a major motion picture; he played Al Simmons in the 1997 blockbuster Spawn.

And he played Jax Briggs in Mortal Kombat: Legacy and portrayed boxer Mike Tyson in HBO's 1995 film

"Tyson." His film and TV credits are voluminous. White, 53, has seven martial arts black belts and dozens of martial arts titles.



HAPPY  
Birthday

BEST WISHES

FOLAMIS



# The Untold Truth of DMX

By: Bunmi Johnson

New York Bureau Chief

USA



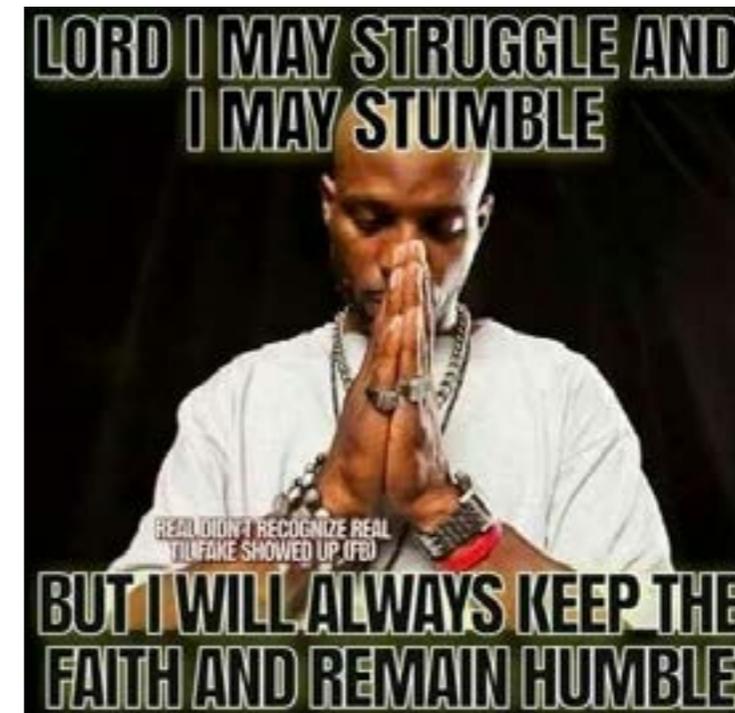
The video on “DMX- The Untold Truth of DMX” highlights several key areas of DMX’s life, including his traumatic use of drug, his childhood troubles, unmatched musical taste, heartbroken and his returning to home, multiple personalities, split of super group, devotion to religion, fight with George Zimmerman and overdose.

DMX was much open to his traumatic drug abuse for which he was sent to rehabilitation. In 2017, DMX had even cancelled his tour plans to overcome his drug addiction. According to him, Talib Kweli was key person who not only introduced him to hip hop music world but also to substance addiction while he was only 14 years old. However, the symptoms were deeper as he faced a troubled childhood. According to DMX, his mothers have always favoured his four sisters due to which he was relentlessly bullied. This ran him into more trouble even in school. Though being a smart kid, DMX was more indulged in school fights. However, this his troubled childhood has helped to develop a unique taste in music, his music’s distinctive style.

His inspirations come from Regina Belle, Men at Work, Donna Summer, Teena Marie, Fire, Wind, Earth, and a lot more. These sources of inspiration were the only reasons that have made him happy as a kid. Moreover, DMX even returned to his home in New York (Dobbs Ferry) where he spent his quality time once he gained

success and recognition after release of his two albums that were listed top on charts. DMX was also heartbroken at the age of 17 years old when his girl scoffed at him as he didn’t have any money and walked away.

He was stuck with his one-sided relationship and always hoped to meet the girl again to tell her about his past failures/ troubles and present success while knowing reason behind kicking him of her life. One of DMX’s most hated anthem is of Ruff Ryder which he doesn’t want to sing as being elementary, but he was pushed by Swizz Beatz, producer, to include in his album. The song went on top charts (of top 100 Hip-Hop songs) with millions of viewers when it was released and remained on top charts across 20 weeks. Whilst describing his multiple personalities, DMX was though hesitant initially and did not disclosed his mental health issues. However, he honestly spoke about his multiple personalities in “BET’s Ruff Ryders Chronicles” (2020 episode). Even his wife also revealed that DMX and X are two separate personalities where the former is an entertainer whereas later is an angry person. Besides this, DMX’s super group with Ja Rule and Jay-Z fell apart in 2011 which was formerly a hit in late decade of 1990s with a reason being competition.



While being a successful musician and a rapper, DMX was more devoted to religion since his childhood and became a preacher in 2020 where his favorite book was bible’s children version. DMX was even arrested for animal cruelty when his dogs were reported to be malnutrition and injured (2008) and kept in small cages (1999) which overrode his description for his love of dogs given to Rolling Stone in 2006. Regarding DMX’s fight with George Zimmerman, that was cancelled due to a wave of threats and a massive backlash, was a fake story that rolled out by Rolling stone. DMX’s overdose in 2021 led him to serious health injury on 2nd April, i.e., heart attack, and then to death on 9th April.

# Nick Cannon expecting **seventh** child



By: Seyi Awolaye  
Los Angeles, CA



It is official that model Alyssa Edwards is expecting Nick Cannon's child, meaning the comedian will become a father for the seventh time – having had four of those children in the last six months. The host of the US version of The Masked Singer, 40, is currently expecting twin boys with DJ Abby De La Rosa, 30, and he recently welcomed daughter Powerful Queen with model Brittany Bell, 33, with whom he also shares three-year-old son Golden. He is already father to twins Monroe and Moroccan, 10, who he shares with ex Mariah Carey, 51.

And when Alyssa is asked if Nick was the father, she responded with heart-face emojis. Alyssa, who reportedly worked as a model on Nick's Wild 'N Out, is currently 34 weeks pregnant. She wrote online: 'I'm finally getting to that uncomfortable state. Everything aches.' Nick and Alyssa were seen together in Malibu, California in October last year when they ate at celebrity hotspot Nobu. Funnyman Nick was seen with his arm around Alyssa before they got into his Rolls Royce together. The American star revealed he was expecting twins again last month with girlfriend Abby De La Rosa, who unveiled her pregnancy in December.

Abby gushed about her 'miracle babies' in a social media post complete with stunning clips and images from a desert photoshoot. She wrote: 'Our dearest sons – my miracle babies, Thank you for choosing me to be your Mommy. 'I know the Lord has destined me and prepared me for the gift of not one but two little angels. I pray that God give you both the strength to walk brave and boldly in your individual truth just like your Daddy. 'That God bless you and your brother and guide you into living out your full purpose.' The exciting news came after the host welcomed his third child, Powerful Queen, with ex-girlfriend Brittany Bell in December.



# Marcus Rashford holds 'surreal' Zoom call with Barack Obama

**Sports**  
By: Andrew Collins  
London, UK



**M**arcus Rashford has had a Zoom call with the former US President Barack Obama, describing the experience as "surreal". The Manchester United star says he "enjoyed every minute" of his virtual chat with Obama. The 23-year-old footballer met virtually with the former president and the pair bonded over their shared experiences of being raised by single mothers and wanting to make an impact on society.

The discussion, organised by Penguin Books, focused on giving back to your local community and the positive impact of reading - another cause that Rashford has supported for children. "It's quite surreal, isn't it? I'm sitting in my kitchen in Manchester, speaking to President Obama. But, immediately, he made me feel at ease," the young footballer said. "It wasn't long before I realised just how aligned our experiences as children were in shaping the men you see today - adversity, obstacles and all. I genuinely enjoyed every minute of it. When President Obama speaks, all you want to do is listen."

Mr Obama was also full of praise for the Manchester United and England striker, saying: "A lot of the young people I meet - including Marcus - they're ahead of where I was when I was 23." They're already making changes and being positive forces in their communities."

Rashford spearheaded a prominent campaign for free school meals for children in poverty last year, prompting the government to turn around its policy twice. As a result, **1.7 million vulnerable children were supported by a £520m government scheme.**

The footballer also topped the Sunday Times' Giving List this year after raising £20m for the charity FareShare. The conversation between Rashford and the former president was moderated by broadcaster and author June Sarpong .



# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2021 WINNERS

By: Andrew Collins  
London,UK



Chelsea beat Manchester City, 1-0, capturing European soccer's biggest prize only months after changing coaches, and beating a City team that was built for this moment. Chelsea turned a season of turmoil into the ultimate triumph as Kai Havertz's ice-cool finish sunk Manchester City 1-0 to swipe Champions League glory in Porto.

Mason Mount's inch-perfect assist stunned domestic double-winners City at the Estadio do Dragao, as Chelsea claimed their second Champions League title to etch boss Thomas Tuchel's name into the Stamford Bridge annals.

Nothing less than a revolution against the Pep Guardiola hegemony in the English game in what was one of the great nights in Europe, a thrilling, relentless Champions League final in which the tide of Manchester City was turned back at the gates of their final triumph.

Pep Guardiola fielded a surprise pivotless midfield in a bid to catch out Tuchel and the Blues, but the move backfired and City paid the toughest price.



# WINNERS

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2020/21





When Chelsea paid Bayer Leverkusen £70million for Havertz last summer eyebrows were raised in some quarters, but Chelsea was convinced of the 21-year-old's pure talent. And now the classy forward has ended a testing campaign that included a battle with Covid-19 with a goal of the utmost quality - on the highest stage and at the perfect time.

There were moments of misfortune, especially a collision that saw Kevin De Bruyne go off in the second half with his eye swelling and darkening having turned blind, straight into Antonio Rudiger. It was an ugly moment that the German was booked for having seen it in time to protect himself.

Yet Chelsea could point to the departure of Thiago Silva with a groin jolted out of shape when he landed awkwardly in the first half. Their team felt right in all departments and nowhere more so than when the world's greatest defensive midfielder, N'Golo Kante, took charge. He was the game's outstanding player, although you could also make a case for Reece James at right-back - a locked door to the recalled Raheem Sterling. Kante demonstrated what City lacked in the core of their game - a stability, a guarantee - and they looked so much better when Fernandinho arrived. It felt like Guardiola's selection was designed to make the game into something no-one was expecting, and in a way that was what happened.

In the second half, Guardiola repented. Fernandinho, in place of Bernardo Silva, who had one of the least effective nights of his career, changed the game again. The old Brazilian general passing and fouling and passing as he saw necessary. It was desperate on a few occasions for Chelsea - a great clearance from Azpilicueta, a chance on the counter that the substitute Christian Pulisic, on for Werner, pulled just wide.

On the touchline, Tuchel sunk to his knees. By the end he would be in a frenzy through seven minutes of time added on and the effort from Mahrez. Then the game was over and so too four astonishing months in the life of Tuchel and Chelsea.



# MANAGING FIBROIDS WITHOUT HYSTERECTOMY –

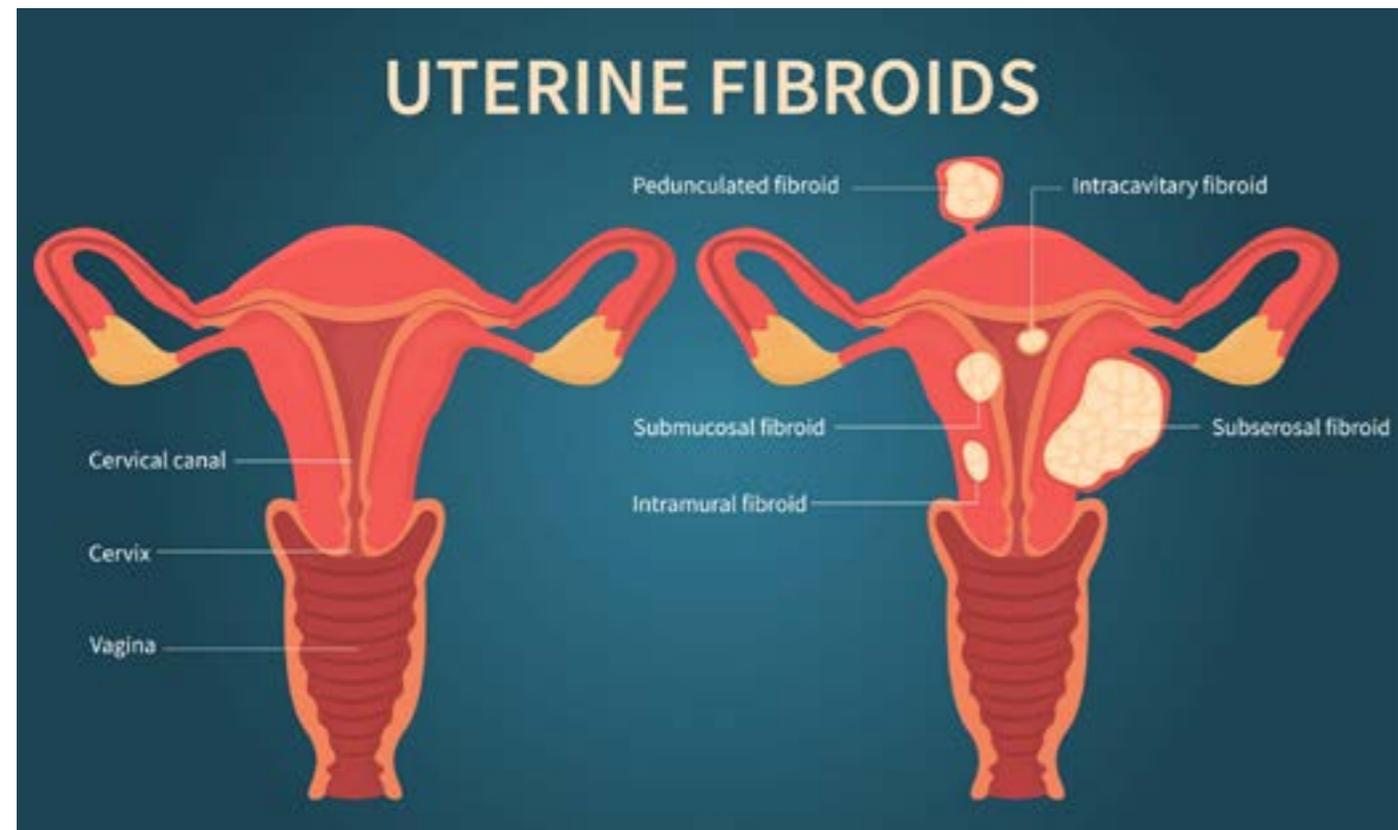
## What Your Doctor Won't Tell You!

### Health

By: Linda R. Jones  
London, UK

Uterine fibroids is often referred to **Leiomyomata (benign)** are basically **overgrowths of connective tissue and muscle**. This is most common issue in female pelvis as between 25%-50% of all women sooner or later develop fibroids. The size of the fibroids varies between 1-2mm and 30cm and could grow outside or inside of the uterus whereas some stick out from the uterus. The exact causes of fibroids are unknown, however, one key factor in fueling their growth is female hormone estrogen.

Fibroids sometimes increases its size during pregnancy when the levels estrogen increases in the body. However, it shrinks during menopause as the levels of estrogen decreases.

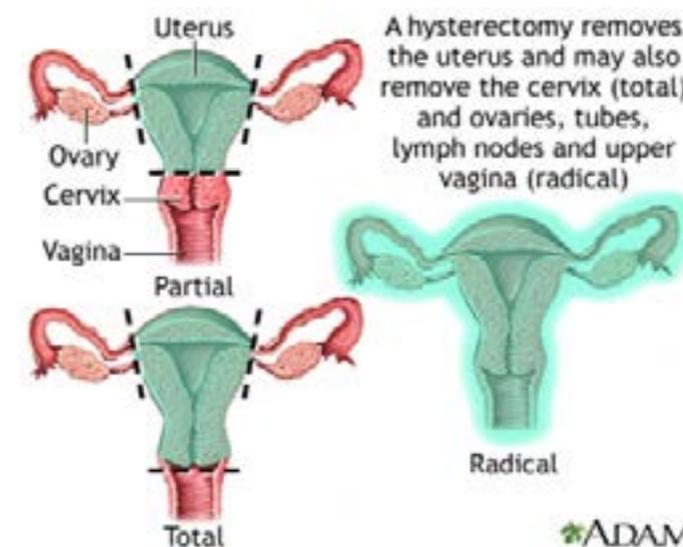


Most of the doctors suggests hysterectomy to treat fibroids which is a surgery in which uterus is removed. However, there are several other treatment plans to manage fibroids; for instance, medical therapies (use of drugs to shrink fibroid or control bleeding) and different surgical procedures to remove fibroids only.

Some of the key drugs that helps to manage fibroids and its temporary growth include progestins (to manage menorrhagia/ excessive bleeding); GnRH Analogues (acts like natural hormones to reduce flow of blood to the uterus as well as to individual tumors which decreases its size); Tranexamic acid (Lysteda, Cyklokapron that reduces heavy bleeding).

On the other hand, the surgical procedures mainly include *myomectomy (fibroids are removed only) and related procedures such as traditional or abdominal myomectomy (incision is made via abdominal wall to remove fibroids), hysteroscopic myomectomy (hysteroscope is inserted through vagina into cavity of uterine and fibroids are removed), and laparoscopic myomectomy (a thin tube is inserted via small incision through or below the navel to view the contents of pelvis and abdomen) which are recommended on the basis of size and location of fibroids.*

These surgical techniques of *laparoscope (through the navel) and hysteroscope (through the vagina)* have proved to show faster recovery as compared to a traditional or adnominal myomectomy (through abdominal incision). Nevertheless, these surgical techniques are often assisted by Vasopressin (substance to constrict vessels) and Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone Analogues (GnRH Analogues) that helps to reduce amount of bleeding and shrinks size of fibroids so that they could be removed easily.

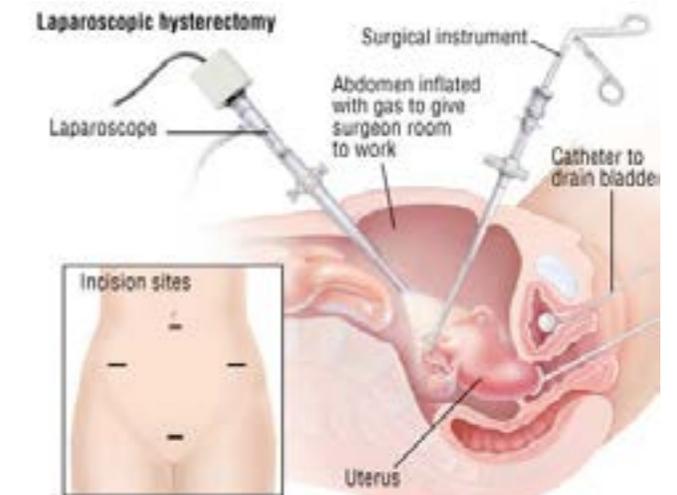


Additionally, electro-surgical instruments such as lasers instead of scissors or scalpel to coagulate and cut fibroids have also proved to decrease amount of bleeding during surgical procedures.

Consequently, women could successfully opt for different treatment plans based on size and location of fibroids rather than choosing hysterectomies which is most of the time not needed. However, the risk of all surgical procedures and drug therapies must be considered as they might leave tiny tumors or seedlings that remains undetected during surgery and could grow later. This risk of future recurrence of fibroids is minimized only by hysterectomy.

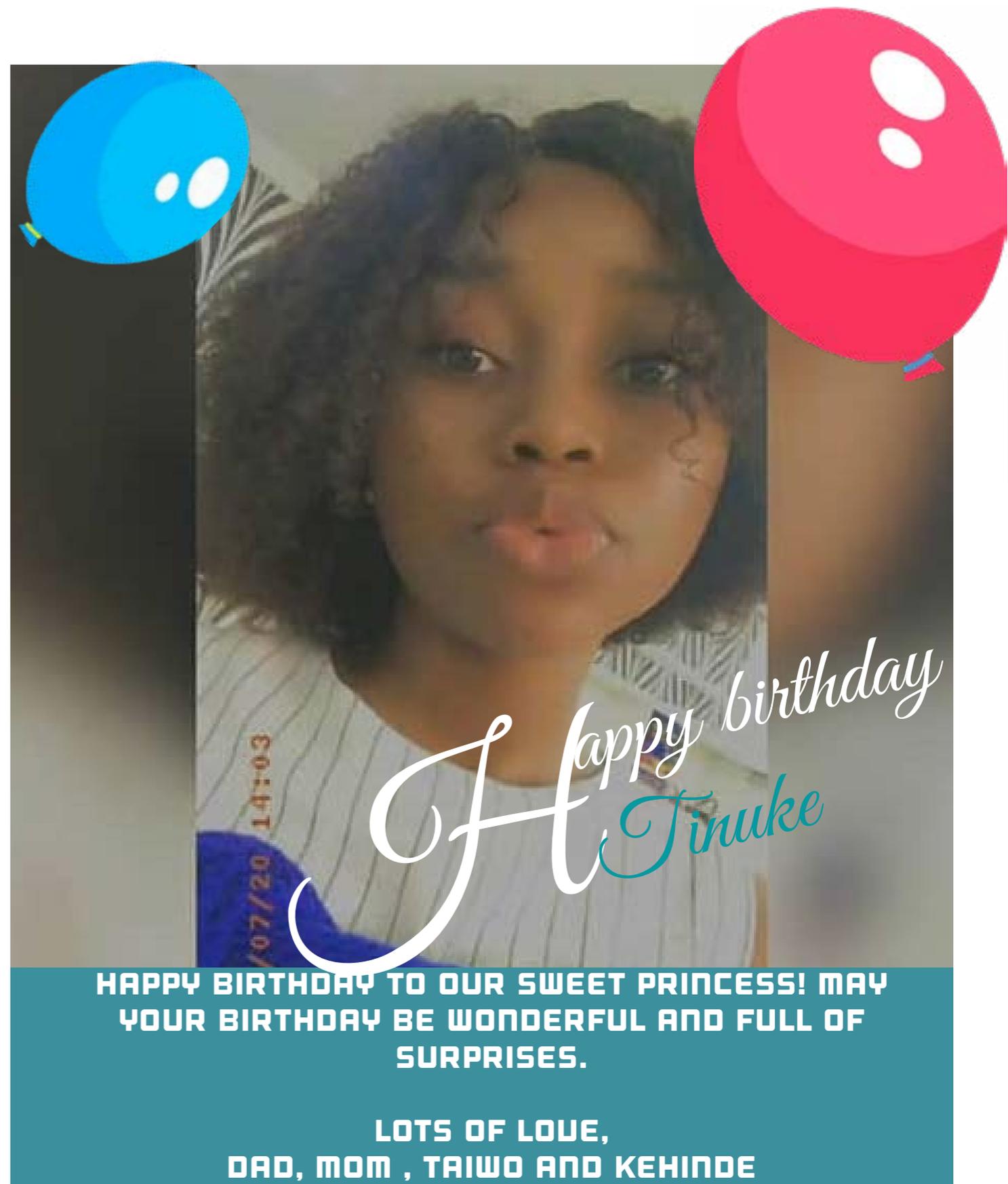
Thus, it could be said that myomectomy preserve fertility of a woman whereas hysterectomy restricts future child bearing in a woman.

Therefore, the selection of the appropriate treatment option depends on the severity of symptoms, size, and location of fibroids and as well as on the patient's plan to have children in future.





**Happy  
Birthday**



*Happy birthday  
Finuke*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SWEET PRINCESS! MAY  
YOUR BIRTHDAY BE WONDERFUL AND FULL OF  
SURPRISES.**

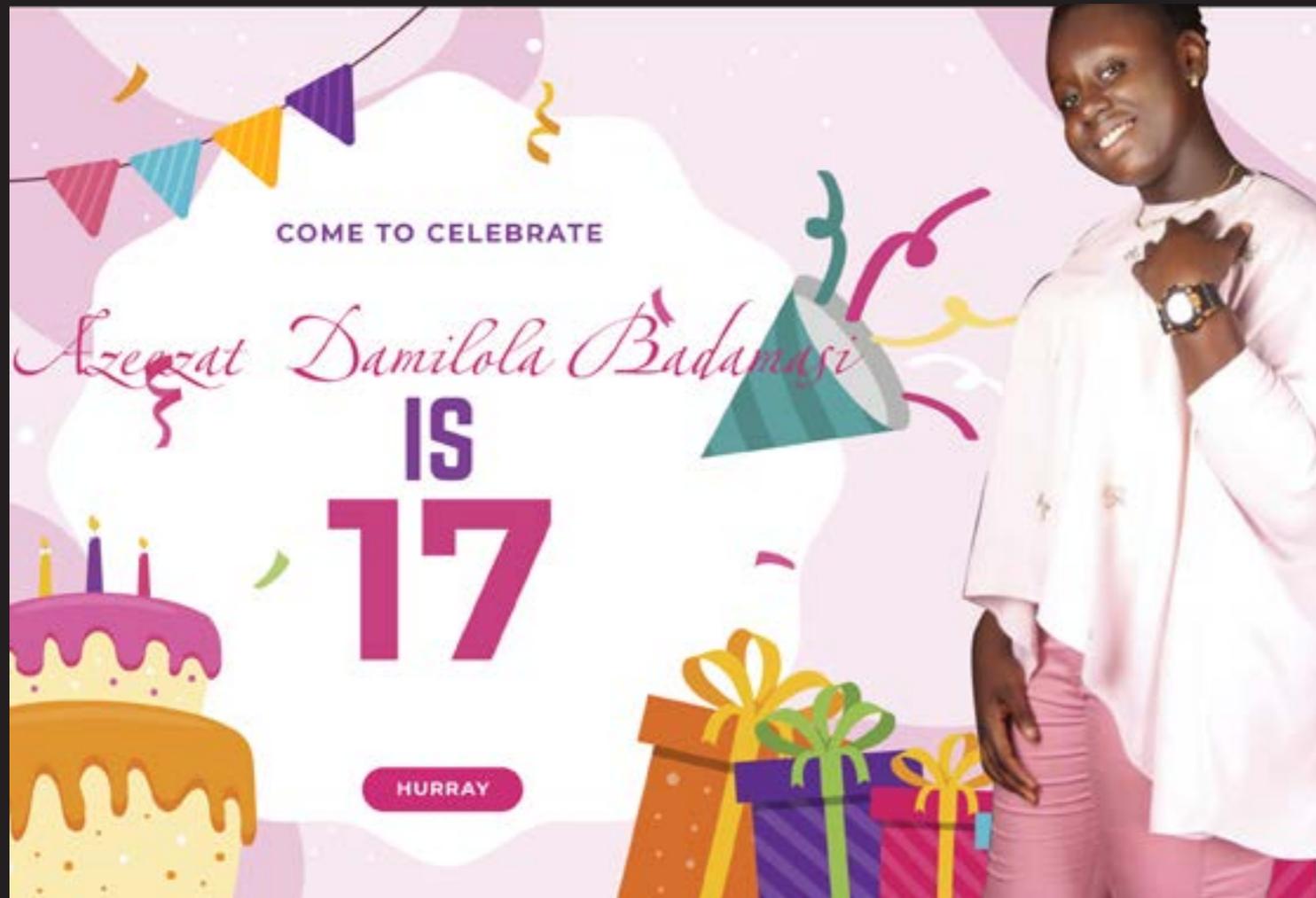
**LOTS OF LOVE,  
DAD, MOM , TAIWO AND KEHINDE**



**CONGRATS!**

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!**  
**YOU ARE LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL BEHIND AND**  
**MOVING ON TO LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE WORLD.**  
**WE WISH YOU THE BEST AS YOU STEP AHEAD**  
**TOWARDS NEW CHALLENGES IN LIFE. CONGRATS**  
**AND MAY ALL YOUR OTHER DREAMS BE FULFILLED.**  
*With Love From,*  
*Dad, Mom and Ian*





**Who is more special than our son and daughter? And what day could be more important than their birthday? Have a happy and healthy birthday our dear son and daughter! Hope your day is as wonderful as you are. We may not be perfect parents but we are lucky to have a perfect son and daughter. You are loved, today, tomorrow and always. Our love and adoration for you is endless, you will be forever cherished**

**With lots of love from,  
Mom and Dad**



**Abdulmuizz Olalekan Badamasi is 7 Hooray!!!**



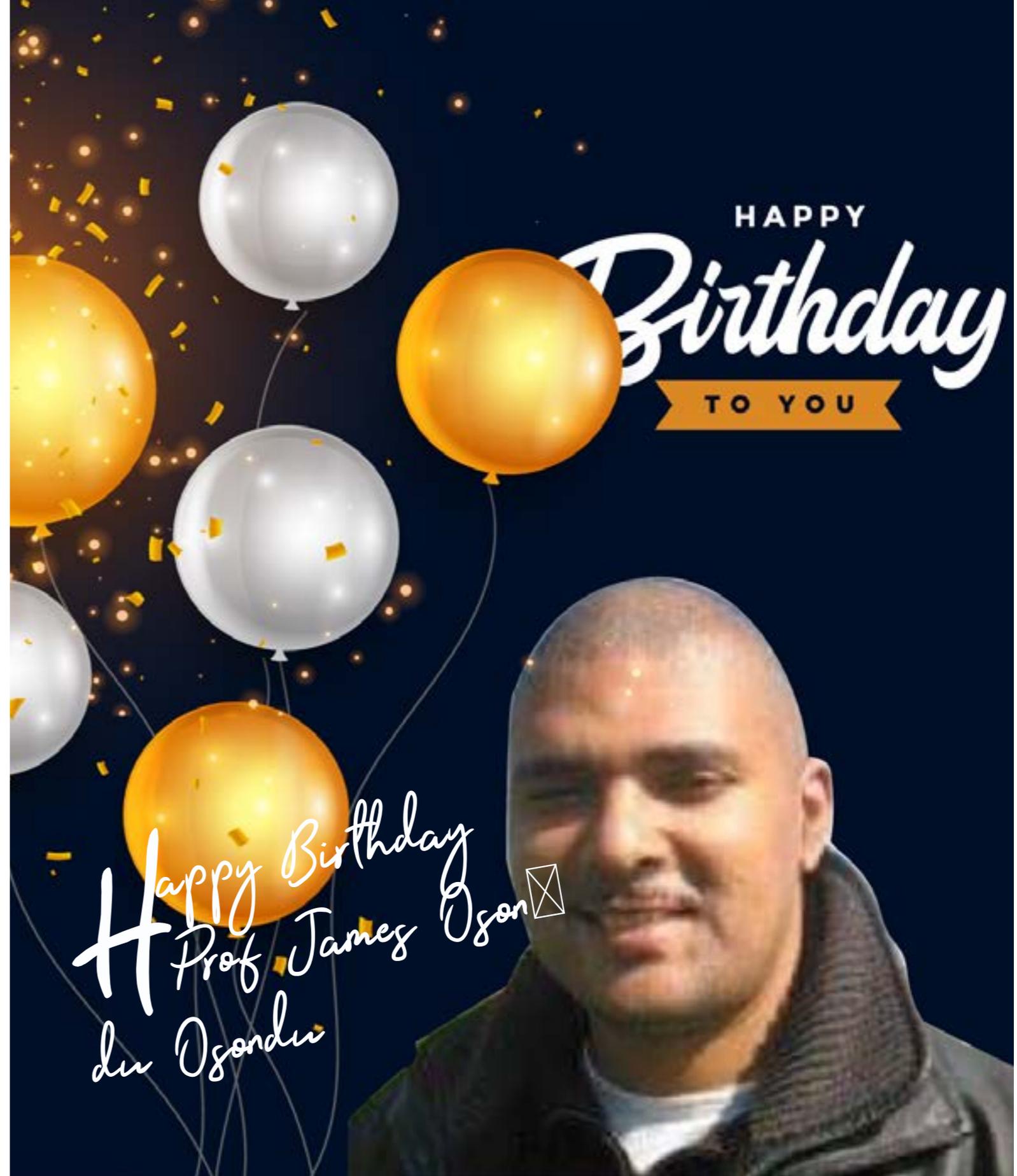
**A very happy birthday to our Sofia, Bulgaria Bureau Chief!**

**While everyone is adjusting to working remotely, James has essentially done his job on the road from the very beginning.**

**He's a pro, and we're grateful for him.**

**Best wishes from,**

**A-CHOICES Management**

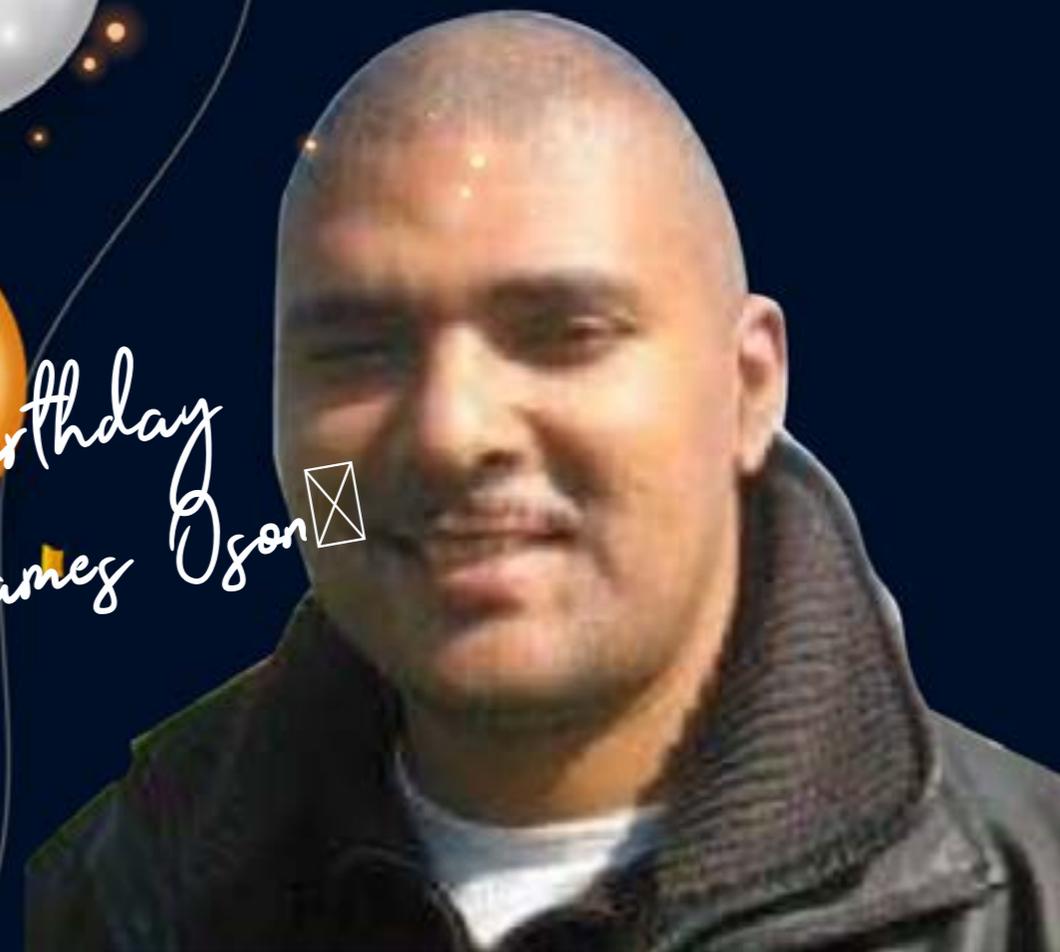


HAPPY

*Birthday*

TO YOU

*Happy Birthday  
Prof. James Oson  
du Osondu*





*Happy Birthday  
to*

**Hajia  
Abebat  
Busari-Oyewo**

Happy birthday to our dearest mother! You are our mom, our best friend, our teacher, our mentor, and advisor.

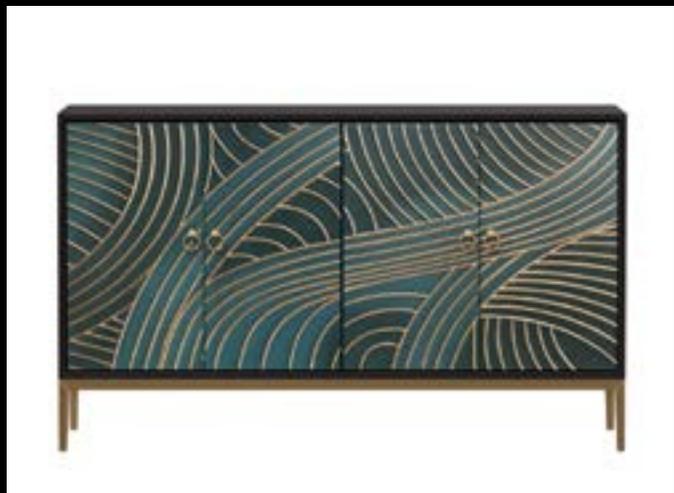
We love you from the Bottom of our Hearts. You've always been the wind that helped the boat of our lives sail through high tides, choppy waters, and endless storms. Happy birthday Sweet Mom.

With Love From,  
Zainab, Abu and Mimi









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# What is ArtWizard?

ArtWizard is a Digital Art Platform for virtual exhibitions. We offer the opportunity to display, offer and buy-sell works by artists and galleries seeking greater access to art connoisseurs across borders, in the EU, and the global world.

The purpose of the platform is to open and make access to world and contemporary art independent of the physical location of the connoisseur/collector and artist or gallery, improving access to the general public, collectors, and art galleries. ArtWizard makes the relationship of artists and galleries around the world easier through the innovative Virtual Art Space, where their works can be represented.

Our team consists of experts in art, curators, marketing, finance, and technology specialists. We work with a wide range of artists and galleries who believe in new technologies, choose the modern approach, and want to expand their presence by offering their works to a wider range of connoisseurs in an innovative way.

ArtWizard offers live updated content of its platform in three different languages – English, French and Russian so that we can reach faster and better different audiences. All our content is presented by professionals in all three languages in real-time.

## What is the innovation of the ArtWizard Platform?

The platform provides a virtual 3D art space where collectors, galleries, and the general public may view online exhibitions, talk to authors, and purchase artworks using the digital communication and payment channel of the platform. The art connoisseurs can virtually walk into the art space and see multiple high-quality images of the selected artworks, curated as an exhibition.

We created a unique Virtual Art Space for exhibitions on the ArtWizard Platform, where artworks can be seen in several (more than five) different environments, in proportions and scale, reflecting the direction and angle of the fall of light, and the spectator can see all artworks with a maximum precision that ensures an experience closest to the real experience.

## Services offered by ArtWizard

ArtWizard offers a hassle-free digital art space that can be accessed by anyone willing to be part of the digital art society. We digitalize the exchange of information, the art presentation, and purchase of artworks in a customer friendly way.

ArtWizard offers a first-class experience for connoisseurs of fine art. Customers can purchase all artworks directly from the platform by sitting comfortably on the armchair in front of the fireplace or desk in their office, using virtual payment methods and receive their work with express delivery to their door, insured by a leading European company and delivered by a first-class courier company. We partner with the best art houses and platforms to promote our artists, galleries, and works.

As the collection of art is also an alternative investment method, ArtWizard provides virtual access to a live price index in order to see how specific categories of art pieces are traded by the most famous auction houses, local and international, and be aware of the approximate value of the investment in case same or similar category of art is purchased by either a collector or a gallery.



NYanakiyev\_A\_Journey\_Through\_Time\_



nocturno



NYanakiyev\_Expectation



IRussev-Summer



IRussev-Turquoise



IRussev-Turquoise



LDimanov\_The\_Butterfly



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NManev\_Golden\_Fairy



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danzas sensuales



NYanakiev\_Expectation



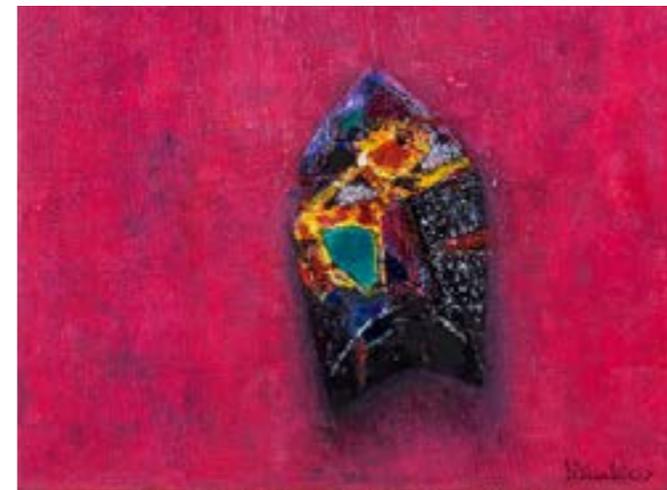
LDimanov\_Peasant\_Boy



el ensayo



NYanakiev\_The\_Little\_Princess



NYanakiev\_Venetian\_Mask

### Services list

1. Digital art space for exhibitions. The service comprises rent of a virtual exhibition art space. It can be used by artists, collectors, and galleries who can exhibit and sell the artworks through the Platform.
2. Representation of an Artist, Gallery, or Collector. The service comprises a full scale of artist/gallery representation including the creation of editorial content, advertising, legal representation, and logistics.
3. Art and design consulting of the ArtWizard platform. The service comprises personalized advice on what artworks to buy for an office or home interior. The ArtWizard team helps to find the specific artworks that will be affordable and suitable for any interior.
4. Live price index.\* The service is designed to show how different art categories that a collector possesses are willing to buy sell globally. It can be used for management decisions related to art, investment decisions, or for the creation of art collection portfolios.
5. Art Investment Consulting. The service comprises the valuation of specific artworks as an investment asset and providing auction estimates.
6. Legal advice. ArtWizard offers legal services related to the protection of artworks, copyright issues, authenticity claims, review of contracts for management, and representation of artists within the EU.



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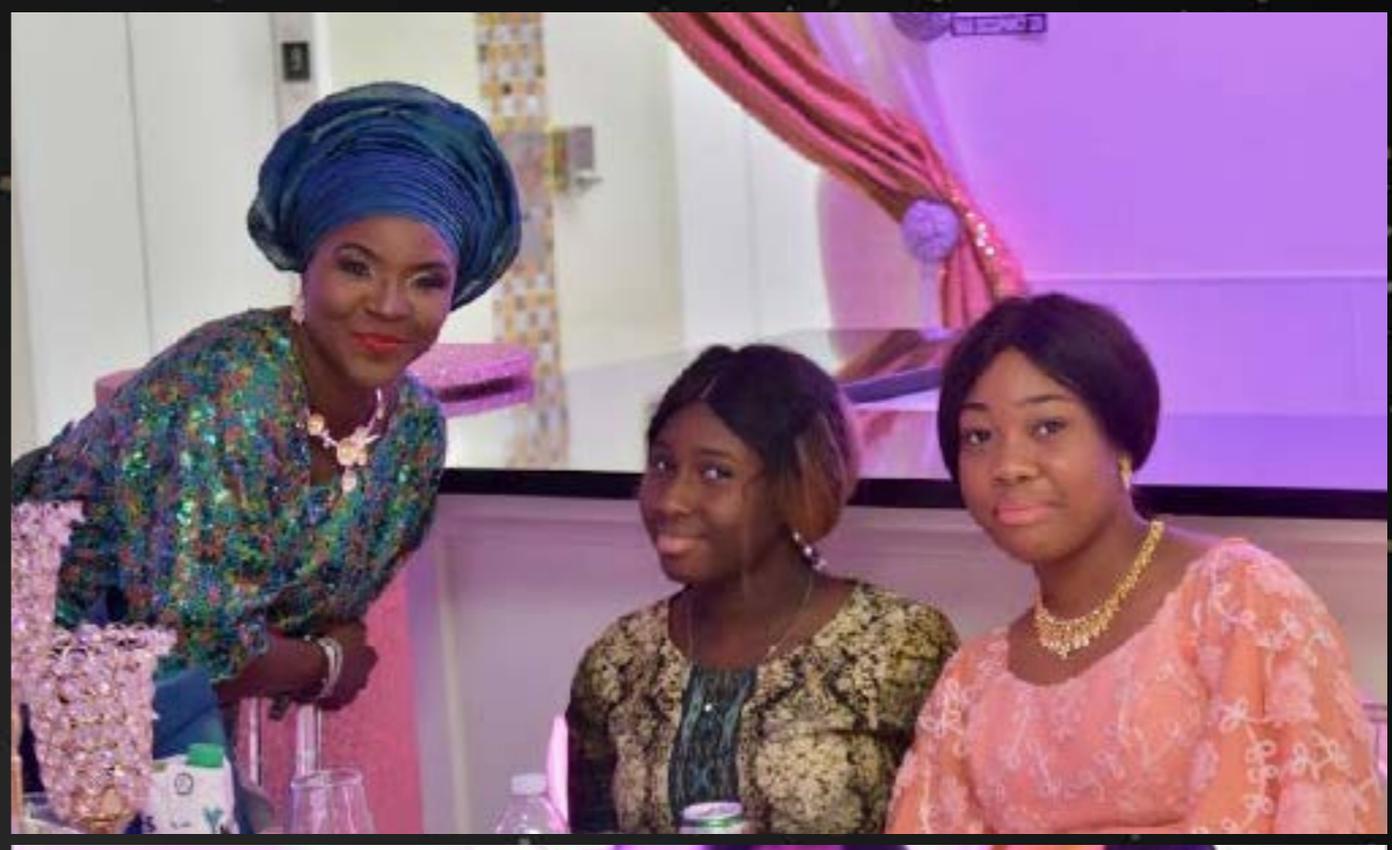




















## HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola & Alben Jones

Although EU citizens can travel and work freely throughout the EU member states, there are still some restrictions in place for those who wish to relocate permanently and for those who are from "third countries", meaning non-EEA countries and people who are not Swiss citizens. Did you know that if you bought a Bulgarian property or business you can obtain permanent citizenship? The recommended way, is to hire a specialist law firm to arrange for immigration and deal with work permit requirements before you arrive. In addition to dealing with your permanent residency needs and work permit issues, a law firm based near your future home can also deal with arranging family permits for non-EU national family members who wish to join you. In this issue we would like to introduce you to such an opportunity. A law firm in Sofia that offer full planning services from buying or renting property, both residential and commercial all the way to assisting you with child care and education if needed.

### CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT

Since 2013, Bulgaria's government has offered a immigration program that can lead to long-term residency and, where applicable, to full citizenship. Since that year, foreign investors have been spending more than 500,000 Euros or 1,000,000 BGN on amazing residential properties that represent excellent value for money and in due time they have been enjoying the benefits of being EU citizens without limitations.

Recently many have discovered the beneficial ways to obtain residency by investment is to either start or buy a company that is registered in Bulgaria. There are certain advantages doing this, as Bulgaria has one of the lowest flat tax rates in the EU (10% at the time of writing). Once the legal period of actually living in the country has been met, it is possible for

non-EU residents to apply for full citizenship. If you happen to be from a third country, investing in a Bulgarian business or investing in Bulgarian real estate can provide you with EU nationality and visa free travel throughout the whole territory of the EU. One advantage of choosing Bulgaria is that the investment is 100% refundable, if you purchase, for example, Bulgarian shares on the stock exchange or buy government bonds or similar investment vehicles. Doing so means you gain unlimited living and working rights throughout the EU territory.

It is also possible to acquire permanent residency status by investing more than 1,000,000 BGN in a Bulgarian licensed credit institution for a time of no less than 5 years or by investing at least 6,000,000 BGN in the capital of a Bulgarian company, where shares are not traded on a regulated market. Investors who get involved with large-scale development projects, such as infrastructure for example, are also able to obtain long-term residency rights. If you are planning to invest in Bulgaria, be it in a company formation, a trade representative office, a second residency opportunity for you and family or simply to retire, live and work in Bulgaria, one must consult a specialist law firm about residency, inheritance and taxation issues.

A-CHOICES recommend our legal partners DP Law Firm, who are one of the most reputable and leading multilingual law firms in Bulgaria. To familiarize yourselves review the published company profile in this issue. When contacting them quote ref: a-choices magazine.

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