

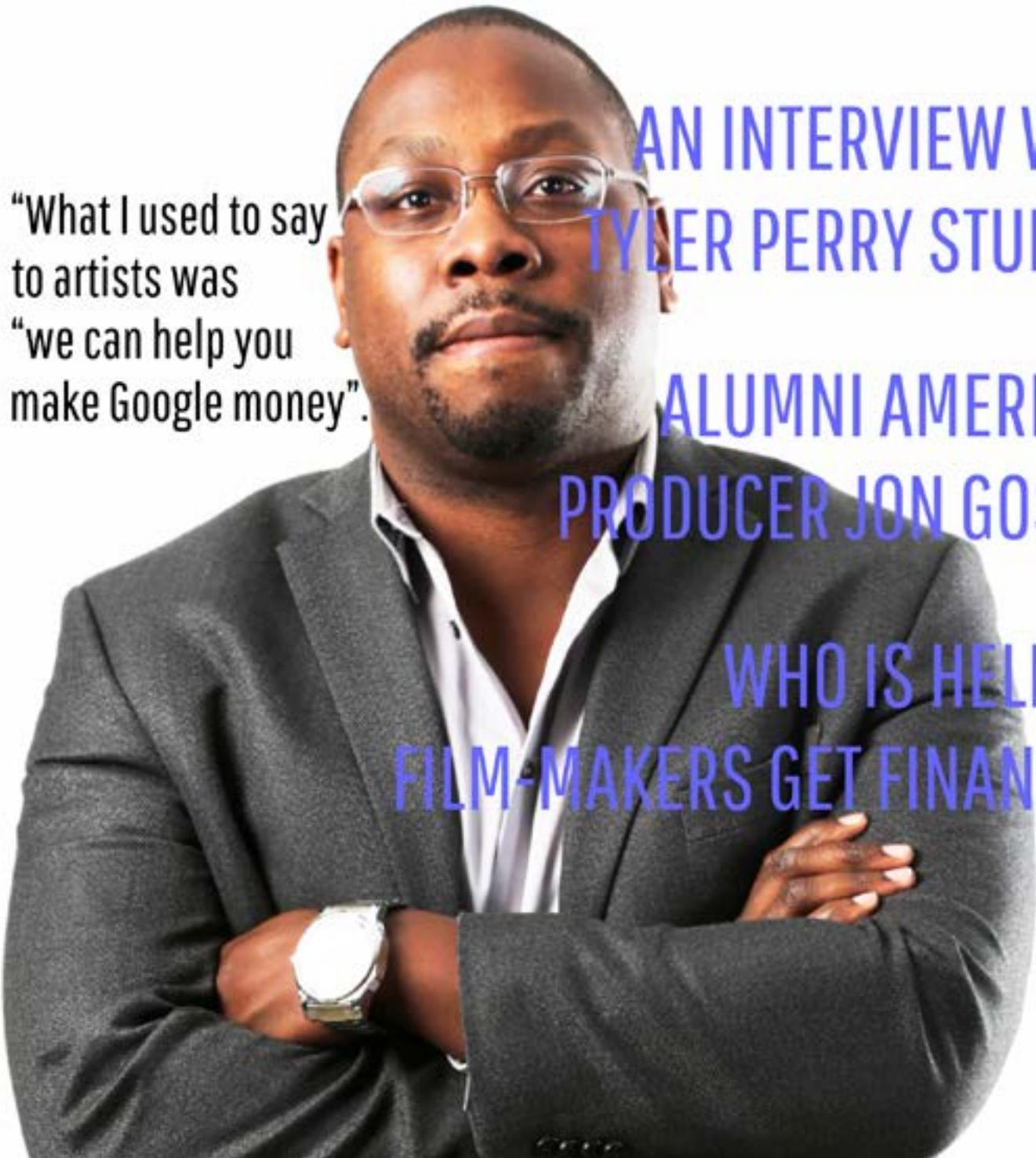
A-CHOICES

Issue Number .14

OCTOBER, 2021

The African Lifestyle Magazine

"What I used to say
to artists was
"we can help you
make Google money".



AN INTERVIEW WITH
TYLER PERRY STUDIOS
ALUMNI AMERICAN
PRODUCER JON GOSIER
WHO IS HELPING
FILM-MAKERS GET FINANCED.

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ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

A-CHOICES magazine is an online African lifestyle magazine for ordinary-educated 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 submissions until halfway through a given issue, so there are no set closing dates.

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

Please send submissions to **achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com**

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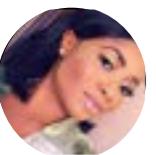
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EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the October issue of A-CHOICES Magazine where we celebrate all that we love about Africa and Africans. Since its launch in 2020, A-CHOICES Magazine has always been about celebrating the best of Africa.

It took decades for Black directors to break into the entertainment industry and alter how Hollywood operated behind and in front of the camera. Directors such as Spike Lee, Ava DuVernay, Jordan Peele and Ryan Coogler are household names, creating works of art and commercially successful projects. Then in the '80s and '90s, Spike Lee and John Singleton used their films to examine urban and racial tensions, providing a mainstream audience with more nuanced Black characters.

Directors such as Melvin van Peebles (R.I.P.) and Gordon Parks put Black narratives at the forefront of their storytelling in the 1970s, creating a subgenre known as "blaxploitation." These films used Black stereotypes about poverty and drug abuse to put Black actors at the centre of the action.

In this edition, our Managing Editor Mr. Seyi Awoleye in Los Angeles, USA interviewed Jon Gosier, the founder and CEO of FilmHedge, An African American producer and entertainment industry professional who previously worked at the Tyler Perry Studios, where he learned the ins and outs of movie production. Now, Gosier is using those gems to help aspiring film-makers find their footing by securing financing for their feature films, TV shows or documentaries. I have no doubts that you will enjoy every piece of this exclusive interview with Jon Gosier...

Remember that A-CHOICES is everything Africa, we celebrate lifestyle and; we celebrate African achievers. You can catch up with us at www.a-choicesmagazine.com for exciting articles and lots more.

Thank you
A-CHOICES

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AN INTERVIEW WITH TYLER PERRY STUDIOS ALUMNI AMERICAN PRODUCER JON GOSIER WHO IS HELPING FILM-MAKERS GETFINANCED.



By:Seyi Awoleye
Los Angeles, California USA

Jon Gosier, the founder and CEO of FilmHedge, American producer and entertainment industry professional worked at the Tyler Perry Studios, where he learned the ins and outs of movie production. Now Gosier is using those gems to help aspiring film-makers find their footing by securing financing for their feature films, TV shows or documentaries.

Gosier's finance background began in venture capital and Tech, having built data focused software companies. He later went into the venture capital space but now finds himself coming full circle back into film through film finance. During his successful business venture in the music and film industries, he has provided A-list recording artists and other entertainers with new ways of capitalizing on their audience data. In the past, he has worked with partners such as Warner Music, Broadscale, Spotify, Tidal, and Nielsen Entertainment. Having attended his fourth Cannes Film Festival in 2021, Jon Gosier is here to stay on the film finance and production scene. He has shined light on rising film stars thanks to his start-up Film Hedge.

A-CHOICES:Hi Jon. Thank you very much for speaking with me today. I know our filmmakers and producers will appreciate your experience and perspectives. To start things off, can you tell us a little bit about yourself, upbringing and educational background?

JON:Hi and thank-you for having me. My name is Jon Gosier, I was born in Virginia but I call Atlanta, GA home because I finished elementary school there, went to middle and high school there, and went to college at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Savannah, GA. Also, even though I was born in VA, my Mom and most of my family are from South Georgia in towns like Valdosta and Albany. So I'm a 'Georgia Boy' through and through. At SCAD originally, I attended for Sequential Art because I loved comics.

But Sequential Art is also known as Storyboarding. Storyboards are hand-drawn illustrations that are used to plan camera and actor placement for Film production.

Literally, you tell the story of the film with sketches because it's cheaper and faster to convey information that way than to actually start calling in all the actors and camera crews just to come up with ideas. So I fell in love with filmmaking back then when I was 17 or 18 while at SCAD. I also briefly attended University of Georgia. Go Dawgs!

A-CHOICES:You have created new business models for entertainment. Can you give us an idea how?

JON:I think you're asking me for examples of how my companies have reshaped entertainment business models. Correct? I'll give you an example from the music industry: I was reading a news article where music legend Pharrell Williams opined about how he only made something crazy like \$30,000 or \$40,000 from his song "Happy" from one of the streaming services.

I was like how is that possible! If one of the most prolific and successful musicians of my generation was making that little on one of the biggest songs of the year, it meant that the smaller artists were making nothing at all.

So I went down a rabbit-hole to figure out why streaming music wasn't making money. Again, this was back in 2014/15 before streaming really hit its stride. It has now become the fastest growing pillar of music industry revenues but that wasn't the case then. I realized that it was mostly because the royalties for streaming were still using benchmarks set by terrestrial radio in the 1950s.

On radio when you broadcast to millions of people, every individual of those millions is considered an 'impression'. Because radio was 1-way communication advertisers never knew how many of those impressions were people actually sitting there listening. So, they had no choice but to pay per impression to reach as many potential listeners as possible.

When you apply those same economics to streaming, that old model no longer works. With streaming, we know EXACTLY how who's listening, how long they listened, and where they are listening from. For like 50 years radio advertisers were over-paying for impressions because there was no way to verify who was reached. With streaming, advertisers could now pay only for who actually listens.

They can now even laser target. Like, 'we only want to pay to reach women in their 50s who have two kids and a dog'. This ability to target fans with relevant ads and content drastically reduced how much money had to be spent on an advertisement. That's why Artists back in 2015 felt like they were getting screwed, because there was a huge drop in earnings from radio to streaming.

Long story short, that led to my founding a company called Audigent (formerly called 'Predictive Pop'), which created a new revenue stream for the music business by monetizing ad targeting data based on people's music listening habits. Before I talked about 'targeting' fans wherever they are across the internet. Audigent does that for music fans. How does it create new revenue for the music biz?

Think of it like this: Google makes money because when you search, you see ads. Those advertisers pay for everyone who sees their ad. Through a process called 'attribution' Google knows how much to pay each website owner who helps generate traffic for that ad.

With Audigent we built something similar to Google's ad targeting tech. In our platform though, our attribution wasn't based on website owners, it was built around music artists. So, if you're a brand trying to reach Beyoncé fans, or Drake fans, or Burna Boy fans, Audigent can laser target them wherever they are.

Using streaming data, we know what music might have motivated you to click on that ad in the first place. So we could attribute the money earned from impressions back to the individual musician. That was the original vision anyways, the company has evolved its services over the years.

What I used to say to artists was "we can help you make Google money". But most importantly, it's money that isn't derived from the sale of music, from touring, from selling merchandise, or even selling ads. Selling ad targeting data, at the time, was new revenue.

A-CHOICES: Can you tell us about your company Southbox Entertainment?

JON: Southbox is a Film and TV Production company that I started in Philadelphia shortly after selling Audigent. In 2018 I moved back to Atlanta, GA and so I relocated the company back here, too.





With Southbox we're focused on producing diverse, global, and genre-bending stories from around the world. With a big focus on contemporary Africa, about African protagonists, or produced in partnership with Africa's creators.

A-CHOICES:So why Africa?

JON:Africa is the second largest continent after Asia. Yet, when is the last time you saw a mainstream major motion picture film about Africa or set in Africa? A lot of people will say "Black Panther"!!! Black Panther was a great film...but it showed you virtually NOTHING about contemporary Africa. If you were to look at all the TV and Film produced out of Hollywood in the past 100 years, you'd see a lot of films set in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Oceania, everywhere. But you'd hardly even know Africa existed save for callbacks to slavery and colonization. But what about a drama about running a telecom in Africa with 300 million subscribers? What about rom-coms set against Kenyan nightlife?

What about stories that are just stories that happen to be in set in Africa but don't make that the focus?

Having lived on the continent for three years, and having visited more than 20 African countries while there, I know that Africa has so many stories to share with the world.

Part of our mission at Southbox is to change Africa's perception in Western media by developing mainstream content that draws from contemporary African culture and current events.

A-CHOICES:You studied music engineering and also worked at Tyler Perry's studio, you left feeling unsatisfied with the entertainment business.But now you are coming full circle back into film through film finance?

JON:Yes. What I learned from watching Tyler was that no one is going to give you permission in Hollywood. It's the land of gate-keepers there to keep you out. Kick the gates down and do things your own way. That's what I learned working with Tyler's company.

In regards to coming full circle, yes. I started off in film but left it all for about ten years. I spent those ten years building software companies, had the benefit of selling two of them, and working in finance. I decided to get back into film because I now have a much better understanding of how the money behind it all works.

A-CHOICES:Can you tell us some of the artists you have worked with and films you and your team have worked on?

JON:I've had a varied career. I started off as a recording engineer working with big artists like Gwen Stefani and Mos Def and dozens of others in the early 2000s.Then, my cofounders at Audigent and I built a tech platform that now serves the entire music industry. The company does business with three major record labels and a number of streaming and social platforms. So I would guess most, if not all, major recording artists have touched our technology, whether they know it or not. Too many to list them, but if they've been on billboard in the past 5 years, it's highly likely.

On the movie side, it's also hard to list them all. Every movie has so many great actresses and actors involved. I suppose I was most excited to co-finance a movie in the SKYLINE sci-fi franchise. A number of great actors have appeared across the three films. People like Lindsey Morgan (The 100), Frank Grillo (Copshop), and Donald Faison (Scrubs).

A-CHOICES:What kinds of films do you look for and at what stage?

JON:Everything Southbox produces is developed in-house. With FilmHedge, people either just visit our website and apply or they are referred to us by Entertainment Attorneys, Lawyers, Investors etc.

A-CHOICES:You attended the 2021 Cannes Film Festival?How was it in your opinion?

JON:Cannes this year was great. Because of covid and travel restrictions it felt like there were only 1/3 to 1/2 the normal attendees.

With less people than normal, it felt a lot more intimate. It was easier to connect with people and to learn about their upcoming projects.

A-CHOICES:In your opinion,why is it crucial for companies to attend Cannes, even if the marketplace is not at peak performance?

JON: For better or for worse, Hollywood is a relationship business. It's always great to get to know people whether its Directors, Producers, Investors, Actors etc. But most importantly, if you're an aspiring filmmaker, try to meet Distributors and Sales Agents. They can often do more for your projects than anyone else in the industry. Everyone thinks they need money and investors first. If you have the distribution cosign first, the money is a lot easier to get.

A-CHOICES:You hosted an event at Cannes this year called The Better World Fund Event. Can you tell us about the fund and how it works?

JON:I'm not involved with the Better World Fund directly, but I was inspired by their mission to promote Peace. They have a special interest in the role film and visual media can play in helping to spread messages of peace and tolerance. So I was thrilled to make a financial contribution to their event this year as a sponsor.

A-CHOICES:What are your hopes for your company down the line? Where would you like to see it go in the next 10 years?

JON:With Southbox we're headed into production on two of our projects which we hope to have out in 2022. With FilmHedge our mission is to make media investing safer and more attractive to financiers.

A-CHOICES:What's the biggest highlight of your career thus far,is there a project or even a moment that you are most proud of?

JON: The work I did early in my career when I moved to

Africa. While there I co-founded groups like AfriLabs and HiveColab. We collectively launched the first three 'Innovation Hubs' on the continent. These hubs are like a mix between incubators, entrepreneurial centers, and co-working spaces that make it easier for tech startups in Africa to launch.

In 2008 there were 3 such centers, now there are almost 700 across Africa, now spearheaded by people like Nigerian entrepreneur, Bosun Tijani. The explosion of venture capital activity happening across Africa now wouldn't be possible without that network. Those hubs are the infrastructure for innovators. It's amazing to have played a small part of growth and to watch it translate to increased investment!

A-CHOICES:What is the best piece of advice in this business you actually followed?

JON:Follow the money

A-CHOICES:What are the requirements for applying for a FilmHedge loan?

JON: Films have always been financed in two ways: with equity and with debt. Most young filmmakers are often only aware of equity capital. Debt, though, is often easier to get if you meet the right criteria. To get debt it usually needs to be secured against something – tax credits, a letter of intent from a streamer, a distribution agreement, or pre-sales analysis. FilmHedge did not invent these industry standards: we build the tech that automates it. Our company's vision is to build a new financial operating system for Hollywood.

A-CHOICES:Most films,especially big budget Hollywood films, are financed by entities in cities like Los Angeles, New York, or London. That's where the real decisions are made about what gets funded. Would you say your mission is to help Atlanta become one of those cities.?

JON:That's part of the benefit of living in Atlanta, yes. But honestly, it's happening anyways.

The reason those cities were the power centers for greenlighting projects in the past was because that's where the major Studios had their offices. Due to the explosion of streaming, most Film and TV content is no longer 'greenlit' by big studios, rather it's all funded by independent financiers all over the world and then acquired by, sat, Netflix, Apple+ or whoever. Atlanta, GA has quickly become one of the world's most popular places to shoot movies. Black Panther 2 is shooting here, Shazam 2, Jungle Cruise, Avengers, Spider-Man etc. have all shot here. But there aren't many groups from Atlanta who fund the many films that shoot in Atlanta.

That is something I'm definitely working to change.

A-CHOICES:Let's talk about your first company, Appfrica. What initiated your connection to creating start-ups and new ventures in Africa specifically?

JON:This is back in 2008. When I moved to Uganda I noticed that companies like Google, Facebook, Telecoms, and various Financial Groups were spending a fortune flying in tech talent from around the world to help them build products for Africa. To fly in a developer from San Francisco, not only are you paying their wage (easily \$250K per year), but insurance (another \$100K), travel (\$10,000), lodging (\$50K) AND probably a vehicle or transportation (another \$50K). So right there you've spent \$460,000 on a single software developer.

I went to a lot of those companies and asked them why they didn't just use talent from the African countries they were in. The average wage for a Senior-level software developer in 2008 was around \$40K. Literally 1/10th the cost of the guy being flown in.

Most would claim "They can't find the right talent" or "We aren't sure they have the right skills". So, I founded Appfrica to be a company that hired African software developers. Then I went to companies spending money to fly in technical talent and pitched them: "You can hire our whole company of 15 software devs (who are just as skilled) for the price of 2 of your foreign developers - and still save money." The math made the case for us.

A-CHOICES:Why Uganda and your first impressions of the country?

JON:I didn't pick Uganda, that was mostly chance. I was dating a girl at the time whose job took her to Uganda to be their regional director. I just decided I would take my chances by moving with her.Uganda is a lovely country. I lived in a place called Mutungo Hill that overlooked the whole city of Kampala. Some-days I'd just go sit outside on the patio and watch the whole city breathe.

A-CHOICES:What were the most important things you learned or experiences during your stay in Africa?

JON:I would just say generally that Africa has so much rich history and stuff happening there that most of the world just doesn't pay enough attention to... until there are problems. The world fetishizes Africa's perceived problems. They want to help Africa do something, anything. The implication is that Africa is helpless to improve itself.

A-CHOICES:Given your experience,what are some common mistakes new Producers make in the process of setting up, producing and ultimately releasing their films?

JON:Spend more time understanding the industry. The days of saying "I just want to make movies, I don't need to know finance or how to read contracts etc." are behind us.You'll be a more effective as a filmmaker if you're more effective at business.

A-CHOICES:Can you help us understand your approach to development? If you really distilled it down to a few essential elements, what do you look for in a script or a story.

JON: For Southbox we specialize in developing projects that are adapted from reality. True stories, whether recent or from history, just dramatized for screen. We have a particular interest in stories about Africa. Our first slate, which I announced at Cannes this year, has a number of feature films inspired by my experiences or observations while in Africa.

The first is a true story. A hacker thriller about the very real digital activist movement across Africa in 2010. While this activity got a lot of news coverage at the time, now, it's like the media collectively forgot about Africa's contribution to things like mobile phones and the crisis technology used around the world daily. In fact, generally, Africa's contributions to tech don't get enough attention. This film is focused on those true events. The film is called "COLLATERAL DATA" and was loosely inspired by my 2014 TED Talk and a later talk I gave in 2018.

A-CHOICES:Who have been some of the most important mentors in your professional life?

JON: I'd say some of my friends and colleagues are also some of my best mentors. People like Josh Harris here in Atlanta who is a film finance expert and Mickey Vetter who comes from the world of private equity.Also my investors are my mentors. Gayle Jennings-O'byrne is an investment banker turned venture capitalist who is my business partner, advisor, and an investor in Southbox. She's been invaluable at helping grow the business to new heights.Also, as new investors come to the table to invest in our vision at Southbox, she's been great at on boarding them.

A-CHOICES:Is there anything else that you would like to share with our readers?

JON:Things work the way they do because we, collectively, accept them. The way businesses work, the way the film industry works, the way any industry works. People have just accepted it. But that doesn't mean you have to accept them, too. If things are unacceptable, I promise they can be changed. You can change them. It won't always be easy, but it's your job (especially as a filmmaker) to challenge what you find unacceptable about the world.



NIGERIAN LADY WAS KILLED BY HER ITALIAN HUSBAND IN ITALY

By:Linda R. Jones
London,UK



Lifestyle

A 61-year-old Italian man, Pierangelo Pellizzar, has allegedly shot dead his 31-year-old Nigerian wife, Amenze Rita, in Italy. It was reported that Rita filed for divorce which angered her embittered husband to carry out the heinous act of killing her. Rita was killed in front of her colleagues in the parking lot of MF Mushroom, a company where she worked on Friday morning, in Noventa Vicentina.

It was gathered that the suspect, Pellizzar waylaid laid his estranged wife at about 7:30am and shot her four times, until life was gone out of her.

After killing Rita, he reportedly escaped from the crime scene riding a grey Cherokee Jeep which was later found abandoned at his brother's house.

More revelations have surfaced on why Italian based 31 years old Nigerian lady Rita Amenze was killed by her 61-year-old Italian husband Pierangelo Pellizzar

It will be recalled that Rita was shot 4 times while she was stepping out of her office CKN News investigation has unravelled why the Italian has been arrested by the Police

A very reliable source in Italy who spoke to CKN News on condition of anonymity made some startling revelations on the incident According to her, Rita came to Italy in 2017 as an illegal immigrant and was rescued at the sea and taken to a refugee camp

In 2018 Pierangelo Pellizzar met her, married her and took her out of the refugee camp. Not too long after, she was granted citizenship (the Italian passport) which enabled her get a good job.

Meanwhile, before moving to Italy, she already had 3 kids back home in Nigeria. Recently, she travelled to Nigeria and got married to the father of her three kids.

Before she returned, her best friend went and revealed to the white man that his wife is cheating on him and has gotten married in Nigeria to the father of her children . She told the white man that he should watch out because as soon Rita returns, she'll file for a divorce.and that was what Rita actually did, she filed for a divorce as soon as she returned. She planned to divorce the white man and relocate her Nigerian husband and children to Italy.

Her Italian husband would not hear of it. But all attempts to convince her to change her mind were rebuffed.

On the day of the crime, he traced her to her office, shot her four times in front of her colleagues before handing himself over to the police.

Investigations showed that he is a drug addict who has been in and out of jail severally.

He has pleaded that he was emotionally disturbed and depressed by the behavior of Rita which led to his action

Pierangelo Pellizzar was previously banned from acquiring firearms, but it was not clear how he was able to lay his hands on the gun he used in killing Rita Amenze

The Nigerian Ambassador to Italy, the Nigerian Community in Italy as well as the Executive Chairman of Nigerian Diaspora Commission Hon Abike Dabiri Erewa have called for a thorough investigation into the incident.



FABRICE MUAMBA'S SON SUBJECTED TO RACIST ABUSE DURING A SCHOOL RUGBY GAME IN

By:Linda R. Jones
London, UK



Sports

Manchester Grammar School says it is to launch a full investigation after former Bolton Wanderers football star Fabrice Muamba claimed his 12-year-old son was subjected to racist abuse during a rugby game.

Former Bolton player Fabrice, who retired from the game after a near-fatal cardiac arrest on the pitch in 2012, took to social media to call out the abuse his son received at the weekend.

He said that monkey chants were directed at his son during the rugby game.

In a statement on his official Twitter and Facebook pages on Saturday night, Fabrice said: "Today my 12 year old son received monkey chants for scoring at a rugby game." The culprits were Manchester Grammar School students. "Manchester Grammar School I hope this incident will be addressed within your team and school." Racism is learnt, be careful what you are teaching your children."

Manchester Grammar School has responded with an official statement, saying a full investigation will now be carried out into the claims. The statement said: "Manchester Grammar School condemns any form of racism. We are a diverse school with pupils from all backgrounds, and we take any allegations of racism incredibly seriously."

"Racism is abhorrent and we know the damage, distress and upset it causes. It is something we talk about regularly to all pupils.

"We have already launched a full investigation to establish what happened and we will take the appropriate action.

"As part of that inquiry we will be speaking to the family as soon as possible to offer our support and address their concerns."

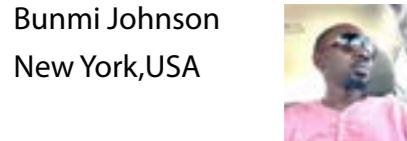
Manchester Grammar School, based in Rusholme, is the largest independent day school for boys in the UK. Fabrice, who lives in Cheshire with wife and three children, responded to the school's tweets.

He said he was keen to speak to them formally on Monday (13 September) "to discuss how we can collectively prevent this from happening to another student". He added: "There needs to be consequences for actions."



NATALIA BRYANT MAKES HER MET GALA DEBUT.

Bunmi Johnson
New York, USA



Entertainment

An adorable debut! Late Kobe Bryant's 18-year-old daughter, Natalia, kept her Monday, September 13, Met Gala look "young and fun" for the "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion" theme.

The 18-year-old daughter of Vanessa Bryant and late basketball legend Kobe Bryant wore a colorful look designed by Conner Ives for the glamorous occasion.

While appearing on the carpet, she told "Entertainment Tonight" that she had wanted to wear something "really fun and young."

"I'm so glad Anna Wintour allowed me to wear this exhibit dress by Conner Ives," she said. "This just feels like a dream ... everyone's just been so welcoming and nice."

Before the star-studded gala, Natalia, who is a freshman at the University of Southern California and also represented by IMG Models, told "Access Hollywood" that she had "no idea" what to expect inside the event but that she was looking forward to seeing Ciara, a close family friend.

Natalia's glam outing came seven months after she signed her first modeling contract. "I have always been interested in fashion since a very young age," the teenager told IMG Models via Instagram in February. "I have a love for the industry and ever since I can remember I wanted to model. There is a lot to learn but I feel this is a great opportunity for me to learn and express myself creatively. I am beyond thrilled and honored to be a part of the IMG family!"



Vanessa Bryant gushed over her eldest daughter's look on Instagram, writing, "Bringing back preschool drop off feelings as I send my first born off to her first Met Gala."

The late Los Angeles Lakers player died in a January 2020 helicopter crash, along with his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and seven other victims. The Olympian, who also shared Bianka, 4, and Capri, 2, with Vanessa, worked to make their kids' lives "as normal as possible" despite his fame.

BRITAIN'S FIRST BLACK TRAIN DRIVER WHO'S 'NEVER BEEN LATE' AND NEARLY LOST HIS LEGS IN A CRASH.

By:Edward Collins
London,UK

Wilston Samuel Jackson was seriously injured in a train crash, but he didn't panic at all.

Wilston moved to London from his hometown of Portland in Jamaica

"I've never been late," Wilston Samuel Jackson would proudly tell anyone who asked about his career as London's first ever Black train driver.

His legacy opened the doors for future generations of Londoners of Afro-Caribbean heritage to take up important positions on the capital's Underground and rail networks.Jackson, who was known as Bill by his close friends and family, migrated to the UK from his hometown of Portland, Jamaica in 1952, aged 25, upon the sudden and unexpected passing of his father.

He also worked as a fireman until 1962.The unforeseen tragedy sent shockwaves through his family and forced him to abandon his childhood dream of becoming a dentist. Instead, Jackson found himself off-course in London, where he first got a job working in a glass factory. It wasn't before long, however, that Jackson landed himself another job, repairing railways that had been damaged during the Blitz in World War II.

He also worked as a fireman until 1962, when he finally qualified as the first Black person in Britain to become a fully-licensed locomotive train driver.He had achieved what even other Black workers on London's railways didn't believe could be. Meanwhile, a number of Jackson's white colleagues were alarmed to see a Black man break through the ranks and disrupt the status quo of white dominance in the industry.

Just two years into his new career, his train-driving days almost met a premature end. They conspired to boycott Jackson, with all agreeing to abstain from working with him. On his first day as a train driver, the white fireman assigned to work with Jackson refused to join him. Thankfully for Jackson, however, not all of his colleagues were so narrow-minded. His foreman has his back, and instructed the bigoted fireman to go home as he was fired.

Shocked, the fireman later went back to Jackson and took back what he said earlier, to which Jackson coolly replied: "I don't have a problem with you, it is you who have a problem with me. If you do your job well, we'll get along fine."

But just two years into his new career, his train-driving days almost met a premature end.

On October 5, 1964, his train was involved in a head-on collision with another.

The crash was caused by a faulty green-light signal in foggy conditions near Finsbury Park station. He and a colleague had to be cut free by the fire brigade.

His 18-year-old companion escaped with just a few scratches, but Jackson's legs were completely severed.

He was immediately rushed to hospital, where he underwent surgery to reattach his legs.

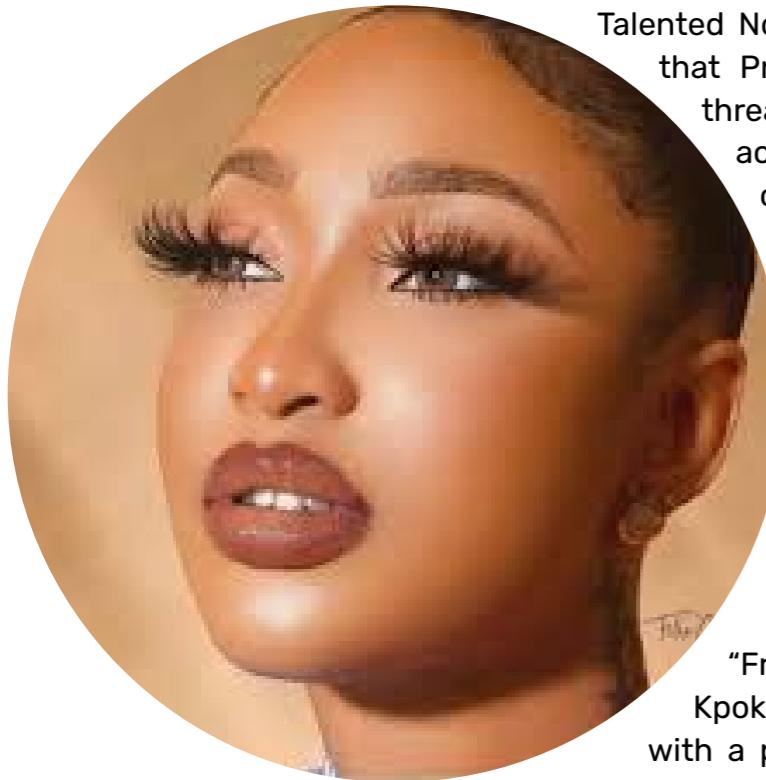
Despite the accident resulting in him spending the next two years receiving treatment, a report published by the Evening Standard quoted a fellow railwayman as saying that Jackson "didn't panic at all" and that he simply smiled when rescue workers reassured him.

By 1966, Jackson was back on his feet. Never one to miss an opportunity, he answered a call from Zambia, where experienced train drivers were badly needed. While there he met the love of his life, Naomi, and together they decided to settle in Zambia long-term. He later took up a life of farming, until moving back to the UK in 2002 to continue receiving treatment for his tired 75-year-old legs, bringing his wife and kids back with him.

Jackson sadly passed away at the age of 91 on 15 September 2018, not long after suffering from a stroke. A year before his passing, a blue plaque was displayed at Kings Cross train station in his honour, and his family now hope his memory will be externalised with an official National Heritage Blue Plaque that is expected to be unveiled at the station later this year.



My Ex-Lover Threatening To Expose My Nudes – Tonto Dikeh



By:Okunlola Kayode F.
Lagos-Nigeria

Talented Nollywood Actress,Tonto Dikeh, has alleged that Prince Kpokpogri Joseph, her ex-lover, is threatening to release her nude pictures.The actress,whose relationship with Kpokpogri, crashed in August, said this in a petition to the police.She accused her ex-lover of blackmail, extortion, and obtaining by false pretence.

In the petition, which her legal team issued on her behalf, the actress said Kpokporgi has refused to return N2 million he collected from her.She also claimed that one of her expensive vehicles is in his possession.

"From sometime in June 2021, one Prince Kpokpogri Joseph started to court our client with a proposal to marry her. In the process, he would invite our client to his residence and sometimes, he came over to our client's residence."

"Unknown to our client, the said Joseph Kpokpogri (who our client later discovered to be a serial blackmailer) had other motives for courting our client."Our client now has reasons and evidence to believe that Joseph Kpokpogri has planted closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV Cameras) at private areas of his residence, and had stage-managed those visits with the aim of blackmailing our client.

"She was surprised when sometime in August 2021, the suspect started demanding money from her and threatening to expose nude pictures and other such documents relating to her."To actualize his demands, the said Kpokpogri started sending messages, documents, and files containing sensitive information and materials relating to our client to her phone while also releasing some to the public.

Entertainment

Our client believes that some of those information were obtained either by wire-tapping her phone and/or through such other means without her authorization.

"The said Kpokpogri equally obtained the sum of eight million naira (8,000,000) from our client under false pretenses.However, he has paid back the sum of six million naira (6,000,000) but has refused, failed, and/or neglected to pay the sum of two million naira (2,000,000) outstanding. Our client's Toyota Hilux van (2021 Model) bought in her name is also in the custody of Kpokpogri which he has refused to return despite several demands."By reason of the above, we urge you to use your good offices to cause a detailed investigation into the above facts with a view to bring Joseph Kpokpogri to book."

Their relationship turned sour after an anonymous blogger revealed Kpokpogri's alleged infidelity.Kpokpogri later released statements that implied that the actress was unfaithful as well.He also leaked an audio where the actress was heard begging him over something that went wrong in the relationship.



Olakunle Churchill And Rosy Meurer Unveil Son's Face.



Olakunle Churchill and his new family have set social media abuzz. The businessman and his new wife, Rosy Meurer finally unveiled their baby's face on Monday, September 20 via their respective Instagram pages, posting photos of themselves and their son in traditional attires. Recall that Rosy Meurer and Olakunle Churchill welcomed their baby in March 2021, a few days after they announced their marriage.

However, the couple were dragged for filth on social media, recalling how Tonto Dikeh few years ago accused Meurer of being the reason behind her broken marriage, which she denied. Now taking to his Instagram page, Olakunle shared a photo of his new family covering the front page of Media Room Hub magazine.

Churchill, his wife and son, are seen twinning in the same outfit as he revealed the name of his son as King Churchill Omoniyi Oladuuni-Churchill. Olakunle Churchill has kept the identity of his son with actress, Rosy Meurer a secret since he was born.

Entertainmennt

By:Okunlola Kayode F.
Lagos-Nigeria



First black Miss Ireland exposes horrific racist abuse she's suffered since win.

By:Linda R.Jones
London,UK



Lifestyle

"It feels amazing to be that face that young black girls can look at and say, 'yes she did that, so we can as well.'" Those are the words of 26-year-old medical scientist Pamela Uba. She's been crowned Miss Ireland 2021, becoming the first black woman in history to win the title. The competition has been running since 1947, but Pamela says it's "crazy to imagine that 74 years went by before anyone different won this."

Pamela hit back at trolls who accused her of not representing Irish people and not being 'grateful' for the opportunity to live in the country - saying it was 'just a snippet' of the abusive behaviour she had faced. Pamela Uba will go on to represent the country at Miss World. The first black Miss Ireland has revealed she has been targeted with racist messages since she was crowned. She told how she was delighted at the "significant" moment for Ireland and its minority communities.

However her joy was soon blighted as ugly messages of hate began flooding her social media. She said the racist comments had begun when she was crowned Miss Galway and had got even worse since she was announced Miss Ireland.

Pamela moved to the Republic of Ireland from South Africa aged seven, with her mum and three siblings. They lived in a direct provision centre - a system of asylum seeker accommodation - before moving to a place in County Mayo.

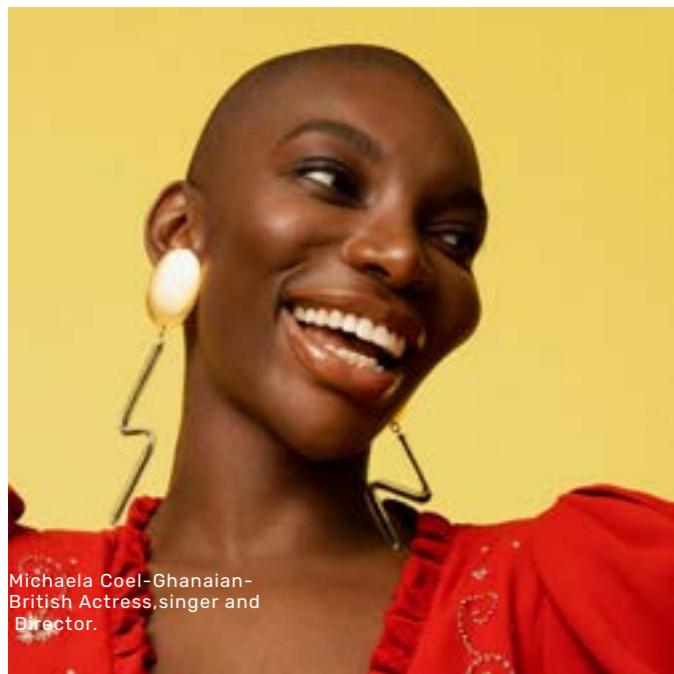


At the time, her mother was given €9 for each child, every week, from the government. "In the centre was quite a strange life, we were quite dependent on the government, we weren't allowed to work so it was quite a hard time for my mum at the time." It's just a strange way to grow up, I didn't really like my friends coming over because I didn't want them to see me as very different."

BLACK BRITISH ENTERTAINMENT.



By: Naomie
Macanda
Senior Writer



Black to Front: The unfortunate murder of George Floyd saw a national outcry on the treatment of black people. The response cementing that Blacks Lives Matter. The movement did not just address the safety and discrimination of black individuals in America and other western countries such as Britain and France, but also the lack of opportunity and representation of black individuals across a wider array. After the murder of George Floyd, Microsoft made statement stating its support for black people as well as black businesses.

Entertainment

The company issued out a statement which listed several commitments it was willing to make to the black community in order to close the racial inequality gap. Microsoft made a promise to not just make this change internally by investing \$150 million for their own diversity efforts, but also promising to double the number of black employees in senior positions. They have invested over \$1 billion to non-profits organisations serving black communities and are making efforts to double their black suppliers by 2023.

Many other organisations have tried to show allyship to the black communities. Airbnb announced in a tweet that it will donate a total of \$500,000 to the NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People) and Black Lives Matter. Etsy donated \$1 million to Equal Justice Initiative and Borealis Philanthropy's Black-Led Movement Fund. Not only did it show its support through monetary donations, but also added a landing page dedicated to black creators.

Allowing them an exclusive place to showcase their products. One organisation that is maximising their efforts when it comes to the commitment they have made to improve the representation of black talents across the TV industry is Channel 4. Channel 4 have launched a 'Black To Front' Project.

A statement on their sites states "The purpose of the project is two-fold: firstly, to challenge us all to see our content differently, and secondly, to leave a lasting legacy in terms of increased Black representation both on- and off-screen".

On the 10th of September Channel 4 broadcaster various programmes which feature black talents such as writers, artist, TV presenters as well as football players. All in celebration of black arts. Channel 4 stated in its statement that its programme was not only intended to entertain and provide relocatable content to its black viewers but to also create "national" conversation about how black people are portrayed as well as represented. The 10th of September was not just a day of celebrating black talent, but it was also the commencement of new all-black starring shows.



Kiddwaya, son of Billionaire Terry Waya.

The Highlife - which is a docu-reality show, follows the rich and famous Nigerian and Ghanaians making their own mark and allowing us a view into the glitz and glamour. The cast includes DJ Cuppy, daughter to Nigerian Billionaire Femi Otedola, Bernicia Boateng - Makeup Artist to celebrities such as Michaela Coel and Clara Amfo. Alongside Kiddwaya, son of Billionaire Terry Waya, with other rich and famous faces. The highlife will follow these Africans who merge the African culture as well as their western cultures, whilst curating spaces that's suitable for them! We all know too well that us Africans are nothing but raw, and with British televisions series not being short on drama, this black reality show is sure to be compact with laughter, one-liners, wisdom and a luxurious lifestyle that will make all of us side-eye our parents.

Big Age is a comedy about young black British friends who are trying to navigate lives in their 20's. Dealing with family, tradition and customs, friends, expectations as well as identity. Big Age isn't just about being black in the U.K but it's about being young and black and what it means in the modern world of young westerners. So much relatable content lined up and the foundation have us all primed for what's to come.



DJ Cuppy, daughter to Nigerian Billionaire Femi

However, like channel 4 correctly stated, it's not just all about feeling like we see ourselves on TV although that's a big step in the right direction. It's also about finding ways to communicate how we feel in wider society and finding ways to echo those feelings whilst being unfiltered, accepted and safe. Which is where Channel 4 really hit the mark with Unapologetic. Unapologetic is described as a "late night topical discussion programme that doesn't hold back". In laymen terms black people saying how they feel and not feeling guilty about it. A talk show which sets the basis of how talk shows should be, not worried about compliance, not worried about making others uncomfortable.

Butting heads because many great ideas are birthed from disagreements, and being what we know and love black people to be. Blunt.

Unapologetic is the type show that makes your white friend leave and go make herself a cuppa in the kitchen as she runs from the discomfort of the truth. But also flushes out the black friend who doesn't care about moving society forwards and is just here make some noise. Because although the conversation is raw, unfiltered and opinionated at best, it is coveted with intellectual points, compelling arguments and most of all full of emotions. A conversation about issues that deeply affect us.

With an array of diverse content and presenters bringing heart, soul and passion to the front of our screens, channel 4 is feeding the black people of UK like we have never been fed before. However, the one funny thing about food is, in order to stay nourished, you must continuously be fed! You can have the beast meal of your life, but if it is a one-off meal, it will not sustain you.



Bernicia Boateng
– Makeup Artist

We need to be fed, just how your daily breakfast preps you for the day and gives you motivation to carry on, the same way we need the big breakfast show to be hosted by more black individuals so that we can stay motivated and stay unafraid of being ourselves. It's all great having the 10th of September mark a day of change, just how it's all great having one day celebrating black historians.

However, what would be greater is if this wasn't just 'a project', but became part of mainstream. If 'Black To Front' didn't have an assigned budget, or end date. That would be the beginning of real change. Not a one-time dopamine boost. A way of British television life.



Clara Amfo
British Radio and TV



By: Naomie
Macanda
Senior Writer



The Catch-Up Game: The Importance of supporting each other.

For over 180 years since slavery ended, black people have been playing the catch-up game. We have been trying to level out in a race that is rigged, a race we joined when everyone else was halfway through the lane, whilst they oiled the lanes and threw marbles down our lanes for more dysfunction and to prevent any chance we have to finish the race successfully with our body parts, mind, spirit and dreams still intact. I know this sounds like a dramatic illustration, but trust me, once I've explained and aided you in visualising this, you'll see how the above statement is understated.

The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 ended the practice of slavery fully. This was supposed to be the beginning of something new. After this, we were allowed to finally start living. The black community started to rebuild and Wilfred Denniston Wood KA (born 15 June 1936) became Bishop of Croydon from 1985 to 2003, the first black bishop in the Church of England.

He came second in the 100 Great Black Britons list in 2004, creating a safe space for black people to gather around and speak, organise, heal, but most importantly be seen (Moore, T. 1991). Whilst we were teaching ourselves how to read, write, the laws and how to make it work with the small land we were given, the opposing team was thriving. They were applying to universities and getting law degrees. Whilst we were building a safe space, a community and a system, they had already curated a few systems, policies, legislations and bodies of network. In order to be eligible to vote, one had to be qualified by academic qualifications or own property. The Representation of the People Act 1918 ended property qualifications for male suffrage, meaning black men were finally allowed to vote, 84 years after liberation. However, this comes after a staggering 15,204 black men had joined and fought for the British empire in 1914, with more than over a thousand dead and over 600 wounded (Stephen Bourne, 2014), which is hilarious right? You can fight and die for a country that you cannot have a say in.

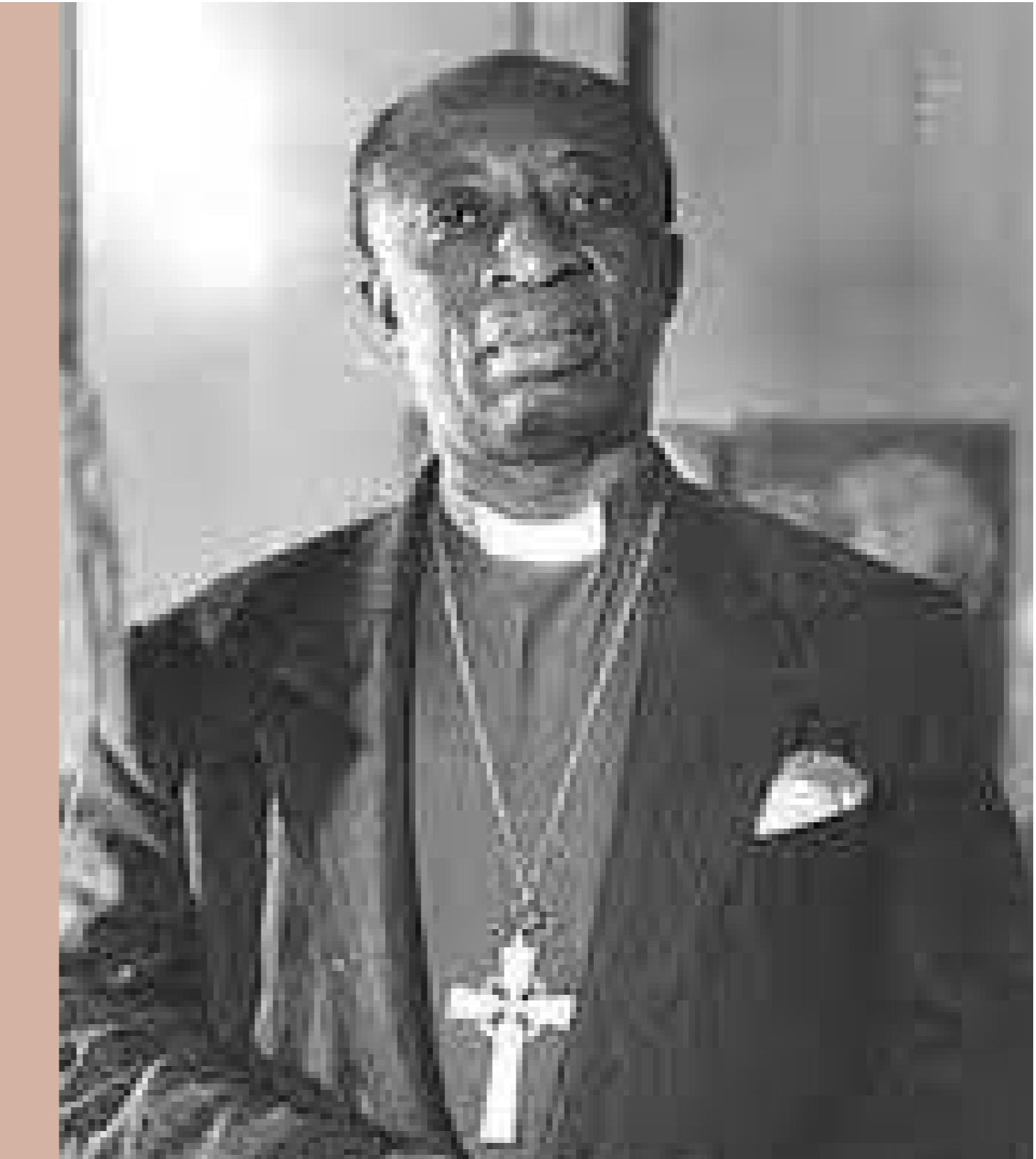
Once everything had calmed down and life was resumed nearly back to normal after the war, as the white people were expanding, solidifying and networking, we were building, creating and attempting, experiencing the trial and error our capturers had the luxury of trying with us by their sides. This is why now, in this modern time, we need to keep investing and keep giving back to black owned business, black owned organisation, and black owned entrepreneurs. We are playing the catch-up game. We joined the race in 1834 and with not being allowed to go to school to get jobs in prestigious establishments, and not allowed work that didn't involve manual labour, whilst our opposition was thriving, we were still creating our lane, giving it direction and generating the rules in which the race will be monitored in. And whilst we practiced, they greased our lanes with the systematic laws, the right to vote, black and white children not studying together but there not being any black teachers, and the curriculum of black children being different to those of their white counterparts (Coard, 1970). In his book, 'The ESN' (Educationally Subnormal) Coard specifically stated that along with the different learning material, the poor self-image, self-esteem and self-belief the vast majority of the black children experienced was the reasons for this, and its consequences for their school (and later life) performance. This my friend, showcases how the oiling of the lane made it so that even though we ran, we would be in the same spot, like a -man-made treadmill, only this form of exercise is against you. However, this is not anything new to anyone who is aware and conscious of how society is run.

When the covert racism was exposed and they had to adjust their policies, they began to throw marbles down our lanes, with policies such as stop and search (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) to deter any advancement. With their police force killing us, their older generation preventing jobs and opportunities, their brands and company blackballing us, they just kept the marbles going. With the media behind them, who would call the referee to say this race is rigged? No one.

To be successful and to curate generational health and stand on your own, there needs to be a network of organisations that all aid the race in running smoothly. There needs to be a fair referee, there need to be supporters highlighting to you the strength you have, and there needs to be sponsors and volunteers whom are providing water and uniform, all to be within a chance to win.

To have power and authority we need to sponsor more lawyers, technicians, mortgage brokers, youth centres, entrepreneurs, teachers, politicians etc.; putting ourselves in a position where we have people to back us, those individuals who have our best interest at heart and are willing to fight for us, because they know also, they have people that will fight for them.

But we need to do more, because we need to catch up, we need to give everything it takes, every single penny, thought, time, breath, platform and more back to the black community. It's not just about buying the Cantu from the black aunty, it's more than that, let her keep the change. How many Nija movies have you watched and positively rated on Netflix? It's not just about the hashtag when we cry, it's about the everyday, going the extra mile, so we can have a chance at catching up. Every single decision you make on a daily will count, so make it count.





By:Akosua Darko
Senior Writer
London,UK

Lifestyle



"Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me." (Zora Neale Hurston)

I see the rush to implement 'diversity' for companies and people to look good and let's be honest people from minorities cashing in on the cash it brings and selling inauthentic stories proclaiming entitlement. I do love the authentic stories about due diligence. Yet let's not pretend half the people who make these tokenised spaces are severely handicapped morally, sometimes ill equipped and have just capitalised and found a shrewd way to get money and a position undeserved.

Equality and representation matters but at what cost. It's costing those who deserve the spaces to be overlooked for con men or women who know how to play the system and be uncle Tom's and Auntie Thumbelina's. A marvellous example is the Black Lives Matter Founder Patrisse Cullours, who hasn't spent the money on black projects but on climbing up the social and wealth ladder. My fear is as many black people go on a ridiculous journey to prove themselves worthy for people not to discriminate against them they lose what the civil rights protestors wanted for them all along. For them to feel confident in their skin and live abundantly.

I don't have role models but there is a story about a poor, disenfranchised, undedicated, voodoo priestess and author which I have always felt was extremely touching. Zora Neale Hurston, the woman who came before Alice Walker, a pioneer for civil rights who refused to be angry, and limp around her whole life talking about the ills and unfairness of racism. Instead she lived her life as an example of black excellence. This poor woman who had no role models, no background and no education, as well as no respect given to her in society managed to cultivate a sense of dignity for her own self and an admirable confidence.

"Sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me. "She was totally unbothered by racists and didn't write boring soulless books filled with legalism on why there should be a Utopia of no Racism. We all know discrimination will never end and that's why it's laws that are needed which work that can stop racism from stop potential. She wrote books that challenged racism and challenged black people to stand up, believe in themselves and not look for outside approval. As well as not spend their lives whining about racism, or figuring out how to be the creme de le creme in the social system regardless of their race or be demoralised by quiet frankly ridiculous people.

Now if someone called me a racist slur I would report them but I wouldn't let their stupidity be my burden, I may even laugh at their ridiculousness. I don't give a damn what a racist thinks about me. I would rather take actions to empower myself and change the system so it's fairer. That is more powerful than losing sleep over things that won't change without action.

If the civil right movements were about moaning and waiting for representation, or people to like people. Slavery, segregation and colonialism would have never stopped. Zora Neale Hurston reminds us it's possible to live fully, expand your full potential with dignity, create change and not give a damn about a racist or what a racist or any other abusive ridiculous person thinks about you. After all what you should know is that you are fabulous company.

What this new system of faux 'wokeness' (real enlightenment) can never be wrong and undeserved praise and positions have created are low self esteem and people who know they don't deserve what they have got but somehow try to convince themselves that the scales of justice are on their side and it's just the imposter syndrome.

We also have people feeling even worse about themselves due to them focusing on racists rather than how wonderful they are or could be. Of course equality and diversity is needed but equality of opportunity and not outcome is the way to go. Let's not deceive ourselves that the best black people for jobs and positions, who are not bending down to the status quo are still not pushed to the side.

It's a marvellous thing to see people who are brilliant succeed like Kobe Bryant, Chadwick Bosman and Lupita Nyongo succeed because it's well deserved and there's no denying it. If they did not get their glory it would be down to race. It's a totally different thing to see someone undeserving hold a position because they played the pity and representation card to get it.

"Some people could look at a mud puddle and see an ocean with ships." (Zora Neale Hurston)
In Zora's time there were other writers some not as good with more fame, some could even pass for white and enjoy the wealth and privilege that brought, yet all some could do was moan and be angry about who they could be without Racism. Zora Neale Hurston on the other hand decided she could be who she wanted to be.

That's my wish for you this Black History Month, to believe in yourself and know the world is your Oyster and to be black and proud.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH.



Tips for staying healthy!



By: Mpheza Clara Manda
Senior Correspondent
Lusaka, Zambia

Health

Maintain a Healthy Weight. ... (BMI)

Exercise Regularly. ... Master a few body-weight exercises you can do anywhere, like planks, push-ups, wall squats, and lunges. Choose "bodyweight Moves You Can Do Anywhere" I do yoga poses a lot.

Drink a lot of clean water, be adequately hydrated. If you are dehydrated for about 10 to 14 yrs you might suffer stroke.

Eight to Six hours sleep per day is a win win.

Take time to rest/relax your body.

Don't Smoke. ...

Eat a Healthy Diet. ...

Eat more fruits and veggies.

Cut down on excessive consumption of carbs.

Choose whole grains. Try brown rice instead of white. Switch to whole wheat.

Choose lean proteins like poultry, fish, beans, etc. Instead of red meat.

Cut down on processed foods, sugar, salt, and saturated fats.

Drink Alcohol Only in Moderation if at all.

Protect Yourself from the Sun. ...

Protect Yourself From Sexually Transmitted Infections. ... Don't kiss people you do not know their health/HIV status.

Get Screening Tests Regularly: BP, Glucose, Cholesterol, HIV) Hepatitis A n B, Uric acid content etc.

Lastly don't ignore health symptoms like pains, headaches, dizziness, shortness of breath restlessness, insomnia etc.



Queen on brink after Jamaicans say it's 'time to get rid' of monarch as head of state.



Her Majesty THE QUEEN is facing backlash from one of her overseas realms as discontent over her being Jamaican head of state rises, a documentary has claimed. Her Majesty is head of state not only in the UK but also in another 15 countries. These include Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Jamaica and several more.

However, opposition is mounting in several countries over their desire to become truly independent. Barbados last year expressed its desire to become a republic by its 55th anniversary of independence from the UK, which falls on November 30 this year.

Politics

By: Andrew Collins
London, UK

The Caribbean island's Governor-General Dame Sandra Mason, the Queen's representative in Barbados, has been nominated for presidency when the country moves to become a republic.

The nomination was confirmed by Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley during an address to the country last month. Barbados gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1966. Fellow Caribbean island Jamaica gained its independence in 1962, but still has the Queen as head of state.

Carolyn Cooper is an author and professor at the University of the West Indies, based in the Jamaican capital of Kingston. She said: "I think having the Queen of England as the head of state is really ridiculous in the 21st Century." We're supposed to be a post-colonial country yet we're hanging on to all of these vestiges of empire. "It's time to get rid of the Queen as a head of state."

A poll by the Jamaica Observer last year found that only 30 percent of Jamaicans supported the Queen remaining as head of state. The figure was a record low.

55 percent of the 1200 respondents said the Queen must go, while the remaining 15 percent said they did not know.



A Jamaican politician is preparing a petition for compensation that will be "presented to the Queen", it was reported in July. Jamaica has demanded slavery reparation payments from the Queen, which could run into the billions. Ms Cooper told Vox: "We must recognise that a grave injustice was done and the legacy of that injustice remains." Britain's wealth was fuelled by slavery. Dr Angela Brown-Burke wants Jamaican people to be given their own voice. (Image: Netflix)

She added: "Having the Queen as a head of state is a classic example of mental slavery.



Naomi Campbell Becomes Global Ambassador for Queen Elizabeth's Commonwealth Trust.



Super model, Naomi Campbell has been named as a global ambassador for the Queen's Commonwealth Trust - and she is the very first person to take on the royal role. The Queen's Commonwealth Trust is an organisation which helps to assist the projects of youth advocates across the globe, and the Queen acts as patron.

Lifestyle

By: Andrew Collins
London, UK

Campbell is taking on the task, having undertaken plenty of charity work throughout her career. The supermodel launched an initiative called We Love Brazil in 2005 to help tackle poverty in the South American country, before launching Fashion For Relief, through which she raises millions for various humanitarian and environmental causes via a charity fashion show each year.

The model has also been outspoken about various injustices over her time in the spotlight, voicing her support to the #Me Too movement and Black Lives Matter.

In her new role, the supermodel will help to support young innovators between the ages of 18 and 35 across the Commonwealth, connecting them with opportunities, training and funding. "It is my privilege to accept this role as global ambassador for The Queen's Commonwealth Trust," Campbell said at the announcement event at the Cafe Royal Hotel in Central London last night. "Regardless of where you are from or where you are now, there are young leaders within your community doing amazing work."



"Sometimes they are not seen and some of them may not even see themselves as 'leaders' yet, but they all deserve our support, and access to education and resources."

"This is something very close to my heart, and I will continue to do everything I can to uplift the next generation, so they can create a better future for their communities," she added.

Christopher Kelly, CEO of the Queen's Commonwealth Trust, explained that Campbell will help the organisation "to shine a spotlight on the service, innovation and achievements" of young people across the Commonwealth.



USYK OUTCLASSES AJ TO CLAIM WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLES.



By: Gbenga Teejay
Okunlola
London, UK

Sports

Anthony Joshua's reign as world heavyweight champion ended in London on Saturday September 25 after he was defeated by Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk.

Usyk is crowned as the new unified world heavyweight champion after a unanimous decision win over Anthony Joshua with scores of 117-112, 116-112, 115-113. Oleksandr Usyk has become the third boxer after Evander Holyfield and David Haye to win world titles at cruiserweight and heavyweight.

However, there is a rematch clause, with Joshua – who has now won 24 and lost two of his professional bouts – having previously lost his belts when beaten by Andy Ruiz in New York in June 2019 only to regain the titles in a rematch in Saudi Arabia six months later.

The 34-year-old former undisputed cruiserweight world champion put on a master class to silence the vast majority of the 67,000 fans who packed into the huge arena. Usyk, giving away height, weight and reach to the champion, proved too elusive for Joshua throughout an enthralling contest and landed the much cleaner shots, finishing with a flurry in round 12 as he went in search of a knockout.



Former Olympic champion Usyk, contesting only his third professional heavyweight fight, follows in the footsteps of compatriots Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko who dominated the division for a decade from 2004-15. For Joshua, a second career defeat was a crushing blow and scuppered hopes of a unification showdown with fellow Briton Tyson Fury, the WBC holder, who takes on American Deontay Wilder in Las Vegas on Oct. 9.

Even the most die-hard Joshua fans had to concede their man had been schooled by a skilful craftsman who rarely looked ruffled even when sustaining a cut above his eye late on. Joshua gave the crowd little to cheer and ran out of ideas against his southpaw opponent who was ahead throughout.

"This means a lot for me. The fight went the way I expected it to go. There were moments when Anthony pushed me hard but it was nothing special," Usyk told Sky Sports. "I had no objective to knock him out because my corner pushed me not to do that. In the beginning, I tried to hit him hard but then I stuck to my job."

A sensational atmosphere greeted the fighters as they made the long walk to the ring, with the crowd in full cry and fireworks blasting into the sky. But from the first bell, Joshua appeared unsure whether to try to overpower his opponent or outbox him -- failing miserably at both. A nervous hush descended on the stadium in the opening rounds as Usyk's threat became all too apparent. Constantly on the move, he rocked Joshua in the third with a powerful left hand.





Usyk retained control in the following rounds as Joshua failed to unleash his supposed superior power and the Londoner was in big trouble again in the seventh round as he was sent staggering backwards by a big left hook. Joshua needed a knockout to retain his belts but it was Usyk who came closest with a ferocious attack at the end of the 12th which left the Briton reeling.

Even before the official result was announced, some Joshua fans were heading for the exits while Usyk's followers were just getting the party started.

Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn said his fighter was "devastated" by the defeat, adding that he would go to hospital with a suspected broken eye socket."Congratulations to Oleksandr Usyk. What a fighter. He put in a great performance and the better man won," Hearn said."I had it reasonably close in the eighth and then Usyk ran away with it."

Joshua later took to Twitter, saying: "Keep positive even if the world's crumbling in front of you! London I love you & thank you each and every time!" Joshua, 31, whipped his loyal supporters into a frenzy during a protracted ring walk but did not get carried away himself during a cagey first round where he tried to establish his left jab.

Usyk, moving well, continued to prove a difficult target to hit during the second round and the southpaw staggered Joshua with a powerful roundhouse left-hand punch to the head in the third.

Actor Michael K Williams died of accidental drug overdose,coroner confirms



By:Seyi Awoleye
Los Angeles,CA
USA



Entertainment

Hollywood actor Michael K Williams died after overdosing on a combination of heroin, cocaine, fentanyl and p-fluorofentanyl, the New York Chief Medical Examiner has confirmed. Williams, 54, was found unconscious and unresponsive by his nephew at his home in New York on 6 September. The Chief Medical Examiner's office confirmed to BBC News that it had determined his death was accidental.

Williams shot to fame for his role as Omar Little in HBO's *The Wire*. He won plaudits for his portrayal of the gay hit man, with President Obama once describing *The Wire* as his favourite programme and Little as his favourite character. The programme, which was a gritty and sometimes harrowing look at the intersection of crime, politics and law and order in the US city of Baltimore, is widely considered one of the greatest television series of all time.

Williams had spoken frankly about his past drug use. He recounted in 2012 that while starring in *The Wire* he found himself doing drugs "in scary places with scary people". However, he added that he had taken "nothing stronger" than cocaine and marijuana. "I was playing with fire," he told the *New Jersey Star-Ledger*. "It was just a matter of time before I got caught and my business ended up on the cover of a tabloid or I went to jail or, worse, I ended up dead."



In addition to his role in *The Wire*, Williams won praise for his portrayal of the gang boss Albert "Chalky" White in the hit series *Boardwalk Empire* and received an Emmy nomination this year for a role in *Lovecraft Country*.

His death saw an outpouring of emotion and tributes from a host of famous faces, including the film director Spike Lee and author Stephen King, who described Williams as "fantastically talented". *The Wire* creator David Simon said he was "a fine man and a rare talent".

Here's Rihanna's Perfect Response To Her New Billionaire Status.



We all know by now: Rihanna is a billionaire. Per Forbes, she is estimated to be worth \$1.7 billion. That sum makes her the wealthiest female musician in the world and the second-wealthiest female entertainer (Oprah tops the list).

Lifestyle

By: Andrew Collins
London, UK

When a paparazzo came up to her on the street and asked what it meant to her to be a "self-made billionaire," she had a simple answer, per Billboard: "God is good."

Although RiRi is known for her music, the majority of her net worth (\$1.4 billion of it) can reportedly be attributed to her beauty company, Fenty Beauty. Her lingerie line, Savage x Fenty, is worth \$270 million.

For years, fans have been asking Rihanna where her next album, R9. She has admitted to teasing her fans about the album (and getting a kick out of it).

"To be continued," Rihanna told Entertainment Tonight at the end of 2019, in reference to her album. "I like to antagonize my fans a little bit. Well, they antagonize me, too! So, they get it right back."

In a June 2019 conversation with Sarah Paulson for Interview magazine, Rihanna spoke about how she'd learned to prioritize her mental health amidst so much happening in her career.



"It's only the last couple years that I started to realize that you need to make time for yourself, because your mental health depends on it," she told her Oceans 8 co-star. "If you're not happy, you're not going to be happy even doing things that you love doing. It'd feel like a chore. I never want work to feel like a chore."

My career is my purpose, and it should never feel like anything other than a happy place." For now, she seems happy enjoying life with her boyfriend, A\$AP Rocky, with whom she was seen smiling in ripped denim shorts and a fuzzy baby pink bucket hat this week in NYC. It's great to be Rihanna.

Man jailed for stealing £10,000 Covid grant set free after six weeks.

By: James Osondu



The ex car wash owner who lied to get a small business grant appealed his sentence. Izzldenein Yousif scammed £10,000 meant for struggling small businesses.

A man jailed for stealing a £10,000 emergency Covid business grant has been released after spending just six weeks behind bars. Izzldenein Yousif conned Liverpool City Council by falsely claiming he was entitled to support for his car wash business in Fairfield.

Crimes

He didn't mention Izzy Bizzy Hand Car Wash on Prescot Road had stopped trading three years earlier and he'd left the unit in 2019. When the council rang the 65-year-old to confront him over the fraud, Yousif lied by saying he'd already spent the money and hung up, before later using the cash to buy a taxi.

Judge Anil Murray said Yousif's claims had "an impact on society" and a "deterrent sentence must follow" when he jailed him for six months in July.

But the fraudster appealed against the sentence and this week his lawyer Callum Ross convinced top judges sitting at the Court of Appeal to set him free.

Liverpool Crown Court previously heard how the government had awarded the Liverpool region just under £108m to give small businesses grants "to help support them through the economic downturn".

In order to qualify for the grants, businesses must have been trading as of March 11, 2020 and been in receipt of small business rate relief.

Yousif emailed the council on July 30, 2020 to say he hadn't received a grant for his car wash and was entitled to one.

This wasn't true because he had left the premises at the end of 2018 and by February 2019 there was a new tenant there.

On August 6, a council officer emailed Yousif telling him if he wanted a grant, he should make a formal application.

Yousif submitted a signed form the next day and was awarded £10,000, which was deposited into his account on August 12.

On August 25, the council's fraud and compliance team received a tip off from a member of the public about Yousif's fraud.

The owner of the business now at the unit also reported receiving letters addressed to Yousif. A council officer called Yousif in early October, when the fraudster said he had spent the money and abruptly ended the call.

Enquiries led police to the abandoned Newsham Park Hospital, where Yousif was living, on January 28 this year.

He tried to escape over a fence but was arrested at the scene.

When interviewed told police he felt he was "entitled" to the grant because of business rates he had paid in the past.

Yousif, of Orphan Drive, Newsham Park, who admitted fraud, has since paid all of the money back.

He had one previous conviction for criminal damage and threatening behaviour in February 2008.

Speaking at the hearing in July, Mr Ross, defending, said his client no longer stood by comments made in a pre-sentence report, when he tried "to exculpate himself and your honour may think place some blame on the council and police".

Mr Ross urged the judge to spare Yousif jail, suggesting there was a "realistic prospect of rehabilitation" and that Yousif was assessed as a low risk of reoffending, had "thankfully" repaid the money and was "remorseful".

He said Yousif was born in Sudan, but "fled" the African country in 2000 as a "political refugee" and was now a British citizen.

The lawyer said Yousif had recently worked as a taxi driver but his taxi had since been seized by the police.

Mr Ross said Yousif had siblings with children in Sudan, to whom he sends £300 per month, and they were to some extent his "dependants".

He said Yousif, who had started a new job as a warehouse operative for The Hut Group in Warrington, was "upset" his family would be affected financially if he was jailed.

Judge Murray told Yousif: "You knew, as we all did, that businesses in this country needed help during the Covid crisis and there was a huge demand for such money."

The judge added: "You prevented that money from being available for some other legitimate public need."

Judge Murray didn't accept that Yousif was remorseful because of what he had said in the pre-sentence report.

He said: "That you took money meant to help businesses during the Covid 19 pandemic means this is a case where the appropriate punishment can only be achieved by immediate custody."

Yousif appealed against his sentence, meaning it was reconsidered by Lord Justice Males, Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb and Mr Justice Murray in London.

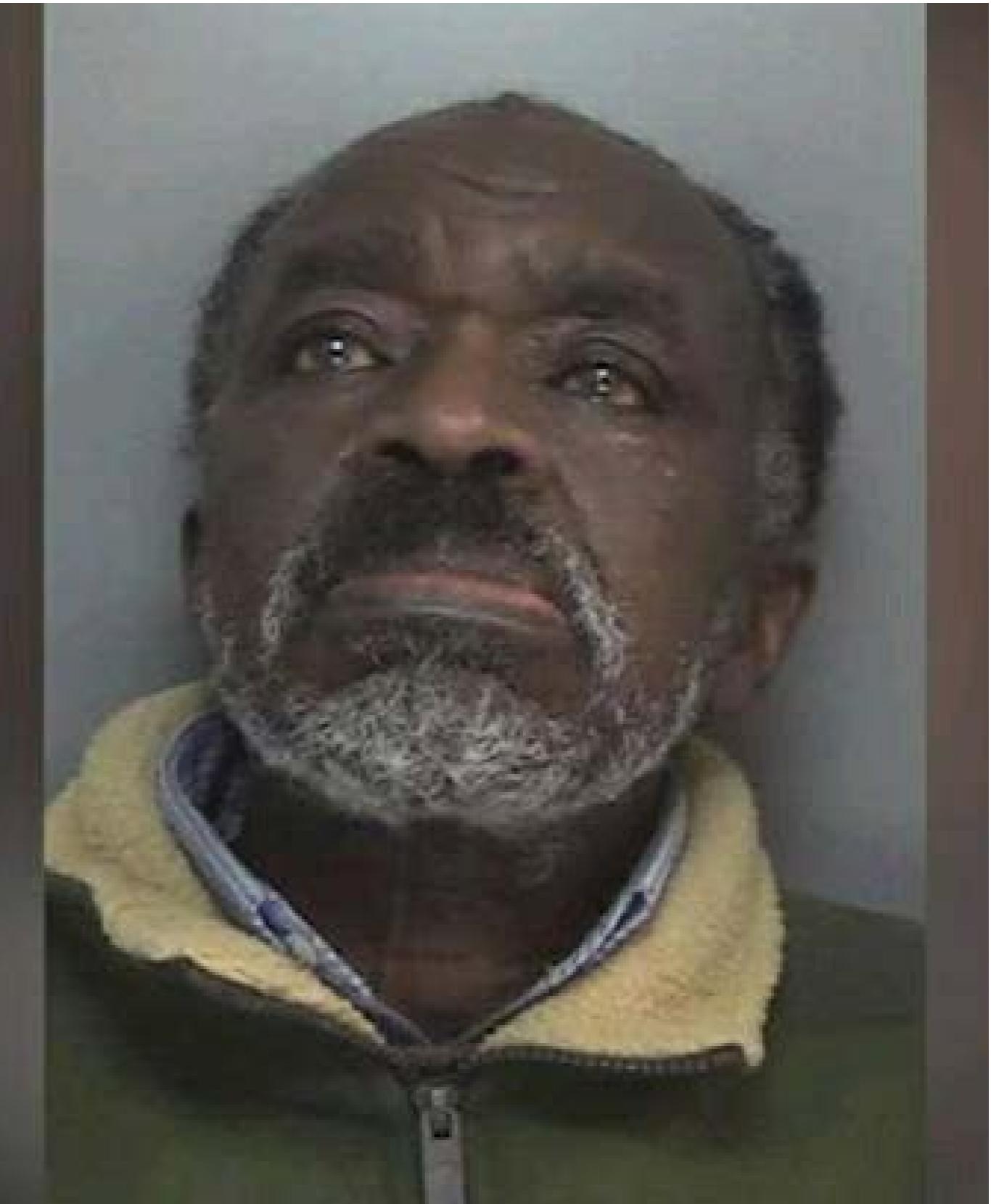
Mr Ross argued it was not a case where a deterrent sentence was necessary and his client's strong mitigation meant his prison term should have been suspended.

He told the Court of Appeal that Yousif didn't have any relevant previous convictions, had been employed most of his life and highlighted that the pre-sentence report also spoke positively about how he was willing to work with the Probation Service.

The three top judges again rejected any claim that Yousif was remorseful.

But they agreed with Mr Ross' submissions and said given all the mitigation they had heard, Yousif shouldn't have been jailed.

They quashed the sentence of six months' imprisonment and handed Yousif six months in jail, suspended for 12 months.



Abiodun Adeleye Wins Good Neighbourhood Awards



By:Gbenga Teejay Okunlola
London,UK



Earlier this summer, neighbours in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire in the UK were asked to share the best heartwarming stories of neighbours going above and beyond to support their local communities as the fourth annual Nextdoor kicked off Good Neighbourhood Awards. This year's event were bigger than ever with a record number of nominations coming in from all across the UK. There were so many stories of neighbours supporting each other and lifting one another up in different ways. This year's winner of the Neighbour of the Year award went to Abiodun Adeleye in Milton Keynes.

Abiodun, a law graduate of the prestigious University of Buckingham and father of three beautiful children. Due to lockdown, Abiodun lost the majority of his work but instead of getting down, he turned to his passion for photography. He wanted to connect with his neighbours and build more connections.

He took to the streets of Milton Keynes and started taking photographs. He posted to Nextdoor asking neighbours if they could identify where the photo was taken. Neighbours took to the challenge which quickly became a popular weekly post that they all looked forward to.

Using #howwelldoyouknowmiltonkeynes, his posts fast became the place whereby neighbours could come together to share knowledge of Milton Keynes.

Some of the places in the photos neighbours knew and they would share stories. Other places they didn't know but this would encourage them to go on walks to try and find them. It got people outside and taking pride in their local area.

With the lockdown now lifted, Abiodun has continued to post his weekly photos by popular demand, providing a welcome space for people in Milton Keynes to continue coming together to celebrate their local area.



Abiodun Adeleye, Nextdoor Neighbour of the Year 2021, added: "I couldn't believe it when I found out that I had been chosen as one of Nextdoor's Neighbours of the Year 2021. Photography is something I am really passionate about, and it has been a great way to connect with my neighbours this past year. I'm excited to keep my photos going and share more amazing parts of Milton Keynes!"

Neighbours are using Nextdoor to exchanged trusted information, share knowledge and local recommendations all across the UK, sign up here to join your neighbourhood conversations.



Melvin Van Peebles, actor and writer, dies at 89



By:Bunmi Johnson
New York,USA



Melvin Van Peebles, the influential filmmaker behind "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," and father of actor Mario Van Peebles, has died. He was 89.

"Sweet Sweetback" will be screened at the 59th New York Film Festival taking place from September 24 to October 10, 2021. In an unparalleled career distinguished by relentless innovation, boundless curiosity and spiritual empathy, Melvin Van Peebles made an indelible mark on the international cultural landscape through his films, novels, plays and music," the Criterion Collection said.

Melvin and Mario Van Peebles teamed on the 1989 film "Identity Crisis," with Melvin directing and Mario scripting and starring as a rapper possessed by the soul of a dead fashion designer.

Melvin appeared in the 1993 Mario Van Peebles-directed "Posse,"

Film

in which Mario also starred, as well as in Mario's Black Panther drama "Panther" (1995), with Melvin adapting the script from his own novel, the Mario Van Peebles-directed "Love Kills (1998) and the Mario-directed "Redemption Road" (2010).

Melvin Van Peebles also acted in the work of others, appearing in the 1991 feature comedy "True Identity"; Reginald Hudlin's Eddie Murphy vehicle "Boomerang" (1992); big-budget Arnold Schwarzenegger action film "Last Action Hero" (1993); Charlie Sheen action film "Terminal Velocity" (1994); 2003 comedy "The Hebrew Hammer," in which Melvin reprised the role of Sweetback and Mario also appeared; and Tina Gordon Chism's 2013 romantic comedy "Peeples," in which he played Grandpa Peebles.

In 1988 Mario Van Peebles starred in the brief NBC sitcom "Sonny Spoon," about a private detective, in which his father was also a series regular as the private eye's bar-owning father. On TV he also made guest appearances on series including "In the Heat of the Night," "Dream On," "Living Single" and "Homicide: Life on the Street."

In "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," which Van Peebles wrote and directed, dedicating the film to "all of the Black brothers and sisters who have had enough of the Man," Van Peebles starred as the title character, an orphan – portrayed as a child by Van Peebles' son Mario – raised in a California bordello, where he does menial tasks and grows up to appear in live sex shows there; one day he's told to ride along with two crooked detectives, who collect protection money from the whorehouse and elsewhere, and they end up beating a Black militant. Sweetback finally decides he's had enough and attacks the cops, saving the Black militant; from that point the film focuses on Sweetback's flight to the Mexican border.

Melvin Van Peebles in "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song.

Melvin Van Peebles in "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song."Courtesy Everett Collection

Van Peebles employed a variety of interesting effects, including a great deal of hand-held work "to help express the paranoid nightmare that the fugitive's life had become," according to the book "The 50 Most Influential Black Films: A Celebration of African-American Talent, Determination, and Creativity."

Produced on a total budget of \$500,000, "Sweetback" saw box office of \$10 million, according to "The 50 Most Influential Black Films"; a few months after, the studio-made, Gordon Parks-directed "Shaft," starring Richard Roundtree, was released and became a significant success.

"Sweetback" and "Shaft," together with the following year's "Superfly," directed by Gordon Parks Jr., are generally regarded as having together given birth to the Blaxploitation genre.

Van Peebles, however, was critical of many Blaxploitation films for being devoid of political content.

Columbia had offered Van Peebles a three-picture contract on the strength of his previous film "Watermelon Man," but neither Columbia nor any other other studio would finance the film project that would become "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," so he did so himself; Bill Cosby loaned him \$50,000 to complete the project.

The soundtrack to the film, featuring Earth, Wind & Fire, was released prior to the film itself in order to generate publicity and word of mouth.

When "Sweetback" drew an X rating from the MPAA, Van Peebles cleverly transformed this significant hindrance to any film's box office prospects into an advertising tagline that played well with his target audience – "Rated X by an all white jury" – and declared, "Should the rest of the community submit to your censorship that is its business, but White standards shall no longer be imposed on the Black community."

Image: Playwright and Director Melvin Van Peebles

Playwright and Director Melvin Van Peebles, in 1975. Alex Gotfryd / Corbis via Getty Images file
"Sweetback" drew a mixed critical response. The New York Times wrote a devastating review upon its release, but in a 1995 reappraisal, Stephen Holden wrote, "This sulphurous nightmare of racial paranoia and revenge eclipses even 'Reservoir Dogs' in evoking a world of infinite seaminess, injustice and cruelty. Mr. Van Peebles's film was not only the granddaddy of (Blaxploitation films) but also the most innovative and politically inflammatory."

In 2003 Mario Van Peebles directed the film "Baadasssss!," which was both a documentary and an homage to his father's "Sweetback."

The multitalented Melvin Van Peebles had four shows on Broadway, the first of which was "Ain't Suppose to Die a Natural Death," for which he wrote the book, music and lyrics; it started Off Broadway and ran for a total of 325 performances in 1971-72. The musical, which contained material from his three albums "Brer Soul," "Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death" and "As Serious as a Heart-Attack," was Tony nominated for best musical, and Van Peebles was nominated for best book of a musical and best original score, while the musical also received nominations for direction, scenic design and set design.

For his next musical the following year, Van Peebles took more control, not only penning the book, music and lyrics but also producing and directing. "Don't Play Us Cheap!" earned him another Tony nomination, for book of a musical, and in 1973 he adapted it into a film.

For 1980's "Reggae: A Musical Revelation," Van Peebles contributed only the book, but two years later, the original comedy with music "Waltz of the Stork," with book, music and lyrics by Van Peebles, produced and directed by Van Peebles and starring Van Peebles, ran for 156 performances. Mario contributed background vocals and appeared in drag in some scenes. Van Peebles turned "Waltz of the Stork" into the 2008 film "Confessionsofa Ex-Doofus-ItchyFooted Mutha," which screened at the Tribeca Film Festival.

For the "CBS Schoolbreak Special" episode "The Day They Came to Arrest the Books," Van Peebles won a Daytime Emmy in 1987 for outstanding writing in a children's special and also won a Humanitas Prize.

Melvin Van Peebles was born in Chicago and attended West Virginia State College and then Ohio Wesleyan University, where he earned a B.A. in English literature. He served in the Air Force as a navigator-bombardier for three years.

Van Peebles experimented with career as a painter, and, growing appalled by the racist portrayal of African Americans in movies, made some film shorts as an amateur in the late '50s and early '60s. He did stints as a postal worker and, in San Francisco, a cable-car grip – about which he wrote his first book, "The Big Heart," in 1957. He spent some time in Mexico; in Holland he studied astronomy at the University of Amsterdam and acting at the Dutch National Theater. The Cinematheque Francaise invited Van Peebles to screen his shorts at its theater in Paris, where he spent some time as a street entertainer and wrote five novels (in English); the last of these books, "La Permission," enabled his admission to the French Cinema Center as a director and led to a grant of \$70,000. While still in Paris he adapted this novel into his first feature-length film, the Van Peebles-written and -directed "The Story of a Three-Day Pass" (1968), which concerned an interracial love story and addressed racism – a Black soldier is involved with a white girl and demoted as a result.

"The Story of a Three-Day Pass" led to his first directing assignment in the U.S.: "Watermelon Man," a comedy about a bigoted white man who's turned into a Black man, played by comedian Godfrey Cambridge, overnight. His wife was played by Estelle Parsons.

Van Peebles was married once, to the German-born actress and photographer Maria Marx, in the 1950s, but the marriage ended in divorce after several years.

In addition to son Mario, he is survived by daughter Megan Van Peebles, an occasional actress, and son Max Van Peebles, an occasional actor and assistant director, and grandchildren.

R. Kelly is going to prison. Why did it take so long?



By:Bunmi Johnson
New York,USA



Mr. Kelly's conviction marked a stunning fall for a man who was once one of the biggest names in R&B music. It came after the first Me Too-era trial in which most of the victims were Black women. Singer R. Kelly has been found guilty of exploiting his superstar status to run a scheme to sexually abuse women and children over two decades.

Eleven accusers - nine women and two men - took the stand over the searing six-week trial to describe sexual humiliation and violence at his hands. After two days of deliberation, the jury found the US star guilty on all nine charges he was facing. Sentencing is due on 4 May and he could spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Entertainment

The jury found Kelly, whose full name is Robert Sylvester Kelly, was the ringleader of a violent and coercive scheme that lured women and children for him to sexually abuse.

The singer - most famous for the hit songs I Believe I Can Fly and Ignition (Remix) - was also found to have trafficked women between different US states. Along with eight counts of sex trafficking, Kelly was found guilty of racketeering - a charge normally used against organised crime associations. During the trial, prosecutors detailed how his managers, security guards and other entourage members worked to assist him in his criminal enterprise.

The court also heard how Kelly had illegally obtained paperwork to marry Aaliyah when she was 15 in 1994, seven years before the singer died in a plane crash. The certificate, leaked at the time, listed Aaliyah's age as 18. The marriage was annulled months later. Her 1994 debut album, Age Ain't Nothing But a Number, was produced and written by R. Kelly. One woman who testified that Kelly imprisoned, drugged and raped her said in a written statement after the verdict that she had "been hiding" from Kelly due to threats made against her since she went public with her accusations.

But the verdict also prompted an obvious question: Women have said that the singer's abuses began as early as the start of the 1990s – why did it take three decades for the singer to receive criminal punishment?

Here are a few possible answers: The entertainer had an expansive network of enablers around him, federal prosecutors said, from his closest confidantes and employees to many in the music industry who knew of the concerns about his behavior but did not intervene. The government drew attention to what has been described as the "settlement factory" that kept his accusers quiet, offering evidence of Mr. Kelly's payments to women who made accusations in exchange for their silence.

And when that was not enough, Mr. Kelly "used his henchmen to lodge threats and exact revenge," blackmailing women with nude photographs of themselves or embarrassing information, one prosecutor, Elizabeth Geddes, said in closing arguments.

Federal prosecutors also accused Mr. Kelly of paying witnesses to not cooperate with the authorities in the lead-up to his 2008 trial and acquittal. They said the singer let some witnesses know they could be "subject to physical harm" if they proceeded.

At a news conference outside the court, prosecutor Jacquelyn Kasulis said that the jury had sent a message to other powerful men like Kelly. "No matter how long it takes, the long arm of the law will catch up with you," said Ms Kasulis. The verdict comes 13 years after Kelly was acquitted of child pornography charges after a trial in the state of Illinois.

Veteran actress, Joke Silva, releases new photos as she celebrates 60th birthday and 40 years in the movie industry on September 29.

Congratulation ma
- A CHOICES



68TH BIRTHDAY WISHES.

Here is to my best friend, confidant, mentor for the past 27 years of my life from Bulgaria to London, UK. Lubka Pishmanova... You're 68? I think that's great. A full life is a treasure of time no one could underestimate. 68 is truly great. Don't forget to run and play on this special day. We stay young and play. Nurture a heart which remains a part of eternal youth. Celebrate the blessing of time to make us wise.

I wish you new wisdom and a young heart on this new day marking a new year. Long may you live in happiness, joy, and love with your beautiful family Mike and Vicky. God Bless You Madam, God Bless my beautiful friend of 27 years. Obicham te Mnogo Madam. God bless you and your husband Mike for all that you have done for me in Bulgaria... for making my passage very easy and smooth, forever, I shall be grateful and indebted to you and Mike.... Love you guys... Hip! Hip! Hip! Hooray!!!

With Love,
Gbenga Teejay Okunlola

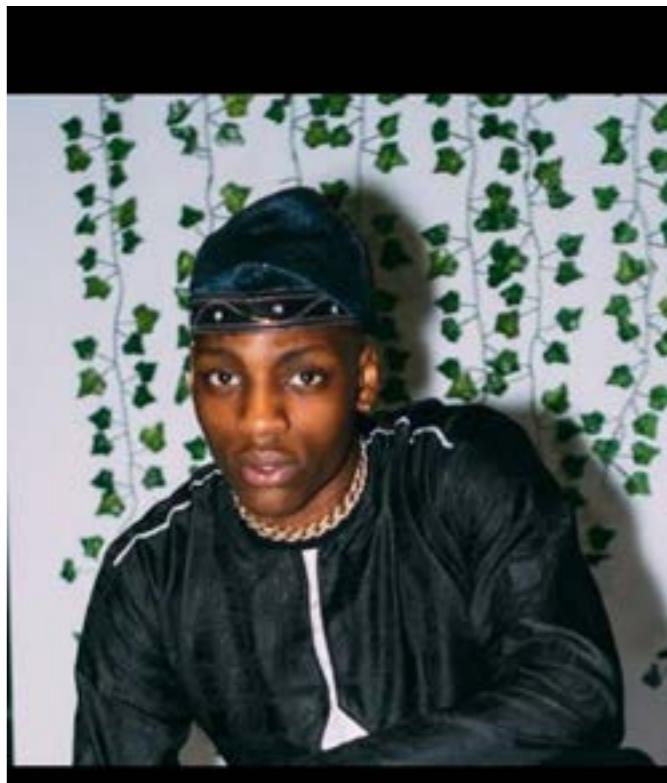


A very happy 22nd birthday to Tunde Alakelu of Long Island, New York City, NY. Many happy returns of the day.

Best wishes,
A-CHOICES MAGAZINE



CK Model



Wedding photos of Yusuf Buhari and Zahra Nasir Ado Bayero.

By:Okunlola Kayode F.
Lagos,Nigeria

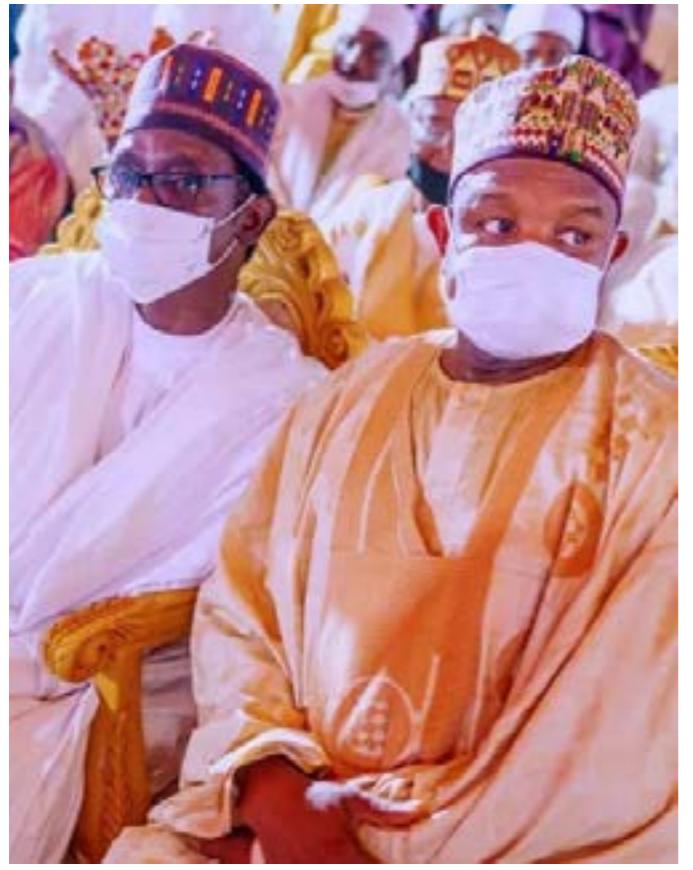
All roads led to the beautiful city of Kano last month as Zahra Bayero, daughter of Emir of Bichi, and the son of the President and First Lady of Nigeria, Yusuf Buhari tied the knot. One of Nigeria's biggest celebrity events of the year to say the least.– it was the wedding of the president's only surviving son and the niece of the Emir of Kano, one of Nigeria's most prominent Islamic leaders. Thousands attended the event at the palace of the Emir of Bichi, a town in the northern state of Kano. A historian said that a wedding between presidential and royal families was unprecedented in Nigeria – and, interestingly, the pair met at the University of Surrey in the UK.

Private jets reportedly filled the runway of the airport in Kano as members of Nigeria's elite and West African dignitaries flew in for the wedding of Yusuf Buhari, 27, to Zahra Nasir Bayero, 19. Every five-star hotel in the state was fully booked. According to the BBC, the groom's family paid 500,000 naira (£900) as the bride price – about 10 times the average amount in northern Nigeria. Despite reports of the sheer scale of the celebrations, it is understood to have been a scaled down version because of the coronavirus pandemic and many of the guests wore face masks. The BBC reports that there was heavy security at the wedding ceremony, with police and military officers guarding the palace and stationed at nearby strategic locations.

The no-expense-spared wedding provoked a furious reaction from some of the poverty-stricken Kano residents given the levels of deprivation in the area. Sheikh Dr Ahmad Mahmud Gumi told the Times: 'People are facing all manner of problems, yet politicians spent public funds on private jets.'

Wedding/ Lifestyle









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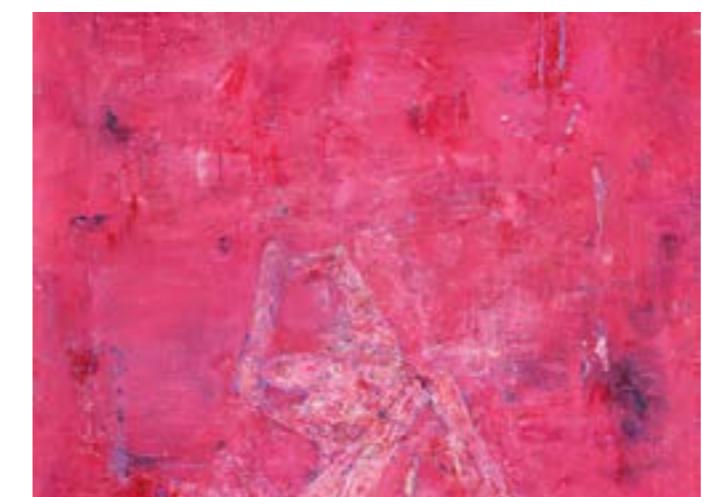
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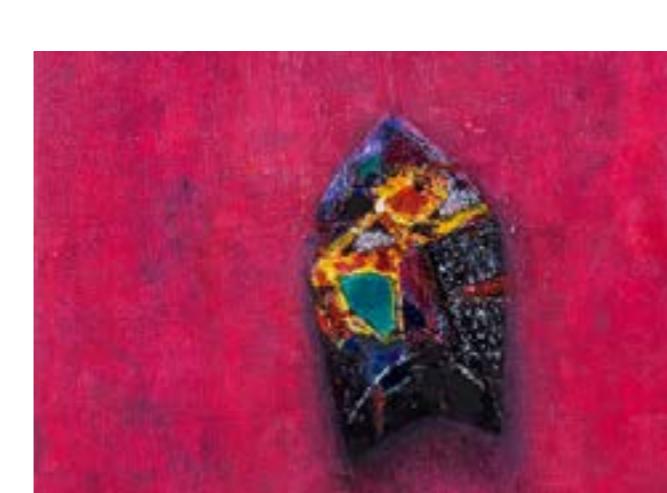
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el ensayo



NYanakiev_The_Little_Princess



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

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola & Albena 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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