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ISSUE NO. 5

ESCAPE MAG



JYDE AJALA

The Visual Maestro

Aamaeya | Yellow Yemisi | Renzoo | Chale | Adejosh | Anjella | Laime | Theodore Lewis | Simi Badiru | Fraim'D | Black Albino & More Creatives.

ESCAPE MAG

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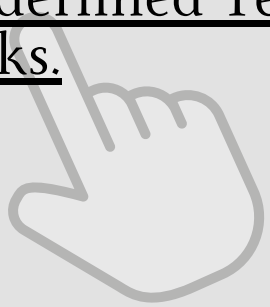
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Editor's Letter

Welcome to the fifth issue of Escape Mag! We're thrilled to have you join us on this journey to celebrate African creativity.

It's been an incredible four Issues, and we're humbled by the support of our growing readership. With over 16,000 views under our belt, we're well on our way to reaching 100,000 by year's end. Thank you for reading, sharing, and being a part of our community.

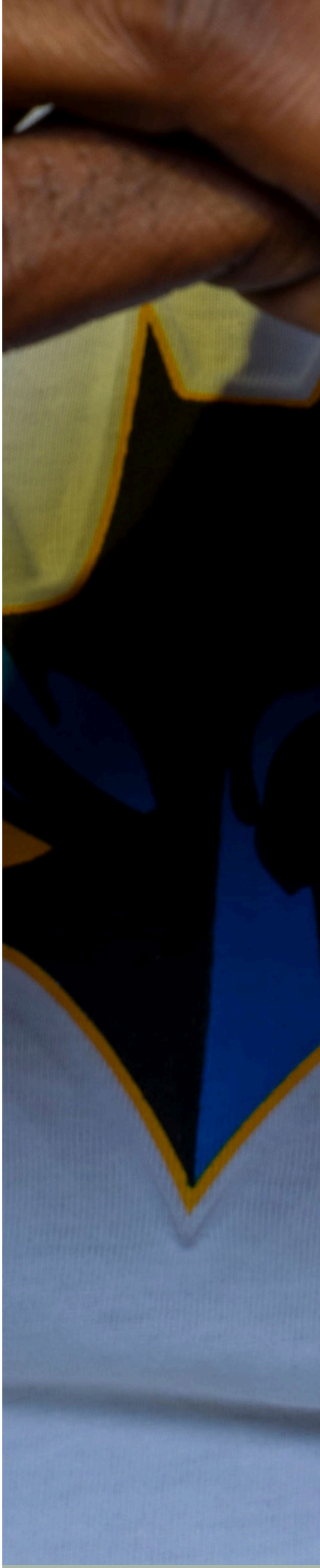
This month, we're excited to feature the visionary director, Jyde Ajala, on our cover. His insights into the world of music videos were both inspiring and enlightening. We've also curated a diverse mix of talent, from the rising stars, Laime, Adejosh, and Anjella the Tanzanian music sensation. Our spotlight on Theodore Lewis showcases the intersection of photography, videography, and art.

And that's not all! We've delved into the world of podcasts with Simi Badiru and radio with Bibi the Bee. We've also explored the latest fashion trends with our favourite stylists.

We also want to thank oneRPM, Kommunity Flex, and Dr. Andrea for their invaluable contributions.

Enjoy the issue!

The Escape Mag Team





ESCAPE MUSIC

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

SONGS WITH VIDEOS
SHOT BY JYDE AJALA

LISTEN NOW

FENTY

THE CREEPER PHATTY

BY RIHANNA

SHOP NOW



AD

YELLOW YEMISI

A Burst of Colors BY LAOYE O.



Nneka and the Yellow Swimsuit

The Future is Bright



Kate Yemisi Williams, better known by her artistic moniker Yellow Yemisi, is a rising star in the creative world. Her art is a vibrant explosion of colour, geometric shapes, and a touch of playfulness, all informed by her rich African and Caribbean heritage.

Yemisi's artistic journey is one of self-expression and celebration. Inspired by the world around her, she translates diverse thoughts into bold and captivating artworks. These artworks are not mere decorations; they are celebrations of authenticity, urging viewers to embrace their own unique identities.



Àbákẹ́ The adored one

Beach Babe Dey Denge



Her talent has not gone unnoticed. Yemisi is the recipient of multiple awards and honours, including recognition at the prestigious Scottish Design Awards 2021. Her work has also been showcased at the Heineken TalentLab, the British Council International Fashion Showcase, Lagos Fashion Week, and Graduate Fashion Week in London.

But for Yemisi, the accolades are just a validation of her passion. Her true reward lies in sharing her artistic expression with the world. Through her vibrant creations, she invites viewers to see the beauty in diversity and embrace the joy of self-discovery.

OLUWANIFEMI

Painting Hope for Africa

BY LAOYE O.



Discipline 2023

Oluwanifemi isn't your typical artist. This Nigerian talent wields his tools not just to create, but to inspire. His mission: to shatter negative stereotypes about Africa and ignite a flame of possibility within his community.



Salvation 2023

Oluwanifemi's creative process flourishes on Procreate, a digital canvas that allows him to explore his vision. He also translates these digital sketches into traditional paintings. Showcasing his work alongside other artists isn't just about exposure; it's about connection. The artistic community provides friendship, mentorship, and a powerful sense of belonging.

Having his artwork grace private collections is deeply satisfying. It's a tangible connection with art enthusiasts who resonate with his message of hope and triumph. But Oluwanifemi's vision stretches far beyond these collections. He dreams of his art reaching a global audience, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiring positive change across the world.



Sacrifice 2023

Oluwanifemi's story is a powerful reminder that art can uplift and inspire. With every brushstroke, he paints a brighter future for Africa, one brimming with possibility and unwavering optimism.



REMA BY FREDDIE JACOB


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PUMA, Ikeja City Mall - iKEJA
PUMA, Jara Mall - IKEJA
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AD

Laime is not just an artist; he's a sound architect, meticulously blending Afrobeats, Hip-Hop, R&B, and Highlife into a signature sound as unpredictable as it is captivating. "My music has always depended on my mood," he confesses, revealing a creative process as fluid as the genres he explores. This refusal to be boxed in has been the cornerstone of his musical journey.

LAIME

Navigating Life's Soundtrack

By Sam





Source: ONErpm



Source: ONErpm

Collaborations, Laime believes, are essential for growth. Having worked with heavyweights like Zlatan, Phyno, Buju, and Lojay, he's absorbed the wisdom of these musical titans. "It's been just amazing generally," he beams, reflecting on these experiences. His collaboration with Ice Prince, a longtime idol, stands out as a particularly significant milestone.

His latest project, "Find My Way," is a poignant reflection of the post-COVID world. "It projects my headspace amidst everything going on in my country," Laime explains. The track is a prelude to his upcoming EP, "Life As We Know It," a collaborative effort with his team at Global Neil Ent and Apex Village. The EP promises to delve deeper into the complexities of modern life, with Laime navigating the challenges and triumphs of the post-pandemic era.

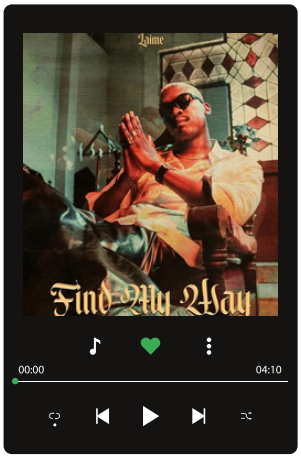
Balancing vulnerability and braggadocio is a tightrope walk, but Laime seems to navigate it with effortless charm. "Vulnerabilities & Braggadocio explains perfectly my ability to face my reality while maintaining maximum composure!" he quips.

Production is a crucial aspect of Laime's music, and he shares a close bond with his producers, including the Grammy-winning Telz and his longtime collaborator, MAAZI. "I like to be on the same frequency as them," he says, emphasising the importance of a shared vision.



As the conversation winds down, a touch of whimsy emerges. When asked about a desert island song, Laime chooses "All Night" from his previous project, "If Summer Never Happened." And if granted a superpower? "I'd love to make people dance like they are running mad!" he exclaims, revealing a playful side to his personality.

Laime's journey is far from over. With each new project, he's not just creating music; he's crafting experiences. As he continues to push boundaries and explore new sound territories, one thing is certain: Laime is an artist to watch.





Source: ONErpm



Anjella

Rising to Stardom in Tanzania's Music Scene

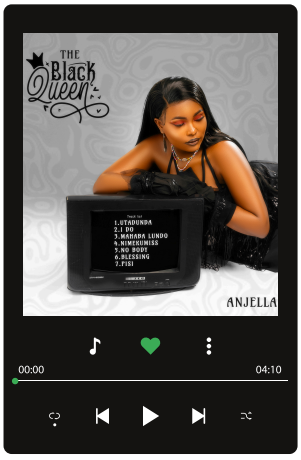
BY LAOYE O

This Tanzanian singer, songwriter, and actress took a leap of faith fueled by social media and her undeniable talent, landing a collaboration with the legendary Harmonize on the hit song "All Night." Now, with the release of her powerful debut EP, "The Black Queen," Anjella is poised to take the African music scene by storm.

It all started with a challenge. Harmonize, a household name in Tanzania, was searching for a female artist to collaborate with on Instagram. Anjella's fans, recognizing her potential, flooded the comments section with her name. The gamble paid off. Harmonize saw the buzz, and invited Anjella to meet him, and the rest, as they say, is history. Working with Harmonize wasn't just a recording session; it was a turning point. The exposure catapulted Anjella's music to a wider audience and ignited the flames of a promising musical journey.



Source: ONErpm



Anjella's vision for the future is ambitious. She dreams of using her platform to elevate Tanzanian music on a global scale. Her plan? To seamlessly fuse traditional elements with contemporary sounds, creating a fresh and modern Tanzanian musical identity. Experimenting with genres and collaborating with artists across Africa will push creative boundaries, introduce Tanzanian music to a wider audience, and solidify its place on the international stage. But Anjella's aspirations go beyond mere recognition. She also hopes to mentor and empower emerging talents, fostering a vibrant music scene that honours tradition while embracing the future.

Anjella's journey is an inspiration to aspiring African creatives. Her story exemplifies the power of social media, unwavering self-belief, and a deep connection with one's roots. With her captivating voice, powerful message, and dedication to her craft, Anjella is a rising star ready to blaze a trail in the African music scene. Her fire burns bright, and Tanzania, and indeed Africa, are ready to dance to her beat.



CHALE

More Than Meets the Ear

Chale is a new name that's making its way into the Nigerian music scene, and for good reason. With a sound palette that seamlessly blends pop, R&B, and alternative, he's carving a unique space for himself. But there's more to Chale than just the music. His artistry is a reflection of a multifaceted individual, deeply rooted in both personal expression and societal consciousness.

"Creativity stems from my innate humanness," Chale explains. His music is a canvas for his emotions, a sound diary that captures the highs and lows of the human experience. "I'm a person and I have feelings," he says simply. "Sometimes I feel good, sometimes I feel bad. Sometimes I feel sombre, sometimes I feel edgy." This emotional depth is evident in his music, which is as likely to make you dance as it is to make you think.


Escape Artist

The creative process for Chale is as fluid as his music. "There's no rule book for creativity," he insists. Each song is a journey, shaped by mood, environment, and inspiration. "I say soul over genre all the time," he says. "It's about making something that's truly authentic."

Chale's lyrics delve deep, exploring both personal introspection and societal commentary. Love, freedom, and social justice are recurring themes. "I'm writing from a place of fantasy," he admits, "but also from a place of reality." This duality is evident in his music, which can be both dreamy and grounded.

Beyond music, Chale is a visual artist. His fashion sense, a blend of high fashion and streetwear, is as bold as his music. "Fashion is a form of personal expression," he says. "It's about making bold choices and standing out." This visual flair translates into his music videos and live performances, creating a cohesive artistic vision.



Chale's passion extends beyond the stage and studio. He's also a creative director, helping other artists bring their visions to life. "It's given me a deeper admiration for artists," he says. "It takes a lot of work to create something truly impactful."

Despite his success, Chale remains grounded. His journey, marked by challenges and triumphs, is a constant source of inspiration. "I draw inspiration from hardship," he admits. "My mom is a rock star." This resilience is evident in his music, which is both powerful and uplifting.


FENTY
THE CREEPER
PHATTY
BY RIHANNA
SHOP NOW





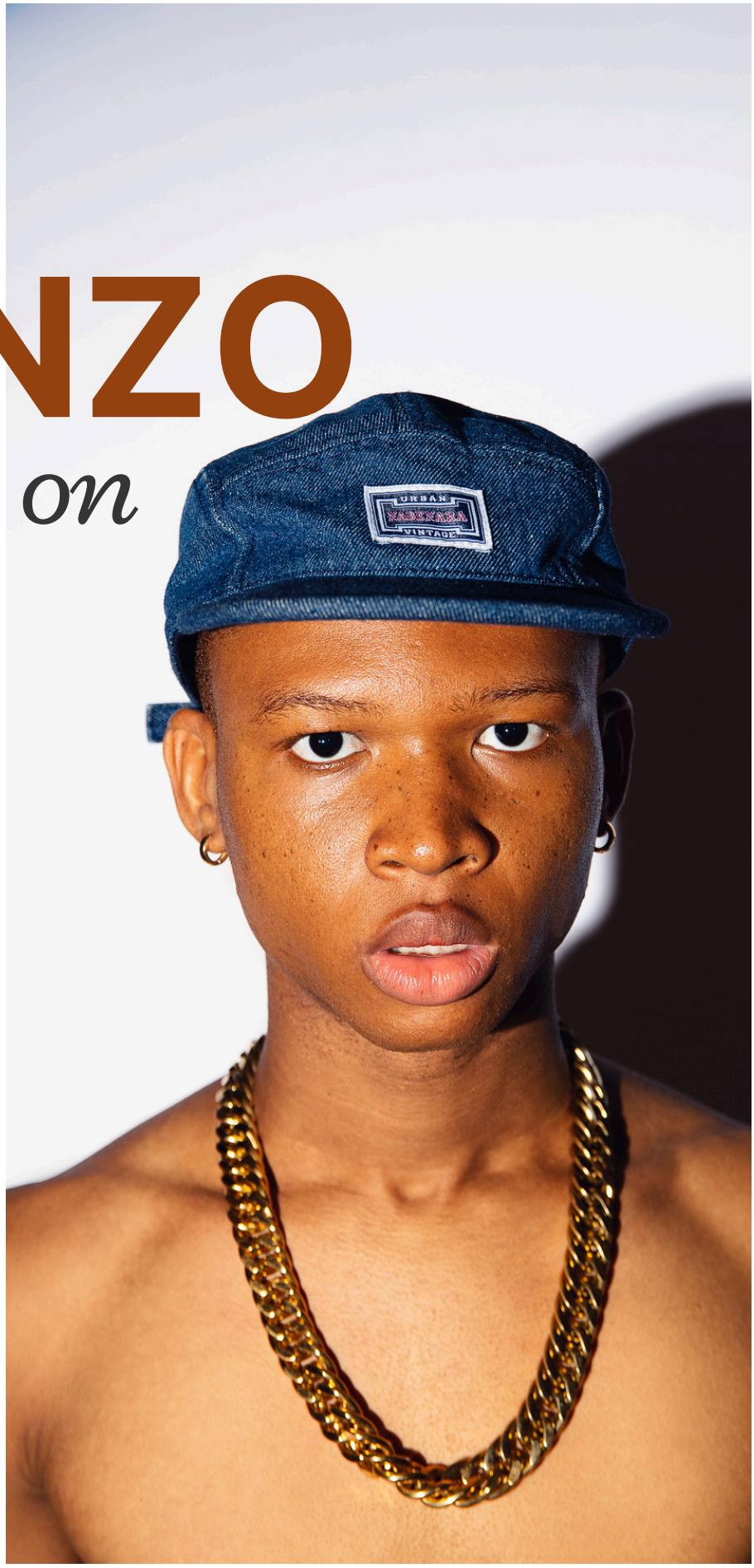
When asked about his advice to aspiring artists, Chale is clear: "Just start. Don't wait." He emphasises the importance of fearlessness and authenticity. "We have to break free from fear," he says. "It's the biggest prison."

Chale is more than just a musician. He's a storyteller, a visual artist, and a cultural influencer. His music is a reflection of his journey, his passions, and his vision for the future. As he continues to evolve, one thing is certain: Chale is a Creative to watch.

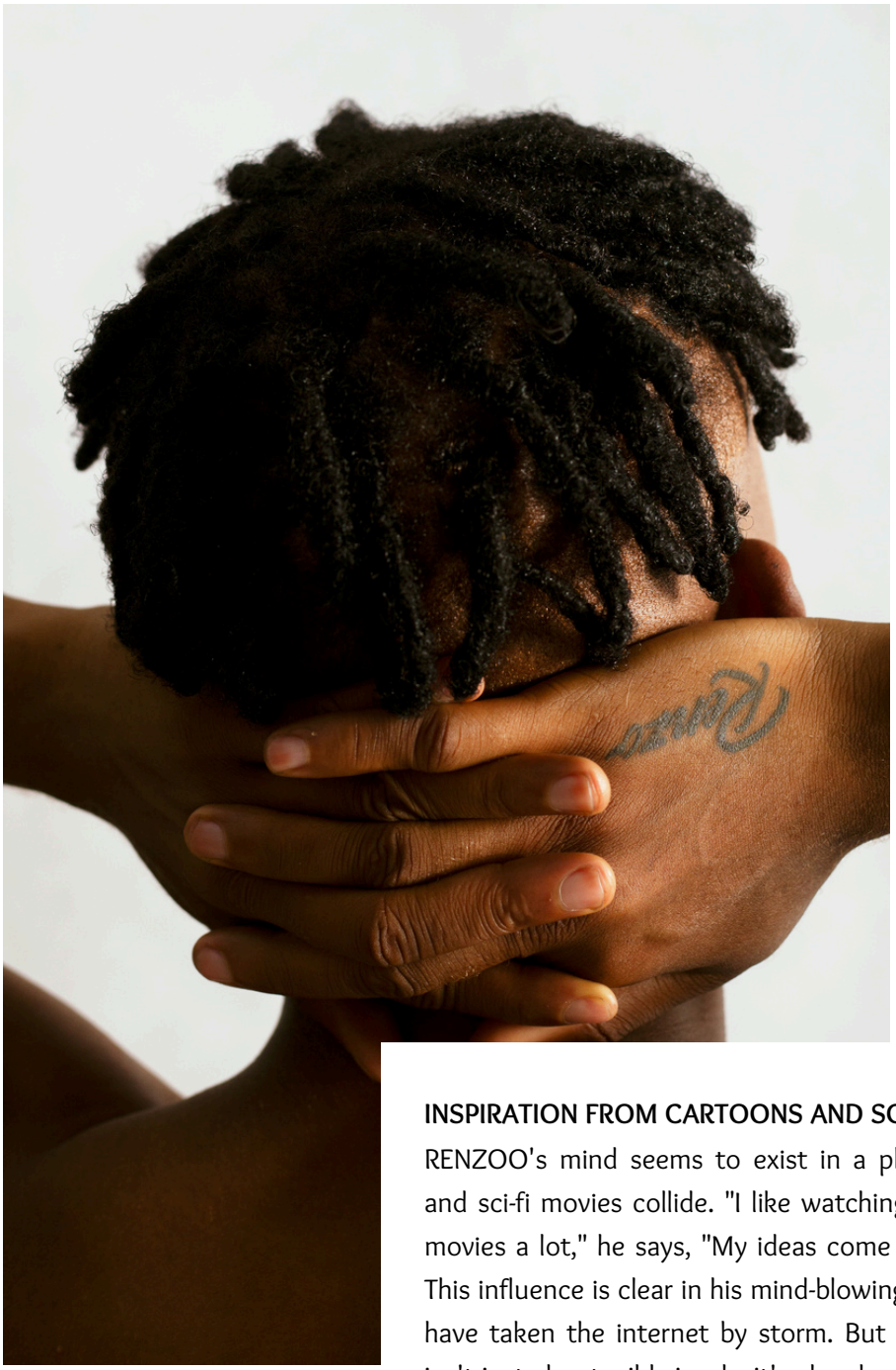
R33NZO

Creativity on All Fronts

by Fatimat O
Photography by Roland



R33NZO is a Nigerian multi-talent is a viral video extraordinaire, an alternative hip hop artist with a message, and an all-around creative force. Escape Mag caught up with R33NZO to dive into his mind-bending world.



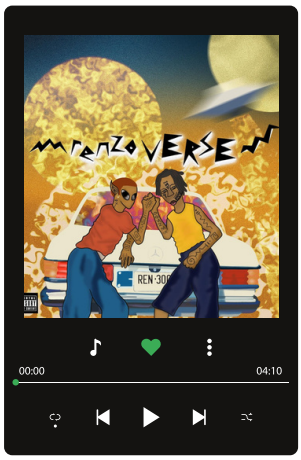
INSPIRATION FROM CARTOONS AND SCI-FI

RENZOO's mind seems to exist in a place where cartoons and sci-fi movies collide. "I like watching cartoons and sci-fi movies a lot," he says, "My ideas come from what I watch." This influence is clear in his mind-blowing special effects that have taken the internet by storm. But RENZOO's creativity isn't just about wild visuals; it's also deeply personal.

MUSIC WITH SOUL

RENZOO's music isn't just catchy; it's a journey through emotions. "I want my music to be able to make people feel different types of emotions," he explains. Fueled by artists like ASAP Rocky, Kanye and Tyler, the Creator, RENZOO's sound blends alternative hip hop with a unique blend of genres, reflecting "the different sounds of different types of people."

I WANT TO HAVE A DYNASTY OF DIFFERENT CRAFTS UNDER MY BELT, I WANT TO LEAVE A TOUCH OF ME ON EVERY FIELD.





BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ART FORMS

RENZOO seamlessly blends his music with his viral videos. "I make sure I stay creative regardless of what I'm doing and always deliver my best," he says. This dedication to creativity ensures his fans get a full RENZOO experience, no matter the platform.

STAYING MOTIVATED

Juggling music, video creation, and acting might seem like a recipe for burnout, but RENZOO stays motivated by his dreams and the people around him. His advice for aspiring creatives? "Keep going regardless of the circumstance," he insists.



A CREATIVE DYNASTY

RENZOO has big dreams. He doesn't want to be confined to just one art form. "I want to have a dynasty of different crafts under my belt," he declares. "I want to leave a touch of me on every field." With his boundless creativity and unwavering dedication, there's no doubt RENZOO will continue to conquer new creative frontiers.

THE GOAT? MAYBE.

We ended the interview by asking RENZOO who he'd collaborate with on a viral video or song. His answer? "Me. Cause I'm the Goat." Whether he's the Goat or not is up for debate, but one thing's for sure: RENZOO is a creative force to be reckoned with, and Escape Mag is excited to see what he does next.

ADEJOSH

Crafting a New Sound



Source: ONErpm

Adejosh is redefining the soundscape with a fusion of Afrobeats, R&B, and Hip-Hop. His music is a vibrant cocktail of Nigerian rhythms and British influences, creating a unique sonic identity. We sat down with the artist to unpack his journey and the inspiration behind his music.

Adejosh's musical journey is a testament to the power of exposure. He was immersed in a diverse soundscape growing up, thanks to his Nigerian roots and British upbringing. "I listened to everything," he shares, "from Nigerian icons like Wasiu, Fela, and Ayefele to British artists like Skepta and Roll Deep, and international legends like Usher, Vybz Kartel, Michael Jackson, Chick Corea, Stevie Wonder, New Edition, and Jazmine Sullivan." This eclectic mix laid the foundation for the genre-bending artist he is today.

> ***Seeing the hustle in Nigeria is truly inspiring. People pour their blood, sweat, and tears into their music, often working through sleepless nights.***



Source: ONErpm

His early musical experiences were equally diverse. Church, where he played piano and keyboard, exposed him to a wide range of musical styles. "I experienced a diverse range of styles—from Salsa, High-life, and Woro to Jazz, Reggae, Worship, and Contemporary," he recalls. This early training coupled with his involvement in school choirs and live bands honed his musical skills and ignited his passion for creating music.

Nigeria, Adejosh believes, has a unique energy when it comes to music. "Seeing the hustle in Nigeria is truly inspiring," he says. "People pour their blood, sweat, and tears into their music, often working through sleepless nights." Inspired by the raw talent and spontaneity he witnessed, Adejosh has incorporated a more organic approach to his music-making process.

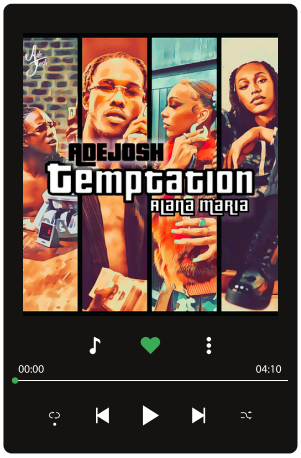
His career trajectory has been marked by significant milestones. From the pride of his father's approval to performing at prestigious events like Wireless, Adejosh's journey has been a testament to his hard work and dedication. He acknowledges the importance of collaborations in the Afrobeats scene but emphasises authenticity and timing. "There's no rush or time limit on when to release good music; it needs to feel right," he states.

“There's no rush or time limit on when to release good music; it needs to feel right...



AdeJosh & Alana Maria *Source: ONErpm*

When asked about his inspirations, Adejosh mentions artists like Sola Allyson, Tope Alabi, and Asa, whose music resonates deeply with him. He desires to achieve their ability to create timeless and soulful music.



His latest single, "Temptation," delves into the universal struggle between desire and restraint. "Have you ever asked yourself, 'Why do I want what's bad for me?' and then found yourself stuck between the thoughts of 'no risk, no reward?'" he questions. The song is a reflection of this internal conflict, and the collaboration with Alana Maria added a layer of depth and emotion to the track.

Adejosh's music is more than just entertainment; it's a vehicle for personal growth and inspiration. He finds fulfilment in the stories his music creates, the connections it fosters, and the impact it has on others. As he continues to evolve as an artist, one thing is clear: Adejosh is just getting started.


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EARTH TONE
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AD

JYDE AJALA



The Visual Maestro

By Laoye O.
Photography by Oyinlola Adesanya

Jyde Ajala is undeniably the name on everyone's lips. His ability to transform songs into captivating visual narratives has made him the go-to director for Nigeria's biggest stars. From Wande Coal's soulful melodies to Olamide's street vibes and Victony's raw energy, Ajala's artistry shines through. We sat down with the visionary director to uncover the creative genius behind the lens.

Escape Mag: The industry's buzzing about your recent work. What initially drew you towards music video directing, and how did you break into this competitive space?

JYDE: Thank you so much. It's an incredible honour. I've always been passionate about arts and entertainment from a young age. I grew up in a regular Nigerian home, but I always enjoyed watching Charlie Chaplin and classic Hollywood movies. I would run around the house performing and entertaining the family. As a teenager, I realised this was the path I wanted to follow and decided to pursue an education in film production. After school, I kept grinding over the years, and all of that has led me to this point in my career.

Escape Mag: Your background seems to suggest a photographer's eye for detail. How does your approach to photography translate into the world of music videos?

JYDE: That's a really good question. Photography and cinematography are both visual arts that involve capturing images. The main difference is that one captures still images while the other captures moving images.

I try to incorporate the same discipline into both. My background in photography actually stems from a film school class. That's how I started taking photos. Essentially, there's no music video without pictures. All we're doing is capturing images at 24 frames per second, which is essentially taking pictures in motion. So, they go hand in hand. There's no cinematography without photography.



...THERE ARE SO MANY INCREDIBLE PEOPLE I'D LOVE TO COLLABORATE WITH. SAINT JHN IS DEFINITELY ON THAT LIST. I'M A HUGE FAN OF HIS MUSIC. IN NIGERIA, TEMS IS A FIRE ARTIST I'D LOVE TO WORK WITH. BLOODY CIVILIAN IS ALSO COOL. THERE ARE COUNTLESS ARTISTS I ADMIRE, BUT THOSE ARE A FEW.

Escape Mag: One thing that defines your work is the vibrant use of colour. How do you use colour palettes to tell a story within the music video? Can you walk us through your creative process in this regard?

JYDE: Colour is a powerful tool in cinematography, capable of evoking strong emotions. I strive to use colour to complement the story's essence. Different colours convey distinct meanings; for instance, red differs significantly from black or white. The colour palette depends on the desired atmosphere. A trap music video might call for a predominantly black colour scheme to match the mood.

Colour planning begins in pre-production, involving collaboration with set designers, creative directors, production designers, and art directors. We consider character attributes, setting aesthetics, and overall tone to create a cohesive colour palette. Wardrobe, hair, and makeup also play crucial roles in maintaining visual harmony.

Ultimately, colour is a valuable tool for enhancing storytelling and character development.

Escape Mag: We've seen everything from pastel wonderlands to meticulously curated sets in your videos. What inspires your set design choices, and how do they complement the music?

JYDE: I believe storytelling is central to my work. Every element, from a white wall to a burning candle, carries a narrative. Understanding the story we want to convey is the foundation for set design. Whether it's a lavish lifestyle or a more modest setting, the narrative dictates the visual world.



By immersing ourselves in the story, we make informed decisions and create a cohesive environment that effectively communicates the desired emotions and atmosphere. Also, Life experiences significantly influence set design. Travel, museums, history, and art expose you to diverse shapes, architecture, and narratives. These elements often serve as inspiration.

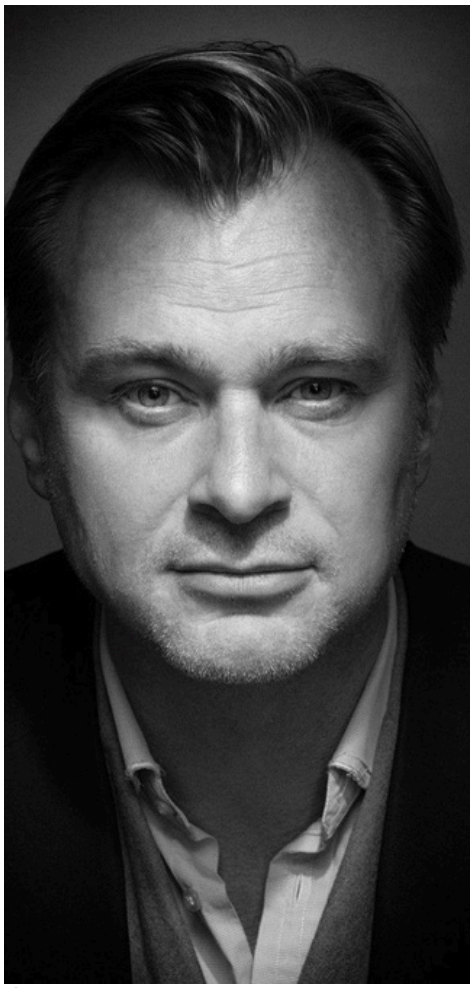
Every project is unique, requiring collaboration with set designers and the creative team to bring the vision to life. It's about combining your ideas with their expertise to create the perfect set for the project.



Source: Pinterest



Charlie Chaplin



Christopher Nolan



Martin Scorsese

Escape Mag: Your music videos feel like mini-movies. What are some directors or filmmakers who inspire you, and how do their influences translate into your work?

JYDE: Man, that's a tough question. I admire so many incredible filmmakers. David Fincher, Martin Scorsese, James Cameron, and Christopher Nolan are some of my favourites. Mel Gibson is another underrated director with an impressive filmography.

Charlie Chaplin is a legend who inspired me from a young age. Denis Villeneuve's work on "Dune" is phenomenal. And of course, Jordan Peele is killing it right now. Alejandro González Iñárritu is another brilliant director.

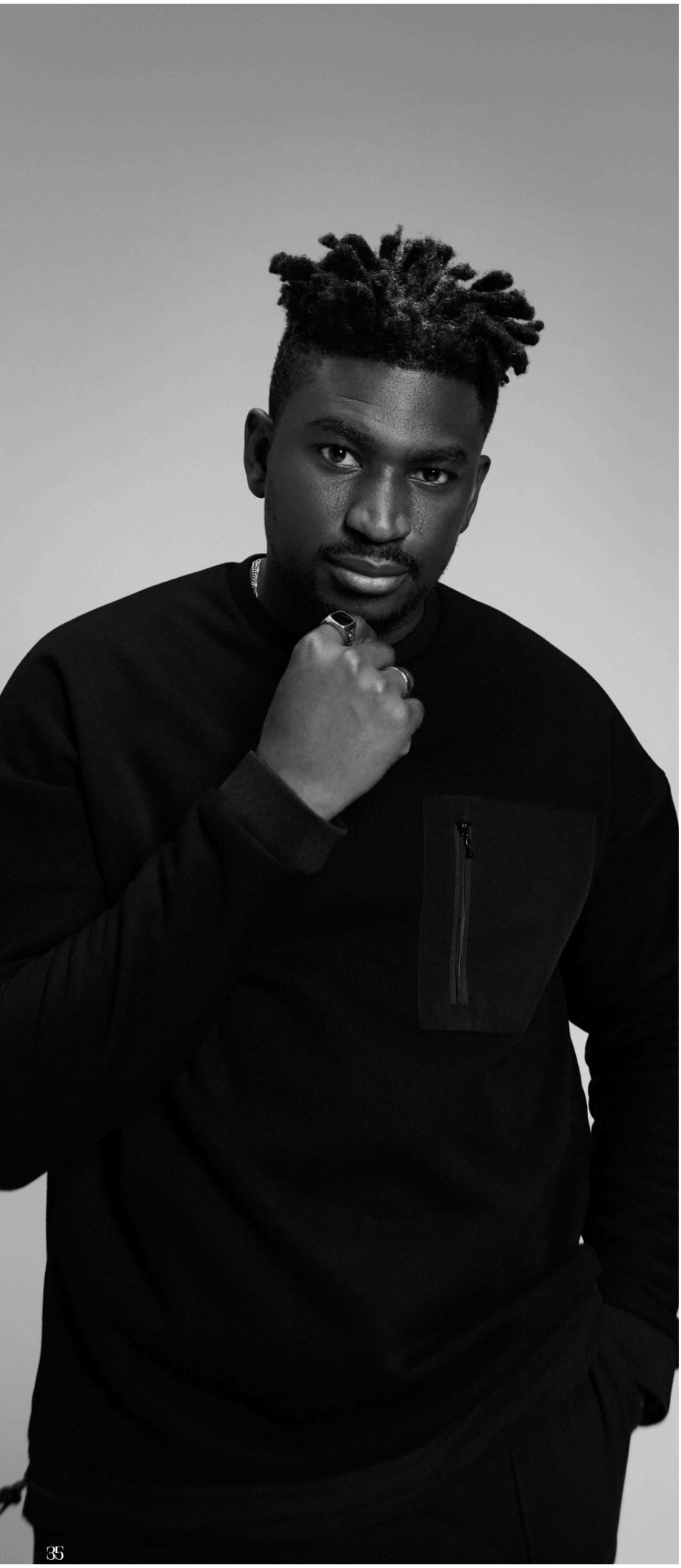
Quentin Tarantino is a must-mention. There are countless others I could name, but these are just a few.

A lot of directors have inspired me over the years. Steven Spielberg, for instance, is another one I left out.

How could I forget Spike Lee? I've studied their work extensively and often include subtle homages in my projects.

As a filmmaker at heart, I'm always searching for the story in everything. There's a narrative in every situation, no matter how ordinary. I try to inject humour and create music videos that are enjoyable and rewatchable. Essentially, I'm telling stories I want to see – relatable, fun stories.

These directors have influenced my visual style, and I'm constantly learning and developing my own approach. I see these music videos as a platform to showcase my abilities before transitioning to feature films. By studying their work and incorporating their techniques, I'm building a strong foundation for my future projects.



Escape Mag: You've collaborated with some of Nigeria's biggest names. What's the creative dynamic like working with such established artists? How do you find a balance between their vision and your artistic voice?

JYDE: It's been a blessing working with so many incredible superstars. I've been fortunate to collaborate with individuals who trust our process and believe in our ability to contribute. Mutual respect is essential.

Building trust takes time, especially when balancing your creative vision with the client's brand. It's about finding that sweet spot between your artistic expression and your goals. Communication and compromise are key.

While challenges arise, adaptability and a diplomatic approach help navigate these situations. Ultimately, it's about finding the right balance and delivering a product that aligns with the client's vision.

Escape Mag: **Any upcoming projects you can tease for our readers? Are there any dream collaborations you have on your bucket list?**

JYDE: Um, yes, we have a few projects underway. We just wrapped up a commercial for the fashion brand Ashluxe, and we're excited to share it with you all. We're also developing a web series, and writing scripts, and looking forward to sharing that as well. More music videos are on the way too. Some exciting stuff is coming up, so stay tuned!

Man, there are so many incredible people I'd love to collaborate with. Saint Jhn is definitely on that list. I'm a huge fan of his music. In Nigeria, Tems is a fire artist I'd love to work with. Bloody Civilian is also cool. There are countless artists I admire, but those are a few.

Someone else I'd love to collaborate with is Wasiu Ayinde (KWAM 1). It might be unexpected, but he's a Fuji legend, and we share the same name.

There are also countless people in the movie space I'd love to work with, but that's a topic for another time.



Escape Mag: With your background in photography and directing, what advice would you give to aspiring creatives looking to make their mark in the Nigerian entertainment industry?

JYDE: Man, what advice would I give to aspiring creatives? Honestly, just believe in yourself. The industry can be cutthroat, but you must believe in your dreams and grind it out. Keep developing yourself, and the opportunities will come.
Sometimes hope dwindles, but patience and persistence define you. People are always watching. It might not seem like it, but they see your work. Please keep working on yourself.
Mental health is crucial for creatives. Don't hesitate to talk to someone if you're going through a rough patch. Don't be ashamed. It's part of the journey. Sometimes things don't go well, but keep moving forward. Talking about mental health is still stigmatised in Nigeria, but we creatives should check in on each other and inspire one another.
Remember, everything can change overnight. One project can be a game-changer. Just be ready when you get a chance. Keep grinding, and know that it's possible.


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PANORAMIC DREAMS

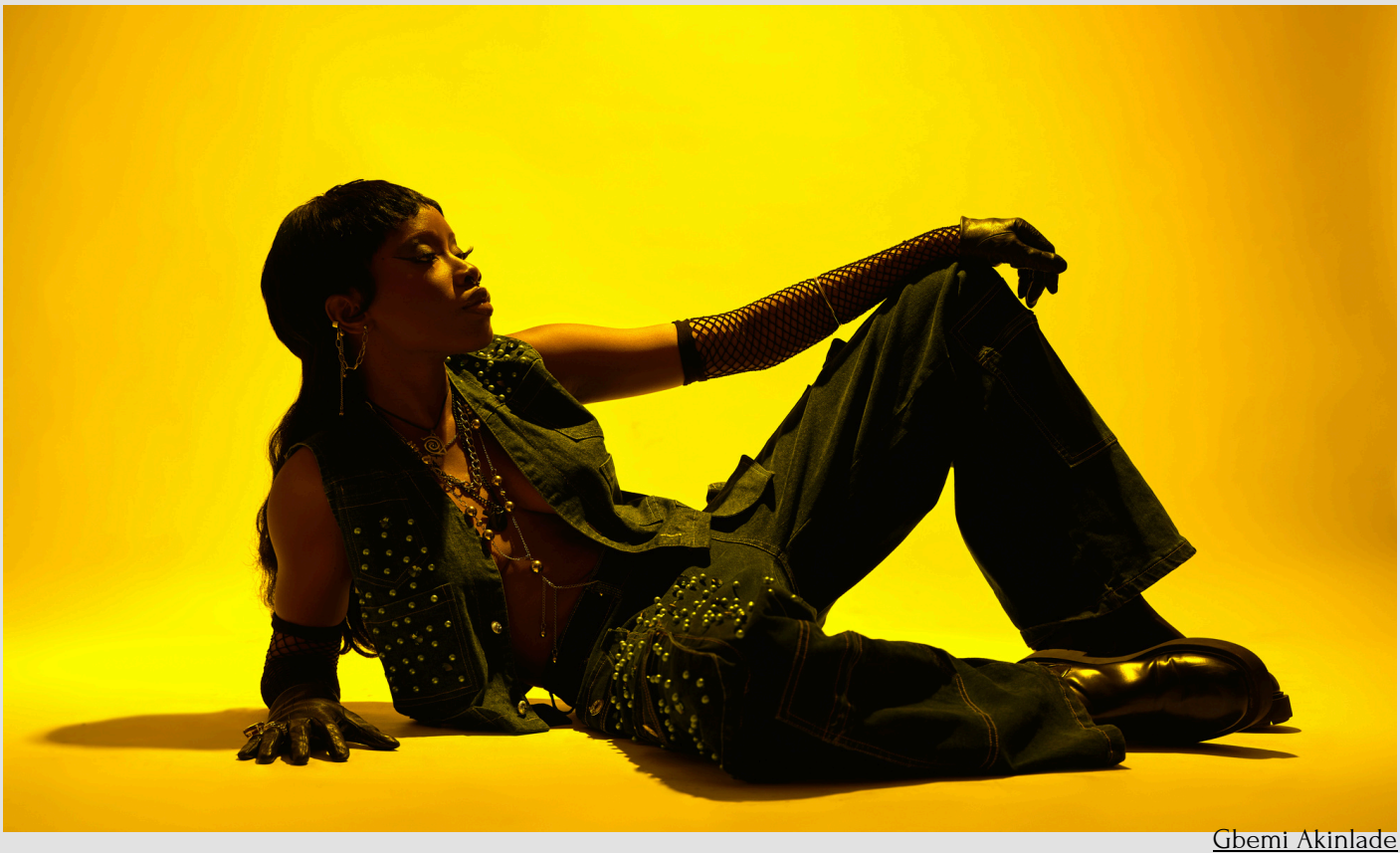
The Photography of Theodore Lewis



Logos Olori

Lenscraft, Escape Magazine's platform for visual artistry, turns its spotlight on Theodore Lewis. His innovative approach to photography and videography has made him a standout in the industry.

BY LAOYE O
PHOTOGRAPHY BY THEODORE LEWIS



Gbemi Akinlade



Moradeke Adeniran



CDQ

Lewis started out like many, with a camera in hand and a world of possibilities. Seven years ago, photography was a hobby, a casual affair. But time, as they say, changes everything. For Lewis, it transformed a pastime into an obsession, a driving force.

What began with models posing against a school wall has morphed into a career that sees him collaborating with the likes of Deji Oluokun and Victor Eddeh, and capturing the essence of celebrities. Today, Lewis is a vital part of the Clout Africa team, juggling the roles of videographer and photographer with equal aplomb.

But it's not just about the titles. For Lewis, art is a playground, a place where rules bend and creativity reigns supreme. The transition to filmmaking and cinematography is not a departure but an expansion, a new canvas to explore.



Belle Aisha



Gbemi Akinlade



Baddy Bounty



Lovn

GENESYS COLLECTION

By Deane
OpenSea

Title : 2020
Inspired by Pain
Media : Paint, Pen & Ink, on Papyrus

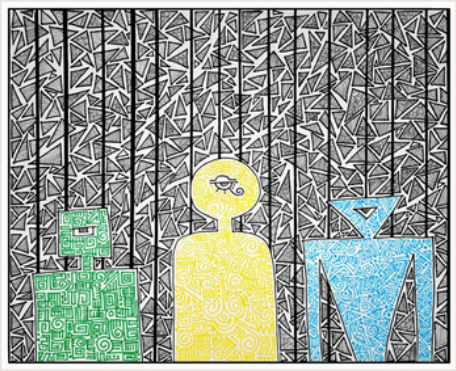


A visual description of the year '2020' as experienced by the artist. Depicting pain, solitude, noise, heartbreak, and healing.

GENESYS COLLECTION

By Deane
OpenSea

Title : The People
Inspired by Company
Media : Pen & Ink, on Papyrus

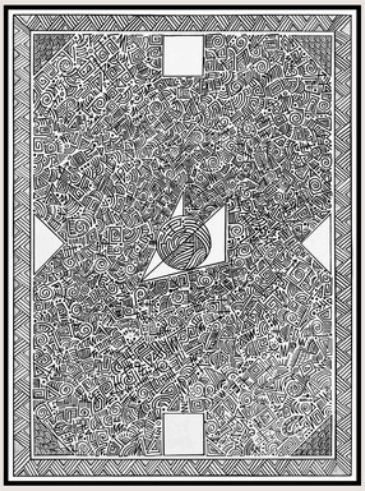


Humans sometimes tend to forget the things that really matter; The People and the various forms and colors that constitute them. But can you blame us? We're all just as engrossed in the various forms and colors that constitute ourselves.

GENESYS COLLECTION

By Deane
OpenSea

Title : DEANE'S Coordinate
Inspired by Chaos
Media : Pen & Ink, on Canvas



Mind Map 1
The Noise and all it brings; joy, pain, sadness, anger, elation, emptiness, and at the center of it all, Peace (of sorts). Being Human is Chaotic



With each frame, Lewis is on a quest for knowledge, connections, and above all, joy. Because in a world that often demands more, he's found solace in doing what he loves. As he puts it, "It is better to live a short life filled with what you love doing than a long life lived miserably."



Miss Demz

Moradeke Adeniran



Sunshine Sterling

In the grand scheme of Lewis's life, every thread – from the first photo to the latest cinematic masterpiece – is a testament to an artist who is constantly evolving, always exploring, and eternally in love with the process.



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AD



Showtime Streetz Ajegunle, Lagos



Showtime Streetz Surulere, Lagos

SHOWTIME STREETZ

Kicking Off Dreams

In a nation passionate about sports, Showtime Flag league is making moves. Showtime Streetz, the league's grassroots initiative is more than just a flag football program; it's a lifeline for young talents from the streets of Lagos. By identifying and nurturing raw athleticism, Showtime Streetz is providing a platform for these aspiring athletes to shine.

By Laoye O

But it's not just about the game. The program's heart lies in its commitment to community development. The STEP (Shoes That Empower Possibilities) initiative is a testament to this. By providing high-quality cleats to underprivileged athletes, Showtime Streetz is ensuring that financial constraints don't hinder dreams. It's a simple yet powerful gesture that can transform lives.

Imagine the thrill of a young athlete, their feet previously clad in worn-out sneakers, suddenly laced into a brand new pair of cleats. It's more than just footwear; it's a symbol of hope, a tangible representation of belief in their potential. STEP is about empowering these young people to reach for the stars, one step at a time.

With a focus on inclusivity and diversity, Showtime Streetz is committed to creating a level playing field. The program aims to educate 1,000 youths about flag football, fostering a sustainable community around the sport. By encouraging an 80:20 male-to-female ratio, they are actively working to break down gender stereotypes and provide opportunities for all.



Showtime Streetz Surulere, Lagos


Showtime Streetz Ajegunle, Lagos



Showtime Streetz Surulere, Lagos



Showtime Streetz Surulere, Lagos



Showtime Streetz Ajegunle, Lagos

As Showtime Streetz continues to grow, its impact extends beyond the field. The program is not just about creating skilled athletes; it's about building character, fostering leadership, and inspiring a new generation of role models. With initiatives like STEP, Showtime Streetz is proving that sports can be a powerful tool for social change.

So, the next time you watch a flag football game, remember the stories behind the players. Some of them might just be the stars of tomorrow, thanks to programs like Showtime Streetz.



Showtime Streetz Ajegunle, Lagos



Showtime Streetz Ajegunle, Lagos



Showtime Streetz Surulere, Lagos



Showtime Streetz Surulere, Lagos


FENTY
THE CREEPER PHATTY
EARTH TONE
SHOP NOW



SIMI BADIRU

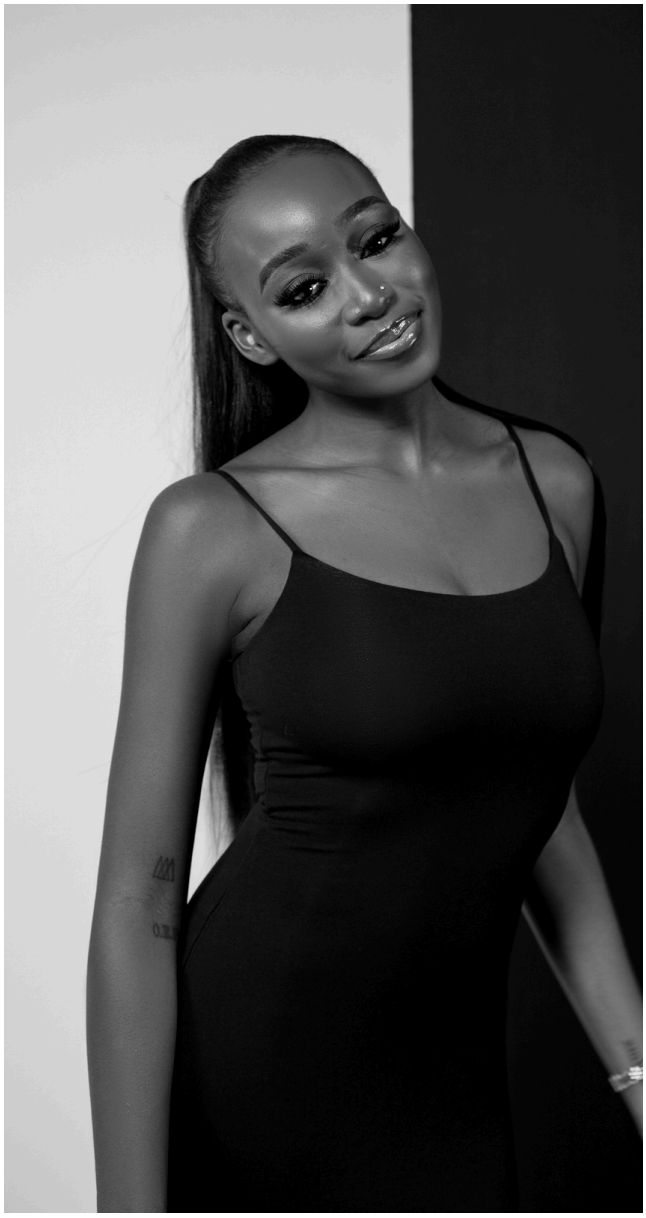
Uncensored Chats and Nigerian Pop Culture

Source: Simi Badiru

By Sam

Simi Badiru, the electrifying podcast - F&S Uncensored co-host, isn't afraid to get real. Their show tackles the hottest trends in Nigerian music and pop culture, but what truly sets them apart is their dedication to peeling back the layers and revealing the personal stories that fuel the industry.

In a recent interview, Simi spoke about the joys of delving into the lives of their guests. "We create a comfortable environment," she explained, "that makes them feel comfortable enough to be open." This commitment to authenticity shines through in every episode, offering listeners a glimpse into the hearts and minds of the people shaping Nigerian pop culture.



> We create a comfortable environment that makes them feel comfortable enough to be open.

F&S Uncensored isn't just about revisiting the past; they're actively shaping the future. "One of our major aims," Simi shared, "is to identify and give upcoming African talent a platform." The podcast plays a crucial role in nurturing the next generation of creative powerhouses by showcasing fresh voices and promoting rising stars.

Simi's dedication extends beyond established artists. They also seek out "unconventional guests," the behind-the-scenes players who contribute significantly but often remain unseen. Highlighting these figures brings a fresh perspective and sheds light on the intricate web of talent that drives the industry.

One particularly inspiring story Simi shared involved video director Dammy Twitch. When first hired by Davido, Twitch lacked a working camera. Undeterred, he filmed the entire tour on his phone, cleverly concealing it beneath a broken camera. This anecdote exemplifies the resourcefulness and determination that thrives within the Nigerian creative scene.

> ***...With each guest, we aim to be intentional with our questions to get the most information out of them.***

Turning the spotlight onto music, Simi curated a playlist that captures the essence of Nigerian pop culture. Songs like "Raise The Roof" by Jazzman Olofin ft Ayuba and "Gongo Aso" by 9ice represent pivotal moments, showcasing the genre's versatility and evolution over the years.

The interview concluded with a playful dilemma. Given the chance to co-host an episode with a legendary musician, Simi wavered between Burna Boy and Wizkid. Both choices reflect her desire for insightful and engaging conversations. Burna Boy's enigmatic persona intrigues her, while Wizkid's current openness to sharing his thoughts promises a dynamic chat.

Ultimately, F&S Uncensored thrives on fostering a space for open and honest discussions. Simi's closing question embodies this spirit: "At what point is the Nigerian music industry going to be a self-sufficient ecosystem where we can discover, nurture and put out talent properly?" This forward-thinking inquiry reflects Simi's commitment to not just document Nigerian pop culture, but actively contribute to its flourishing future.







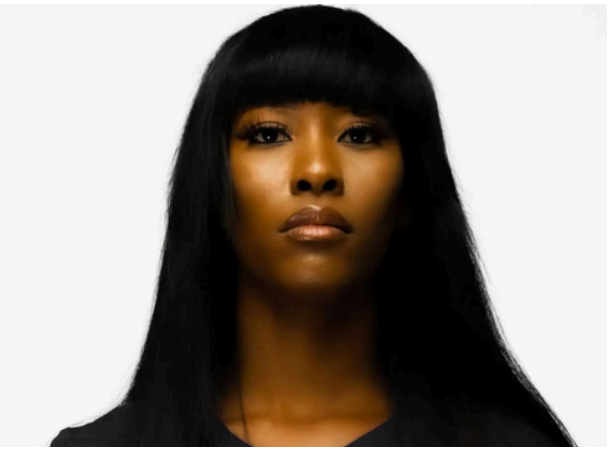
TREASURE CHIKWENDU

Living the Role

By Sam

In an industry often defined by stereotypes, Treasure Chikwendu is a refreshing anomaly. She's not just an actress; she's a polyglot, a producer, and a passionate advocate for social change. With a career trajectory that spans film, stage, and commercials, Treasure is proving that versatility is the new black.

From the bustling streets of Lagos to the global stage, Treasure has carved a niche for herself as an actor who isn't afraid to take risks. Her ability to effortlessly transition between languages and dialects is a testament to her dedication to her craft. As Treasure puts it, "I remember when I acted my first Hausa speaking role. I had to search for movie references to be able to understand the mannerisms of the people in the Northern culture." This level of immersion is rare in an industry often focused on quick fixes.



But acting is just one facet of Treasure's multifaceted career. With a keen business acumen, she's also made her mark as a producer. Navigating the complex landscape of the Nigerian film industry, Treasure has become a vocal advocate for increased support for local filmmakers. "Producing in Nigeria is very difficult especially if you are an independent producer," she admits.

Yet, her determination to overcome challenges is as inspiring as her on-screen performances.
Beyond her professional achievements, Treasure is a woman of substance. Her commitment to social issues is evident in her work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. "My sole aim as an actor is to change lives and impact lives positively," Treasure says. It's this kind of passion and purpose that truly sets her apart.

As we delve deeper into the world of this extraordinary talent, it becomes clear that Treasure Chikwendu is more than just a pretty face. She's a force to be reckoned with, a trailblazer who is redefining the boundaries of the Nigerian entertainment industry.



BIBI

The Voice Behind the Mic

By Sam



Source: IG

Bibi, like many hardworking creative women, pours her heart and soul into her craft. An OAP, voiceover artist, and media sales guru, she's making waves in the African digital space, and her talent is only going to keep growing. Her journey into the creative world was as natural as breathing. A twelve-year-old Bibi was already captivated by the magic of radio, drawn to the unseen connection fostered between broadcaster and listener. Despite a university degree in marine biology, her heart yearned for the microphone.



Source: IG

"...keep showing up"

Her love affair with radio is evident in her voice, a tool she wields with finesse. The transition from OAP to voiceover artist was seamless. She explains, "Voice acting is like storytelling with your voice. You must be able to use inflexion to convey emotions." This skill, honed through years of engaging audiences, has undoubtedly contributed to her growth as a voiceover artist.

Beyond the microphone, Bibi is a culinary wizard, running a successful cooking business. While she believes her culinary and media careers are distinct, she exudes confidence in her ability to conquer any food-related radio project.

When asked about her superpower of choice, Bibi opts for the ability to be understood in any language. This choice reflects her deep-rooted desire to connect with a global audience and break down language barriers.
For aspiring creatives, Bibi's advice is simple yet profound: "Keep showing up." Persistence, she believes, is the key to unlocking success. Her own journey is a testament to this philosophy.

When asked If she could narrate a documentary about any African topic, she expressed that the Boko Haram scourge in Nigeria deeply affects her. Growing up privileged, she acknowledges the stark contrast to the lives of young girls caught in the conflict. She believes a documentary could powerfully illuminate the devastation and suffering endured by ordinary Nigerians, urging for a society free from such horrors.



Source: IG

Bibi's a creative who goes beyond just making cool stuff. She's a true inspiration, showing others that chasing your dreams is possible. Her passion is contagious, and her skills are impressive! It'll be exciting to see what she does next in the ever-changing world of media.


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FENTY x PUMA
BY RIHANNA
AD



THE FLEX BY KOMMUNITY FLEX

By Akapo Temitopeoluwa

If you stayed indoors in Lagos because of the morning rain on the 14th of June, the chances you saw your friends having fun outside at The Flex Hangout Lagos Edition are quite high. The Kommunity Flex held the second edition of The Flex Hangout at Amore Gardens.

The event was filled with creatives; content creators, performers,brands and communities.







The event had over 300 people in attendance from early evening till 4 AM - true to our words. Best in the professional act of "talk and doism". The playground had experience spaces, games, vendors, and ultimately a rave which made it a memorable experience because that's the flex. The experience was documented and shared at intervals on the brands designated page Instagram @theflexplayground.

Recognize any of your favorite people in these pictures?













By Fatimat Oluwaseun
Styled by Fraim'd, Photo by Aaron



FRAIM'D

The Style Bender

"The fashion industry called, and I had to answer," says Fraim'D, his passion for fashion evident. This "inherent drive for greatness" fuels his constant innovation, pushing boundaries in the Nigerian scene.

Styled by Fraim'd, Photo by Kenz Art Africa



Fraim'D's journey is an inspiration. He never stopped "believing, growing, learning," constantly honing his skills. Facing negativity and doubt, he persevered: "I never settled for less and kept pushing forward consistently!"

Fraim'D's magic lies in his ability to "blend all genres in fashion," with a personal love for street style. He seamlessly draws inspiration from various sources, creating truly unique looks.

Understanding his clients is crucial. "My team and I study their style and references," he explains. This ensures his signature touch complements the client's personality.

s constant innovation, pushing boundaries in the Nigerian scene.

For projects like music videos, Fraim'D collaborates with his team. "We review treatments, then I curate my own style direction," he reveals. This collaborative approach ensures a cohesive vision before experimentation begins.

Looking back, Fraim'D cherishes collaborations that fostered synergy. He mentions working with Mohbad ("effortless connection"), Superstar Deraa ("somnambulistic level" design process), and GINGO aka DAPOTUBURNA ("telepathic connection").

Fraim'D's future is exciting! He's working on a fashion series, movie, pop-up events, and his style class' second edition. His passion extends beyond styling, inspiring the next generation.



Styled by Fraim'd, Photo by Andikan Edwin



Styled by Fraim'd, Photo by Kenz Art Africa



Styled by Fraim'd, Photo by Walter Banks

Fraim'D is a true visionary pushing boundaries in Nigerian fashion. His ability to blend genres is sure to continue inspiring stylists and fashion enthusiasts across Africa.

Fraim'D's message is clear: "Think outside the box. Trust your instincts, and never shy away from creating and expressing yourself. You are destined for greatness!"

The colour wheel is Fraim'D's "favourite tool," with each colour conveying a unique message. He concludes by calling "your ideas" the most underrated fashion trend, urging stylists to embrace their creativity.



BLACK ALBINO STYLES

STYLEBOOK BY BLACK ALBINO

Daniel is wearing a crocheted beanie designed by Benna, an off-white two pieces, a striped T-shirt, silver rings and black Zara shoes.
Creative Directors: Benna and SOE.
Styled by Black Albino.
Photographed by SOE

Maria is wrapped in pink silky fabric, with condensed milk dripping down her face.
Styled by Black Albino.
Hairstyle by Ope Smade.
Photographed by Willens.









Ibukun is styled in a yellow blazer and brown leather boots.
Styled by Black Albino.
Photographed by Josh Oyebanji.
Hairstyle by Ope Smade.





Precious Arediame is styled in a burgundy turtleneck, green flower-patterned skirt, high-thigh boots, and vintage jewellery.
Styled by Black Albino.
Photographed by Phalorey, Retouched by Kolor Fix.
Hairstyling by Ope Smade.



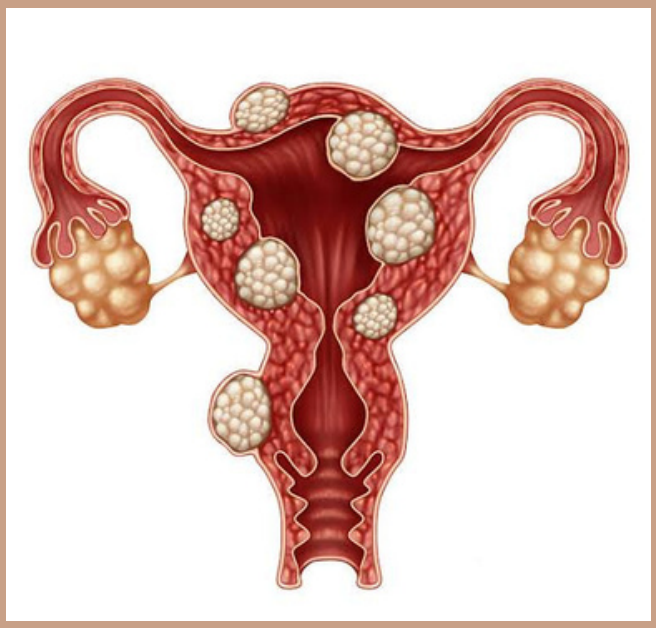
Coldkiss - Wearing crafted hats designed by Benna, a denim top patterned with red and blue checkered material, a checkered skirt, denim pants and hard Crocs.
Creative Direction and Styling by Black Albino.
Photography by CC Notion.



AD



DR NKEM ANDREA OBI
MEDICAL DOCTOR, NUTRITIONIST CONSULTANT
FOUNDER OF M&D HEALTH



FIBROIDS

The Silent Epidemic

Fibroids are a prevalent health concern for women, often shrouded in myths and misconceptions. This article aims to shed light on fibroids, from their definition and causes to symptoms, diagnosis, treatment options, and potential complications. By equipping women with accurate information, we can effectively empower them to manage their health and well-being.

What Are Fibroids?

Medically defined as non-cancerous growths in the uterus, fibroids typically develop during a woman's reproductive years. In Nigeria, the prevalence of fibroids is significantly higher than the global average, affecting an estimated 20-30% of women, particularly those aged 30-50.

- The exact cause of fibroids remains unclear, and they are categorised as idiopathic (unknown cause). However, several factors are believed to contribute to their development:Genetics: A family history of fibroids increases a woman's risk.
- Hormones: Oestrogen and progesterone play a crucial role in fibroid growth. Studies suggest that fibroids grow when hormone levels are high and shrink when they are low.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

Fibroids often go unnoticed, especially when small. However, larger fibroids can manifest in various symptoms, including Heavy or painful menstrual periods, Frequent urination, Dizziness, Palpitations, Low back pain, Painful sexual intercourse, and Feeling bloated or full.

A healthcare provider can often detect fibroids during a routine pelvic exam. Additionally, symptoms like heavy bleeding may prompt them to consider fibroids as a possible diagnosis. Several tests can confirm the presence, size, and location of fibroids: Pelvic examination, Ultrasound, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Hysterosonography, Hysterosalpingography and Hysteroscopy.

Treatment Options

Treating fibroids depends on their size, location, and how much they affect a woman's life. Options include:

- Medications: Hormonal treatments can help manage symptoms.
- Minimally invasive procedures: These involve small incisions and can remove or shrink fibroids.
- Surgery: In severe cases, surgery might be necessary to remove fibroids or the uterus.

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COPYRIGHT LAW.

Nigeria boasts a vibrant creative scene, but understanding copyright law is often overlooked. Here's what you need to know to protect your intellectual property:

1. Copyright is Automatic But Registration is Key

Unlike many countries, copyright in Nigeria is automatic upon creation. However, registering your work with the Nigerian Copyright Commission provides concrete evidence of ownership, making it easier to enforce your rights.

2. Nigeria's Copyright Law is Weakly Enforced

While copyright infringement is illegal in Nigeria, enforcement is often lax. This means creatives must be proactive in protecting their work. Consider using digital watermarking and copyright notices to deter infringement.

3. Understanding International Copyright Treaties is Crucial

If you plan to go global, you can just familiarize yourself with international copyright treaties like the Berne Convention. These treaties offer some protection for your work in signatory countries, but the level of protection varies.

4. Document Everything

Keep detailed records of your creative process. This includes drafts, emails, and any communication related to your work. This documentation can be invaluable if you need to prove ownership or originality.



5. Know Your Rights and How to Enforce Them

Understand the legal remedies available for copyright infringement. While the process can be complex and costly, seeking legal counsel can help you navigate the system.

Remember, protecting your intellectual property is essential for your career's longevity. By taking these steps, you can safeguard your creative output and ensure you receive due credit and compensation for your work.