

ESCAPE

DIGITAL ESCAPE AFRICA

MIKE EDWARDS

The Rise of the Machine



Skales | Shado Chris | Wendy Shay | Iremide Adeoye | Anthony Azekwoh | Sandra Ogbolu | Agnes Ekanem | Evelle | Kemuel | Dunnie | Winny | Black Sun | Thiago | Ijaya Comics, | Detty December Events & More Creatives.

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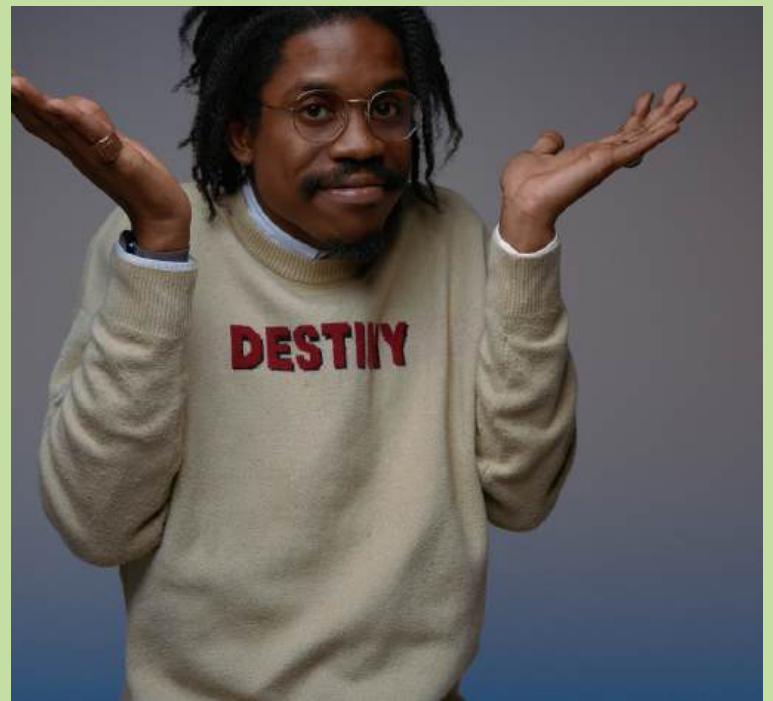
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ESCAPE

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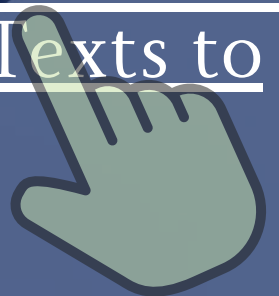
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Editor's Letter

Hey there, Escape Mag family!

Welcome to Issue 7! We're thrilled to bring you another round of inspiration straight from the heart of Africa. This November-December edition showcases the incredible creativity blossoming across the continent that you don't want to miss!

We've got an exciting highlight this issue: a look at Mike Edwards, the former Big Brother Naija star turned professional boxer! He's sharing his journey, motivations, and the hurdles he's facing in this new chapter—and it's truly inspiring.

We had exclusive photoshoots and interview sessions with Big Daddy Skales, soulful Evelle, Kemuel and the fantastic Shado Chris from Ivory Coast.

And let's not forget about art! We're diving into the bold future of urban African art with insights from two incredible talents, Anthony Azekwoh and Agnes Ekanem. Their stories are as captivating as their creations!

So, we curated a fun spotlight on some amazing talents like Wendy Shay from Ghana, Dunnie, Winny, Thiagho, Sandra Ogbolu, Blacksun and Iremide Adeoye. Each of them brings their own unique vibe in their creative scenes, which is super cool! Plus, we've got more of the Ijaya Comics series, so keep an eye out for that.

A huge shoutout to our incredible partners—OneRPM, Lead City University, Puma Nigeria, The Mix NG, and Guguru Studios! We couldn't have done it without the amazing crew of photographers, videographers, stylists, writers, project managers, and all the other talented creatives we teamed up with. Together, we're building a vibrant community that's overflowing with creativity and passion. Thank you all for being part of this journey!

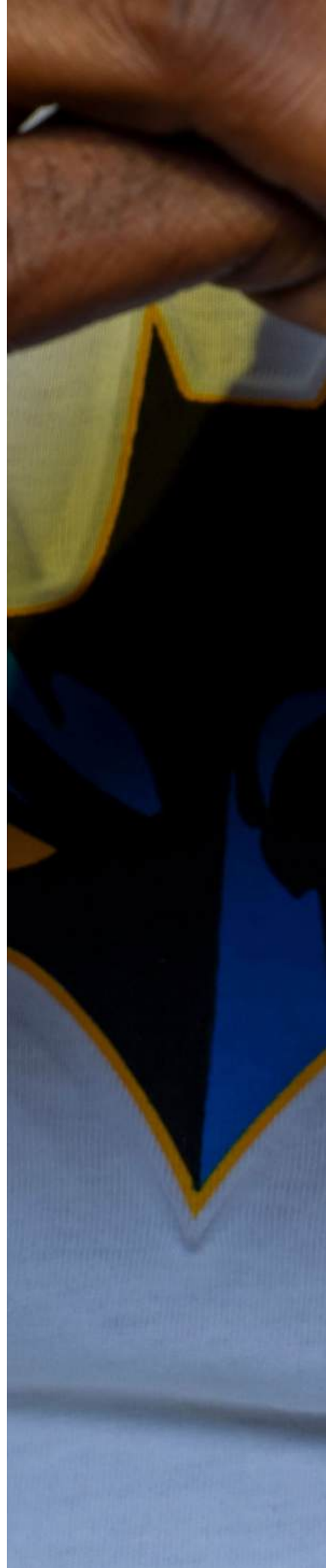
Also, keep an eye out for our special Christmas Day edition, loaded with more surprises and inspiration. We share this issue with your fellow creatives, and let's continue to celebrate the undeniable power of African creativity!

Happy reading!

Warmly,

Okiki Laoye

Editor-in-Chief, Escape Mag



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Skales

BY OKIKI LAOYE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOE

INTERVIEW BY OLUWATONI OTTUN
PRODUCTION MANAGER: SAM

STYLING BY FRAIM'D
VIDEO BY REETHYM (DIRECTORRATE)

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Big Daddy Skales is absolutely on fire right now! With his new music with American rapper Ace Hood and with a new feature with Ivorian superstar Shado Chris, he's winning over fans all around the globe. In our exclusive chat, we dive into what he's been up to lately. Enjoy this exclusive interview with Escape Mag.



Photography by SOE

Escape Mag: Your journey from the local music scene in Kaduna to international recognition is inspiring. What are the key turning points that shaped your career?

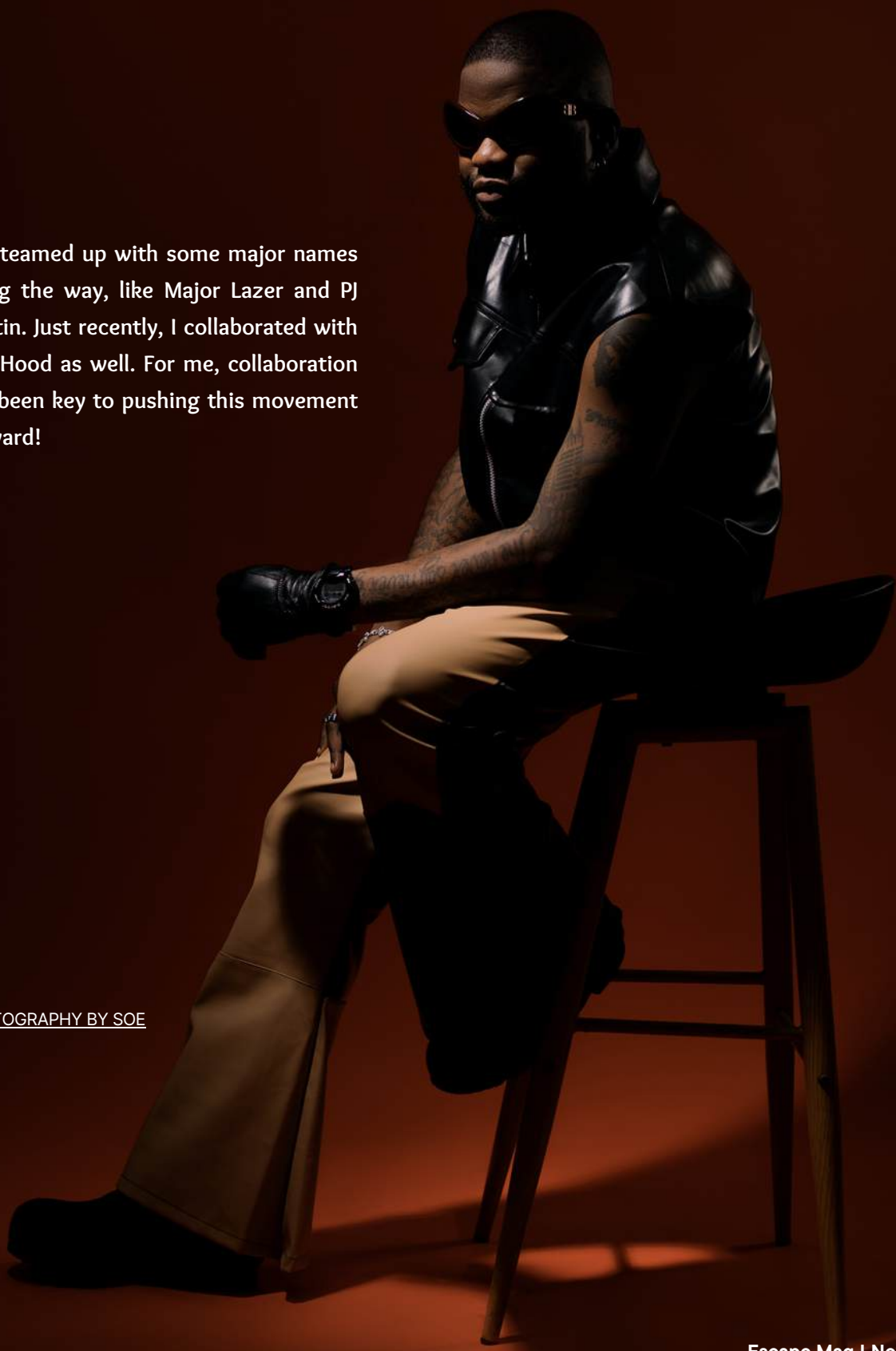
Skales: I'd say the big turning points for me were signing with Banky W and moving to Lagos. Honestly, moving to Lagos changed everything!

Escape Mag: You've been at the forefront of the Afrobeats evolution. Yeah. How have you seen the genre change over the years, and what role have you played in shaping its direction?

Skales: Honestly, I see myself as one of the pioneers of Afrobeats on the global stage. It's a blessing to see how far we've come—from performing in random clubs and weird places overseas to stadiums and arenas! That's just incredible.

I've teamed up with some major names along the way, like Major Lazer and PJ Martin. Just recently, I collaborated with Ace Hood as well. For me, collaboration has been key to pushing this movement forward!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOE



Escape Mag: Your time with Empire Mate Entertainment, EME, was a significant period in your career. How did that experience influence your artistic growth and network?

Skales: EME was such a blessing for me! Huge shoutout to Banky for giving me that platform to be heard. Honestly, it felt like school—like, I learned so much there. Most of what I know about music and the biz, I picked up at EME. They really helped shape my career, got me the exposure I needed to travel abroad, and connect with other artists. Couldn't have done it without them!

Escape Mag: Now let's move further a little bit, your 2020 project, "Healing Process", was a deep introspective body of work. What inspired you to create such a personal album, and how did it impact your mental and emotional well-being?

Skales: So, the Healing Process project is super special to me. I recorded some tracks while I was on my sick bed, which is why I named it that. It was all about healing from relationships and various situations. Even if I didn't share much at the time, it meant a lot to me.

Honestly, after working on it, I found my confidence in music. The whole experience was a journey of healing and self-discovery for me, helping me sharpen my skills and figure out what I really want to do. That's what the Healing Process is all about for me!



Photography by SOE



Photography by SOE

Escape Mag: You've collaborated with some of the biggest names in the industry as you said already. What do you look for in a beat, or how do you approach the creative process with different producers?

Skales: Honestly, I don't have a formula. If I feel something, I just go with it. If it sparks something in me, I do it. I believe I make energetic music that uplifts people.

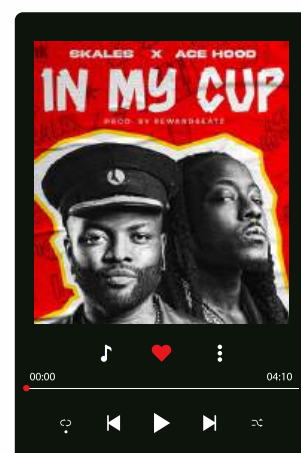
So, there's really no formula. It depends on how it goes. It could be the beat, ideas, or even something that pops into my head while driving.

Escape Mag: Now let's talk about fans for a little bit. What can they expect from your upcoming projects? Are there any specific genres or sounds that you're currently exploring?

Skales: If you listen to my past projects, you'll notice I'm always trying something new. The Skales you knew before is different now. Expect the best, man. This is one of my best works yet. It's a special project, even the name, 'Martina's Son,' is special to me.



Photography by Josh Oyebanji



Escape Mag: How do you want to be remembered in the history of Afrobeats? And what lasting impact do you hope to make on the music industry?

Skales: Like everyone else, I want to be remembered for greatness. Most importantly, I want to tell my story, uplift people, and contribute positively to humanity and the world.

I hope to open more doors for other artists with the same dream as mine. I know what it takes to get there: support, funding, and good platforms.

Escape Mag: So one final question before we maybe go. If you could share one thing about yourself that no one knows, what would it be? It could be a hidden talent or a secret ambition. Yeah, man.

Skales: A surprising fact about me is that I'm vegetarian. I only recently started trying shredded chicken and meat in 2020. Most people don't believe me because they see me order meatless meals.



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Evelle

Evelle, the girl who beat 8,000 hopefuls to win the 2014 Nigerian Idol, is a rising star in African music today. From Nigerian stages to the global scenes, Evelle's journey shows her incredible talent, passion, and determination. Escape Mag had a quick chat with her and she told what she's been up to and what's coming next. Enjoy.



The music scene is more open than ever to artists like me. I believe my role is to heal people with music. I've been through a lot, and I'm still on my healing journey. Now, I'm in a place where I can share that peace with others through my music. That's my goal, 100%.

Photography by LensetheGrapher

Escape Mag: What's the one thing you find that people might not know about you? Might be hidden talent or a personal secret.

Evelle: Oh, boy. I cook. I love to cook. I love to feed people. I think that's the best way to put it. I love to feed people. I love to see people eat my food. Yeah. That's one of them, but I'm a person of many talents. I feel like I've lived so many lives, and I'll gradually unravel that and build all those sides of me eventually.



Photography by LenseTheGrapher

Escape Mag: Your journey to stardom started with a win in Senegal. How did that experience shape your career path, and what did you learn from that early success?

Evelle: I'm a big dreamer. Winning Nigerian Idol was a huge moment for me. It ignited a spark and made me realize my dreams could become reality. Winning in Nigeria and then representing the country in Dakar and winning again was a big deal. It showed me I could achieve more.

Escape Mag: You shared stages with legends like Angelique Kidjo amongst other stellar acts. What do you consider the key to a captivating live performance?

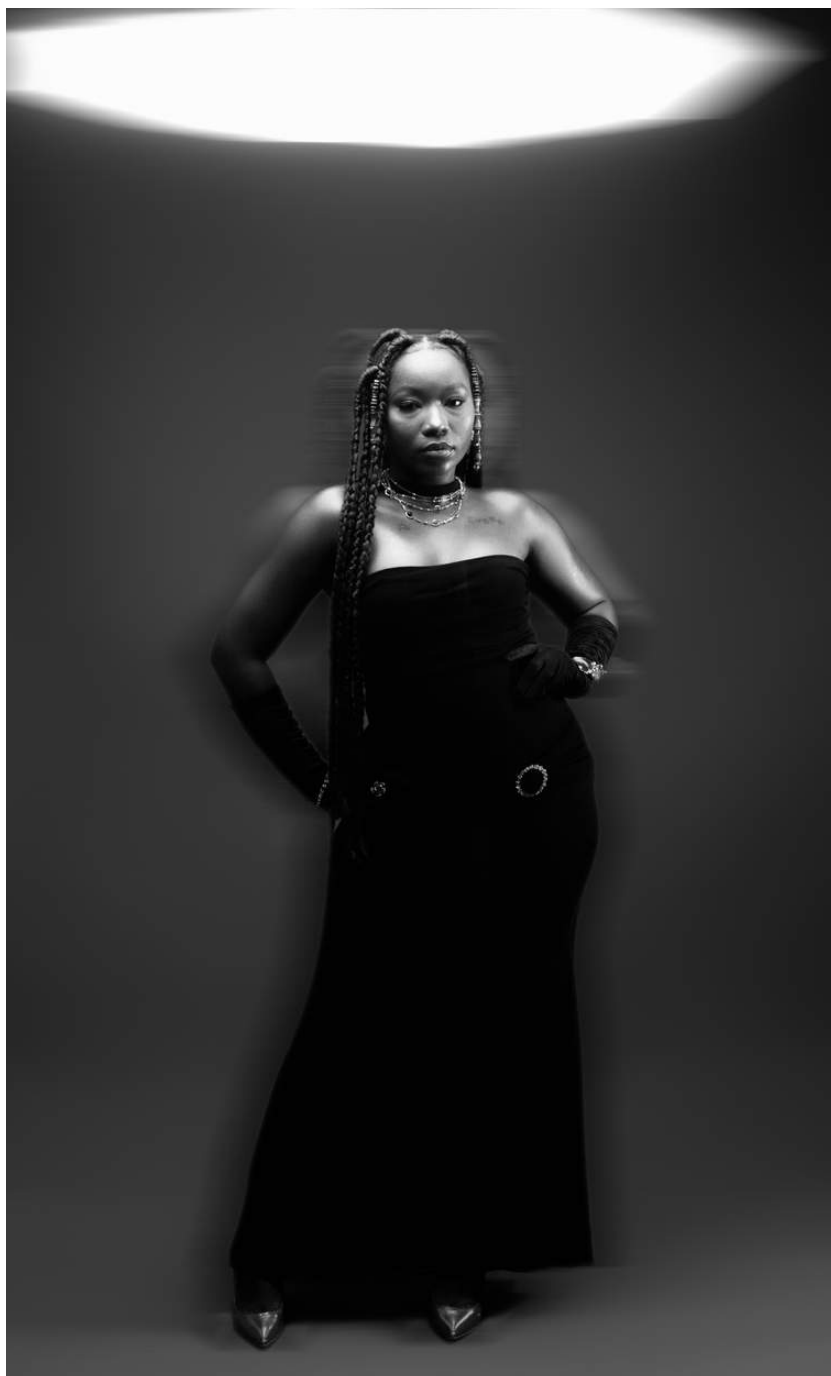
Evelle: Vulnerability is key. It takes courage to perform like Angelique Kidjo, to truly let go. I'm still working on that.

After a performance with her, she told me, 'Evelle, less is more.' It took me years to understand that she meant I shouldn't try too hard. The key to a great performance is simply being myself.

Escape Mag: How has your sound evolved from your earlier work to your recent EP comeback?

Evelle: After I released my EP, "Comeback", I was on LTV for an interview. One of the hosts saw me and said, 'Evelle, you've really changed.' She noticed that I used to try to hit every note, show off my vocal range. Now, my performances are more effortless and peaceful. I've learned that peace is key to a great performance and a fulfilling life. That's the energy you feel in my music now.

Escape Mag: What inspires your music? And, also, what can fans expect from your future releases?



Photography by LenseTheGrapher

Evelle: It's amazing how much I've grown. I used to struggle with writing music based on my feelings and experiences. But now, I find it easier to express myself without being overwhelmed by those emotions.

Every song I write is a reflection of my experiences. I've been there and felt that. I was very vulnerable in my recent EP.

Escape Mag: What's your perspective on the current state of the Nigerian music industry, and how do you see your role in shaping the future of the scene?



PUMA X DAVIDO

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BY OKIKI LAOYE
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STYLING BY BLACK ALBINO
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Shado Chris



So, we caught up with Shado Chris, the Ivorian sensation making waves in the West African music scene! Known for his fresh beats and sound, Christian Falé is not just an artist but also a producer and label owner. He was in Nigeria for a quick video shoot and, lucky for us, took some time out to chat with Escape Mag. Check out the full interview.



Photography by Josh Oyebanji

Escape Mag: Your music mixes Afrobeats, Rap, R&B, and Afro-pop. How did you come to this unique sound, and what inspires your genre-blending approach?

Shado Chris: You know, my music reflects who I am. I've been into foreign rap since I was 8, listening to tracks like Zoblazo by Maiway. That vibe has stuck with me since childhood; all those different sounds have shaped my style today. Honestly, my music is just an extension of me.

Escape Mag: You made significant strides in the international music scene. What challenges and opportunities have you encountered as an Ivorian artist breaking into global markets?

Shado Chris: Honestly, I feel like I really helped put Rap Ivoire on the map in the Ivory Coast. When I started producing for local artists, rap wasn't as popular as it is now. Thanks to the work I've done, the music scene here has expanded beyond just 'Coupe Decale' to include rap Ivoire and Afrobeats, among other genres. I'm all about pushing this forward with my own album. I want to shine a spotlight on Afrobeats in Ivory Coast because I think it's what we need. My goal is to turn my country into a music hub for both Francophone and Anglophone artists, and share our culture with the world.

Escape Mag: And what do you think is the biggest challenge to actually achieving that?

Shado Chris: Honestly, I think the biggest challenge for Francophone artists is the language barrier. We just don't get the same spotlight as Anglophone artists like Wizkid or Burna Boy. There's definitely a lot of work to do. It's not just about the language, though; it's also about the music quality. I'm all about putting in the effort to create great music, and I hope other artists in Ivory Coast will do the same!

Escape Mag: As a renowned producer, you worked with numerous artists. What is your secret to making beats that speak and resonate with your audiences across the world?

Shado Chris: My secret? It's all about the music I vibe with. I've been soaking up all sorts of genres since I was a kid. So when an artist comes to collaborate, I already get the vibe of various styles, which gives me a solid edge. Plus, I've got a knack for understanding the artists I work with. I love experimenting with new sounds, like mixing Coupe Decale with rap or blending Afrobeats with Drill. That kind of mashup is where I see the future of music heading.



Photography by Josh Oyebanji

Escape Mag: How has Coupe Decale evolved over the years, and what role have you played in shaping its modern sound?

Shado Chris: Since 2002-2003, 'Coupe Decale' has had this vibe: don't sweat your problems. Back then, the country was at war, and this music helped people forget their struggles. But some folks criticize it.

On the flip side, you had Zouglou, which was all about delivering messages—encouraging people to work hard and pay their bills. When I entered the scene, these were the two main styles. I wanted to mix things up and introduce new sounds in Ivory Coast. We had rappers and Afrobeat artists, but rap often came without any contracts or support. I'm here to change that. I want to create a space where if you make good music in Ivory Coast, it's not just about 'Coupe Decale' or Zouglou; it's about exploring more styles.

Escape Mag - What's your perspective on the current state of the African music industry, and what advice will you give to aspiring artists who are coming up from the continent?

Shado Chris: My advice? Just go for it, but do it right! If you want to chase something, give it your all—it's the best way to break boundaries and become who you really want to be. As for African music, we're on fire right now! Shout out to the amazing artists from Nigeria and South Africa—what you're doing is massive. Thanks to you guys, African music is making waves all over the world, and that's what every artist dreams of. And don't sleep on Ivorian artists—we're coming in strong too!

Escape Mag: You have a dedicated fan base here in Nigeria. What message do you have for your Nigerian fans, and what can they expect from you in the future?

Shado Chris: Hey everyone! Big shout out to all my fans in Nigeria! I'm super excited to announce that my album drops on December 6th. I think you're really gonna love it! Let's take this journey together—stay tuned! Huge thanks to Onerpm and to all of you for the support.

Escape Mag: You have a new song with Nigerian artist Skales , How did that collaboration happen?

Shado Chris: So, I teamed up with Onerpm again and cooked up some beats and a hook back in January. I really wanted it on my album, so I sent it over to them. And guess what? Skales was all ears! He heard a bunch of my tracks and totally vibed with this one. So he made his verse, sent it back to me. I loved it too. So that's how it happened.

Photography by Josh Oyebanji



Photography by Josh Oyebanji



Escape Mag: What is one question that you wish more people would ask you? What is the answer you'd love to share with such a question?

Shado Chris: The question I wish people would ask me is when I'm doing my first concert! I get asked about it sometimes, and I'm super excited to say it's happening in March 2025. Thank God for this opportunity!

Escape Mag: Is there any hidden talent or hobby that few people know about? Maybe a secret skill or a passion project that you're working on that you're very much about.

Shado Chris: I'm putting together a beat-making school with my crew in Ivory Coast! Once I drop my album and hit the tour, I'm diving into this. A lot of folks have been asking how I craft my beats, so I figured, why not teach it? Super excited about it! Stay tuned!

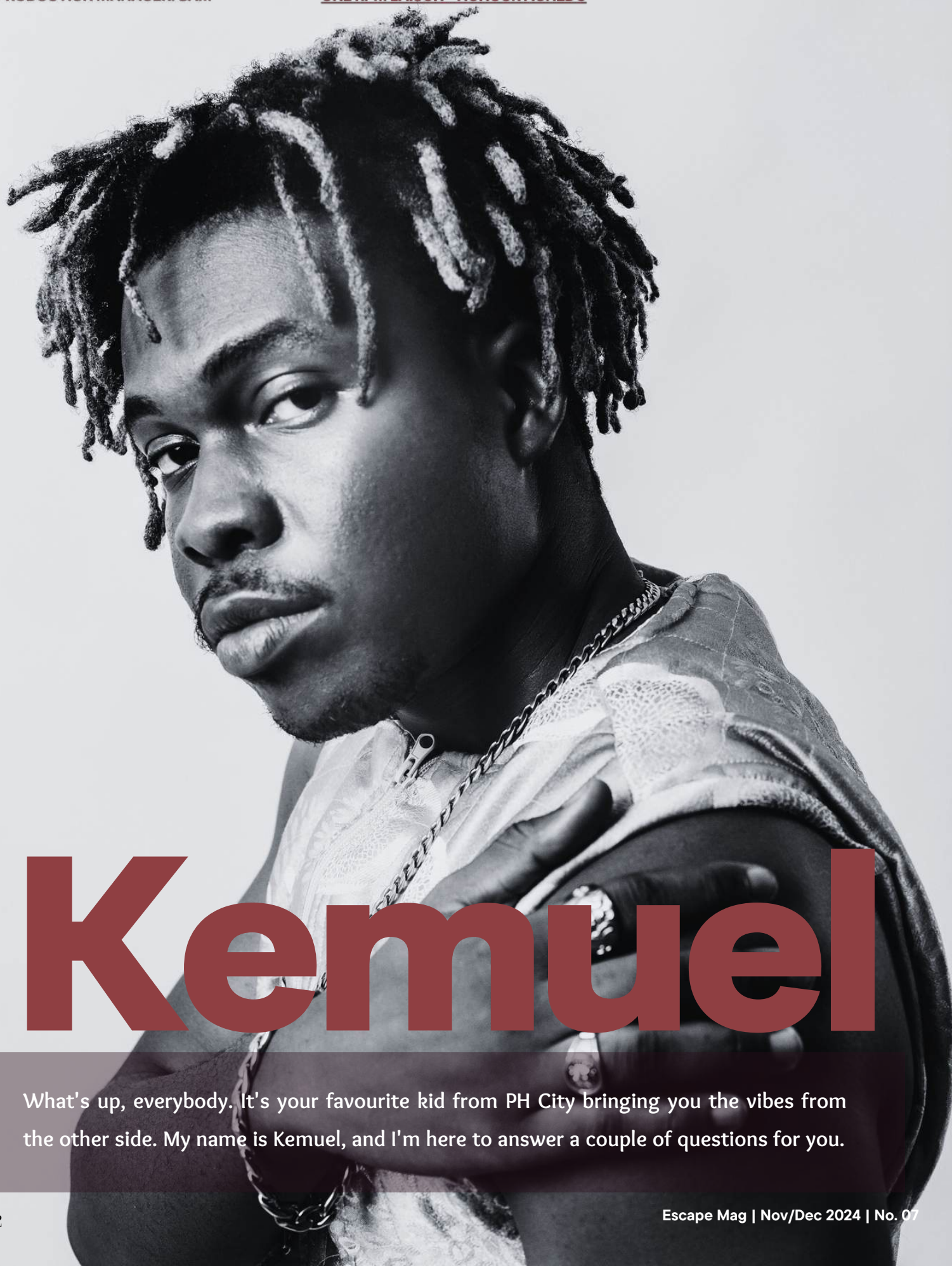
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Kemuel

What's up, everybody. It's your favourite kid from PH City bringing you the vibes from the other side. My name is Kemuel, and I'm here to answer a couple of questions for you.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LENSETHEGRAPHER

Escape Mag: Growing up in Rivers State, Nigeria, what were the local sounds and artists that shaped your musical identity, and how did they influence your unique sound?

Kemuel: Growing up, I listened to a ton of highlife, but my dad also introduced me to reggae, gospel, pop, and R&B. So, my musical taste is all over the place, influenced by what was playing around me—mostly highlife and pop. That's what really shaped my sound.

Escape Mag: What were the key moments in your journey from church choir to releasing *Clouds*?

Kemuel: First of all, I never actually sang in the choir. I was more of an assistant music director. I was great with harmonies and melodies but wasn't a singer. It wasn't until the lockdown that I started learning how to sing. By 2021, I felt like I had that down and wanted to learn production. I've always loved writing—especially poetry—which helped me build a solid foundation for lyrics. So, that's my journey so far!

Escape Mag: You also have a background in fine arts and design. How has that influenced your music? And, do you see any parallels between the creative processes of a visual artist and a musician?

Kemuel: Yeah, eventually I'll need to blend both my worlds together because when I listen to music, I see colours! There's a term for it, but I can't quite remember. Anyway, music hits me differently, so art is definitely something I'll be bringing into my music soon.

Escape Mag: Collaborating with Ozedikus on *Bunda* was a major breakthrough for you. What was the experience like, and how did it impact your career trajectory?

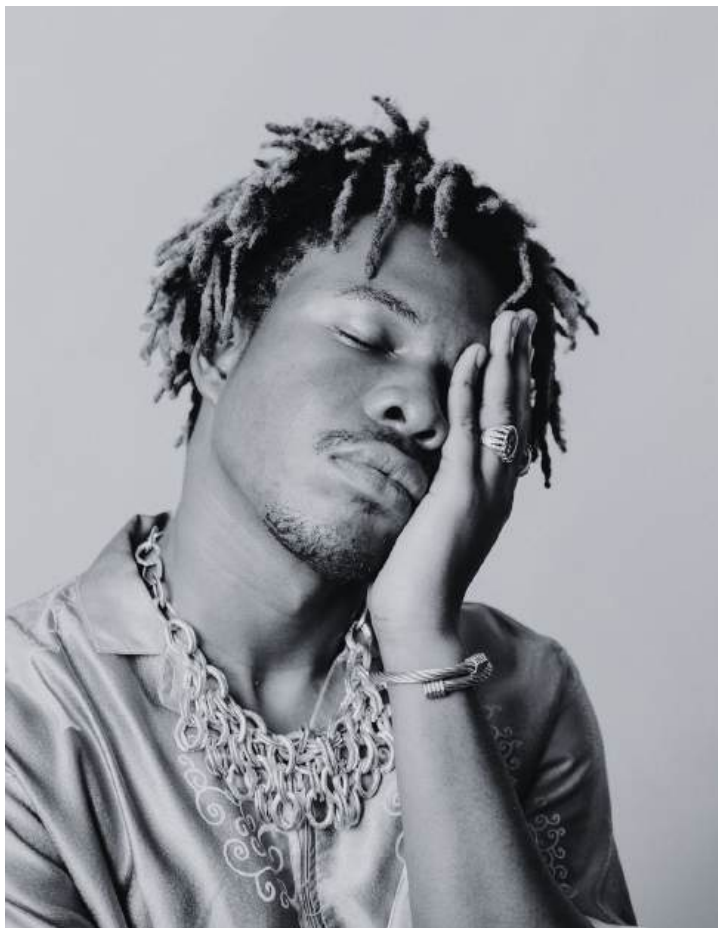
Kemuel: It's all felt a bit surreal for me. I come from a place where not many get to where I am, so I just let the music speak for itself. Wherever that takes my career is where I need to be right now, and I trust the universe has my back. Big shoutout to Ozedikus, Spinall, and Baddo—legends! Major thanks to their teams for making the song happen. Honestly, I'm grateful for all the love I've received from them; I'm not sure I deserve it, but I appreciate it!

Escape Mag: Your music has also evolved. What has driven this evolution, and what can fans expect from your future releases?

Kemuel: Honestly, I've been taking it easy on my fans lately—like, really easy. Now, as I start to show a more playful and experimental side, I know people are like, "Wait, where's this coming from?" So, starting in 2025, I'm ready to let everyone see The Real Kemuel.

Escape Mag: Alright. What are your passions outside of music? How do these interests influence your creativity? I love nature.

Kemuel: I'm not really a fan of crowded places, but I love people. I guess that sounds better! I'm all about humanity. I enjoy reading and watching movies. I don't play a lot of sports anymore because of a weird accident a couple of years ago, but music has really boosted my confidence.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LENSETHEGRAPHER

I think I'm ready to get back into the athletic side of things. Right now, though, music takes up most of my time. If you want to find me doing something else, I'll probably just be chilling.

Escape Mag: If you could share one thing about yourself that no one knows, what would it be? What would it be?

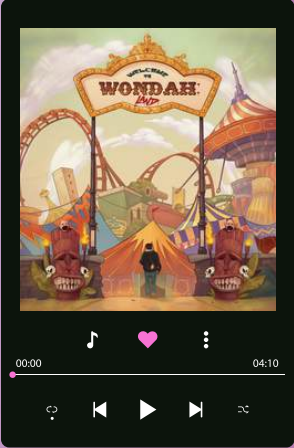
Kemuel: I have nine siblings! Most people don't know that. I could list all their names, but you probably wouldn't remember them. We all start with a "K"—our initials are all K! Just a fun fact! This Fit is so cool!

Escape Mag: Talking about new releases and what your fans can expect, you have a new single that's out right now. That's showcasing a part of yourself that not a lot of people know about. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

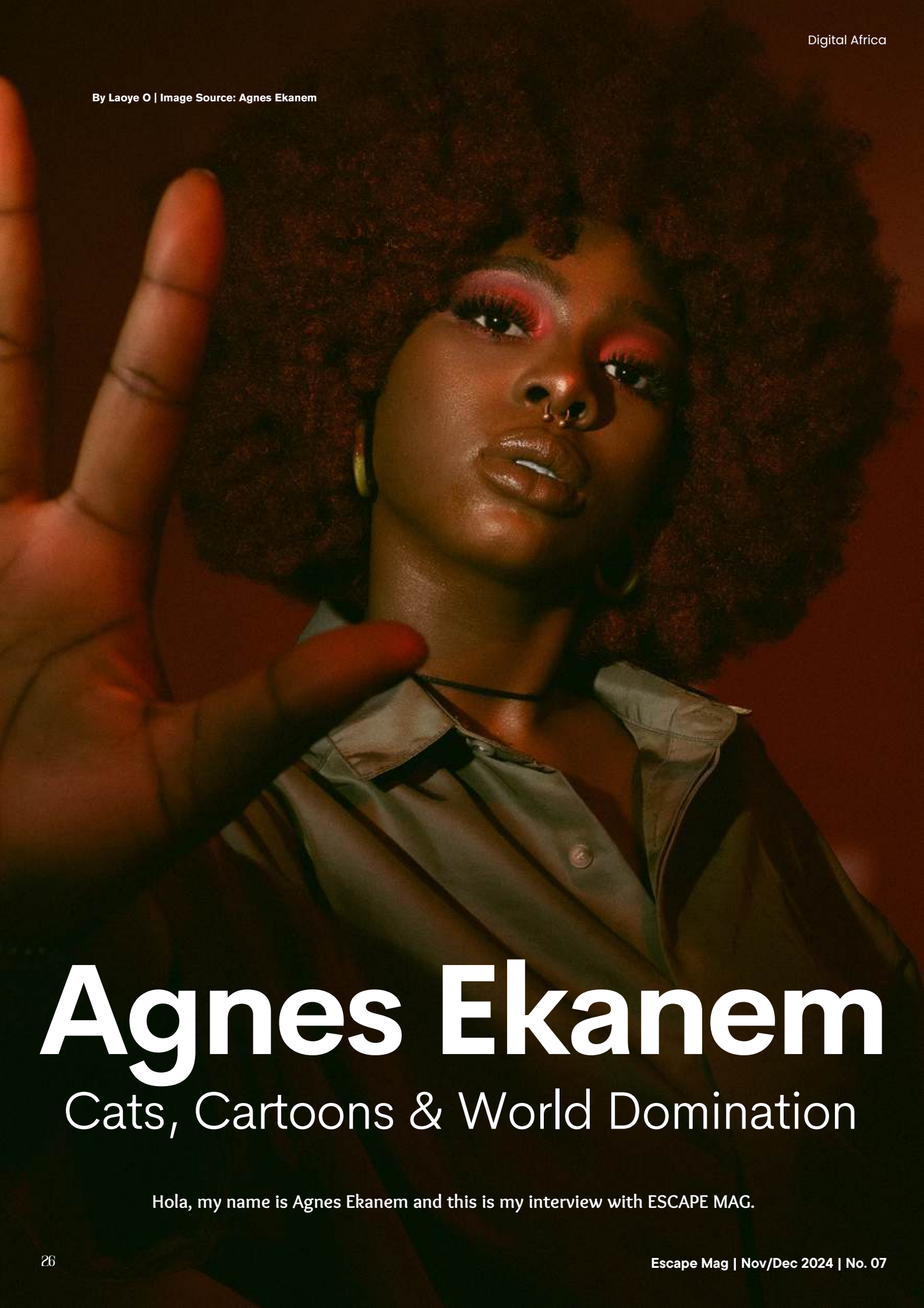
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I've been keeping my producer side under wraps—a bit like an alter ego I've built since I first started producing. I learned everything from YouTube, and as I got better, I realized my production style is pretty separate from my singing. It felt easiest to keep them balanced that way, like a yin and yang thing. So, my producer personality is named Wondah—yeah, I know, it's a cool name and there's a whole story behind it! We just dropped a sick single with Vasa that's totally the future of Afrobeats. You should definitely check it out!



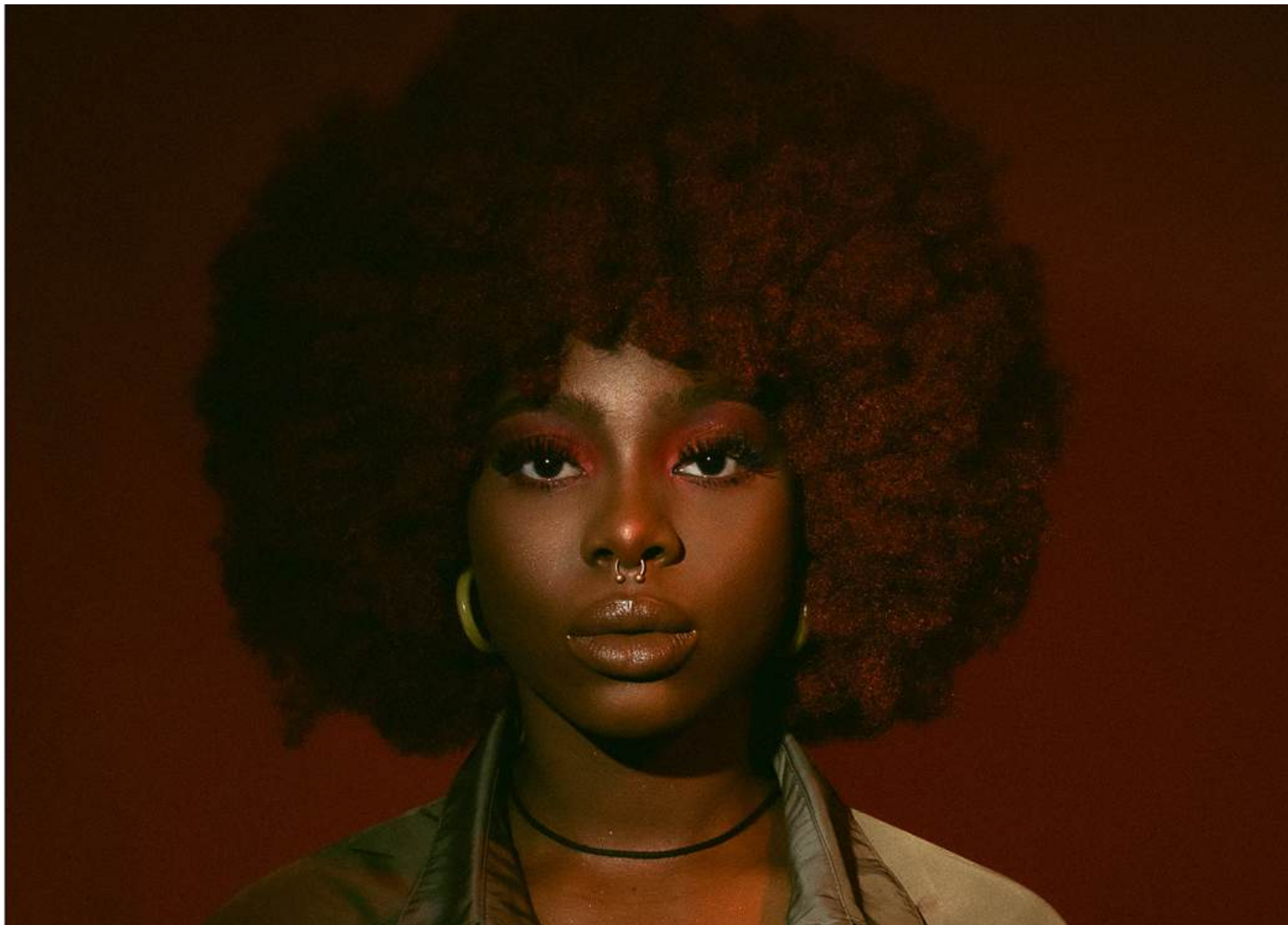
By Laoye O | Image Source: Agnes Ekanem



Agnes Ekanem

Cats, Cartoons & World Domination

Hola, my name is Agnes Ekanem and this is my interview with ESCAPE MAG.



Escape Mag: You started at Zikoko, then landed at PiggyTech. What drew you to financial literacy content creation, and how's it different from the more general storytelling you did before?

Agnes: Okay, when I started at Zikoko, my role required me to create engaging content to attract readers. I quickly learned how to make content that was both entertaining and informative.

At ULesson, an Edutech company, I worked on making educational materials for schools. I combined my experience from Zikoko to make education entertaining.

Moving to PiggyVest, I applied both my entertainment and educational skills to financial literacy content. The goal was to make financial topics relatable and engaging. So, I found myself in financial literacy content because it combines my skills and addresses a universal need. Everyone deals with money, so creating content that is both entertaining and informative is important. I'm careful to balance education and entertainment to make it relatable. Ultimately, I'm here because this path allows me to use my skills and make a difference.

Escape Mag: Congrats on getting funding for your animated series, E Dey Happen! What inspired the show's concept, and can you give our readers a sneak peek into the characters or storylines?

Agnes: I wanted to do more with my illustration skills, so I decided to explore animation. I began thinking about the kind of stories I wanted to tell, drawing inspiration from my experiences as a Nigerian. I wanted to capture the humour and resilience of Nigerian life.

'E Dey Happen' is a show that explores these themes through three relatable characters: Yatu, a hopeful young adult, Beju, an aspiring artist, and one more named Doja. These characters face challenges and strive for success, reflecting the experiences of many Nigerians. We have a new episode that drops on December 1st and I'm excited to share their stories with the world.

Escape Mag: You volunteer with HERSTORY.ng, which is really cool! What stories have resonated with you the most, and how do you think comics can contribute to preserving women's legacies?



As a woman, I'm drawn to women's stories and want to contribute to their documentation. I'm particularly interested in stories about women's rights, autonomy, and the challenges of modern womanhood.

One project I'm passionate about is exploring the experiences of child-free women. It's fascinating to see how they navigate societal expectations and make conscious choices about their lives.

I believe comics are a powerful medium for preserving women's stories. They can make complex issues more relatable and accessible. By using humor and visual storytelling, we can tackle serious topics in a light-hearted way. For example, exploring the absurdity of limiting women's bodily autonomy can spark important conversations.

Escape Mag: We're loving the idea of custom comic love stories at e.s. Publishing! What's the most heartwarming or unique request you've gotten for a comic?

Agnes: One of my most heartwarming experiences was creating a comic for Naomi and Chiby. Chiby commissioned a comic to express his love for his wife, Naomi. It was a beautiful and heartfelt project. Another memorable project was creating a comic for a couple celebrating their 12th anniversary. They had been together since high school, and the husband wanted to express his love and appreciation for his wife.

I also worked on a project for a Nigerian couple living in the UK. The husband commissioned a comic as an anniversary gift to thank his wife for her support and love. It was incredibly fulfilling to be a part of these special moments.

Escape Mag: So, you teach your cats world domination tricks... spill the beans! What are some of their surprising talents, and do you think they'll be guest stars in E Dey Happen someday?

Agnes: I love cats and I've taught mine a few tricks, like sitting, standing, and giving high-fives. It's been fun watching them learn new things. I've even considered training them for more cat-friendly skills.

I'd love to include cats in "E Dey Happen" someday to raise awareness about how loving and playful they can be. There are many misconceptions about cats, especially in Nigeria. I want to show the positive side of cat ownership and highlight their lovable nature.

Escape Mag: You juggle so many projects! How do you maintain your creative spark and stay organised amidst the chaos?

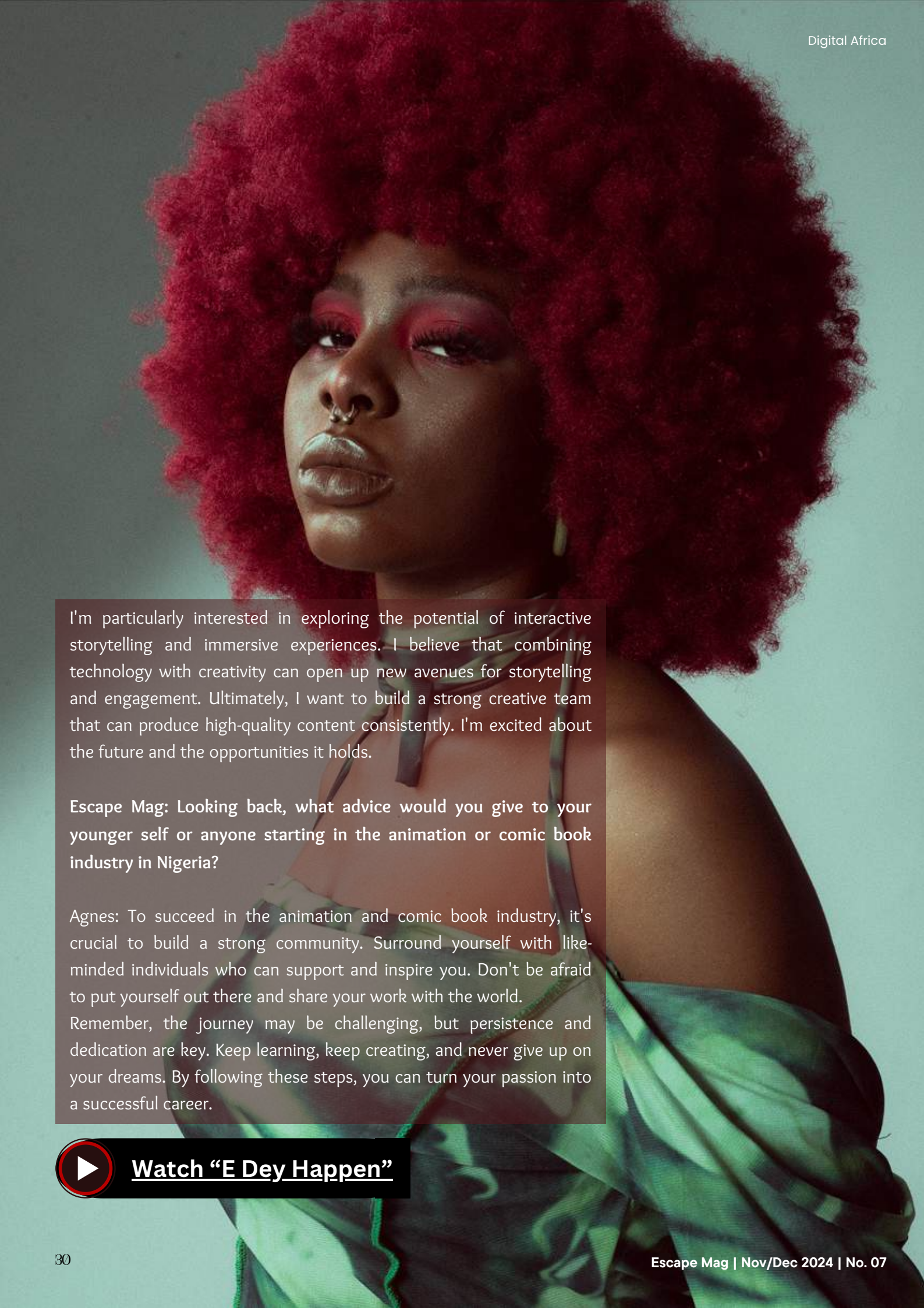
Agnes: I juggle multiple projects by viewing them as part of a larger creative journey. I'm strict about time management and prioritize tasks to avoid burnout.



While working on a creative campaign for PiggyVest, I drew inspiration from the concept of "E Dey Happen" to develop the script. This interconnectedness of projects helps maintain my creative spark.

Escape Mag: Where do you see Agnes Ekanem in five years? Animation powerhouse, comic book mogul, or maybe both? Share your wildest dreams for your creative journey.

Agnes: I aspire to be a leading figure in the animation and comic book industry. In the next five years, I see myself working on exciting projects, collaborating with talented individuals, and pushing the boundaries of storytelling. I aim to create captivating narratives that resonate with audiences and make a lasting impact.



I'm particularly interested in exploring the potential of interactive storytelling and immersive experiences. I believe that combining technology with creativity can open up new avenues for storytelling and engagement. Ultimately, I want to build a strong creative team that can produce high-quality content consistently. I'm excited about the future and the opportunities it holds.

Escape Mag: Looking back, what advice would you give to your younger self or anyone starting in the animation or comic book industry in Nigeria?

Agnes: To succeed in the animation and comic book industry, it's crucial to build a strong community. Surround yourself with like-minded individuals who can support and inspire you. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and share your work with the world.

Remember, the journey may be challenging, but persistence and dedication are key. Keep learning, keep creating, and never give up on your dreams. By following these steps, you can turn your passion into a successful career.



Watch “E Dey Happen”

Anthony Azekwoh

The Digital Age and the Artist



By Laoye O



Photo Source: OneRPM

Escape Mag: If you could sculpt any of your most iconic figures, real or imagined, who would it be and why?

Anthony Azekwoh: To be very honest, I can't say. If it had been on my mind, I would have done it. But something is interesting coming one of these Mondays, hehe.

Escape Mag: Can you describe your ideal studio space? What kind of environment inspires your creativity?

Anthony Azekwoh: It must be quiet (if music isn't playing), but I mostly work alone. I can't work with someone around me, it feels sacrilegious. I prefer a very solitary space, thinking and moving with the work.

Escape Mag: How do you navigate the challenges and opportunities of the contemporary art market? What advice do you have for artists who want to sell their work?

Anthony Azekwoh: This is something I'm still figuring out for myself but being able to be honest with myself on the value of my work and being able to experiment has been a great start.

Escape Mag: What do you think collectors look for in a sculpture? How do you build relationships with collectors and art institutions?

Anthony Azekwoh: I have no idea of what they look at, to be very honest. It doesn't even come to mind. I make what I like and am obsessed with and somehow, people feel the same way too. You build relationships with them much like you would a friend: showing up, taking interest in them, helping them out when you can...

Escape Mag: What do you hope your legacy as a sculptor will be? How do you want to be remembered by future generations?

Anthony Azekwoh: Interesting. I hope my legacy as an artist is that I was a good man. And that I tried to make things better where I could, and I fought for a life and future that I believed in. That's the legacy I want to leave, I think: the one of the fighters, who never stops, who keeps trudging on. Fighting for what's right

Escape Mag: What inspired you to transition from painting and digital art to sculpture? How does this new medium allow you to express your artistic vision differently?

Anthony: That's an interesting observation, but I guess to some people it does look that way. 10 years ago, if you asked the ten people who knew about me who I was, they'd have told you I was a writer. Three years later, they'd have said artist. Eight years after that, and I've seen a lot of people say sculptor. But, the thing is that I never stopped writing, or painting. So, it's less of a transition and more of an addition, adding another dialect of creativity in my repertoire. The new medium, though, allowed me to tell stories in 3 dimensional ways. Being able to play with form and story in a way I really couldn't before.

Escape Mag: Your sculptures celebrate Nigerian cultural figures. How do you balance historical accuracy with artistic interpretation in your work?

Anthony Azekwoh: I'm telling stories, not writing a documentary—is how I think about it. I do a lot of research going into my work but I understand that my main purpose is as a storyteller first and that means my goal is to connect, to entertain, to illuminate first. There are some narrative decisions I make that may or may not have happened but I shrug at them. That's what story is for, in my opinion. To travel to worlds that we can't see.

Escape Mag: What were the biggest challenges you faced in your early career, and how did you overcome them? What advice would you give to young, aspiring artists?

Anthony Azekwoh: I think a lot of people just didn't take me seriously at first and that hurt. So, I would say the biggest challenge was that confidence and faith in myself and my abilities with so much negativity from curators, galleries, and the internet. As time went on, it became undeniable, to even me, that really I had "it". Whatever you call it, the spark, the gift, whatever. I could see it, and feel it and other people could too. And I began to have faith in that, and trust where it leads me. "Trust the process", that's what I would say to artists. Trust it, it always knows where you're going, sometimes even before you do.

Escape Mag: How do you see art as a tool for social change and cultural understanding? What responsibility do artists have to their communities?

Anthony Azekwoh: Artists have an incredible responsibility to their communities. I remember now being in a horrible university and writing 3 essays about it and how bad our experience was. It got me into a lot of trouble but till this day, there are people that come up to me and tell me just how much that meant to them, how it helped them.

Escape Mag: How has the digital age impacted your art practice? What opportunities and challenges does it present for artists?



Anthony Azekwoh: The digital age is all I know. My work was born in the digital age, forged with pixels and melted on screens. Sharing my work online is second nature to me, and I think the impact over the years has been incredible, sharing my work with people in parts of the world I didn't even know existed. The main challenge, though, is being able to quiet the noise and really get to what you want, not the crowd.

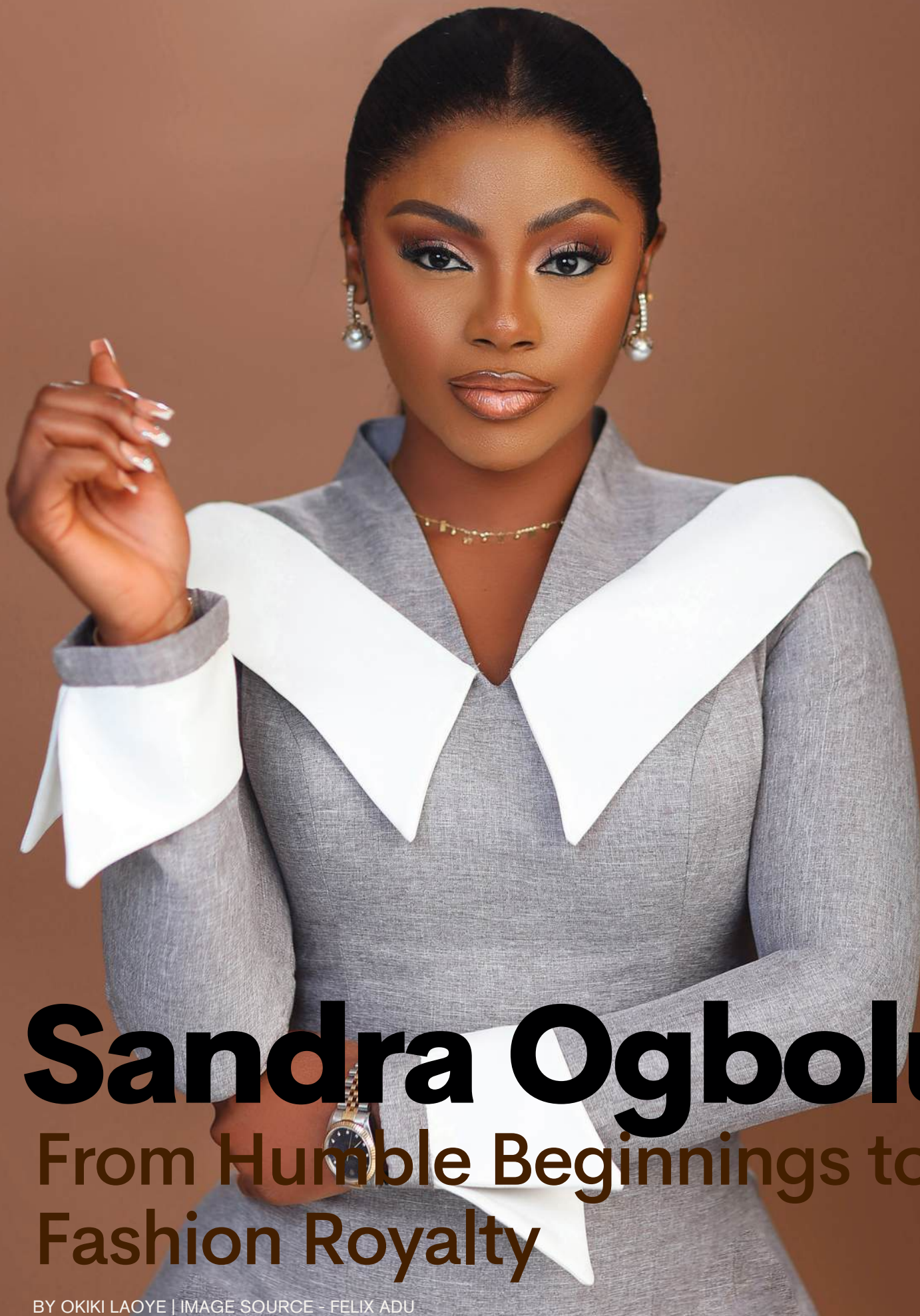


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Sandra Ogbolu

From Humble Beginnings to Fashion Royalty

BY OKIKI LAOYE | IMAGE SOURCE - FELIX ADU

Sandra Ogbolu, the visionary founder of House of Moesha, is more than just a fashion designer; she carries the very essence of creative force. Growing up in a family of fashion designers, Sandra was deep in the world of fabrics, patterns, and style from a tender age. "I was practically born into it," she chuckles. "My grandma, my mum—fashion was in our blood."

Her journey, however, wasn't without its twists and turns. After dabbling in general merchandise, she realised her true calling: bespoke fashion. "I wanted to create pieces that made women feel like queens," she says. "Something that spoke to their individuality, their strength."



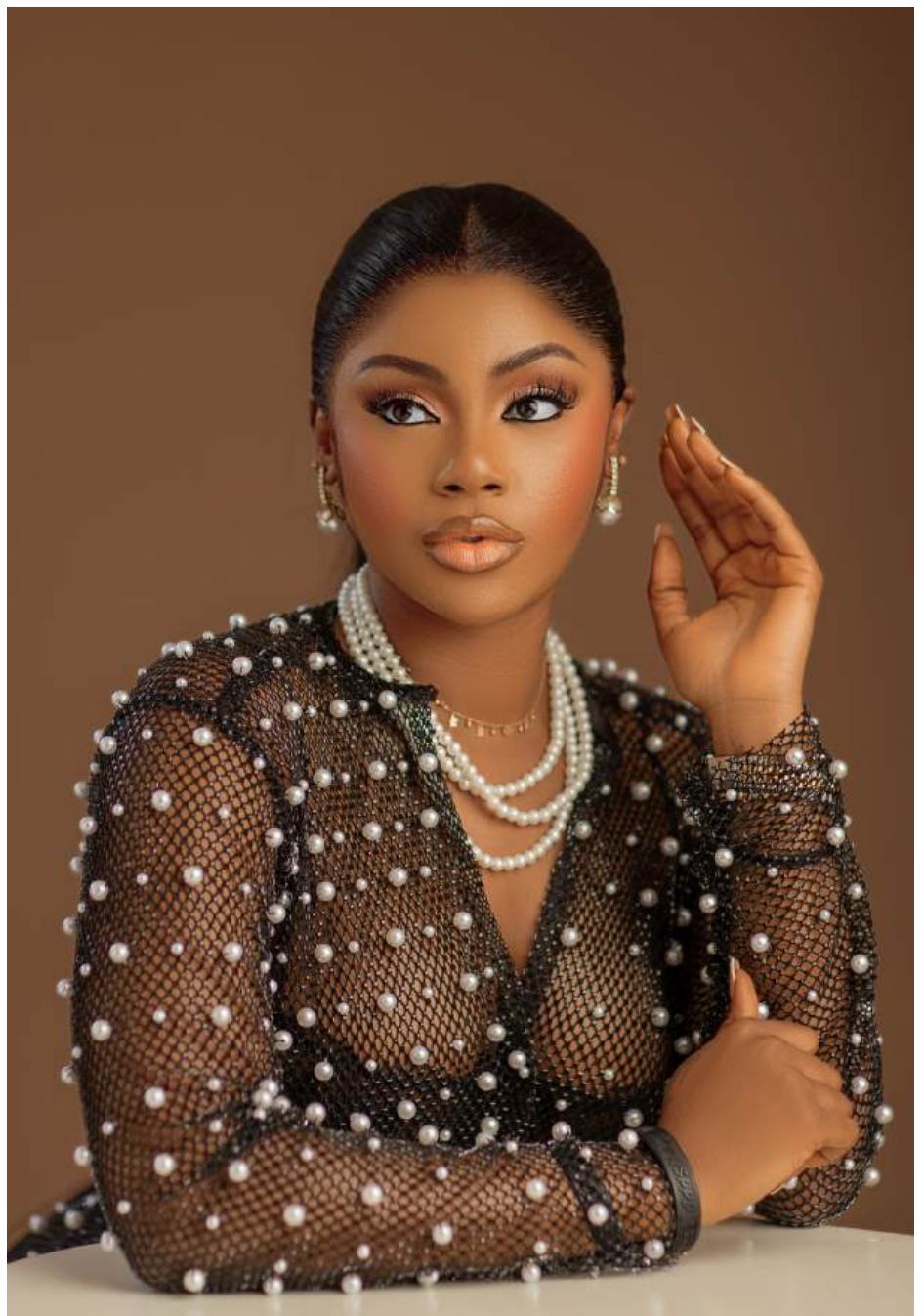
Building a fashion empire, especially in Nigeria, isn't a walk in the park. But Sandra, with her unwavering determination, has navigated the challenges with grace. "The past few years have been tough, no doubt. But through it all, I've learned to lean on my faith and the support of my amazing team," she shares.

One thing that makes Sandra different is her commitment to empowering the next generation of fashion designers. Through the House of Moesha Foundation, she's providing scholarships, mentorship, and training programs. "I want to create a platform for young, talented Nigerians to shine," she says.

As for the future of African fashion, Sandra is optimistic. "African fashion is on the rise. We're seeing more and more designers showcasing their unique styles on international stages. It's an exciting time to be a part of this movement."

When asked about her biggest lesson, Sandra pauses. "Never give up, no matter how tough it gets. Keep pushing, keep believing. And always remember, behind every successful woman is a village of supportive people."

"AFRICAN FASHION IS ON THE RISE. WE'RE SEEING MORE AND MORE DESIGNERS SHOWCASING THEIR UNIQUE STYLES ON INTERNATIONAL STAGES. IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO BE A PART OF THIS MOVEMENT."





Iremide Adeoye

The Dedicated Actor

BY OKIKI LAOYE | PHOTO SOURCE - GUGURU MEDIA



Escape Mag: What's a typical day like for Iremide Adeoye, the person, when he's not captivating audiences on TV screens?


Iremide: When I'm not on screen, I still always have a mix of personal time and work. Follow through with my morning ritual, take my essentials, work out, do a self-care and grooming routine, attend to work-related issues, watch some films maybe, music, try to learn more, and work on my craft as an actor.

Escape Mag: Over the years, you have played unforgettable roles in *Wura*, *The Origin*, *Madam Koi Koi*, *Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti* and *Her Dark Past*. What's the most unusual or unexpected tool or technique you've used in preparing for these roles?

Iremide: The technique? Simply be present. Understand that I am portraying a character that is real, even if it's fictional. It's in the intentionality of my presence that I can then even make unexpected choices during a performance because that's what my character would naturally do at that moment.

In preparing for my characters, as it stands, I have no restrictions. I'll go all out to aid my characterization process and bring authenticity to my performance. To play some characters, I've lost weight, gained weight, gotten in shape, tweaked my diet, triggered myself with scents, walked the streets to get familiar with my environment to properly depict myself as a character from the ghetto, changed my look, worked on my voice, learnt a new sport or skill, and so many other things. All of these things help me fully embody the characters I take on.

Escape Mag: How has playing the role of *Wura's* son shaped your view on love, family, and relationships?



Iremide: Playing Wura's only son, Lolu, was an emotionally layered experience. As a son who constantly felt the need to prove his worth to his mother, hide his sexuality, endure endless comparisons to his cousin, and navigate the immense pressure of work and future expectations, Lolu's journey was one of deep emotional turmoil. He was practically programmed to follow in his mother's footsteps and prepare to take over the empire, but the fear of failing her at any moment kept him under so much pressure.

Throughout my character's journey and his struggles with family, it's proved to me that, family as a concept can be two sides. While family can be a source of strength, it can also break you. While family can be your haven, it can also feel like a cold world. Also, family, no matter how little, can genuinely be your driving force to make certain decisions, some you could have sworn you'd never.

Through this character, I've come to understand that maintaining strong family bonds requires compromise, understanding, and resilience. It's about navigating the complexities and finding ways to hold onto love, even when it feels tested.

Escape Mag: It's interesting to note that you are playing the lead in *Under The Influence*, another Showmax Original. What's remarkably different in this project?

Iremide: For me, this is one of the characters I've portrayed in the most relatable way possible. I wanted Dami (Dami2Fresh) to resonate with the audience on every level - whether in his nuances, his journey through the story, his flaws, the choices he makes, and the complexities of the character as he navigates different stages while addressing various themes in the story.

Escape Mag: You are one of Guguru Media's talents. As a young actor, what do you think is the place of talent management?

Iremide: Side note: "as an actor" not "as a young actor". Let's just address me as an actor. Thank you.

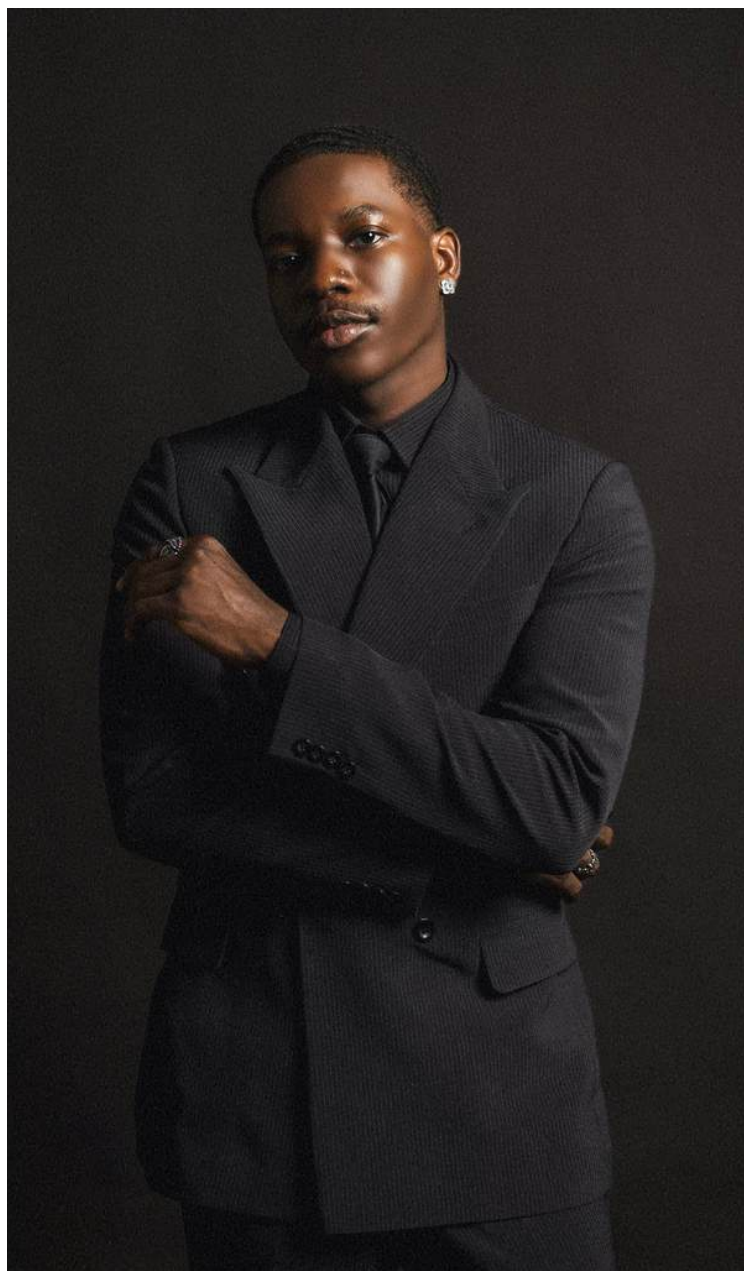
Right from the onset, I've always believed in the concept and importance of having the right team that has your best interest at heart. As actors, there's a lot of career guidance that is required, and a proper talent management system is essential for that. It's always a good idea to have a team that understands the vision you have for your career as an actor and helps align opportunities with your career goals.

Unfortunately, some people might view having management as a sign of being "too proud" or "difficult," but in reality, it's just about respecting due process.

Sometimes people mistake professionalism for arrogance, but I'm just here to do the work right and if that means having the right team in place, then so be it. Let's get the job done.

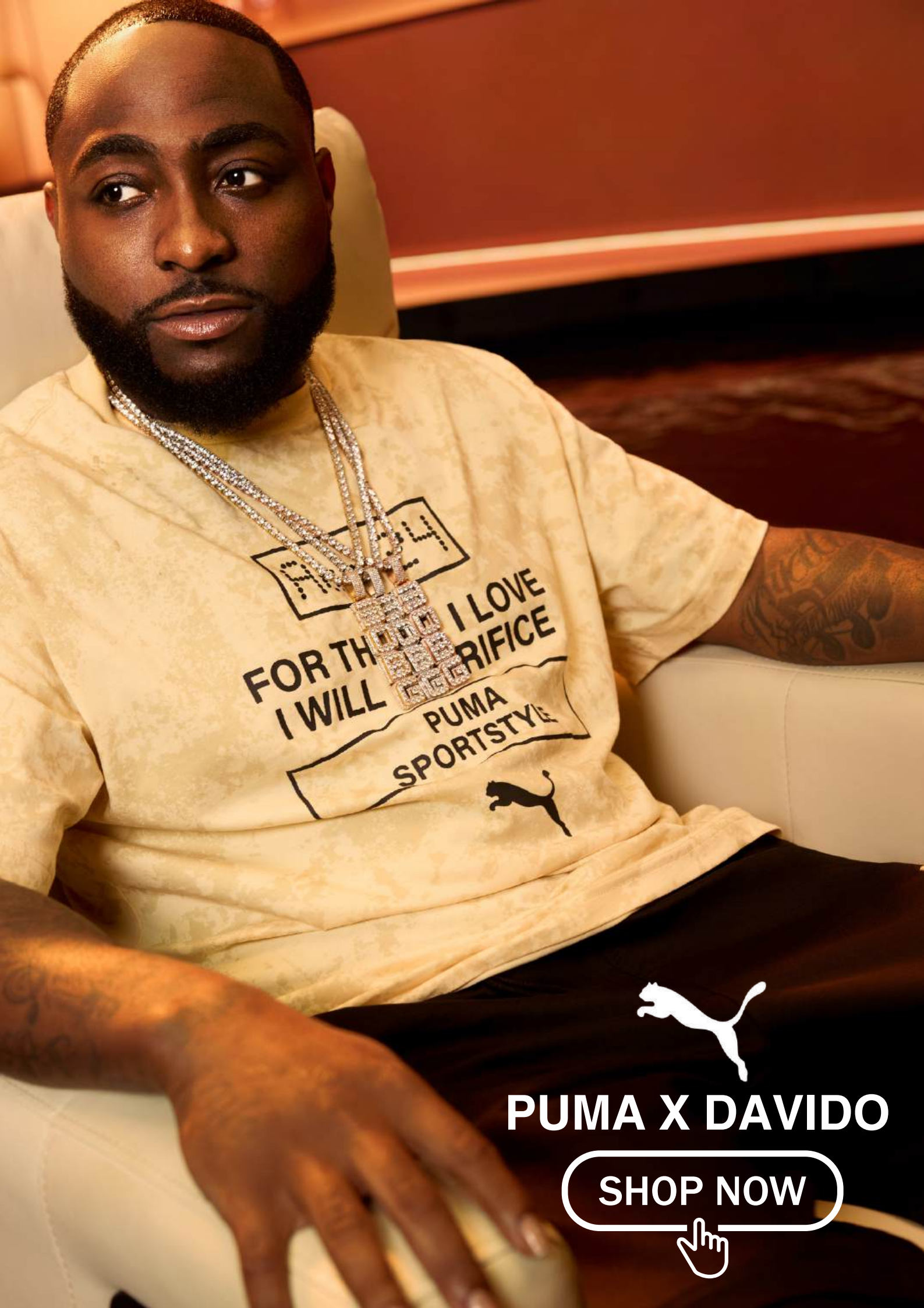
Escape Mag: What's the most heartwarming or surprising thing a fan has done or said to you?

Iremide: There are so many moments, it's hard to pinpoint just one.



To the numerous people who walk up to me with so much joy written on their faces when they see me, parents who claim how much I inspire their kids, friends and families that surprise their loved ones with shoutouts from me, I've had people cause traffic on the roads just for a chance to say hello, the ones who send me heartfelt messages, prayers and offer gifts.

So many amazing gestures! I'm forever grateful to have a community that not only roots for me and loves my person but also deeply connects with the stories and characters I bring to life. This is why I do what I do.




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MIKE EDWARDS

THE RISE OF THE MACHINE

BY OKIKI LAOYE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SALAMI
OMOGBOLAHAN

STUDIO - GUGURU STUDIOS, LEKKI
GUGURU STUDIOS LAISON: SEYI
LASISI, VICTOR

CREATIVE DIRECTION BY ADAUGO LEWIS
PROJECT MANAGEMENT FATIMAT OLUWASEUN

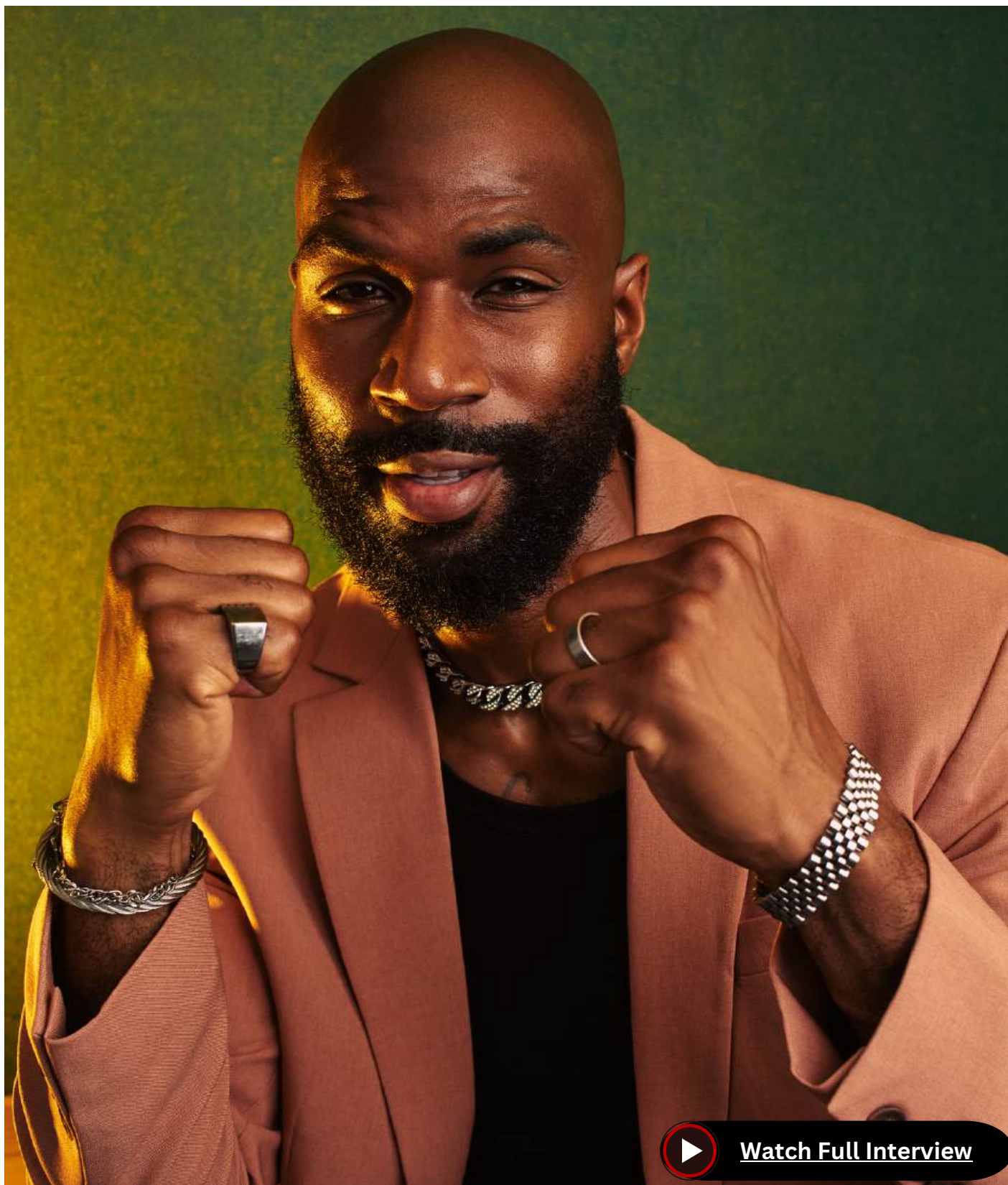
STYLING BY BLACKSUN
STYLING ASSISTANTS: SOMA, THE
KOOK, BERRY, IKAKKE, ZADDY

INTERVIEW BY REBECCA ERHABOR
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: SAM

VIDEO - REETHYM (DIRECTORRATE),
SHARON NONYE

Escape Mag: Mike, you've transitioned from an athlete, being a businessman, owning the 1st black-owned cigarette company in the UK, and now to professional boxing. Tell us what constantly challenges you to take up these new ventures.

Mike: I'm a big believer in constantly evolving. We always need to reinvent ourselves, rediscover ourselves and keep challenging ourselves. It's good to keep challenging myself. It's good for the mind, body and soul. So for me, I never wanna get stagnant. It's important to keep aiming higher and just keep challenging yourself.





Photography by Omogbolahan Salami

Escape Mag: Your marriage is admired by many, including us. How has your relationship influenced your personal and professional growth?

Mike: My relationship has anchored me. Before being in a relationship. I was like (I still am kind of somewhat of) a Rolling Stone. But after I got married, it was more a case where I started seeking more stability, and more purpose. One of the things that resonate is when you find a wife, you find a good thing. For me, having that cornerstone allows me to want to continue to show up and impress, and do more because as a man, it's important to be able to be a provider. So that's like a driving mechanism behind a lot of things I do in life.

Escape Mag: Growing up with a Jamaican father and a Nigerian mother, how has your cultural heritage shaped your identity and worldview?

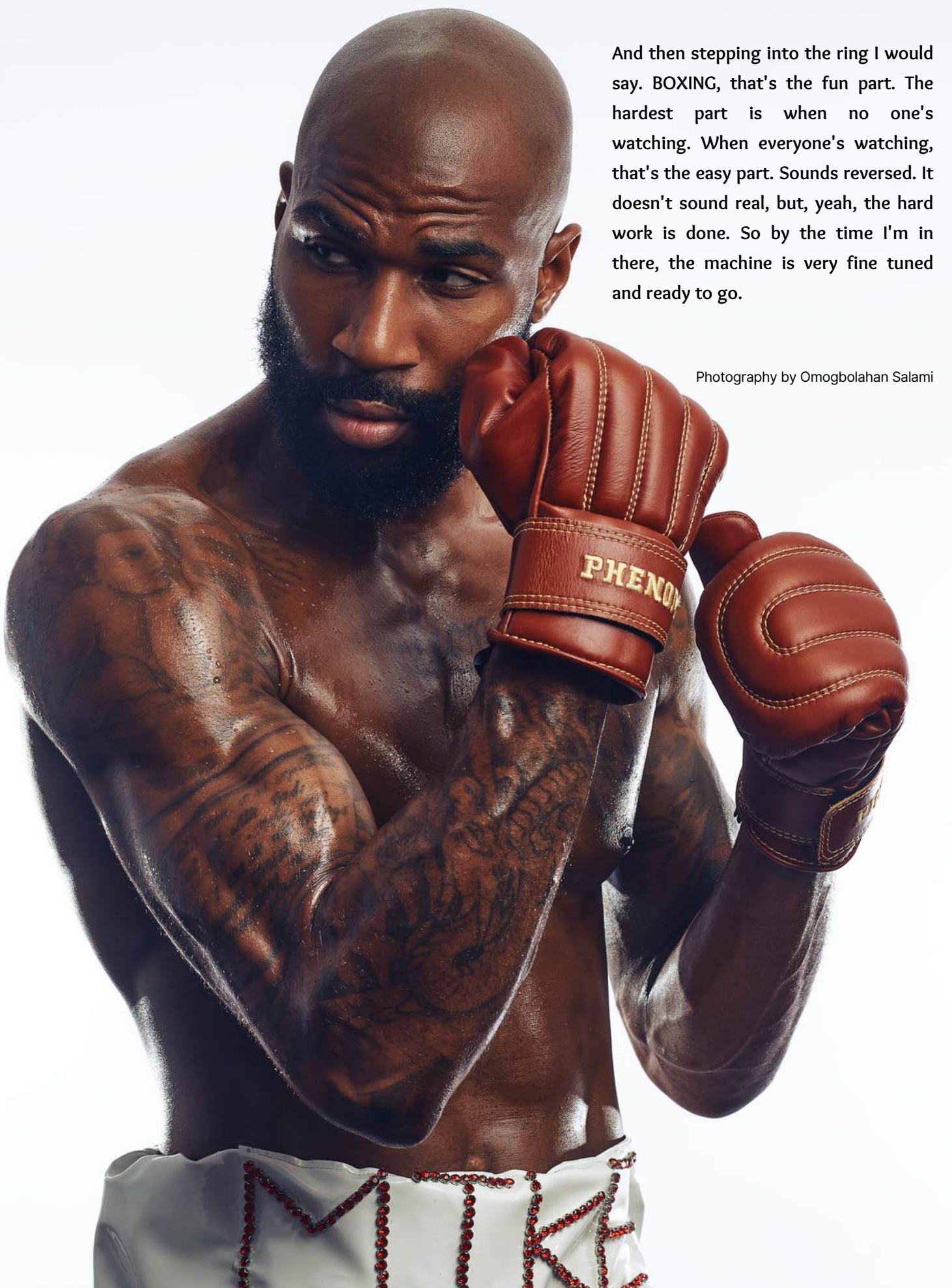
Mike: So that's a loaded question. I'll try my best. Growing up in the UK and in the US, there's a huge Caribbean influence. African as well, but especially in the nineties, it was very dominant in Caribbean culture. So I've always known about my Jamaican heritage, but my Nigerian and African roots weren't as strong.



So for me, coming back to Nigeria and rediscovering myself in 2018, by switching my allegiance from Great Britain to Nigeria opened a whole other stratosphere. And, now I'm able to have the opportunity to come back home, and again rediscover my identity. I'm just grateful that I get to represent Nigeria at the highest level. And, you know, Nigeria has given me so much love and so much purpose. So I feel indebted to always be an ambassador here. And, yeah, when I'm here, I always feel at home.

Escape Mag: Can you tell us what has been the most exhilarating moment of your athletic career? And how does it compare to the thrill of stepping into the boxing ring?

Mike: Honestly, it would be my first year in high school in the US. I picked up athletics within 2 or 3 months, and I was the state champion. I know it's not an international medal, but it was my first recognition. And then from there, it birthed my passion. So I would say 2006, my state championship. It's like grassroots but it still is one of my probably defining moments because I knew from there my life was gonna change. So 2006, 15 years old was my most exhilarating competition. I've never said this out loud but it's just it's the truth.



And then stepping into the ring I would say. BOXING, that's the fun part. The hardest part is when no one's watching. When everyone's watching, that's the easy part. Sounds reversed. It doesn't sound real, but, yeah, the hard work is done. So by the time I'm in there, the machine is very fine tuned and ready to go.

Photography by Omogbolahan Salami

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Escape Mag: So with your entrepreneurial spirit, what are your long-term goals and aspirations outside sport? And could you tell us a bit about owning the 1st black-owned cigarette line in the UK?

Mike: Yeah. My aspirations outside of sport are constantly changing and evolving. Again, my journey in entrepreneurship started way back in 2015. I started a cigar company, which I really carried for as long as possible.

But, you know, in life, things change. I became a dad and I kind of disassociated myself because my branding, my marketing, everything changed. So you have to be able to be willing to give up on something to go forward. Now it's just a case where I still feel like I have entrepreneurship DNA embedded in me. But I just channel it in different fields in life, whether it be real estate, whether it be boxing, whether it be, who knows what's next.

I think having that entrepreneurship background has enabled me to pivot and manoeuvre. So, who knows what's next? You know, maybe cigars will make a reinvention or they'll come back in another period. Just right now, I'm just really committed to doing my best in the ring.

Escape Mag: Can you tell us what inspired you to transition from track and field into boxing, and how you're adapting to the demands of this new sport?

My inspiration to box is a long story, but I'll keep it brief. I was originally planning to become an actor. I attended acting school, auditioned, and started applying for roles. One role that came up was a boxing role, Muhammad Ali vs. George Foreman. I made it to the third stage of the audition but didn't get the part, though I felt I had a good chance. They asked me to gain 10kg, and I agreed. I've always been a boxing fan, so I was excited to take it on. Even after not getting the role, my passion for boxing remained. I decided to pursue it authentically, not through acting. The rest, as they say, is history.



Mike: It means a lot. As I often say, it's changed my life. Being back home, I truly feel like this is the most authentic place for me. I grew up in the UK and the US. Everywhere I go, I don't quite fit in, simply because of my American accent. In the UK, they say I'm too American. In America, they say I'm too British. In Jamaica, they say I'm too American. But in Nigeria, I'm home. That's the best part. My reconnection here has been incredible; the love has always been there, even before they knew me well. They've always accepted me. So, my gift back is to keep on giving.

Escape Mag: The boxing industry is constantly evolving. Mhmm. What are your thoughts on the future of the sport? And how do you see yourself contributing to its growth?

I see so much talent in athletics, a sport that's often under-promoted in this country. We have countless stars, legends, world champions, and world record holders. However, other sports overshadow athletics. I've always gravitated towards traditional, time-honoured sports like athletics and boxing. These sports are globally renowned and pure. They offer invaluable life skills beyond money and fame. Boxing and athletics teach discipline, willpower, purpose, and character development, making you a better person.

My advice to up-and-coming athletes is to not focus too much on what they lack. Sometimes, your biggest weakness can be your greatest strength. I'll continue to inspire and uplift others, reminding them that the journey is never easy but worth starting. Tap into your inner drive, and it will guide you to your destination.

Escape Mag: What's the toughest part of being a professional boxer that most people don't see?

Mike: This is probably one of the hardest things, not because it's inherently difficult, but because many people struggle with the fear of the unknown. This fear creates anxiety, stemming from uncertainty about what will happen, who will win, when the next fight is, and where it will take place.

I've learned to embrace uncertainty. I believe in a higher power and that as long as you commit yourself and keep working hard, your efforts will be rewarded. There's no hiding in boxing. You can't rely on teammates; it's just you. If you don't put in the work, you'll be exposed in the ring.

My biggest advantage is often seen as a disadvantage: the unknown, the anxiety, and all that comes with it. I've learned to lean into it, and I believe that's the best part.



Photography by Omogbolahan Salami

Escape Mag: So once you hang your gloves, what's next for Mike Edwards? Are there other passions or projects you're excited to pursue?

Mike: I don't think I'll ever fully retire from boxing. I'll continue to box for fitness, health, and skill. Unlike high jump and athletics, which are physically demanding and age-limiting, boxing is a skill I can maintain throughout my life. I can always put on gloves and enjoy the craft of boxing. I'm grateful to be able to continue boxing without the significant physical toll of high jumping and sprinting. While I won't be competing like Mike Tyson at 60, I'll maintain my fitness and be a boxing machine.

Escape Mag: How did your experience at Big Brother Naija shape your career and your public perception?

Mike: Big Brother Naija Pepper Dem Season was a life-changing opportunity. It gave me a new family that I love. I formed lifelong friendships with those guys. Some of them have even started families of their own. It was a critical experience that I wouldn't have had otherwise.

The show opened doors and helped me achieve some significant goals. However, it's important to remember that it's just the beginning, not the end. Some people might think that Big Brother is the finish line, but it's far from it. Five years later, I'm still discovering more about myself.

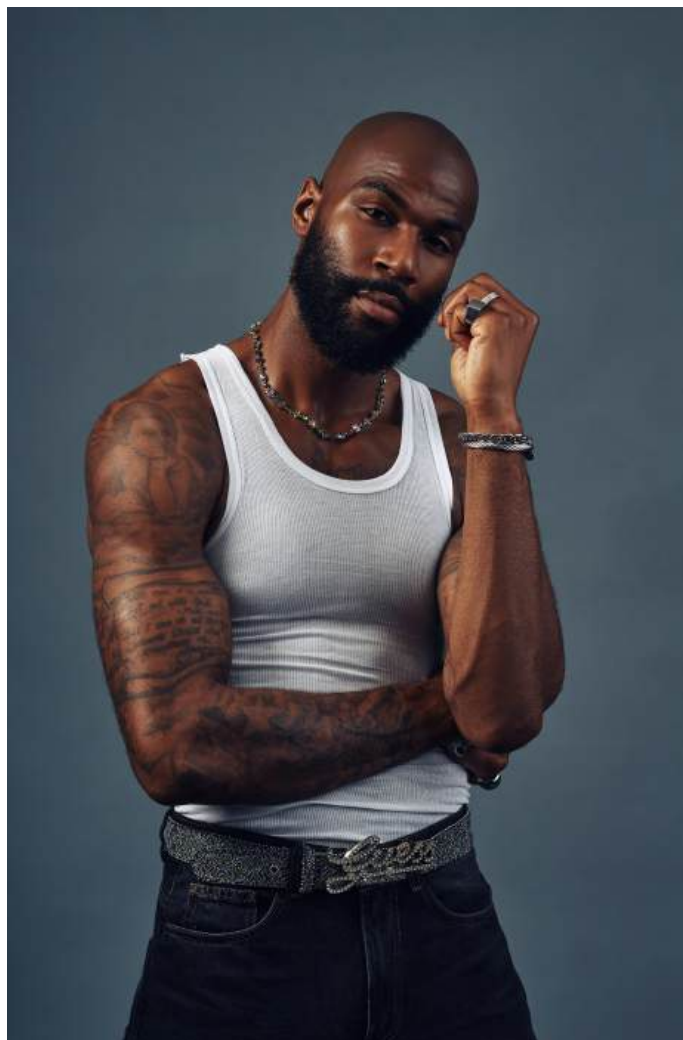
Escape Mag: Please tell us how you navigate the presence of being a public figure? did you ever imagine the level of fame and recognition you've achieved?

I couldn't imagine the level of recognition, fame, or publicity that would come with the show. My primary goal was to promote my business. If you watched that season, you'd know I tried to keep my focus on that. I was an entrepreneur who happened to be on television.

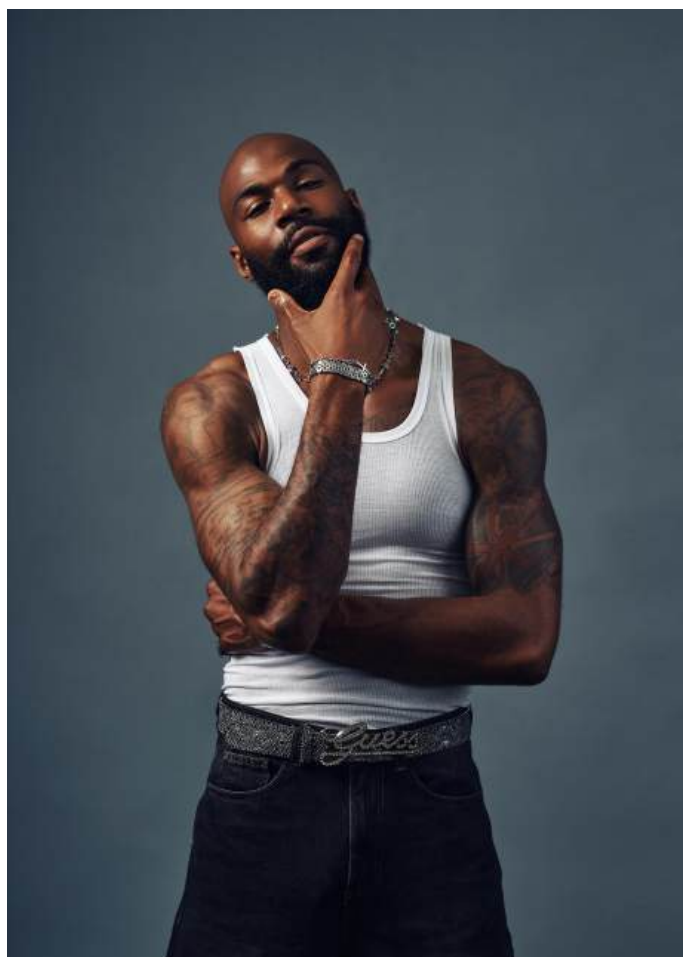
I believe I formed more meaningful connections than I would have by playing the game. I didn't win, and I think that's because winning wasn't my primary goal. I wanted to have fun and be authentic. I trusted that the results would follow.

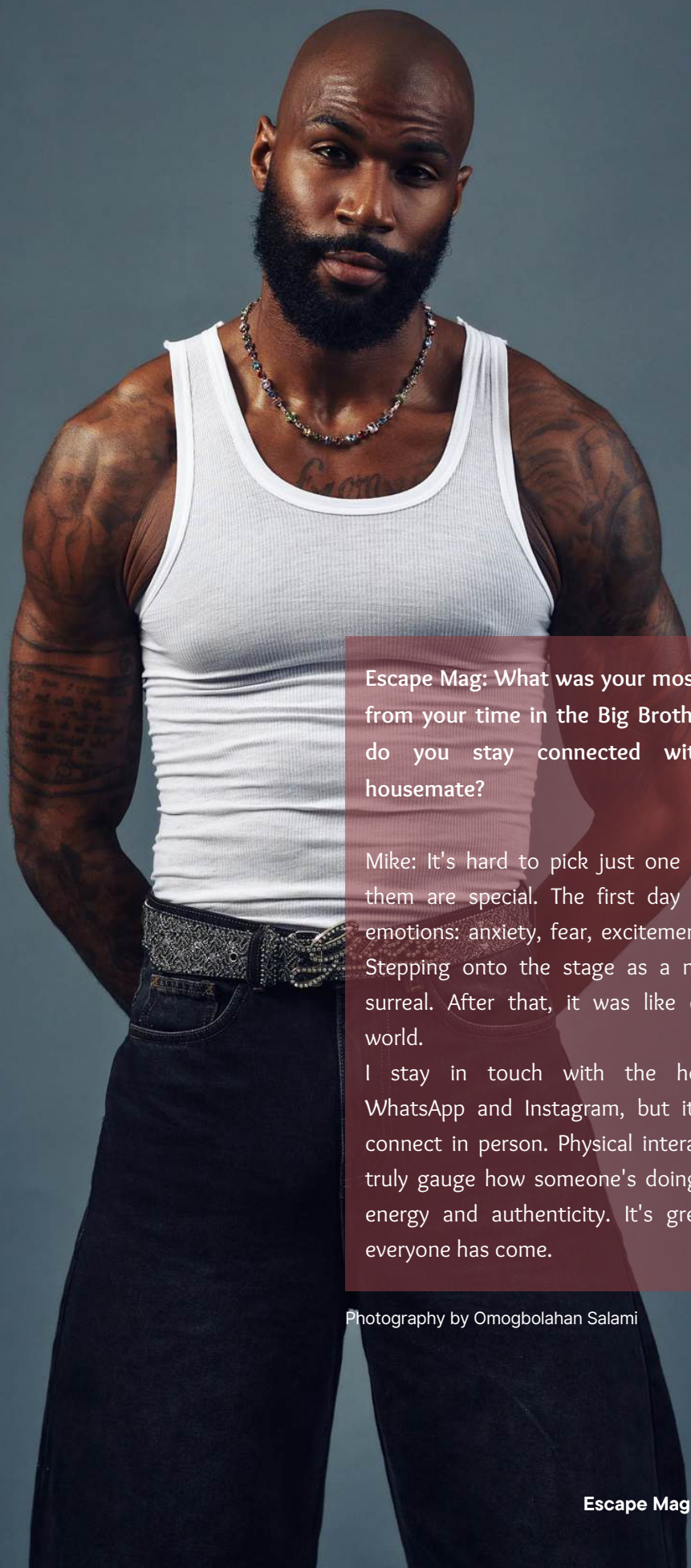
Millions of people resonated with my authenticity. People can see through inauthenticity. I don't consider myself a superstar celebrity. I'm just a regular guy who keeps to himself and takes advantage of opportunities as they arise.

I am who I am.



Photography by Omogbolahan Salami





Escape Mag: What was your most favourite memory from your time in the Big Brother house? And how do you stay connected with your ex-fellow housemate?

Mike: It's hard to pick just one best memory. All of them are special. The first day was a whirlwind of emotions: anxiety, fear, excitement, and nervousness. Stepping onto the stage as a new housemate was surreal. After that, it was like entering a different world.

I stay in touch with the housemates through WhatsApp and Instagram, but it's always better to connect in person. Physical interactions allow you to truly gauge how someone's doing. You can feel their energy and authenticity. It's great to see how far everyone has come.

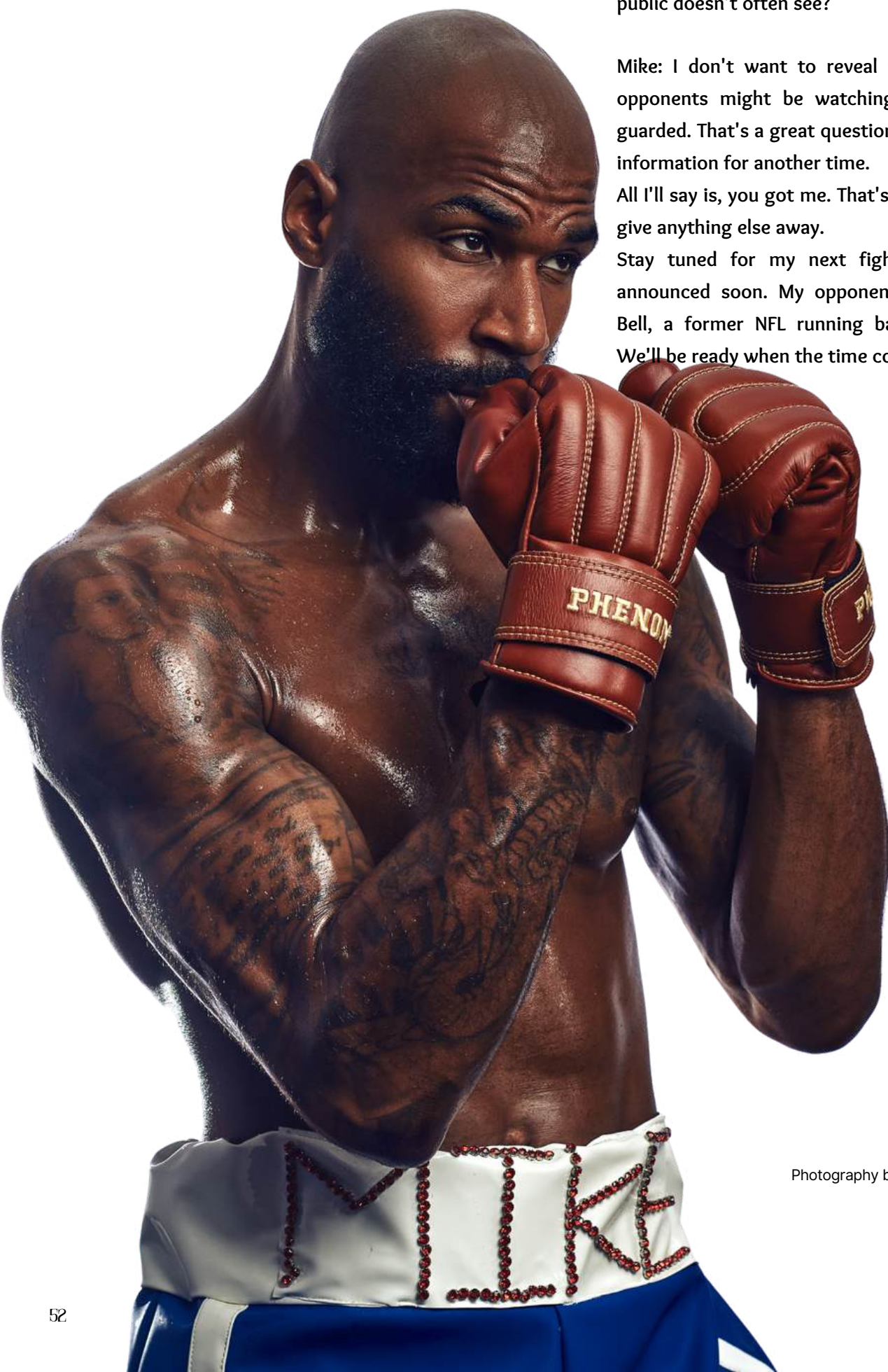
Photography by Omogbolahan Salami

Escape Mag: Lastly, can you share a personal story from your life that no one ever has heard about and something that reveals a side of you that the public doesn't often see?

Mike: I don't want to reveal too much, as my opponents might be watching. I need to stay guarded. That's a great question, but I'll keep that information for another time.

All I'll say is, you got me. That's it. I don't want to give anything else away.

Stay tuned for my next fight, which will be announced soon. My opponent will be Le'Veon Bell, a former NFL running back from the US. We'll be ready when the time comes.



Photography by Omogbolahan Salami



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Wendy Shay

The Nurturing voice from Ghana

By Laoye O

Wendy Shay, the Ghanaian music sensation, has taken the music industry by storm. From her humble beginnings as a nurse to becoming a chart-topping artist, her journey is one of passion, hard work, and determination.

Her transition from healthcare to music may seem unusual, but Wendy's nursing background has actually been a significant asset. "Nursing taught me empathy, attention to detail, and effective communication," she explains. "These skills have been invaluable in my music career, helping me connect with my audience and collaborate with other artists."

Wendy's hit song, "Uber Driver," quickly captured the hearts of fans worldwide. The song's relatable lyrics and catchy melody reflect her ability to draw inspiration from everyday life. "The idea for 'Uber Driver' came from real-life experiences," Wendy shares. "I wanted to create a song that people could connect with on a personal level."

The path to success hasn't always been easy. Wendy has faced her fair share of challenges, including criticism and negativity. However, she has remained resilient and focused. "Staying grounded, surrounding myself with a supportive team, and prioritising self-care have been crucial," she reveals. "It's important to learn from setbacks and use them as opportunities for growth."

Collaboration is a powerful tool in the music industry, and Wendy understands this well. She seeks out artists who share her vision and complement her style. "I look for collaborators who bring different strengths to the table," she explains. "Chemistry is also important, as it can make the creative process more enjoyable and productive."



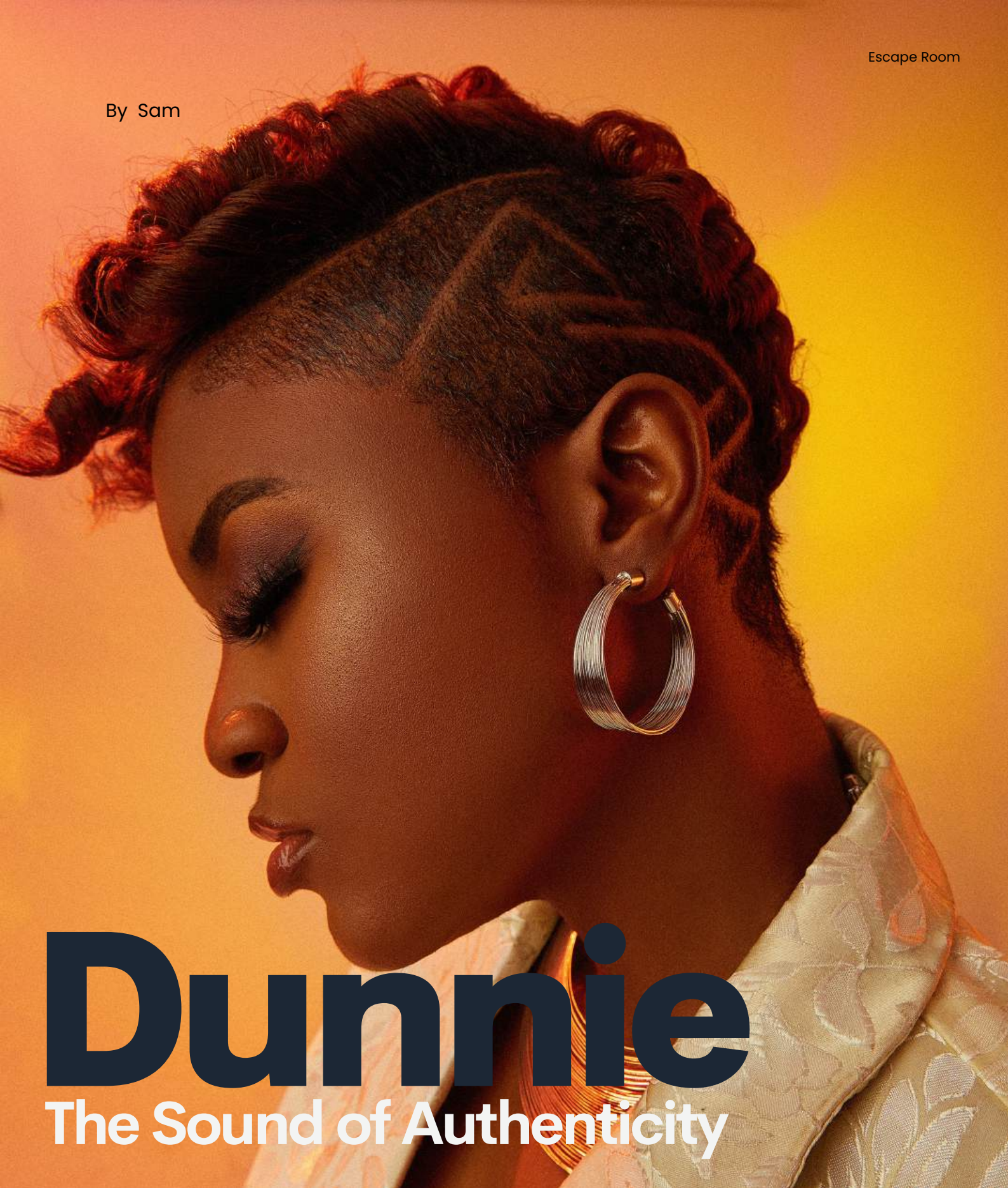
Live performances are a special part of Wendy's career. She loves the energy and connection she feels with her fans. "Performing live allows me to share my music in a more personal way," she says. "I always strive to put on a memorable show, and I'm constantly working to improve my craft."

Beyond her music, Wendy is passionate about giving back to the community with her Shay Foundation initiative. She uses her platform to inspire others and raise awareness about important social issues. "I'm motivated by the desire to make a positive impact on the world," she shares. "I believe that music has the power to heal and uplift."



Looking to the future, Wendy sees a bright future for the Ghanaian music scene. "The scene is incredibly vibrant and diverse," she says. "Ghanaian artists are making waves on the global stage, and I'm excited to be part of this movement."

By Sam



Dunnie

The Sound of Authenticity

Dunnie, the Nigerian singer-songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist, is quickly making waves in the music industry. With her unique blend of R&B, soul, and Afrobeat, she's carving a niche for herself and redefining the sound of urban African music.



From Dream to Reality

Dunnie's journey to musical stardom began with a simple dream. "I've always wanted to make music, especially produce," she shared. "It took a while, but I eventually started learning how to produce and write music. Seeing my dreams turn into reality is incredibly fulfilling."

Authenticity: The Heart of Her Music

Authenticity is at the core of Dunnie's music. She believes that her unique experiences, cultural background, and personal journey shape her sound. "I don't try to be authentic; I just am," she explained. "I'm true to myself and my music, and that's what makes it unique."

Balancing Creativity and Productivity

As a multi-talented artist, Dunnie seamlessly balances her roles as a producer, songwriter, and performer. She doesn't believe in strict balance but prioritizes expressing herself creatively. "I just express myself as it comes," she said. "Sometimes I'm producing, sometimes I'm writing songs, and sometimes I'm singing. It's all about the flow."

The Power of Positive Thinking

Dunnie's positive outlook on life has been instrumental in her success. She finds inspiration in happiness and positivity, rather than relying on personal struggles. "I make my best music when I'm happy and inspired," she shared. "Negative emotions can hinder my creativity."



A Legacy of Resilience and Authenticity

As Dinnie continues to evolve as an artist, she hopes to leave a legacy of resilience and authenticity. She aims to inspire others to follow their dreams and stay true to themselves. "I want to be remembered as someone who never gave up and always stayed authentic," she said.

With her talent, passion, and unwavering dedication, Dinnie is poised to become one of the biggest names in African music.



Winnie

Painting Music and Life

BY SAM | PHOTOGRAPHY BY THINK AKANNI

Meet Winifred Ohili Adanu, or as everyone calls her, Winnie! She's not just your regular singer; this girl is a powerhouse of talent, mixing her love for music with a flair for fashion and art. We had a quick convo with her for ESCAPE MAG, she's got some serious vibes going on. Let's dive right into what makes Winnie such a standout in the Nigerian music scene!



Escape Mag: Growing up in Jos, how did the region's diverse cultural influences shape your musical style and aspirations?

Winy: Growing up in Jos, the rich mix of ethnic groups and traditions exposed me to various musical styles, from traditional folk to contemporary genres. This diversity helped shape my musical curiosity and desire to create a sound that reflects my multicultural influences.

Escape Mag: You've successfully blended Afrobeat, Reggae, R&B, and Soul into your sound. What inspired this fusion, and how do you balance these diverse influences in your music?

Winy: The fusion of Afrobeat, Reggae, R&B, and Soul came from my love for these genres. Each style offers something unique, and I aim to blend them seamlessly by focusing on rhythm, melody, and emotional depth to create a sound that feels natural and authentic.

Escape Mag: Your song "Pretty" is a powerful anthem of self-love. Can you share more about the personal experiences that inspired this song and the message you hope to convey to your listeners?

Winy: "Pretty" is a celebration of self-love and embracing one's unique beauty. It was inspired by my desire to remind others to appreciate their worth. My goal is to empower listeners to love themselves unconditionally.

Fashion and visual art are an extension of my identity. They allow me to express who I am beyond music.

Escape Mag: What is your songwriting process like? Do you start with lyrics, a melody, or a specific emotion you want to convey?

Winy: My songwriting process often starts with a feeling or emotion. I might have the lyrics that spark an idea, but for me, melody is the key foundation before writing!





Escape Mag: As a rising star in the Nigerian music industry, what challenges have you faced as a female artist, and how have you overcome them?

Winy: As a female artist in the Nigerian music industry, I see challenges as part of my growth process and journey, My focus is on creating music that speaks to my audience and carving my own path.

Escape Mag: You're not just a singer; you're also a fashion enthusiast and artist. How do these other creative outlets influence your music and overall brand?

Winy: Fashion and visual art are an extension of my identity. They allow me to express who I am beyond music. These elements help shape my image and connect with fans on a deeper, more personal level, influencing the way I present my music.

Escape Mag: Is there a hidden talent or hobby that few people know about? How does it contribute to your creative process?

Winy: I'm also into visual arts, like painting and sketching. It helps me think creatively and see things from different perspectives, which often inspires new ideas for my music and performances.

Escape Mag: If you could collaborate with any artist, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Winy: If I could collaborate with anyone, it would be Bob Marley. His music transcends time and culture, and his messages of love, unity, and resistance align deeply with my own values.

Escape Mag: What do you hope your legacy will be in the music industry? How do you want to be remembered?

Winy: I want my legacy to be one of empowerment, where my music inspires people to embrace who they are, and pursue their dreams, I hope to be remembered as an artist who used her voice to make a positive impact.

BY FATIMAT OLUWASEUN

BY Fatimat O

BLACK SUN

The Style Maverick

Gloria Onwumeli is one name you'll want to remember if you're keeping an eye on the Nigerian fashion scene. She's not just any stylist; she's a full-fledged visionary, a trendsetter who's shaking things up with her brand, Black Sun. Her style? A mix of edgy and elegant that leaves a mark.



Gloria's journey started with a simple love for tailoring. "I began learning how to cut and make my clothes," she reflects. It was through this hands-on experience that she discovered her knack for fashion. "It showed me that I was good at this part of my life," she admits, and from that moment, she was hooked.

Black Sun is more than just a fashion line; it's a whole vibe. "It's about experimentation," she says, and you can really feel that in her work. She pulls inspiration from all over the place—social media, daily life, anything and everything that sparks her imagination. Her creations are like a window into her soul: comfy, bold, and wonderfully unique.



8



What sets Gloria apart is her commitment to collaboration. “Working with different creatives is enlightening,” she explains. She joins forces with photographers, models, and other designers, which leads to dynamic, beautiful results. Her clothing doesn’t just drape on the body; it tells a story, expressing individuality in every stitch.

“To me, fashion is about evoking a feeling,” Gloria shares, and that philosophy shines through in her work. She draws from art and animation, weaving in elements of emotion to empower people to embrace who they are.

When asked about her dream collaboration, Gloria beams at the thought of partnering with Zendaya. “Her style is just iconic,” she gushes. You can tell it’s not just about fame for Gloria; it’s about creating something truly special.

But wait, there’s more! Gloria is also an accomplished painter, a talent that beautifully complements her fashion endeavors.



This artistic background enriches her understanding of colour and texture, making her designs even more captivating. She craves deeper conversations about her creative journey and shares the stories behind her pieces.

In a world where fashion often feels overly commercialized, Gloria reminds us of what true passion and creativity can achieve. As she keeps pushing boundaries and redefining style, the fashion world is undoubtedly watching and waiting for what this rising star will do next. So, keep your eyes peeled; Gloria and Black Sun are just getting started!



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Thiagho

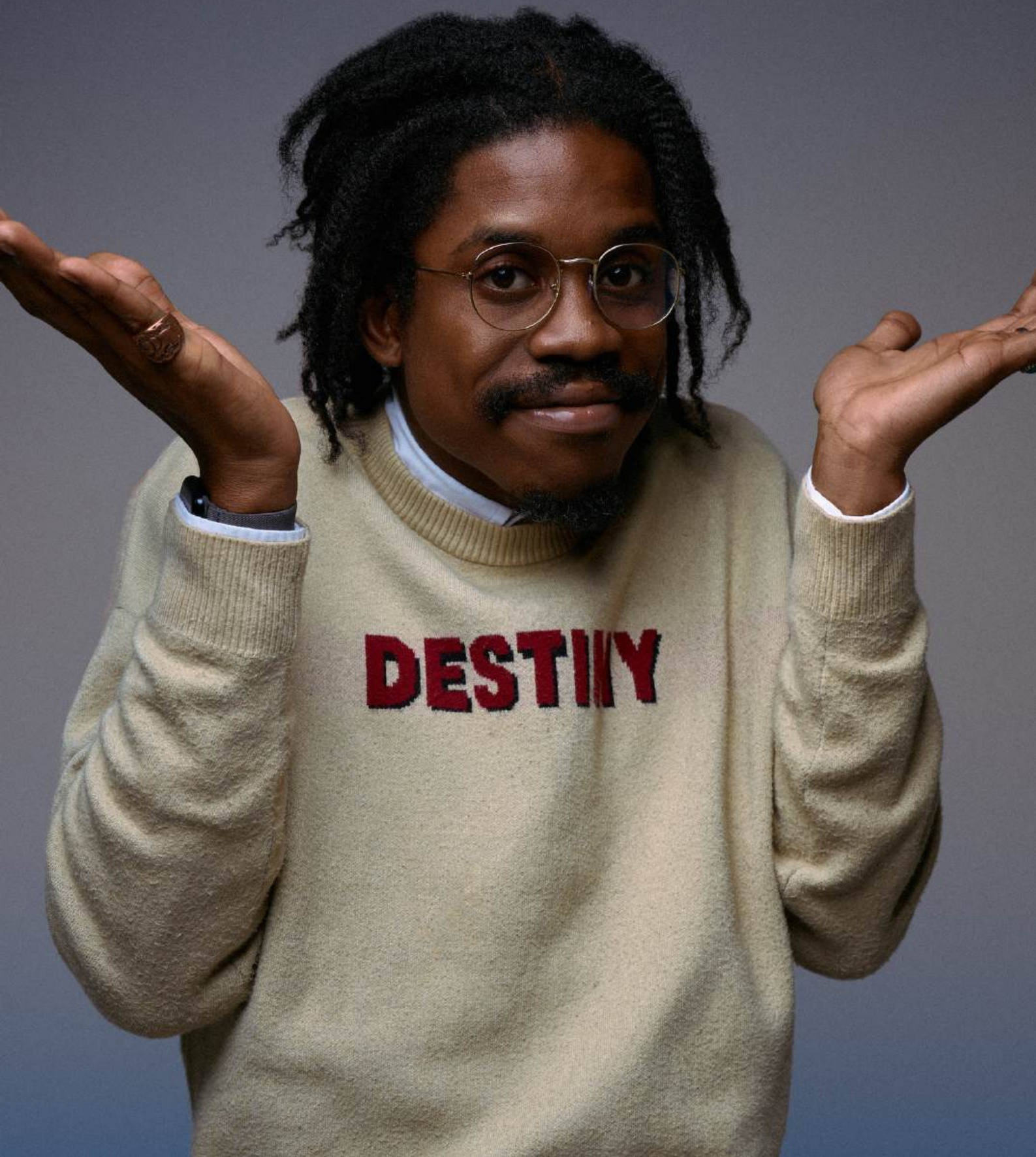
The Art of Visual Storytelling

By Fatimat Oluwaseun

Forget the stereotype of the starving artist. Let me introduce you to Thiagho, a total game-changer in the creative scene. Hailing from a mix of Trinidadian and Nigerian roots, this guy isn't just another name in the crowd—he's a multidimensional creative shaking things up in modern media.



Photography by YangaVisuals



Photography by YangaVisuals

Now, you might be surprised to learn that Thiago isn't just another artsy type who dabbles in creativity without a plan. Nope, he's got a degree in Accounting! That's right. This unexpected background gives him a striking combination of structure and artistic finesse. His analytical approach means that every shoot he tackles is not only meticulously planned but also executed with precision.



Photography by ThiagosEye



Photography by ThiagosEye



Photography by ThiagosEye

But here's the best part: it's not just about the technical stuff for him. Thiago believes—and I quote —“it's about telling a story.” Whether he's working on a snazzy corporate video or capturing the essence of a vibrant event, his passion is to convey emotion and narrative through his visuals. His bold style leaves a lasting impact, ensuring that viewers are not just seeing images but are transported into the heart of the story.



Photography by ThiaghosEye



Photography by ThiaghosEye

And let's not forget about his role as a freelance creative director. Thiago shines in collaborating with clients, translating their visions into compelling narratives that resonate. His multicultural background enriches these interactions, allowing him to connect with audiences from various backgrounds effortlessly. It's like he has this magical ability to bridge gaps across continents through his work.

Photography by ThiaghosEye



Thiago is proving that creativity knows no boundaries. With his relentless drive, it won't be long before Thiago is a household name in visual storytelling. So the next time you hear the term 'starving artist,' just know Thiago is out there redefining what it means to be a creative in today's world!

It's Admission Season!



**Lead City
University
Ibadan**



Admission is open for the
2024/2025 Academic Session

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INSIDE THE WILD WORLD OF NIGERIAN FEMINISTS

The Four Types of Feminists You Should Know

By [Adesewa Olofinko](#)

In my journey through life, I've come across various "types" of feminists, especially as a Black woman from Nigeria. These encounters have been a trip, and I'd like to take you on a wild ride through the world of "Nigerian feminists." Prepare to be amused or not.

So every once or twice a week, I scroll through X (formerly Twitter) and occasionally, I find myself on the side that we call Nigerian Twitter. Very often in that space, gender wars break out, and sometimes you find yourself needing to pick a side. From some of these interactions, I've identified different types of feminists and classed them into categories.

First up, we've got the "No woman can do wrong in my eyes" crew. Yeah, I know, it sounds crazy. But this version of feminists were the individuals who blindly supported Amber Heard over Johnny Depp, despite the mountain of evidence against her. Truth and facts don't matter to them and they're all about unwavering loyalty and blind solidarity to women. They advocate for gender equality until it's time to hold women accountable. These have turned gender into their ultimate goal.

Then we have the second group, I call them the clowns. They are also known as bandwagon feminists. These are the ones who believe they're feminists just because they pay their bills or don't ask men for urgent 100k. They cannot differentiate between being independent and being a feminist. They very often caption their pictures with cringe-worthy things like "Strong woman" because they handled their hair or paid their rent. These didn't get the memo on adulthood, and deep down, they're driven by neediness and entitlement, with a sprinkle of greed.



The third category is the real deal. I call them—the true Naija feminists. Outside of X, I have met and interacted with many females and males alike. These are the ones who embody feminism without necessarily bragging about it. Some are vocal and unapologetic, but most lead quiet lives, makin' moves and slayin' the game. They're CEO-ing and in some cases still trying to figure out their lives, working fulfilling jobs or sometimes winging it. You find them shattering glass ceilings, building communities, failing but starting again, taking a stand against societal misnomers, challenging patriarchal norms, and resisting oppressive systems. Their lives are so inspiring whether or not they got it figured out, and you could write a whole book about them. Sometimes they are petty traders in local markets, and in other cases, you find them in Fortune 500 boardrooms actively being a part of the decision-making. These don't want to be victims, they are playing the game called life.

Tou all the chés.

But hold up, there is one more category; the masqueraders with serious heartbreak baggage. These despise men because of some Femi who shattered their hearts and took the pieces with him.



They're the bra-burning men-haters whose purpose is to tear down all men. Justifiably, they are angry and bitter. However, their knowledge of feminism is as limited as their playlist on repeat. They're often the loudest voices online, bordering on misandry or fully embracing it and are fueled by justified anger against oppression and abuse. But ask 'em about the different waves of feminism, and they've never heard of it.

So What Really is Feminism?

At its core, Feminism is about advocating for gender equality. It is not some devilish concept that threatens world peace. Nah, it's about recognizing that we are all created equal, in God's image. Spirits have no gender, and no oppressive system should hold anyone back from becoming their true selves. This equality doesn't mean we have to be the same, but we should all get a fair shot at living our best lives. Don't you agree?

Honestly, everyone should want to be a feminist, but feminism has a bad rap that has gotten many people uncomfortable with that identity. Some of them are fairly and unfairly earned, but in all its misunderstandings, we're too hard on a cause that's just trying to make all of our lives better.

To put it simply—feminism is the reason women can vote, go to school, have any career at all, or have a say in society. First-wave and second-wave feminists fought for us to get here. And I'd rather we lose the fake vibes of these wannabes on X (the misandrists) who have the loudest voice.

Misandrists: People who hate men

As an ideology, feminism is supposed to promote freedom from limits. A housewife, for example, who chooses to be one because it's what she wants is no less a feminist than a woman who works because she wants to make her own money. Ideology, at the end of the day can go to hell when the people who practise it consider themselves the gatekeepers and shut others out. It's not the Olympics, and no one's getting a gold medal for it.

So choose your category wisely.

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X: [@ms_dewumii](#)

LinkedIn: [Adesewa Olofinko](#)

Adesewa Olofinko is a freelance writer and editor of [blackladywriter.com](#).





DR NKEM ANDREA OBI

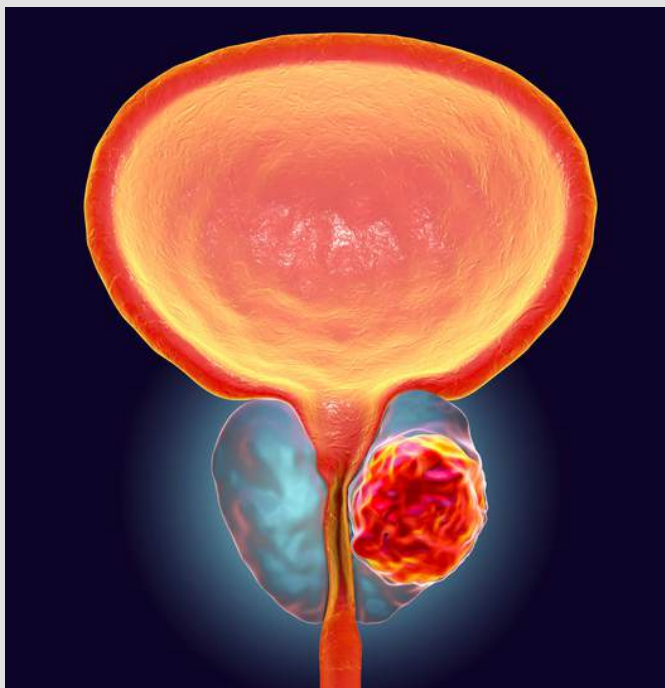
MEDICAL DOCTOR, NUTRITIONIST CONSULTANT
FOUNDER OF M&D HEALTH

The Tale of Prostate Health

Dear Reader,

This is a story about prostate health. The prostate is sometimes described as a reproductive organ, while others call it the “male G-spot” due to its sensitivity and its capacity to produce pleasurable sensations when stimulated. To physicians, it is known as a gland, about the size of a walnut, with essential and fascinating functions.

Let’s take a journey into an imaginary landscape to locate the prostate gland. Picture the bladder, where urine collects before it is released. Just below the



bladder’s neck and in front of the rectum lies the prostate gland.

This gland plays a key role in reproduction, as it produces a fluid that helps keep sperm mobile and in a fluid state, supporting its journey in the female reproductive tract.

The term for an enlarged prostate is “benign prostatic hyperplasia” (BPH). While the exact cause of BPH is not fully understood, several common factors are known to contribute to its development:

- Age
- Hormonal changes
- Obesity
- Genetic factors

Symptoms associated with an enlarged prostate may include frequent urination, particularly at night, a weak urine stream, and difficulty fully emptying the bladder. When men hear “enlarged prostate,” they often think of prostate cancer, but that’s not always the case. Men are advised to have their prostate gland checked, ideally between the ages of 40 and 50, as hormonal changes with age can impact prostate health. A PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) test can help indicate whether the prostate is enlarged. Even if you don’t have symptoms, it’s wise to take this test once a year. Take charge of your prostate health—get checked today.

Detty December

TOP PLACES TO BE IN LAGOS THIS HOLIDAY

By Fatimat O

If you're planning to preoccupy yourself in the Lagos experience this December, here are some must-attend events:

For the Fashionistas:

The Fashion Souk 11.0: Indulge in a shopping spree at this fashion, beauty, and food extravaganza. With an array of local and international brands, you're sure to find something to elevate your style.

Date: December 7-8

For the Culture Vultures:

Rise & Dye: Olumo Rock and Adire Heritage Tour: Embark on a journey through time and culture with this tour to Olumo Rock and the Adire Heritage Center.

Date: December 19

Beyond the Shore: The Badagry Heritage Tour: Discover the rich history of Lagos at Badagry, a town steeped in tradition and colonial history.

Date: December 20

Culturella™ Culture and Arts Festival Day 1: Immerse yourself in Yoruba culture and arts at this vibrant festival.

Date: December 6

Ikechi's Covenant - The Stage Play: Enjoy a captivating stage play at Terra Kulture.

Date: December 30-31

For the Music Lovers:

Rhythm Unplugged: Get ready to groove to the beats of international and local artists at this electrifying music festival.

Date: December 21-25

The Experience Lagos; Experience the power of gospel music at this world-class concert.

Date: December 8



Afro Nation Africa: Dance the night away at one of the world's biggest Afrobeats festivals.

Date: December 19-20

Fuji Vibrations Concert

Date: December 7

KOOKIES JAMZ - DETTY DECEMBER INVASION 'WEST AFRICA TOUR 24'

Date: December 28

For the Party Animals

Fire & Sand: The Ultimate Detty December Beach Rave: Dance the night away on the beach at this epic rave.

Date: December 9

MyAfrobeats 'Welcome To Lagos Party': Celebrate Lagos's vibrant nightlife at this exclusive party.

Date: December 11

MANIAC PARTY!!!: Let loose and have fun at this wild party.

Date: December 16



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DEPART: LAGOS
ARRIVE: THE WORLD

FOR THOSE BELOW
I WILL SACRIFICE
PUMA
DAVID AND GOLIATH
WORLDWIDE

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- PUMA, The Palms Polo-Park Mall, ENUGU.


IJAYA

CHAPTER 1:
IJAYA VS IKU
SQUAD

Created by
Deji Jayeoba & Okiki Laoye


Art by
Charles Owen & Adene Muiywa

  @ijayacomic


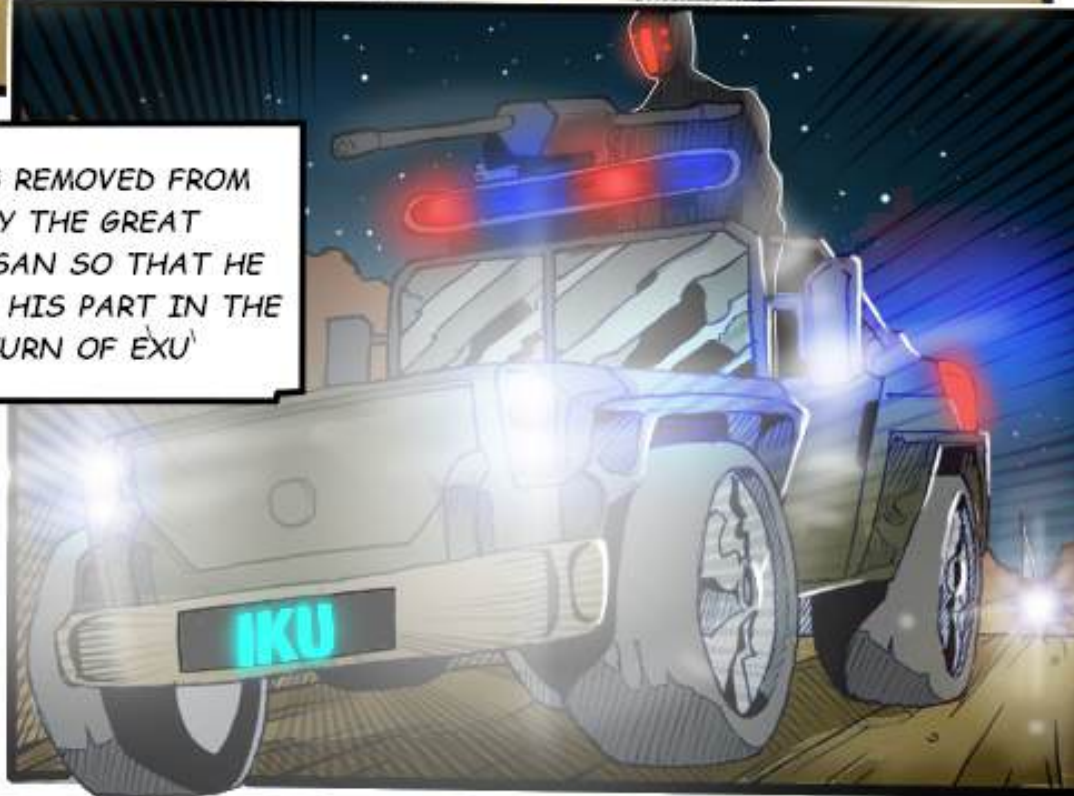
 www.ijayatheseries.xyz



CONTD.




DEATH WAS REMOVED FROM HIS HEAD BY THE GREAT OSSAI YANSAN SO THAT HE COULD PLAY HIS PART IN THE FUTURE RETURN OF EXU'



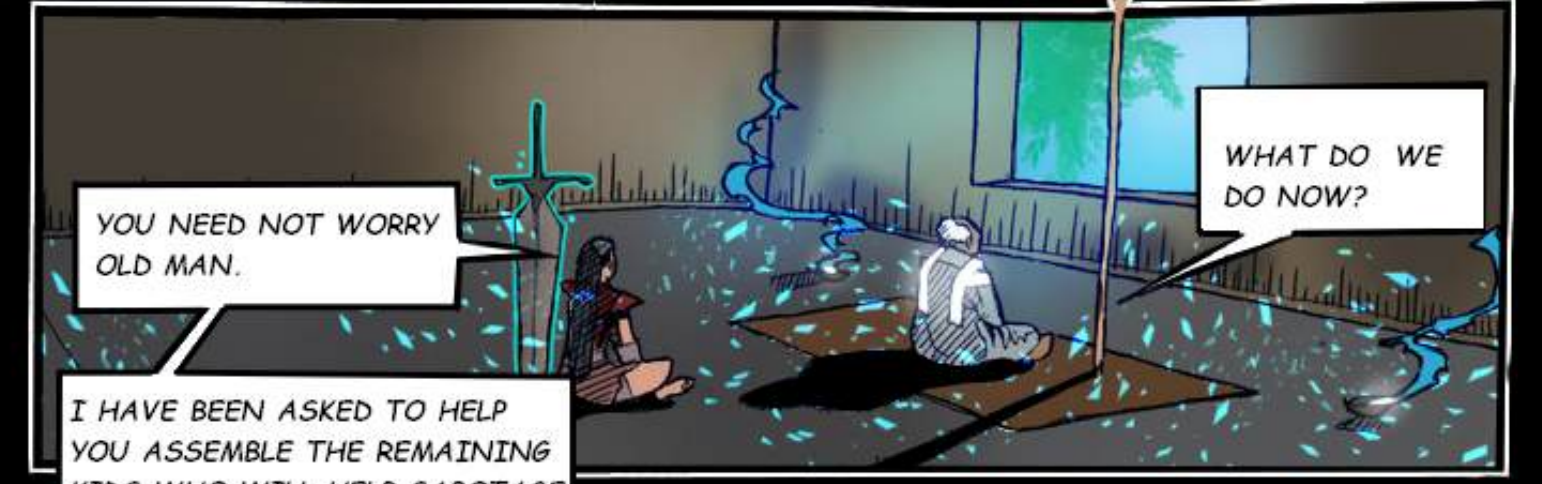
SO HE COULDN'T DIE?

THIS IS JUST PART OF A VERY BIG SCHEME THEY ARE PLANNING.

NO HE COULDN'T, AS FAR AS ORUN RERE IS CONCERNED, HE ALREADY DIED, BUT NOW HIS SPIRIT EXISTS AS SMOKE, WITHOUT HIS SOUL.




NOW HE HAS A LOYAL SERVANT IN A MAN CALLED PROF. JAGUDA, THIS MAN HAS BEEN SENDING HIS SUBORDINATES TO KIDNAP YOUNG KIDS FROM ALL OVER, FOR THE SAKE OF EXPERIMENTS.



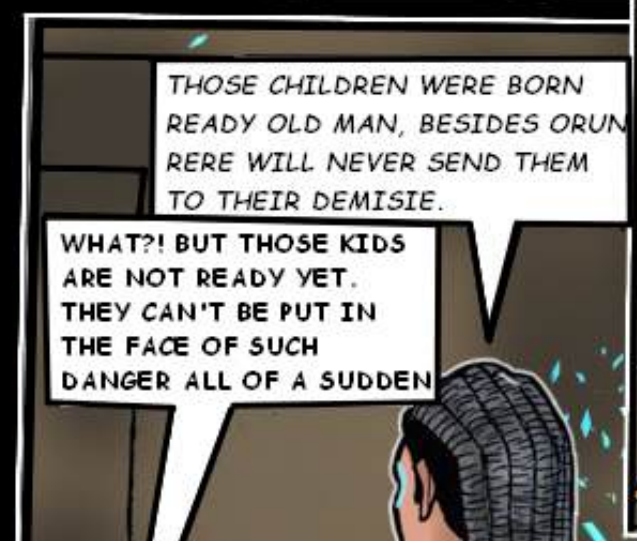
YOU NEED NOT WORRY
OLD MAN.

WHAT DO WE
DO NOW?


I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO HELP
YOU ASSEMBLE THE REMAINING
KIDS WHO WILL HELP SABOTAGE
THE EFFORTS OF THE ENEMIES
TONIGHT.



IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIVES
OF THOSE KIDS AT THE
ORPHANAGE. THIS WILL BE
THE AWAKENING QUEST.




THOSE CHILDREN WERE BORN
READY OLD MAN, BESIDES ORUN
RERE WILL NEVER SEND THEM
TO THEIR DEMISIE.



THEY WIELD THE POWERS
OF THE GREATEST WARRIORS
THAT EVER WALKED THE
FACE OF THE EARTH.

WHAT?! BUT THOSE KIDS
ARE NOT READY YET.
THEY CAN'T BE PUT IN
THE FACE OF SUCH
DANGER ALL OF A SUDDEN

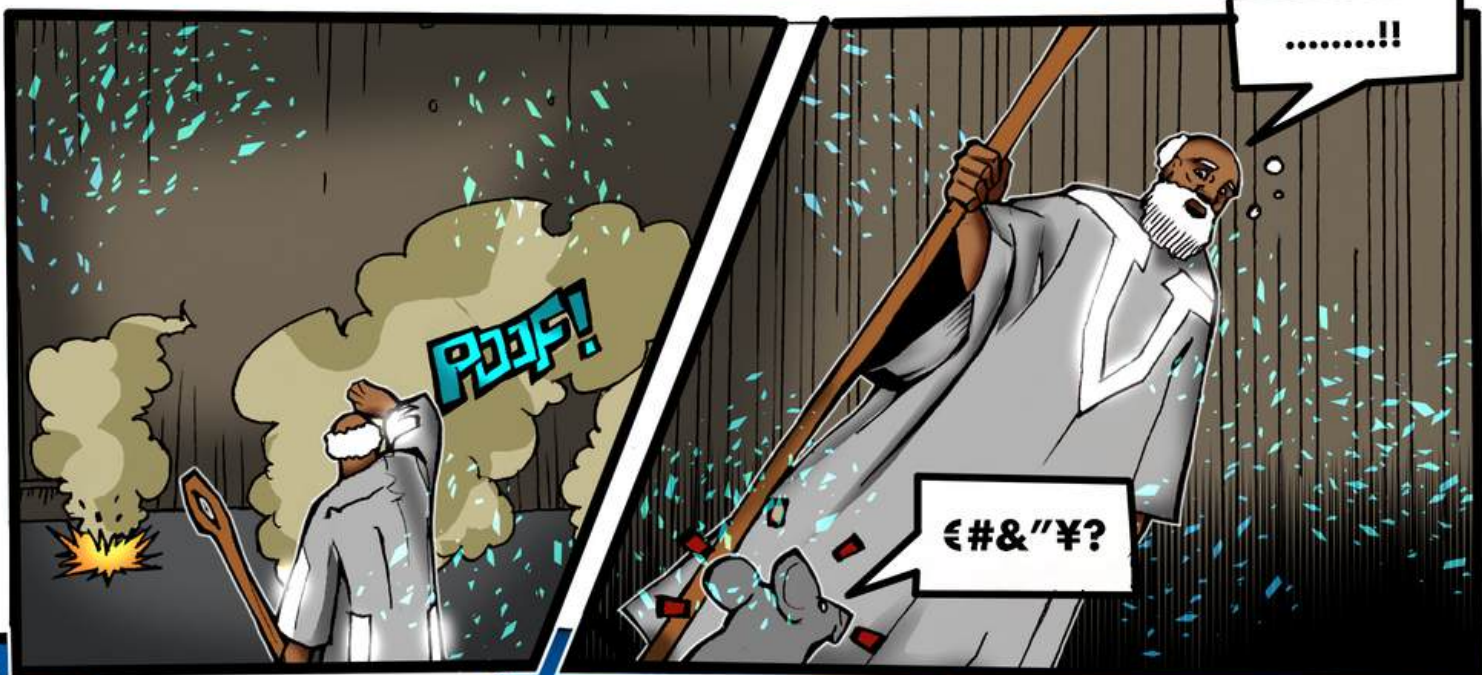
I HAVE MY ORDERS FROM
ORUN RERE AND I HAVE
DELIVERED.



NOW IT'S THE TIME FOR
YOU TO DO LORD ORULA'S
BIDDING AND PLAY A PART
TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK



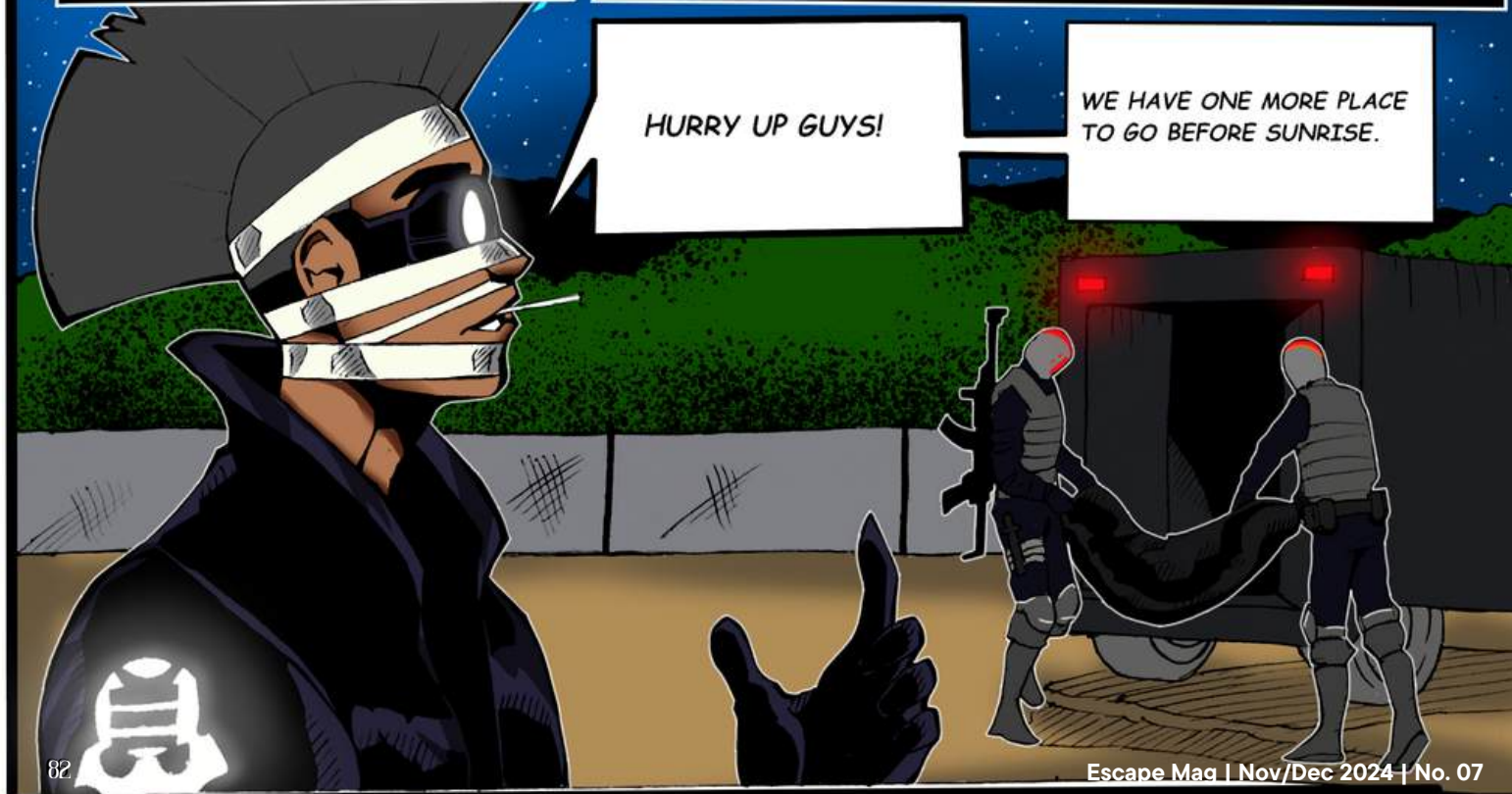
I'LL BE BACK HERE WITH THEM SHORTLY.



.....!!

#&\"'¥?

POOF!

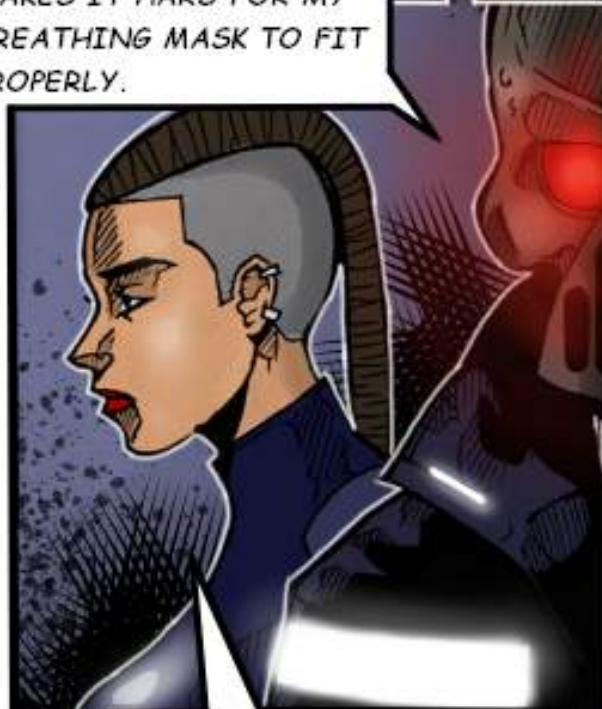


HURRY UP GUYS!

WE HAVE ONE MORE PLACE TO GO BEFORE SUNRISE.



EH! EH! THIS BANDAGE
MAKES IT HARD FOR MY
BREATHING MASK TO FIT
PROPERLY.



STOP WORRYING YOURSELF
ABOUT THAT. YOU LET THAT
SPOILT BRAT GET YOU BAD
THIS MORNING.



NOW YOU'RE WHINING
LIKE A BABY.

I HOPE IJAPKA'S SLEEPING
GAS HE RELEASED IN THIS
PLACE WON'T LEAK THROUGH
A LOOPHOLE AND SEEP INTO
MY NOSE.

EEEEH? I DID NOT KNOW
HE WAS THAT TRAINED,
BESIDES THUNDER DOES
NOT STRIKE AT THESAME
SPOT TWICE; I'LL GET HIM
NEXT TIME.

THE KIDNAPPERS ARE HERE, AND THEY ARE CARRYING THE OTHER KIDS.... THEY MUST HAVE GOT SUPO TOO. BUT WHY IS MR. AKPAN AND MADAM KOFO NOT HEARING ALL THE RACKET GOIN ON?



MAYBE THEY ARE NOTIFYING THE POLICE AS I SPEAK.





HUH!



I HOPE SOMEBODY DOES SOMETHING QUICKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.....



HE'S COMING HERE, I HAVE TO HIDE QUICKLY.



TO BE CONTD.



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