

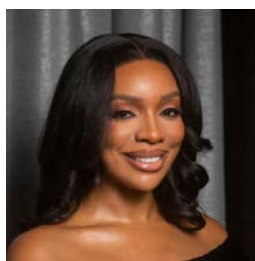
BUSINESS DAY WEEKENDER

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CULINARY

Exploring Nigeria's Rainy Season Delicacies



INTERVIEW

Investing in women is crucial for societal progress on multiple fronts - Neya Kalu

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BUSINESS DAY

COOKING UP BUSINESS

— CONFERENCE —

THEME

Turning Culinary Passion
into Profit

(Food & Drinks)



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**Theme: Emerging Global Opportunities
in Sustainable Agri-Exports**

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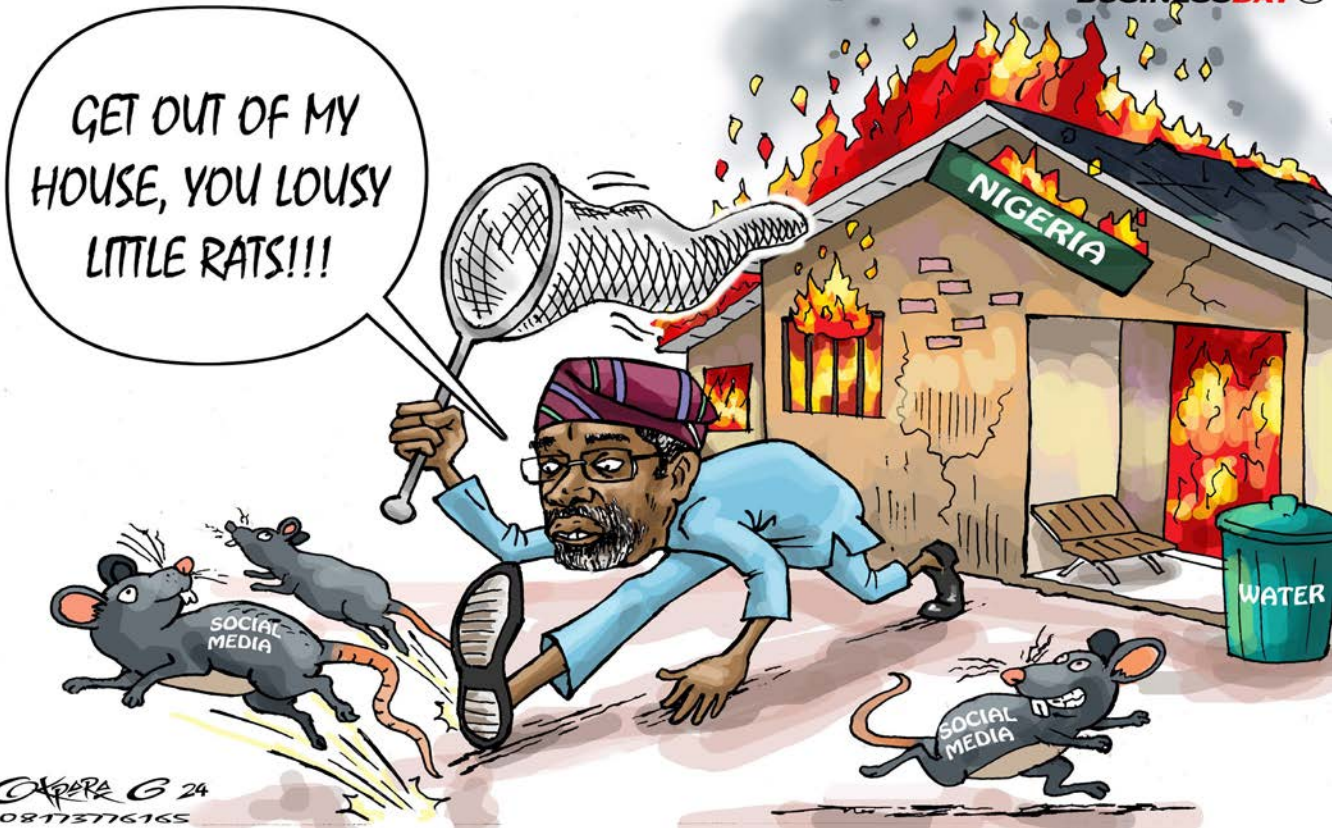
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‘GROWN’ SET FOR GLOBAL RELEASE ON AFRICA MAGIC SHOWCASE AND AFRICA MAGIC URBAN

In closing out an impactful twelve-month film training at The Multichoice Talent Factory, the West Africa Cohort Class of 2023 has announced that their final student project, ‘Grown’, will be released on March, 2, 2024 on Africa Magic Showcase, and March 9th, 2024 on Africa Magic Urban.

Following the life altering challenges faced by an ill-mannered teenager who desires to be an adult and suddenly wakes up grown, as well as her fight to return to adolescence, the film stars nollywood talents like Efe Irele, Sarah Obiekwe, Najite Dede, Patrick Diabuah, Bobby Ekpe, Oluwaseyi Akinsola, Ejovowo Obas, Yemi Cregx and more. Directed by Ola Jegede and Empress Allen, ‘Grown’ the film, is produced by Desmond Ebuwa Ekunwe and Nosa Isibor. The original story idea was by Uyioghosa Etinosa and it was written by Boakye D. Alpha and Nosa Isibor, with Horla Manuvor Junior as the Director of Photography.

Speaking on the social and cultural relevance of ‘Grown’, Ola Jegede, the Director of the film said, "We live in an age where young children are exposed to so much content through the media and they push towards desiring to grow up rather than enjoying the phase of being young, naive, and simple. We are happy we made a film that is didactic, exciting and nostalgic, causing a beautiful thrill for the audience. "

One of the producers, Desmond Ebuwa Ekunwe also hinted that the production team is planning watch parties for viewers at designated locations in Nigeria as a means to heighten the anticipation and enjoyability of the film.

The film will air on Dstv Channel 151 and Channel 153 (GoTv Channel 6) on the 2nd and 9th of March respectively. For more information, visit the film’s instagram page @grownthemovie.

Breakout Revolution:

Uncover's new I Am Restored Blemish Serum Unleashes the Power of Science & Inclusivity



Uncover, the pioneering African self-care startup dedicated to crafting best-in-class skincare solutions, is excited to unveil its groundbreaking I Am Restored Blemish Control Serum.

Meticulously formulated in Korea and tested in Nigeria and Kenya, the I Am Restored Blemish Control Serum marks a transformative breakthrough in blemish prevention and healing.

Its formulation prioritizes the specific needs of melanin-rich skin, providing a distinctive solution tailored for the African consumer.

Enriched with mandelic acid for gentle exfoliation, salicylic acid to thoroughly unclog pores, and the calming anti-inflammatory agent azelaic acid, the I Am Restored Blemish Control Serum offers an effective, safe, and budget-friendly solution to reduce pimples and prevent future breakouts.

"The I Am Restored Serum represents more than a blemish control product. It is a testament to our unwavering dedication to African women. Our team, comprising highly experienced formulation scientists, all melanated women with over 15 years of expertise, worked diligently on its development for nearly two years.

"By integrating formula scientists well-versed in the unique needs of melanated skin and incorporating the insights of marginalized women through focus groups, Uncover can proudly state that we are amplifying the voices of this consumer base."- Jade Oyateru, Uncover Co-Founder & COO said.

Uncover is steadfast in its commitment to elevating skincare standards and becoming a beacon of excellence in the industry.

Launching the I Am Restored Serum is just one stride in its ongoing mission to provide effective solutions.

With a focus on continuous innovation and a deep understanding of the unique characteristics of melanin-rich skin, Uncover is poised to introduce a range of products that empower individuals across the continent to nurture their skin with the care it deserves.

To commemorate the launch of the new product, on February 25, 2024, Uncover will open its much-anticipated Experience Hub in Lagos, Nigeria.

Departing from traditional launch events, this Experience Hub will serve as an immersive space where customers can intimately interact with the brand and its products.



The grand opening in Lagos is poised to be a vibrant gathering, attracting skincare enthusiasts, influencers, and dedicated customers.

"As we embark on opening our Experience Hub in Lagos, we are thrilled to create a space that transcends the conventional, inviting our valued customers to connect intimately with the Uncover brand. The Experience Hub symbolizes our passion for fostering communities where shared experiences and empowering conversations redefine the narrative of beauty.

"Imagine a world where beauty belongs to you, not to standards. That's the future we're asking our community to help us create." Sneha Mehta, Uncover Co-Founder & CEO.

The I Am Restored Blemish Control Serum retails for KSh 3,500 in Kenya and 16,500 in Nigeria. The product is available on Uncover's website, www.uncover skincare.ng, and retailers throughout both regions, including but not limited to MedPlus, SkinScience, MySkinPlug, Goodlife, True Cosmetics, MyDawa, Super Cosmetics, and Jumia.

Meet

NEYA KALU

Neya Kalu is an astute Serial Entrepreneur, Business Executive, and Philanthropist. With a first degree in Law and an MSc. in Financial Services Management from the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom, Neya has garnered over 12 years of experience across various industries; crafting and implementing business initiatives and functions.

She is the CEO of Basecoat: a chain of Nail Salons in Nigeria and the founder of the Neya Kalu Foundation. Neya Kalu also sits as the Chairman of The Sun Nigeria, a reputable Nigerian News Organization, Chairman of Sun Heavens Hotels and Resorts. Apart from being a Business Executive and Entrepreneur, Neya is passionate about solving social issues especially as it relates to women.

In this interview with IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA, Kalu speaks about how she is able to wear many hats and manage multiple businesses in various sectors at the same time effectively and efficiently. She also speaks on her passion for women and child development.



Investing in women is crucial for societal progress on multiple fronts

- Neya Kalu

You have a lot going on; you wear many hats and operate in different capacities; how would you describe yourself, and what is that thing(s) you want to be known for?

I am someone who thrives in multifaceted roles and enjoys tackling diverse challenges. I am resourceful and very driven to excel in whatever capacity I operate. While I embrace wearing many hats, there's one thing I aspire to be known for: making a positive impact. Whether through my work, interactions with others, or contributions to projects and initiatives, I want to leave a lasting impression of positivity, innovation, and meaningful change. That's what drives me and what I hope to be remembered for in the long run.

You are the Chairman of The Sun Nigeria, a reputable Nigerian News Organization, Chairman of Sun Heavens Hotels and Resorts and founder at BaseCoat. How do you manage these various businesses with different audiences and focus?

Managing multiple businesses with distinct audiences requires effective delegation, strategic planning, and a clear understanding of each business's goals and operations. As Chairman of The Sun Nigeria, Sun Heavens Hotels and Resorts, and founder of BaseCoat, it has been fulfilling ensuring that each business receives the attention it deserves. One thing that I've prioritised is communication and collaboration among teams within each organisation. Additionally, I rely on competent and empowered

management teams in each business to handle day-to-day operations. Delegating responsibilities to capable individuals helps me focus on high-level decision-making and long-term planning, ensuring that each business stays on track to achieve its goals. Ultimately, managing multiple businesses with different audiences and focuses requires a combination of effective delegation, strategic oversight, and a commitment to excellence in every aspect of operations. With a dedicated team and a clear vision, I am confident in our ability to navigate the complexities of diverse industries and drive success across all ventures.

Given your role at The Sun Nigeria, how do you see the media shaping public opinion on social issues, and what role do you believe media plays in driving positive change in society?

As Chairman of The Sun Nigeria, I see the media as a key influencer in shaping public opinion on social issues. The media can bring attention to important topics through accurate reporting and investigative journalism, hold individuals and institutions accountable, and mobilise public support for positive change. The media plays a vital role in promoting inclusivity, social justice, and transparency by amplifying diverse voices and advocating for marginalised communities. The media is a powerful force for informing, engaging, and driving societal progress.

In your experience as a Chairman, how do you foster effective governance within an organisation, and what principles do you prioritise to ensure the board's effectiveness?

As Chairman, fostering effective governance within an organisation requires a focus on transparency, accountability, and strategic oversight. I believe in open communication among board members and all necessary stakeholders. This also helps with accountability and builds a sense of ownership towards roles and responsibilities.

Another way I foster effective governance within our organisations is by regular reviews and updates among team members and stakeholders. This spills over into ensuring board effectiveness.

In your role at Sun Heaven Hotels and Resorts, what initiatives or strategies have you implemented to ensure the success and growth of the hospitality business?

There's a saying that a satisfied customer is the only thing that counts. We've prioritised enhancing the guest experience by ensuring exceptional customer service across all our branches.

Within the teams, we've also encouraged a sense of ownership by delegating responsibilities and inclusion. Inclusion is essential because there are different perspectives the different genders bring to the table, and I've tried to ensure that qualified minds get a seat at the table to share their ideas and strategies for growth.

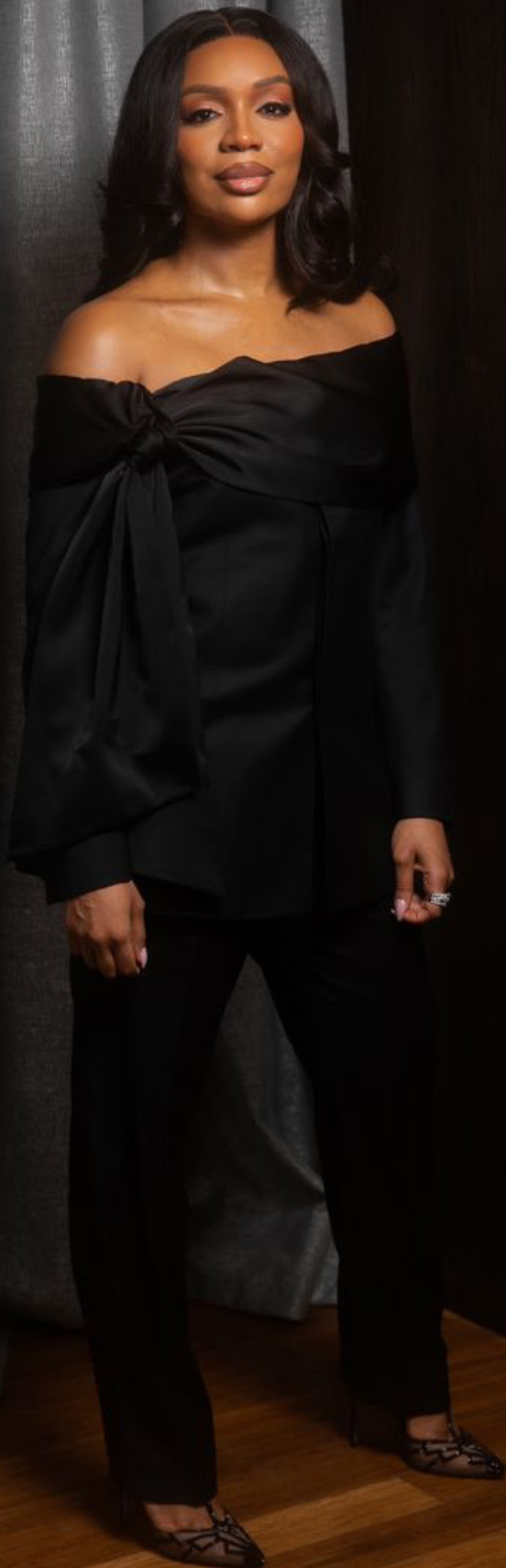
As a leader in the beauty industry with Basecoat, how do you navigate the ever-evolving trends and challenges in the beauty and wellness sector?

With BaseCoat, being on top of our game is crucial to remaining at the top. I'm vested in doing market research and continuously exploring new products and services we can offer at all our branches.

Another way my team and I navigate the beauty and wellness sector is by remaining customer-centric. We listen to customer feedback, understand their needs and desires and tailor our offerings to meet and exceed their expectations.

Finally, I leverage collaboration and partnerships. That's one recurring theme that I stand by. For instance, I recently partnered with my very good friend Onyekachi of Beauty Atelier to open a one-stop shop for semi-permanent makeup and nails in Abuja.





How do you see businesses contributing to broader societal goals, and what role can they play in achieving sustainable development?

Businesses are critical in contributing to societal goals and achieving sustainable development. Businesses drive economic growth and create jobs, improving livelihoods and reducing poverty.

But beyond the surface-level changes businesses can do, more businesses should be involved in policy making. You see, businesses can influence policy and advocate for regulatory frameworks that support sustainable development goals. Businesses can contribute to developing policies and regulations that promote environmental sustainability, social equity and economic prosperity.

Why the passion for women and child development?

Why not women and child development? There's this popular statement that when you train a woman, you train a nation, which is what I'm running with. I believe that once women and children are empowered, societal changes can come even faster.

What is the importance of investing in women, and how will investment in women lead to societal progress?

Investing in women is crucial for societal progress on multiple fronts. Empowering women economically leads to increased household income and economic growth at a basic level and on a larger scale. Studies have consistently shown that when women have access to education, employment opportunities, and financial resources, they reinvest a significant portion of their income back into their families and communities, thereby lifting entire households out of poverty and stimulating local economies.

Investing in women is not only the right thing to do from a moral standpoint, but it's also an intelligent investment in the future of societies.

Can you speak to this year's International Women's Day theme: Inspire Inclusion?

This year's theme is the story of my life. I am thankful to my father for being that figure who made sure I didn't shrink or hide my gifts and talents. He provided an environment that ensured I was included from the start. This gave me a sense of belonging and empowerment.



When compared to developed countries, do you think Nigeria is anywhere near achieving gender equality in the workplace and home front? What are some of the challenges hindering the realisation of gender equality in Nigeria, in your opinion?

I don't think we are there yet, but I believe we are getting there. While progress has been made in recent years, one major challenge that affects the realisation of gender equality in Nigeria is cultural and societal norms that perpetuate gender stereotypes and discrimination.

Additionally, limited access to education and economic opportunities impede progress towards gender equality in Nigeria.

As an advocate for self-care and relaxation, how do you balance the demands of your various roles while ensuring you prioritise your well-being?

Having a schedule is not just important but essential for easily navigating a busy life. I've discovered that compartmentalising things makes things a whole lot more seamless. It creates a sense of balance between my life's different commitments.

How do you stay motivated and inspired in your multifaceted roles, and what advice do you have for individuals seeking to maintain passion and drive in their careers?

I maintain my drive by consistently envisioning my future and the significant influence I aim to achieve. I'm big on leaving a legacy for my son, and that's what continually drives me. I also draw inspiration from the incredible people around me who have done amazing things. My advice to people seeking to maintain passion is to always remind yourself of your why. Your why is the fuel that would keep you going.



Considering your voracious reading habits, are there any specific books or authors that have had a profound impact on your personal or professional life?

No, because I mainly focus on fictional African tales. So, I don't know if there's anything in particular that is profound to me, but I love a good Nigerian author. I've read five books this year alone! I love books that transport me from reality to a dreamland, and that's what Nigerian fiction does for me.

What advice do you have for young women aspiring to enter business and entrepreneurship, especially in male-dominated industries?

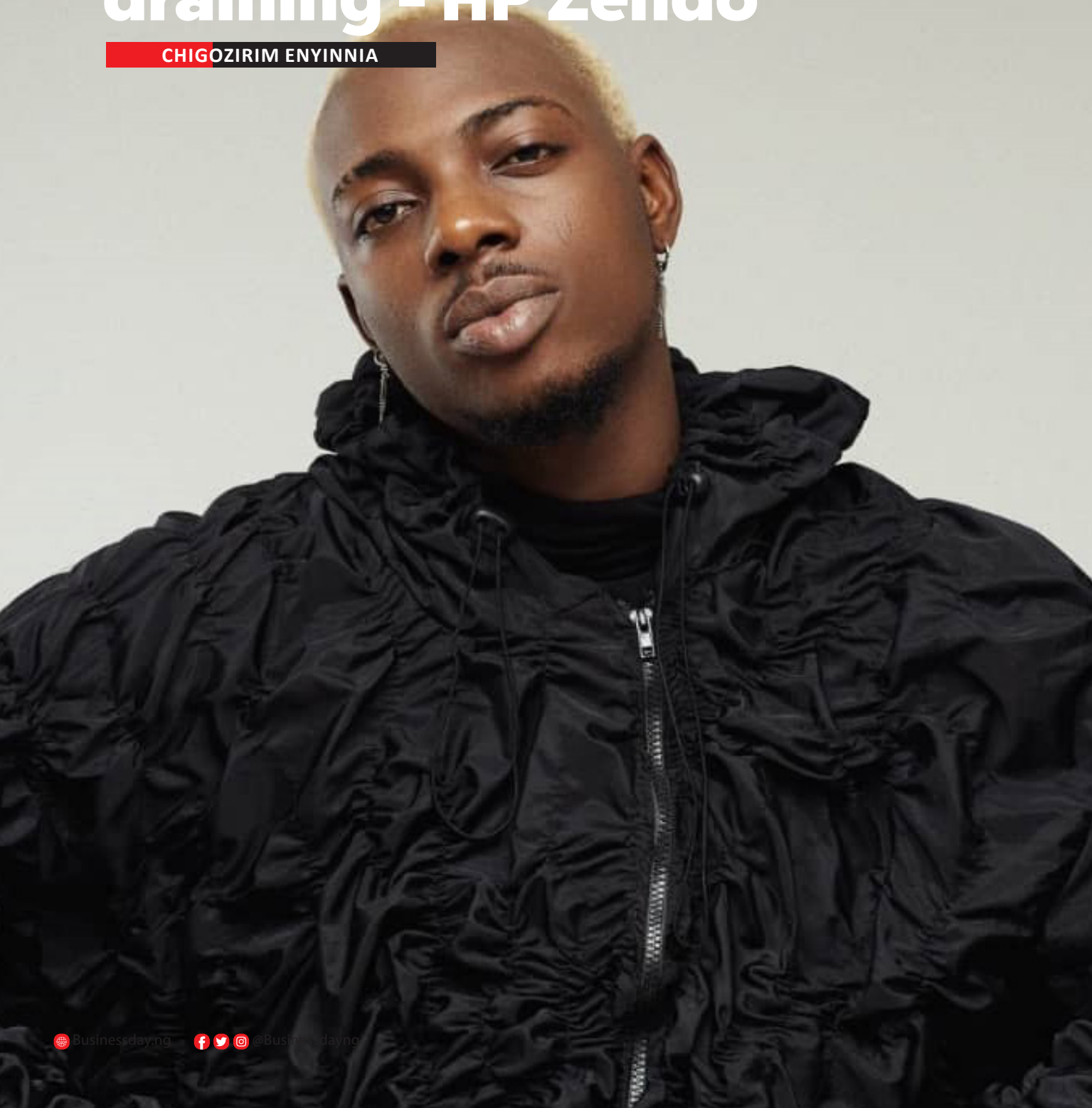
I'll share three things that have worked for me: Believe in yourself, Build a support network, and Be resilient. Recognize that challenges and setbacks are inevitable, and use those moments to fuel your growth and development.

Who are some women you draw inspiration from, and why?

I can draw inspiration from anyone, from the woman selling corn on the side of the road to a Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Nowadays, the source of your inspiration is not limited.

Life as independent artiste tasking, financially draining - HP Zendo

CHIGOZIRIM ENYINIA



For fast rising Nigerian singer, Hope Ogun Omumati AKA HP Zendo, life as an independent artiste has been quite tasking and financially draining.

The Edo State born entertainer who just released the remix of his hit single, E Don Cast, featuring CDQ said, "Being an independent artiste is not easy at all, the huge funds associated in promoting my music is not a joke at all."

As an Afrobeats and Street hop artist, Hp Zenco promises to deliver major hit tracks for his teaming fans this year as he also prepares to embark on his European tour soon.

"On the 7th of February 2024, I dropped E Don Cast, featuring CDQ and the single has been receiving massive airplay nationwide. It gives me joy sharing my feelings through my music.

"Music in itself is life. My background as someone from street and African home where your parents strive everyday to put food on the table inspire and keep me going. We thank God Almighty for where we are now it can only get better. We keep chasing the bag. Plans are also on top gear for my European tour," he added.

Hp Zenco's music is also inspired by the social economic situation in the country. He dropped his body of works (EP) with seven tracks in December 2023 featuring some of Nigeria's top rated artistes, Danny S, Base one and more.

Beyond the Gallery:

7 Experiential Spaces to Deepen Your Appreciation for Contemporary African Art

If you're an artist, you will love this one

Let's for a second, skip the hushed reverence of galleries, museums, and the price tags that whisper exclusivity.

Imagine yourself caught amidst the infectious energy of a bustling marketplace, haggling with a grinning vendor over a batik fabric that explodes with colour and cultural symbolism.

Or picture yourself entranced by a live performance art piece unfolding in a sun-drenched courtyard, where movement and music interweave to tell ancient tales. This is where the heart of contemporary African art beats. Contemporary African art is not meant to be a silent observer in a white cube. It is a pulsating conversation waiting to erupt, a kaleidoscope of stories yearning to be shared.

Across the continent, in vibrant studios, bustling marketplaces, and even unexpected corners, artistic expression spills beyond the confines of conventional spaces. African art is reclaiming its streets, its communities, and its very essence.

Does this new wave of experiencing art then signify the end of galleries and exhibitions? Of course not! This is only part of the movement to promote and support contemporary art across African cities. To make it more inclusive and accessible for all, especially in the communities from which it stems. The question begs; what other spaces could serve as avenues for one to deepen their appreciation of contemporary African art?

In this digest, we will discuss seven(7) alternative spaces where contemporary African Art can be appreciated in various African cities.



This digest is brought to you by Patrons MCAA. Think African art, think Patrons. Patrons is Africa's leading art advisory and dealership firm that helps private and corporate art collectors diversify their wealth through art collection, appraisal, packaging & transportation, storage, insurance, maintenance, and restoration.

7 Alternative Spaces for Contemporary African Art Appreciation



A collage of images showcasing art and crafts set in Accra arts and crafts market

1. Local arts and craft markets

There exists a whimsical feeling about the African open-air marketplace experience. From beneath the watchful gaze of the sun, you will find your local arts and craft markets awakened. Price haggling transpires, as musical as a swarm of buzzing bees. The vibrant chaos of street hawkers and shop owners beckoning passersby to stop by and check out their goods for sale. The unsolicited stories that are shared and created in such exchanges are life-defining.

One can expect to see intricate hand-carved masks imbued with ancestral forms and textiles woven with community narratives...each handcrafted piece pulsates with cultural significance.

The infectious energy and the sheer volume of visual delights might leave you wanting to take home the entire market! Such experiences are burned in one's memory, sometimes, for a lifetime.

2. The Open-Air Canvas

Street art is experienced on murals, lamp posts, bridges, open (un)allocated spaces, and anything at all that is blank and waiting to be impressed. Street artists reclaim rural and urban spaces to impress upon and install art that sparks social dialogue. Contemporary African art is transforming cityscapes into open-air museums. Wander through graffiti-laden alleyways in Dakar, marvel at the thought-provoking murals adorning the Fela Kuti Shrine in Lagos, or get lost in the vibrant storytelling splashed across the walls of Nairobi's Kibera neighbourhood. The streets become your gallery, the city your curator, and every corner an artistic revelation.





Giannis Courtyard, Abuja Nigeria

3. The Communal Courtyard

In the heart of many African communities, courtyards are constantly being transformed into vibrant stages for artistic expression. You may be fortunate to witness the rhythmic stomping of a traditional dance performance, feel the hypnotic energy of a drumming circle, or be captivated by the mesmerising skills often displayed by amateur basketball players in local basketball courtyards. On these art stages, art is not just a view, it is a participation, a shared experience that engages the performers and their audience. Be prepared to move your feet, clap your hands, and let the communal spirit wash over you.

4. The Nomadic Narrative

Artists are known to be defiant. Some have ditched the static museum displays and embarked on a journey with nomadic art collectives. What does this mean? Imagine following a group of artists as they travel from village to village, using recycled materials and local narratives to create thought-provoking installations that celebrate diverse cultural voices. What you will witness is the transformation of everyday objects into powerful commentaries, to experience art as a dynamic dialogue between man and his community and their ever-evolving stories.

5. The Digital Diaspora

Explore the burgeoning world of African digital art. From Afrofuturist animations that reimagine the continent's past exploring if Africa was left alone, and uncolonised (Wakanda Forever sounds familiar?), to Virtual Reality experiences that transport you into the heart of a futuristic bustling market that's still very much African. Technology is fast becoming a canvas for artistic expression.

Technology enhances interactive installations, enabling art lovers to explore online galleries showcasing digital masterpieces and connect with a global community of digital artists pushing the boundaries of artistic exploration.



Digital art by Ghanaian afrofuturist artist, David Alabo



Did we tickle your fancy?

These are just a few of the many alternative spaces where contemporary African art thrives. Remember that the journey of appreciating African art is not confined to a single space or experience. It is an ongoing exploration, a constant dialogue between you, the art, and the vibrant community that nourishes it. Therefore, step outside the traditional boundaries, embrace the unexpected, and let your passion ignite in the dazzling tapestry of alternative spaces that await.

The continent's artistic soul is waiting to be discovered, one brushstroke, one beat, one conver-art-sation at a time.

Until our next digest, continue to explore and enjoy contemporary African art in spaces around you.

6. The Collaborative Canvas

In community centres and workshops across the continent, art becomes a tool for empowerment and social change. To immerse yourself in such experiences, you may choose to join collaborative art projects that tackle pressing issues like gender equality or environmental sustainability. You will be able to witness the raw power of collective creativity, where individual voices unite to paint murals that demand change, craft sculptures that spark dialogue, and use art as a catalyst for social transformation.

One way you can collaborate on a social change canvas is by being our guest in the coming March 2024 edition of small & Iconic. Why? This particular edition is held annually with a core focus on celebrating the vibrancy, resilience, and wonder of African women. This March 2024 edition features female artists from Francophone Africa, tackling feminine issues and subject matters that are inspired by own, shared, and heard experiences.

7. The Unexpected Encounters

Keep your eyes peeled, for art can lurk in the most unexpected corners. From repurposed objects transformed into whimsical sculptures adorning a roadside cafe to impromptu dance performances erupting in a bustling park, African art thrives on surprise. Embrace the serendipity of everyday encounters, let the rhythm of a street musician draw you in, or be mesmerised by the impromptu fashion show unfolding on a busy street corner. The beauty lies in the unexpected, the art in the everyday.

Keturah Ovio.



Keturah Ovio

Keturah Ovio is an Executive at Patrons Modern & Contemporary African Art. She is also an engineer and Founder of Dukka, a Fintech startup providing bookkeeping and payments solutions for small businesses. Keturah is passionate about African Art and has been collecting art since her early 20s. Now, she advises, curates, and manages collections for individuals and corporate organisations looking to start or diversify their wealth management through art collecting. She strongly believes that a fine marriage exists between Art and Technology.

CHAT Lagos:

Captivating capsule store dedicated to showcasing the beauty, depth of Nigeria's rich heritage

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA



Chat Lagos (Culture Heritage Art Timeless), is a unique and vibrant Nigerian capsule store that serves as a cultural hub, offering a curated collection of diverse indigenous products that celebrate the rich heritage of Nigeria.

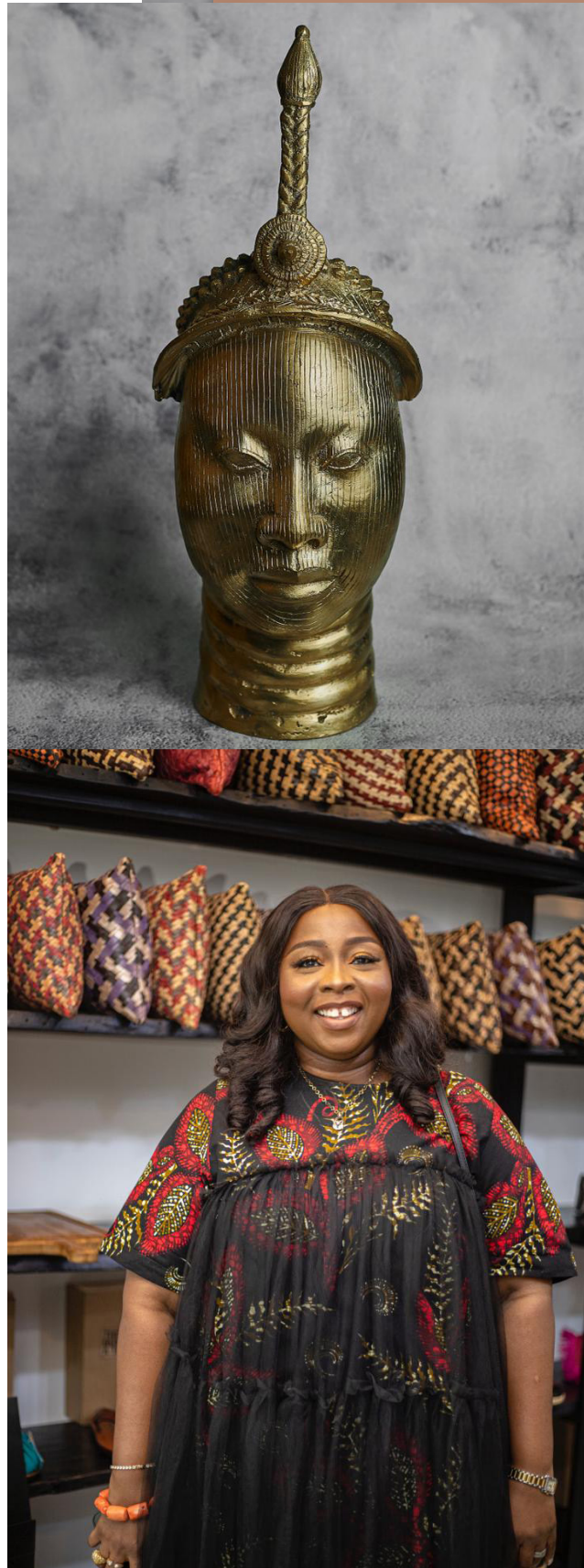
The store located at Fourteen36 Mall, Plot 1436 Sanusi Fafunwa Str VI, showcases an array of traditional and contemporary items, providing a platform for local artisans and designers to share their craftsmanship and creativity.

From the moment you walk into the store, the stories, colors, and textures of Nigeria's heritage ignite your imagination.

Whether you're a connoisseur of art, a fashion enthusiast, or simply curious about Nigeria's rich cultural tapestry, CHAT Lagos promises an unforgettable experience. It features exclusive and timeless pieces ranging from - traditional Adire Agbadas to contemporary sculptures inspired by Benin art, each item within CHAT Lagos tells a story of Nigeria's diverse cultural landscape. It's a celebration of creativity, resilience, and the timeless essence of our shared identity.

Founder – Yanmon Aisien also stated that “CHAT Lagos is more than just a store; it's a testament to the richness of our culture and the resilience of our people. We aim to create a space where our heritage comes alive, sparking meaningful conversations and fostering connections that transcend boundaries.”

In essence, the brand is a cultural fusion, offering customers a diverse and exclusive range of products that transcend geographical boundaries.





By incorporating elements from Benin, the store not only celebrates Nigeria's cultural diversity but also contributes to the preservation and promotion of the distinct heritage of different regions within the country whilst collaborating with artisans and designers to ensure authenticity and a genuine representation of our artistic heritage.

Chat Lagos is not merely a retail space; it is an immersive experience for individuals keen on exploring the history and culture of Nigeria.

The store aims to foster a sense of connection to Nigerian traditions by offering a curated selection of products that tell a story of the country's rich cultural tapestry. Chat Lagos contributes to the promotion of diversity within the Nigerian market and creates a space where customers can engage with and support local craftsmanship.



5 most expensive paintings in the world valued at \$2.18bn combined

CHISOM MICHAEL

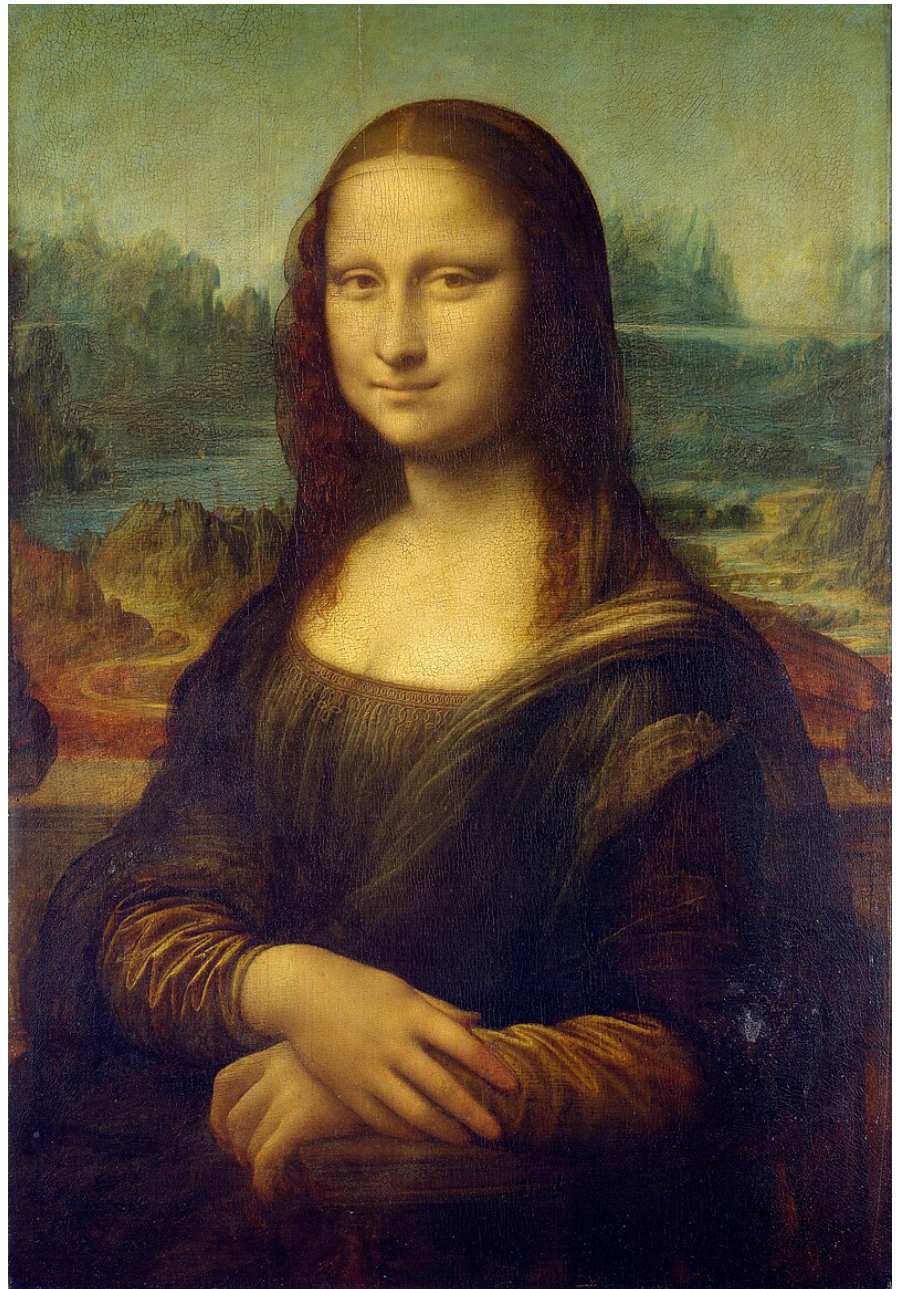
Assigning value to masterpieces involves a complex dance influenced by market trends, but a few stand out, reaching figures in the hundreds of millions and marking significant milestones in art history.

These rare treasures, accessible only to a fortunate few, represent the pinnacle of the art world.

Here are the top 5 most expensive paintings in the world in 2024

Mona Lisa

Leonardo da Vinci's, Mona Lisa stands unrivaled as one of the world's most iconic and valuable paintings, thanks to the captivating enigma of the woman's smile and da Vinci's masterful play with light and shadow. Recognized by Guinness World Records for its highest insurance value, the Mona Lisa has been a permanent fixture at the Louvre in Paris. Initially valued at US\$100 million on December 14, 1962, when accounting for inflation, its worth would approximate an impressive US\$970 million in 2022.





Salvator Mundi

Another masterpiece by Leonardo da Vinci, Salvator Mundi, takes the second spot on the list. The painting, depicting Christ as the Savior of the World, made headlines when it was sold for a staggering \$450.3 million. The intricate details, spiritual resonance, and rarity of da Vinci's works contribute to the astronomical price tag attached to Salvator Mundi.



Interchange

Willem de Kooning's abstract expressionist masterpiece, "Interchange," holds the third position as one of the most expensive paintings. The vibrant and dynamic composition, characterized by bold brushstrokes and vibrant colors, fetched an astounding \$300 million. As a pinnacle of abstract expressionism, Interchange continues to captivate art connoisseurs and investors alike.



The Card Players

Paul Cézanne's "The Card Players" is a series of five paintings, with one of the works securing the fourth spot on the list. This post-impressionist masterpiece showcases Cézanne's skill in depicting human figures and still life. The particular piece that reached a value of \$250 million exemplifies the artist's unique approach to color and form, making it a sought-after piece in the art market.

Nafea Faa Ipoipo

In the fifth position is Paul Gauguin's "Nafea Faa Ipoipo," a masterpiece that translates to "When Will You Marry?" in Tahitian. Gauguin's exploration of exotic landscapes and cultures is evident in this painting, and its rarity and cultural significance contributed to its \$210 million price tag. The vibrant colors and emotional depth of the artwork continue to make it a prized possession for art collectors.



Exploring Nigeria's Rainy Season Delicacies

CHIGOZIRIM ENYINNA



As the rainy season welcomes itself without apologies, the era of cardigans, jackets and warmth inspiring clothes will soon dominate fashion trends, and foods of a certain kind will be appreciated now more than ever.

From hearty soups to delectable snacks, Nigeria's rain-soaked landscape offers a unique opportunity to indulge in its rich array of culinary heritage. Let us discover five mouth-watering foods that are an absolute must-try during this rainy season.

1. OBE EJA TUTU (FISHERMAN'S SOUP):

In the rainy season, the rivers and lakes of Nigeria surge with life, making this the perfect time to savour the famous Obe Eja Tutu, a traditional fisherman's soup enjoyed with either rice, yam, swallow or even on its own.

Rich and spicy, this meal is alive with flavour, and is prepared with an array of easily gotten ingredients. There is: fresh fish (or any kind you prefer), salt, a blend of pepper mix (bell peppers (tatase), fresh pepper(atarodo). Then your fresh tomatoes, tomato paste (optional), onions, garlic, ginger, then your seasoning cubes.

Complemented by a rich, palm oil base or vegetable oil, this soup is guaranteed to warm your taste buds and provide a hearty and satisfying meal.

2. PEPPERED SNAILS:

What better way to make peace with the chilling weather than by enjoying some steaming hot peppered snails with family and friends? Or by yourself, as some would prefer.

As the rain beats down on your roof and the streets and road grow sleek from its heavy showers, these delicacies thrive, offering a true taste of the season.

The peppered snail is seasoned with a blend of seasoning cubes, onions, and chili peppers. These juicy snails are usually grilled or stir-fried, then mixed generously with the delicious pepper sauce, providing a spicy and irresistibly finger-licking experience.

Another special way of elevating the spice level of this snail would involve a tad stretch in its roundtable of ingredients.

You could make it with ingredients such as; coconut oil, garlic powder, thyme and curry powder, seasoning cubes, salt, bell peppers (red, green and yellow), some fresh pepper and onions.

Enjoy this way, and your insides will sing with satisfaction.



3. UKODO (YAM PEPPERSOUP):

Ukodo, known as one of Nigeria's favourite comfort foods, is a popular choice during the rainy season. This dish is a hearty blend of yam, plantain, fresh fish, peppers, onions, and a final dressing of vegetables; all cooked in a flavourful broth of soup.

The spicy and yet soothing Ukodo not only awakens one's senses but also provides nourishment and comfort amidst the rainy weather.

4. AKARA AND PAP:

As rain drizzles, there is nothing quite like starting your day with warm Akara (bean cakes) and Pap (fermented corn porridge). Nigeria's famous go to breakfast on Saturday mornings.

The Akara, crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside, is typically made from black-eyed peas or red beans that are cleaned and blended till smooth. Once blended, it is then mixed with onions, peppers, salt and seasoning cubes, making it a flavorful ball of culinary pleasure.

Pair this with a steaming plate of pap, a thick and velvety corn porridge, and feel a healthy sense of satisfaction with every bite and slurp.

5. BOLI/BOLE AND FISH:

The list is never complete if Bole and fish is not mentioned. A well known street food, it is a combination of roasted plantain and fish with pepper sauce.

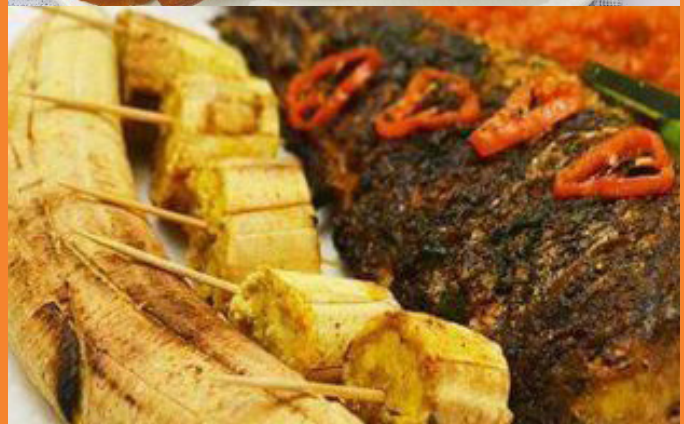
The wet season would be incomplete without indulging in Boli and Fish.

As raindrops gracefully or cantankerously fall, the tantalizing aroma of perfectly charred plantains, known as Boli, is one that not only stirs the appetite but a sense of comfort as well.

Paired with smoked or grilled fish, this dish captures the essence of the season, offering a delectable mix of smoky, sweet, and spicy flavours.

As we approach the rainy season, it offers a delightful opportunity to savour these staple meals that flood one's taste buds with knowing satisfaction. Especially when the season is accompanied with unsavoury companions like a cold and a stuffy nose.

From the hearty Obe Eja Tutu soup to the tempting Boli and Fish, these five foods beautifully capture the essence of the rainy season. So, whether you are a



food lover or a curious traveler, make sure to explore these spicy dishes to truly experience the magic that unfolds when Nigeria's culinary traditions meet the soothing pitter-patter of rain.

Meet 33yr old Tekriwal, owning 10 private jets, worth \$50.61M

CHISOM MICHAEL



Kanika Tekriwal, one of India's youngest wealthiest women with a net worth of approximately \$50.16 million, launched her aviation startup at 22 after overcoming cancer. In just 12 years, her company.

JetSetGo, has thrived, now boasting ownership of 10 private jets. The startup, co-founded with Sudheer Perla in 2012, aims to revolutionize the private jet industry by managing and operating chartered planes and helicopters for owners.

JetSetGo, an Indian private jet concierge service, experienced over a sevenfold increase in revenue in 2017 reported by Forbes, driven by the growing trend of affluent Indians renting private jets and helicopters through Tekriwal's platform. Her company, which is also a leader in the aircraft leasing industry in India, has successfully transported nearly 100,000 passengers and executed 6,000 flights, establishing a significant presence in the sector.



Tekriwal has received the National Entrepreneurship Award for e-commerce from the Indian government and the Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum.

Flying private is a luxury typically reserved for a select few, Tekriwal aimed to democratize it, making it more accessible, cost-effective, efficient, and transparent. She promptly formulated and implemented her plans to bring this vision to fruition.

Born in June 1990 into an orthodox Marwari family, Tekriwal attended the Lawrence School, Lovedale, and Jawaharlal Nehru Senior Secondary School in Bhopal. Graduating from Coventry University, she is now married to a businessman based in Hyderabad.

Recognizing challenges in the private aviation sector, Tekriwal pledged to address them. She emphasized that brokers and operators often neglect customer requirements, prioritizing commissions over client needs when arranging private jet flights. “Due to sheer lack of transparency and non-availability of charter planes, customers pay astronomical amounts,” Tekriwal added, reported *Indiatimes*.

After working for about 20 months in the industry and identifying the gaps, Tekriwal founded JetSetGo. The company now offers air taxi services, facilitating intra-city connectivity in India. Employing electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, JetSetGo utilizes a combination of technology, SMART management, and unique approaches to minimize the overall cost of chartered flights.

Meet two founders reducing screen time addiction on phone

CHINWE MICHAEL



Being addicted to my phone was a normal activity to me, It wasn't until during a crucial work meeting when I was caught using Tinder that I realised the severity of my addiction, Ondrej Žák, CEO of Zario said.

“Following this incident, I started to research addiction, particularly focusing on phone addiction. At that time, there were no apps available to help with screen time management, so I had to think about external strategies to combat my problem,” he said.

Žák said that after months of intense effort, he eventually developed a personalised protocol that worked. Recognising that many others likely faced similar struggles, he approached Killian Fjellbakk Chiao, and together they developed, Zario.

Zario is an app helping individuals reduce their screen time on phones when mindlessly scrolling through social media or other non-productive apps and websites.

Our approach in reducing screen time is different, Žák said. “We do block apps, but with a twist. If a user attempts to access a blocked app, we offer them the option to use it, but only for a brief period, typically around 5 minutes.”

The Zario app onboarding process involves a series of question designed to personalise the program of each users, Killian Fjellbakk Chiao, who is the cofounder of Zario said.

According to him, the app requires information about the life aspects the user wishes to prioritise, such as improving focus, saving time, enhancing productivity, and more. And also which areas of life they want to concentrate on, whether it's their career/studies, relationships, health, hobbies, among others.

Chiao said this information allows us to offer tailored articles and challenge suggestions that align with their goals and interests.

“While this approach proves effective for many individuals, we recognise that there's no one-size-fits-all solution in life. Some users may require a more robust approach, which, unfortunately, we cannot currently provide,” he added.

Zario, is currently present in the USA, India, Germany, UK, and Switzerland. These regions represent the company's largest user base.

Since its launch in May 2022, Zario has garnered 50,000 downloads and maintained 300 daily active users.

The app has also been recognised for its impact and innovation, including being ranked as the No.1 product of the day on Product Hunt and featured in the Best of Google Play 2023 for the "App for Good" category.

One of our major achievements was winning first place at the EU Startups Summit, the CEO said.

He said, “Zario has also faced significant challenges. Ensuring reliable performance on

all Android phones has been a major hurdle. The app utilises background monitoring of user activities, which has faced obstacles due to Android's restrictions on background processes.”

Žák added that another challenge has been promoting Zario, as the company aim to avoid supporting platforms that contribute to phone addiction, such as Meta (formerly Facebook) or TikTok.

He further stated that the compay will be expanding to Nigeria in the coming month to extensively reduce screen time spent on social media, averaging around 4 hours and 7 minutes daily.

According to a 2021 study, Nigeria is nearing an average of 10 hours and 13 minutes of screen time per day among its younger generations.

This figure is particularly noteworthy as it is close to that of South Africa, which holds the title for the highest screen time usage in the entire African continent, averaging 10 hours and 46 minutes per day.

On the company's future plans, the founders said, “We are aiming to integrate AI technology into Zario to serve as a personal mentor for users, providing highly personalised assistance in changing their habits.”

“Our goal is to create a tailored approach that guides individuals through their journey of habit transformation. Additionally, we plan to develop a dedicated product specifically designed for children.”

According to the founders, this product will leverage coaching and gamification techniques rather than relying solely on blocking features.

“By combining these elements, we aim to provide a supportive and engaging platform that helps children develop healthy technology habits in a fun and interactive way,” they added.



Here are 10 tuition free US universities for Nigerians, others

CHARLES OGWO



Dreams can be aborted due to lack of information. International students across the globe who might be looking for tuition free institution, these dreams can be achieved in many USA institutions.

Here are the top 10 tuition free universities for the 2024/2025 academic session in the USA;

Alice Lloyd College, Berea College, City University of New York (CUNY), College of the Ozarks, and Curtis Institute of Music.

Others are Deep Springs College, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, State of Washington Universities, U.S. Academies, and Webb Institute.

Alice Lloyd College: The institution is a four-year liberal arts university located in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, United States. The university is one of best tertiary institution in top 10 tuition free universities in USA.

It was co-founded by journalist Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd and June Buchanan in 1923, first as Caney Junior College. Also apply for Canadian Government Scholarships 2024-25 in Canada (fully funded).

Students also get a free laptop to make use of when they are in class. Alicia Lloyd College offers the opportunity to different majors in a range of subjects. The most popular majors are business, manufacturing, family studies, and human development.

The institution offers degrees in a wide range of fields, along with pre-professional programmes. Students work 10-20 hours per week to pay other personal bills.

Berea College: Berea College is a private liberal arts college in Berea, Kentucky. It was founded in 1855, and the institution distinguishes itself from other postsecondary institutions by offering free education to students and being the first university in the southern United States to be mixed and racial.

Every student who attends the university obtains a full-tuition scholarship worth more than \$25,000 (about N37, 500,000). The university also supports students with other costs, for example, food, room, and board, by giving a work-study programme.

City University of New York

(CUNY): The institution is the public university system of the city of New York. It is the largest urban university system in the US, it was founded in 1961, and has 24 campuses: eleven senior colleges, seven community colleges, an undergraduate honours college and seven postgraduate institutions.

The university offers full-tuition scholarships to students who join their teacher academy. Every student who enrolls is eligible, and is entitled to a full-time teaching position at a New York school upon graduation.

College of the Ozarks: The university is a Christian, non-tuition liberal-arts college in Point Lookout, Missouri.

The institution is a conservative Christian school that happily discourages student debt. Besides, the college has an affiliation with the Presbyterian Church.

Students are expected to work 15 hours per week to be qualified for tuition-free. In addition, the institution favours applicants who are considered financially in need.

The university offers over 30 academic majors in Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programmes; the major courses include business, teaching, education and criminal justice.

Curtis Institute of Music: The institution is a conservatory that offers courses for a performance diploma, a bachelor degree in music, a master's degree in music opera or a certificate of professional studies in opera. It offers full-tuition scholarships to everyone who gains admission. The institution accepts only 160 new students once a year, and students are assured of quality education from one of the best music conservatories in the world.

Deep Springs College: Deep Springs College is a small, private liberal arts junior college on an isolated in Deep Springs Valley, forty miles from Bishop, California.

It is an accredited two-year college that offers full scholarships per student, valued around \$50,000 (about N75,000,000). With less than 30 students at a time, the university

is one of the smallest institutions of higher education in the United States.

Students are enrolled on a work- study basis, and are majorly employed in the institution's cattle ranch and Alfalfa farm to fund tuition, room, and board along with other expenses.

Franklin W. Olin College of

Engineering: The university is a private undergraduate engineering college in Needham, Massachusetts.

At one point, the school offered a complete-tuition scholarship to anybody that attends. The institution has since reduced the scholarship policy by 50 percent.

However, it still offers one of the largest merit scholarship grant programmes in the country to all admitted students.

State of Washington Universities:

The institution makes the list of the tuition-free universities in the USA for international students.

Both the University of Washington and Washington State University offer need-based programmes that pay full-tuition expenses.

U.S. Academies: The Academies are among the tuition free universities in USA. The five United State Academies comprises of U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Students who attend any of these U.S. academies get full tuition-free. Besides, students are entitled to a monthly stipend in substitution for service.

Webb Institute: The Webb Institute is a private undergraduate engineering school located in Glen Cove, New York. Each graduate of the university obtains a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. Admission candidates receive full tuition for four years.

It is ranked by the Princeton Review as one of the best value colleges in the United States. Moreover, the institution is recognised for providing a high-notch engineering education and full-tuition scholarships to anyone who attends.

6 steps to an Igbo traditional wedding ceremony

BABATOLA AYOMIDE VICTORIA



Nigeria's Igbo people have a diverse culture that differs from community to community, indicating the specific location of each Igbo person. The customs and rituals of a traditional marriage showcase the vibrant culture and customs of the community.

In Igboland, marriage is not only a relationship between the prospective husband and wife; it also involves the parents, communities, and extended relatives.

Here are 6 steps to an Igbo traditional wedding ceremony:

Step 1: The first introduction/knocking on the door (Iku Aka n' Uzo)

The groom meets the bride's family after announcing his engagement to both of their families. He tells them he plans to marry their daughter and would like to bring his family to meet them. Both families get together for the first time at the bride's house on the scheduled date.

Along with a few alcoholic beverages, the groom will be escorted to the bride's house by his parents, grandparents, and other close relatives. At the same time, a few family members and the bride's parents get ready and wait for their prospective new in-laws to arrive.

The bride's family greets and gives the guests kola nuts when they arrive—this is the customary Igbo welcome gesture. The father of the groom will inform his son of his desire to visit, to which the father of the bride will respond by saying he will speak with his daughter and get back to them.

It is usual for the groom's family to attend the initial family meeting without expecting an answer.

Following the guests' departure, the bride's parents will talk with their daughter about their visitor's plan to move forward with the marriage proposal; typically, she will say yes.

MONEY FOR THE LIST (N1,000)	
• Ego Mpuke Akoukwu	- #2,000
• Ego Oka okwu	- #3,000
• Ihe sili siri ni 25 cups of rice, ¼ carton of small Tomatoes, 4 long bar soap	- #7,000
• 4 Tablets of toilets soap, 1 Stella pomade,	
• 1 Big powder, 1 Locazade bottle of groundnut oil,	
• 1 leg of goat meat and condiments,	
• 1 carton of maltina and	
• 1 jar of palm wine	- #2,000
• Ego Nfetu Ihe	
LIST FOR THE MOTHER	
• Ego Ika aka n'uru	- #5,000
• Ego Iwunye na-efere	- #150,000
• 1 Big box for cloth	
• 8 pieces of cloth (3 gorges and 5 ordinary both Hollandaise)	
• 4 Hair ties	
• 5 different blouses	
• 5 pairs of different type of shoes	
• 3 different wrist-watch	
• 2 Set of Necklaces and Earrings	
• 1 carton of matches	
• 1 Dozen of Handker-chief	
• 1 Dozen of pant	
• 1 Dozen Of Brazier,	
• 2 Dozens of gushier	
• 1 carton of peak milk	
• A carton of long bar soap	
• A carton of tablet soap	
• A carton of tin tomatoes	
• A rubber of groundnut oil and onions	
• 2 large of tins of Milo and sugar	
• A roll of tissue	
• 2 Bags of salt	
• 3 bags of rice	
• 4 Giant stock fish	

Step 2: The family background investigation (Iju Ajuju)

The investigation step's main goal is to provide both families with additional information on one another through outside inquiries from individuals who are familiar with the families in the towns and villages where each family resides. The inquiry will still happen at home even if the bride and groom meet and are to get married abroad.

The two families carry out separate investigations without the bride's knowledge. Frequently, the groom begins his inquiry before making an engagement proposal and receiving an initial visit from the family.

After the initial visit to meet the groom and his family and following the family discussion with the bride, the bride's family often begins their inquiry. Even so, the bride may never find out when the inquiry is conducted.

The investigation assists the families in learning about one other's backgrounds, villages, personalities, social status, family dynamics, religious practices, general health information about the family, and even blood type.

The results of the family background check can influence and dictate the marriage's next move. Additionally, it's common for either family to decide to halt or postpone the marriage process at this point in light of the results of their research.

Step 3 – The follow-up visits for the discussion of the bridal list (Ihu Isi Nwanyi)

The families will be pleased to move forward with the marriage process once their investigations are finished and they are satisfied with their conclusions. Following that, the families will arrange a follow-up visit. The purpose of the follow-up visit is to talk about the Bridal List, which is necessary for the marriage ceremony. Items from the List are what the bride's parents will get from the groom on the day of the traditional marriage ceremony—the wine-carrying ceremony.

The bride's father will summon her to come and greet the guests before the discussion of the bridal list. While the visitors are present, her father will advise the bride about their guest's marriage proposal and ask her to accept or decline. She will nod yes to accept if she is interested.

According to tradition, the groom's family must receive the Bridal List required from the bride's family. Items for the bride's parents and the Umunna, Umuada, and Umu youth—men, women, and young adults—are included in the bridal list. Items on the Bridal List include things like yam tubers (quantity varies per community), huge rice bags, a predetermined number of alcoholic beverages, and soft drinks, monetary presents, kola nuts, cows and goats, fruits, cigarettes, Head Fish of Large Stock, Onion bags, A salt bag, Bean bags, 2-3 head ties, upscale Ankaras, and George wraps, Two shoe pairs, A timepiece, One bar of soap for bathing, One huge basin, Mother's Day jewellery, Luggage bags, Handbags, Talcum powder and a tonne of other kinds of stuff.

The Bridal List varies from Igbo village community to community. The elements on the above list are primarily what you should anticipate to find on the list. However, each community's traditions will determine the precise quantity of the essential materials.

Step 4 – The dowry negotiations (Ego Isi Nwanyi)

The dowry used to be a set sum of money that the bride's parents gave the groom in exchange for their daughter's hand in marriage prior to the customary wedding ceremony. Some families may not be able to negotiate the stated amount, but both families may be able to.

As required by custom, the two families will get together to talk about the size of the dowry. The two families decide on the amount of the dowry when it comes up for conversation, therefore there isn't a predefined sum.

This part of the Igbo marriage custom has gradually disappeared in some village communities due to urbanisation, while it has completely disappeared in others. These days' parents know their daughter is not for sale, so talking about the dowry is more of a symbolic conversation. Alternatively, the bride's dad might ask for a modest sum to satisfy customary obligations.



Any gift presented is added by the bride's parents to the costs of getting ready for the customary wedding ceremony that will happen at their house.

Step 5 – The Traditional Wedding Ceremony (Igba Nkwu)

The traditional wedding ceremony, held in the bride's family home with both families, friends, and well-wishers present to witness the union of the couple, is an open event and the only portion of the Igbo marriage process that the public is welcome to attend.

The bride carrying the wine from her father to find her spouse is a significant aspect of the traditional Igbo wedding ceremony, known as Igba Nkwu (The Wine Carrying Ceremony).

Furthermore, the traditional wedding ceremony holds greater significance in certain Igbo groups than the more Western-style civil or religious weddings. The bride's family is in charge of getting ready for the customary wedding day. To attend their children's marriage, both families will invite friends, neighbours, and other well-wishers.

A large variety of Igbo dishes and beverages, music, dancing, and other festive entertainment are all part of the preparation.

The bride will choose a few of her single companions and female family members to be her Asoebi (bridal train), with assistance from her relatives. During the ceremony, these women will march with the bride wearing matching Asoebi dresses.

The bride will hide within the home during the preparations, getting ready for her big day until she is asked to come and greet the guests.

The festivities begin when the groom and his companions arrive at the bride's family house. As more guests and well-wishers come, the bride's parents and other senior family members will warmly greet the groom and his family and seat them.

The party begins with a prayer, and then the bride's family gives drinks and kola nuts to the groom's family.

Following a few remarks from each family, the bride will emerge to welcome the guests.

To meet all of their guests, the bride emerges with music and dancing, escorted by her Asoebi ladies, and departs. The celebration programme goes on, serving food and beverages to the visitors and providing more entertainment. The bride will return shortly to locate and introduce her spouse to her parents.

The bride would change into a new attire, dance approach her parents with her Asoebi women, and kneel in front of her father while the groom is concealed. After reminding his daughter of the groom's and his family's intentions, her father offers her a cup of wine, or palm wine, which she is to sip before finding the man she wants to marry and giving him the remainder.

The custom requires the bride to find her fiancé, who is hiding among the guests, thus she dances among the crowd while holding a cup of wine. When she locates him, she approaches him, bows her head, and gives him the last of the drink. Accepting the drink, the groom sips it all and adds cash to the cup on behalf of his bride.

The bride brings her husband to her father for blessings while the crowd cheers her on. When they reach her father, they bow down to receive his blessings. The father bestows blessings and counsels the newlyweds.

Step 6 – New home sendoff gifts by the bride's parents (Idu Ulo)

In Igbo tradition, the bride's parents give their newlywed daughter house presents to welcome her into her new marriage. This is known as the "New Home Sendoff Gifts."

The gifts range from monetary gifts to a car, a new home, cooking pots, air conditioning, bedding, fridges, and much more, depending on what the bride's family can afford to give their daughter.

It is the bride's parents' responsibility to give their daughter the New Home Sendoff Gifts on the night of the traditional marriage, a few days later, or after the religious wedding to help her begin her new life as a married woman.

PwC Nigeria NextGen Club hosts Cocktail with Peter Englisch, PwC's Global Family Business Leader



Peter Englisch PwC's Global Family Business Leader



L-R; Oluwatoyin David, Associate Director PwC Nigeria, Esiri Agbeyi, Partner and PwC Africa Family Business Leader, Seun Jagun Director Stage Engineering, Cosmos Maduka Jnr Executive Director, Coscharis Group Ltd

Peter Englisch, PwC's Global Family Business Leader was recently in Lagos and the PwC Nigeria NextGen Club hosted an exclusive cocktail to engage with the thought leader on issues critical to family businesses.

It was a unique networking event with intimate business conversations, experience sharing and unwinding in a serene afro-centric environment. Some of the themes discussed include, governance for family businesses, succession planning, engaging the nextgeners, managing conflict, technology and the role of family business in the Nigerian economy. Present were Esiri Agbeyi, PwC Africa Family Business Leader and members of the NextGen club See pictures from the evening.



John Shidiak CEO Bristol Scientific Company and Peter Englisch, PwC Global Family Business Leader



Seun Jolayemi, Executive Director Daily Need Group and Africa representative on the PwC Global NextGen Board / Nosa Igbiniedion, Gartmore Group



Oluranti Bankole, Acting Head of School, Greensprings School



Tolu Dima-Okojie Estate Surveyor and Valuer, Kola Akomolede & Company, Ezinne Nwazulu Managing partner, 234Finance, Yomi Wilcox Director, The Rock Montessori School, Derin Oyewo Managing Partner, Dasro Home and Lifestyle, Esiri Agbeyi, Partner and PwC Africa Family Business Leader



Sylva Ifedigbo, Country lead, Marketing and Communication, PwC Nigeria



Babatunde Olaniyi and Oluwatoyin David both Associate Directors, Tax & Regulatory Services, PwC Nigeria



Seun Jolayemi, Executive Director Daily Need Group and Africa representative on the PwC Global NextGen Board, with Obinna Anyanwu CEO Capital Square Limited



Ekene Okonkwo Director TopwideVentures Limited, Chisom Okereke, CEO Nkoyo Pharmaceuticals and Esiri Agbeyi Partner and PwC Africa Family Business Leader



Ekene Okonkwo Director TopwideVentures Limited, Chisom Okereke, CEO Nkoyo Pharmaceuticals and Esiri Agbeyi Partner and PwC Africa Family Business Leader



Seun Jolayemi, Reni Somoye Founder Audience54, Femi Adeboye



Group photo of guests at the cocktail including members of the PwC NextGen club and PwC staff



Places on earth where reality is better than fiction

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



Have you ever watched a movie and found yourself captivated by a scene so charming that it felt like pure fantasy? Maybe it was a waterfall hidden within a jungle, or a cozy village nestled beneath snow-covered mountains, where every view seemed too perfect to be true.

There are places on earth that mirror these cinematic wonders so closely that they blur the line between reel and reality. Places that look like they belong solely in the realm of our imagination or on a movie set, yet they exist, waiting to be explored and marvelled at.

Here are 10 of such places where reality is better than fiction

Waipu Cave – New Zealand

Waipu Caves in Northland, New Zealand, are an exciting place to explore underground. These ancient limestone caves shaped by centuries of flowing water, are adorned by pointy rocks hanging from the ceiling (stalactites) and others growing from the ground (stalagmites). Plus, the soft luminescence of glowworms adds an ethereal glow that transforms the darkness into a magical spectacle.



Kuang Si Falls – Laos

Kuang Si Falls, located near Luang Prabang in Laos, is a three-tiered waterfall that captivates visitors with its crystal clear turquoise waters sitting atop a steep hillside. The Kuang Si Falls is also surrounded by lush vegetation and colourful foliage, creating a scene that seems straight out of a tropical paradise.



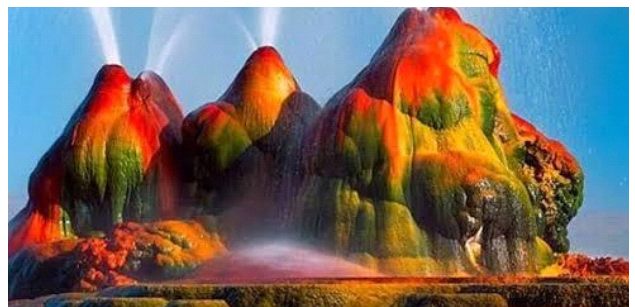
Namib-Naukluft National Park – Namibia

Namib-Naukluft National Park in Namibia is a vast expanse of mesmerising desert landscapes that stretch as far as the eye can see. Here, towering sand dunes, some reaching heights of over 300 metres, create a surreal and captivating environment. The rich ochre hues of the sand contrast with the deep blue of the sky, creating a stunning visual spectacle.



Fly Ranch Geyser – Nevada, United States

Located on Fly Ranch, a 3,800-acre private ranch in Northern Nevada, the Fly Geysers is an accidental wonder. Unlike traditional geysers, Fly Ranch's unique formation is a result of human intervention, specifically drilling activities dating back to the 1960s. Over time, mineral-rich water has surged to the surface, creating a series of terraced, rainbow-hued mineral deposits that surround the geyser's steaming vent. The geyser itself erupts sporadically, sending jets of scalding water and steam into the air, adding to the site's mystique. Surrounding the geyser, vibrant green algae contrast with the arid landscape, creating a striking visual contrast.



The Snow Cave on Mutnovsky Volcano – Russia

The Snow Cave on Mutnovsky Volcano in Russia offers an extraordinary glimpse into the icy heart of an active volcanic wonder. The cave presents a mesmerising spectacle of ice formations, stalactites, and icicles that glisten like diamonds in the dim light. If you ever get the chance to go inside one, you will witness sunlight streaming through the dome and the beautiful patterns it creates., transporting you into a realm of frozen beauty.



Vinicunca – Peru

Vinicunca, also known as Rainbow Mountain, is a stunning geological formation located in the Andes Mountains of Peru. Its breathtaking beauty lies in its vibrant colours, with streaks of red, orange, yellow, green, and turquoise creating a mesmerising rainbow-like effect across the landscape. Formed by layers of sedimentary rock rich in minerals, the mountain's unique hues are a result of centuries of geological processes and erosion. The best time of the year to visit this colourful rainbow is during the dry season, specifically in August.



Tunnel of Love – Ukraine

The Tunnel of Love in Ukraine is a place that seems straight out of a fantasy or fairytale movie. It is part of an old railway surrounded by lush green arches. Couples often visit this romantic spot walking hand in hand through the tunnel to take wedding or engagement photos. Legend has it that the tunnel grants wishes to those who pass beneath its verdant arches, adding an extra touch of magic to its allure.



Cave Metro Stations – Sweden

Cave Metro Stations in Sweden are a unique underground marvel that blend modern engineering with ancient aesthetics. Designed to provide commuters with a one-of-a-kind transportation experience, each station showcases its own distinctive architectural style, ranging from minimalist designs to elaborate artworks. When it comes to subway stations, Sweden's Metro Cave Stations undoubtedly stand out as some of the most stunning. Wouldn't you love to experience the wonder of Sweden's Cave Metro Stations firsthand? Wouldn't you just love to experience the wonder of Sweden's Cave Metro Stations firsthand?





Gobustan Mud Volcanoes – Azerbaijan

The Gobustan Mud Volcanoes in Azerbaijan offer a fascinating glimpse into the Earth's natural phenomena. These unique geological formations spew forth a mixture of mud, water, and gases, creating landscapes that resemble something out of a science fiction movie. Visitors to the area can witness these volcanoes in action.



Salar de Uyuni – Bolivia

Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia is the world's largest salt flats. This vast desert-like landscape of blindingly white salt that reflects the environment around it was formed by prehistoric lakes. During the rainy season, a thin layer of water covers the flats, transforming them into a giant mirror that reflects the sky above, creating a breathtaking illusion of infinity.

In essence, the earth is adorned with an array of breathtaking landscapes that surpass imagination and captivates the soul. These unique places not only dazzle the senses but also serve as a testament to nature's boundless creativity. Let us carry this sense of awe with us as we venture forth, allowing it to fuel our curiosity and enrich our lives.

10 simple ways to boost your mood and find happiness

ESTHER EMOEKPERE

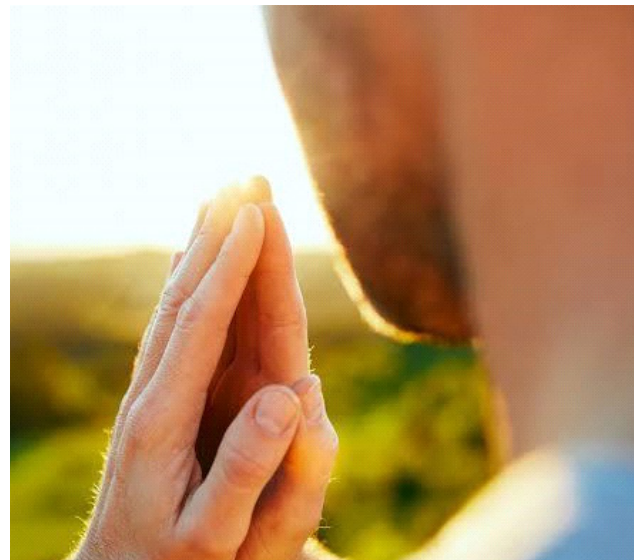


In the midst of challenging times and the prevailing inflationary pressures in Nigeria, finding joy and happiness may seem like an elusive pursuit. However, finding joy and happiness amidst challenges is not only possible, but essential for your well-being, and there are simple yet powerful ways to boost your mood and reclaim a sense of happiness.

Here are 10 simple ways to boost your mood and find happiness

Start your day with gratitude

Take a moment each morning to reflect on three things you're grateful for. It could be as simple as a sunny day, a warm cup of coffee, or the love of family and friends. Cultivating an attitude of gratitude can set a positive tone



Get moving

Exercise is not only good for your physical health but also your mental well-being. Whether it's a brisk walk, a yoga session, or a dance party in your living room, getting your body moving releases endorphins and boosts your mood.



Connect with loved ones

Reach out to a friend or family member and schedule a catch-up call or video chat. Connecting with loved ones can provide a sense of belonging and support, lifting your spirits and reminding you that you're not alone.



Savor the moment

Slow down and savor the simple pleasures of life. Whether it's enjoying a delicious meal, or cuddling up with a good book, taking the time to fully experience the present moment can bring a sense of peace and contentment.



Practice mindfulness

Take a few minutes to engage in meditation or deep breathing exercises. Focusing on your breath and being present in the moment can help reduce stress and anxiety, bringing a sense of calm and clarity to your day.

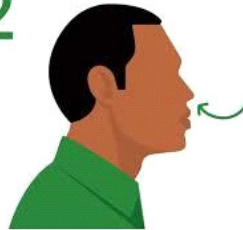
Deep breathing

STEP 1



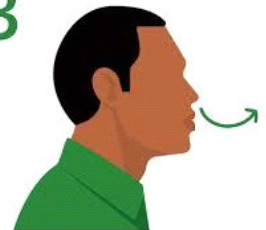
Sit or stand with your elbows behind you

STEP 2



Take a deep breath through your nose

STEP 3



Hold your breath and count to 3 then exhale

Do something kind

Perform a random act of kindness for someone else. It could be as simple as complimenting a stranger, holding the door open for someone, or sending a thoughtful message to a friend. Acts of kindness not only brighten someone else's day but also boost your own mood and sense of well-being.



Engage in a hobby

Dedicate some time to an activity you enjoy, whether it's painting, gardening, playing music, or baking. Engaging in hobbies and creative pursuits can provide a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment, helping you find joy in the process of creation.



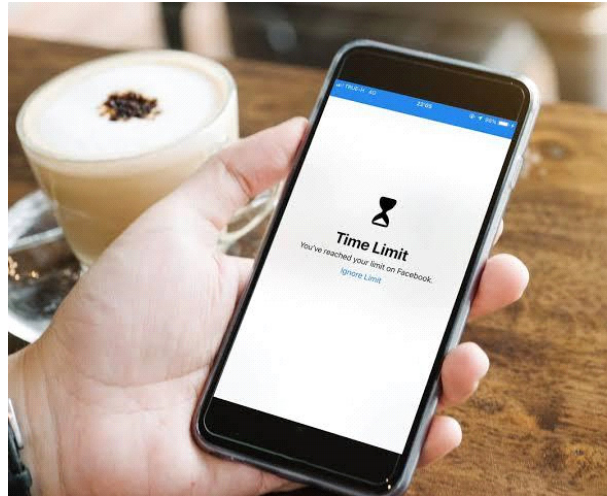
Get outside

Spend some time outdoors and soak up the beauty of nature. Whether it's going for a walk, having a picnic in the park, or simply sitting in your backyard, being in nature can rejuvenate your spirit and lift your mood.



Limit screen time

Take a break from screens and digital devices for a few hours. Instead, engage in activities that nourish your soul, such as reading a book, journaling, or practicing a hobby. Disconnecting from technology can help reduce stress, allowing you to focus on what truly matters.

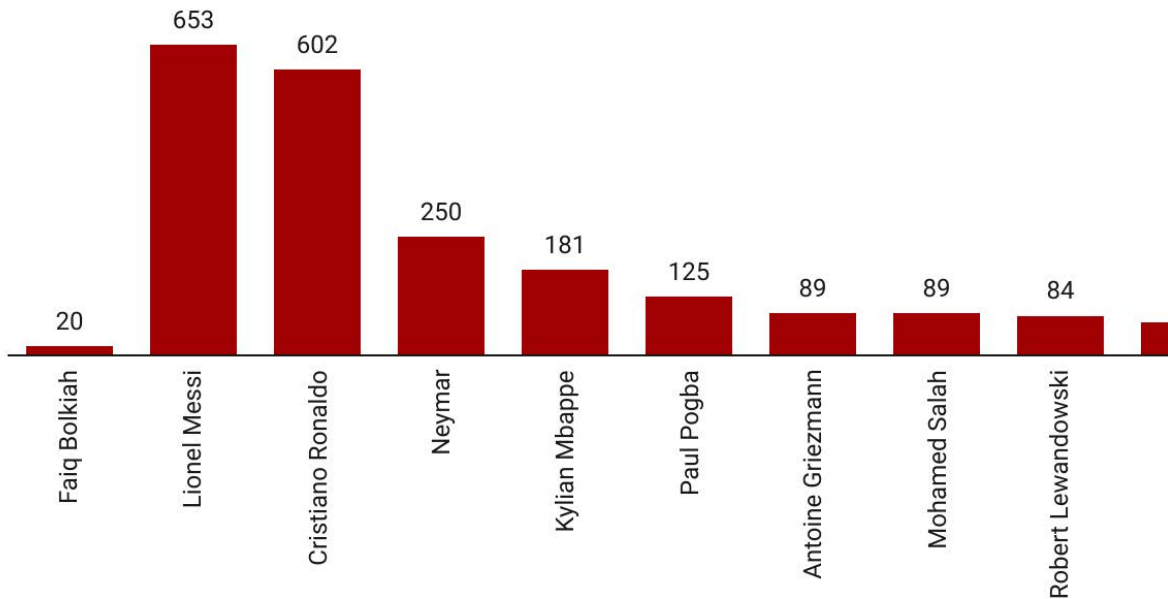


End your day with reflection

Before you go to bed, take a few moments to reflect on the positive moments of your day. Write down three things that went well or brought you joy. Ending your day on a positive note can help you cultivate a sense of gratitude and optimism, setting the stage for a restful night's sleep and a brighter tomorrow.



10 richest football players in the world, worth a whopping \$22 Billion



Faiq Bolkiah: \$20 billion

Chart: BusinessDay • Created with Datawrapper

Meet the 10 richest footballers in the world, worth a whopping \$22 billion

ANTHONY NLEBEM

Football is the most popular sport in the world. It is a multi-billion-dollar industry, and the players who excel at the highest level are paid handsomely.

The richest footballers in the world earn millions of dollars per year, and some have even amassed fortunes in the billions of dollars.

The combination of high salaries, endorsement deals, transfer fees, bonuses, and other income streams contributes to the wealth of professional football players.

Here, we take a look at the ten richest football players in the world in 2024, according to data from Celebrity Net Worth and The Daily Mail as per



Faiq Bolkish

Net Worth: \$20 billion

The world's richest footballer is Faiq Bolkish who has a whopping net worth of over \$20 billion. Born into a wealthy home, Bolkish boasts a wealth greater than the likes of Portuguese international Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina's Lionel Messi combined.

The 25-year-old currently plays in the Thai Premier League with Ratchaburi



Cristiano Ronaldo

Net Worth: \$602 million

Cristiano Ronaldo, the Portuguese football star ply his trade for Al Nassar in Saudi Arabia Pro League. With five Ballon d'Or wins, Ronaldo holds the European record. Ronaldo is the top all-time international goal scorer, a football legend, often compared to Lionel Messi. The 39-year-old is fourth on the rank with a net worth of \$602 million.



Lionel Messi

Net Worth: \$653 million

Argentina legend, Lionel Messi, an Argentina football legend, plays as a forward for Inter Miami in the United States MLS league. His net worth of \$650 million ranks him as the second richest footballer in the world. Messi has an incredible career with a record 7 Ballon d'Or Awards, FIFA World Cup and six European Golden Shoes to his name.



Neymar

Net Worth: \$250 million

Neymar's sensational transfer from PSG to Saudi Arabia side Al Hilal has made the Brazilian one of the highest-paid footballers in the world with a \$250 million net worth.

The 32-year-old is a recognised figure outside the world of football and has picked up many sponsorship deals in his career.



Kylian Mbappe

Net Worth: \$181 million

Kylian Mbappe could be in line for a huge signing-on fee in the coming weeks as the French attacker told PSG he would be leaving the club at the end of the 2023/24 campaign with a potential move to Real Madrid.

This means his net worth could quickly shoot up depending on the terms he's offered by his new club. Currently, the French attacker is worth \$181 million.



Paul Pogba

Net Worth: \$125 million

Paul Pogba may have become a largely forgotten man during his suspension from football, but the Juventus maestro still ranks highly as one of the most marketable players on the planet at one stage in his career.

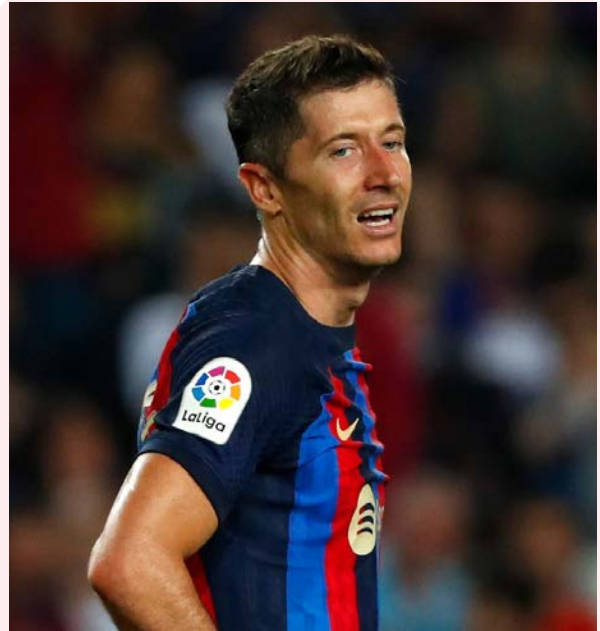


Antoine Griezmann

Net Worth: \$89 million

Antoine Griezmann has been a wonderful player for the better part of the last decade.

The Atletico Madrid ace saw his stock rise following a big-money move to Barcelona and one of the highly-ranked football earners in 2024.



Robert Lewandowski

Net Worth: \$84 million

Robert Lewandowski is one of the highest-paid footballers globally, earning substantial salaries from his club contracts and endorsements.

His net worth is estimated at \$84 million primarily due to his successful career as a professional footballer.



Mohamed Salah

Net Worth: \$89 million

The English Premier League stands as one of the wealthiest football leagues globally, boasting staggering salaries for players, particularly at the elite clubs.

In 2023, speculation swirled around a potential mega-money transfer to Saudi Arabia, which could have seen the 31-year-old's earnings soar even higher than his deal at Anfield.



Kevin De Bruyne

Net Worth: \$70 million

Kevin De Bruyne is arguably one of the best players and his net worth is estimated to be around \$70 million. The Belgian midfielder in 2021 signed a lucrative contract extension worth \$24 million a year with Manchester City until 2025.

Brand Resurrection

FEYISITAN IJIMAKINWA



People constantly look to the past. And there are good reasons to do so – it’s a cultural necessity to fold back a bewildering future to let the past catch up. Just like it happens in other departments of life, when brands fail, they are put to pasture. Nevertheless, laying a brand to rest, as a result of different factors, may be the end of a show, it does not mean the end of the band. Infact, brands do make comebacks like boybands. Brands can harness memories of old products or assets, intentionally or unintentionally. Burger King revived a logo from 1969. Even the US army decided to revive an early-80s slogan, “Be all you can be.”

What Is Brand Resurrection?

Some brands are so strong even death can’t kill them. Have you spared a thought to why some brands are celebrated even after closure and others left to oblivion? What are the common traits? A recent reactivation of the Blockbuster.com website had speculations racing across the internet.

There can be life after death for brands that strike the right chord with consumers. Kodak, Polaroid, ToysRus, Radio Shack, GameBoy, Zellers, and others are a few global brands that have been resurrected with a modern twist to capitalise on consumer love. Yet many other brands remain un-missed (anyone remembers 2Go? Woolworths? Pengo? Trium? Green Sand Shandy?)

Revivable vs Forgotten Brands

Here are the key traits of revivable vs forgotten brands.

Revivable brands:

Gave excellent customer experience

Offered products or services that engaged our emotions; entertained, made me memories with us and tapped into multiple senses

Connected to the community and society in a way that newer brands don’t easily replicate

The chief downfall of these brands was financial mismanagement, economic recession or leadership missteps but the products and branding were good. Without their operational issues, many might have survived indefinitely.

Forgotten brands:

Focused on selling products more than customer experience. It’s hard to miss something that feels like a commodity.

Failed to differentiate as new competitors emerged.

Little connection to community/culture, thus easily replaced by newer brands offering more relevant products/services

These brands failed to innovate to stay in tune with

evolving consumers, cultures, and technologies. We quickly found newer alternatives that we're happy with.

In an article for the San Francisco Chronicle, entrepreneur John Cerasni noted, "We have to remember that a brand that went away in the past went away for a reason. It may have been because it was a fad, or maybe it was just an unsustainable business model." But does this mean that a brand can't reinvent itself for a bold return? Recent history suggests that several brands have successfully resurrected their names and reinvigorated their brands.

Ultimately, a brand seeking to shed its past mistakes and forge ahead needs to examine its brand story to decide what connective elements should be carried forward, and what should be left behind. One good model to follow might be that of Lacoste, which endured branding issues alongside its partner company, Izod in the 1980s that all but sank the business. Beginning in 2000, however, the brand slowly began to reclaim its image and its market share by telling the unique story of René Lacoste and the origin of the iconic crocodile logo.

This alludes to the fact that brands come and go but stick around in our minds and hearts forever. While the names may be gone, valuable equity remains. These brands' new owners can capitalise on their established relationships with consumers by investing in marketing and re-engaging with the brand's existing fan base. Is there a formula for revitalising a moribund brand?

One Caveat

The one caveat in reviving an old brand is that you can never go back again. You must reposition the old brand in a new way that is relevant today, but still respectful of its roots.

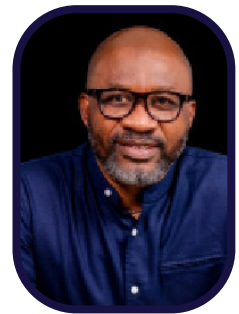
While the revamped Blockbuster is doing an excellent streaming service for old movies, I am not sure it will be so great as a fast good chain; ToysRus makes a great shop-in-shop; and Tower Records as a creative and entertainment space for live performances sounds promising. There can be a lot of life left in reviving a dead brand, but only with the right strategy.

Compared to a well-established name, a new one may seem less trustworthy because of its lack of history and track record, or even dangerous because of its perceived inexperience. It's possible that an established brand has a solid reputation with its target audience but has remained inactive for strategic or practical reasons. Brand revitalization seems like a sensible strategy in this situation. Brand resurrection is a concept that is not new in form but newer in execution. With 80s nostalgia from 'Old Skool' music in full swing, there are opportunities for the once-beloved but now-abandoned brands to make a comeback. As much of this article has proved, moving with the times doesn't pay off every time.

LAST LINE

It's old news that nostalgia serves as a marketing tool.

Evidence of this may be seen in people's rekindled enthusiasm. We always look at anything that may be carried forward from the past. This is what makes retro cool again. This helped the Volkswagen Beetle (in its second avatar). Nostalgia is an emotion which can loosen purses, especially in the older generation who have been exposed to the brand before.



Feyisitan Ijimakinwa

Feyisitan Ijimakinwa is a Reputation and Perception Management expert. He is a prolific writer and researcher who, at different times, served as Head of Corporate Communications of top brands quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. A versatile communications specialist, he practiced extensively as a print journalist and was variously engaged in the broadcast media, working on radio and television. Feyisitan continues to write on corporate communications, brand reputation and perception management, and brand intelligence, among others. He organises the 'Brand Intelligence and the Marketplace' masterclass. Feyisitan advocates a pollution free and sustainable environment

THE ESCORTION

UDY OSARO-EDOBOR

I told everyone who cared to listen that I didn't want to go on that field trip. Why call it a "field" trip when we had to go on water? Excuse my sarcasm but I wasn't cut out for stuff like that.

I made it clear that I don't like large bodies of water even if I was cruising on a luxury yacht but they all insisted that the best way to conquer my fear is to confront it. I had completed all my course requirements so I didn't need any motivational speech about facing giants or conquering fears. All I ask is that I should be exempted from this particular class activity. I believe this is how people die especially when they are forced to do things against their wish.

What if I used to be involved with the marine world in my previous life and I was trying to avoid any contact with them? Why is nobody listening to me? I don't wanna go on the "field trip/water trip"... whatever!!.

I knew the trip was doomed from the get go. First of all there were not enough boats to convey us to our destination and then the weather wasn't looking dandy at all. These were obvious red flags that I pointed out but no one paid attention to what I was saying.

I felt cramped in the little boat, my heart was

beating rapidly and I had difficulty breathing however I had to resign myself to fate. I was just a voiceless entity in the midst of over a hundred people. My words drowned in their noise.

Ten minutes into the trip and I was still struggling to relax, everybody seemed to be having a nice time except me. Surrounded by water in the middle of nowhere, I thought I was going to lose my mind. I couldn't look down into the dark murky waters because of the crazy thoughts reeling in my head. It was also hard to keep my eyes open because I could see mermaids swimming in front of the boat (hey! don't call me delusional).

My eyes were tightly shut and I was oblivious of my surroundings. Then suddenly, a loud thud rang out and the impact shook the boat. Our boat had collided with a rock or maybe an iceberg, oh my goodness! This was titanic happening over again but there was no 'Jack' to save me. We were panic stricken and it didn't even matter that we had life jackets. I was terrified.

As the boat tumbled and emptied "it's contents" into the water I began to say my last prayers as I drifted into oblivion. I was gasping for breath. I lost sense of time and space as everything went blank before my eyes.

Luckily, we were rescued by naval officers who were patrolling the area. If not for them the story would have been different. It was an overwhelming experience but I was grateful to be alive. One of the reasons why I didn't lose my mind after the horrible accident was because of the dashing young man that rescued me from drowning. Ours was the story of a damsel in distress and her knight in shining armor. He saved my life then he became the love of my life.

Jordan was every woman's dream. I knew from the moment I set my eyes on him that I'd like to spend forever with him. He was my forever man... smooth and fine and suave... an absolute lady's man. He told me that what he feels for us is all consuming and almost terrifying and that he has never felt this way for any woman before. This was new to me. I've never been in love before and I'm loving this feeling. If this is how it feels to be in love, then I'm all for it.

Good thing the boat hit the rock or whatever because how else would I have met the love of my life. He ticked every box so it wasn't hard to accept his proposal when he asked me to be his wife.

There was no time to waste. We couldn't wait to be together so we set things in motion for our wedding. It was going to be a quiet ceremony with a few friends and family members.

Just before leaving for the wedding venue, my sister who was also my maid of honor, suggested that we pray before we hit the road. I didn't understand why she was praying and crying so much so I opened my eyes to look at her but I was shocked to find myself lying down on a bed, in a strange environment. Wait a minute! What was I doing in a hospital?!

It's my wedding day, Jordan will be waiting for me. I need to leave this place immediately. I shouldn't be here. I tried to jump out of the bed but several hands pinned me down and I felt the sting of a needle on my arm..

When I woke up later, I was a lot calmer and my sister was still there. I asked her what happened and she told me how I panicked and jumped out of the boat during the field trip and I have been unconscious for almost seven days. It took a while for me to process the information because I was confused.

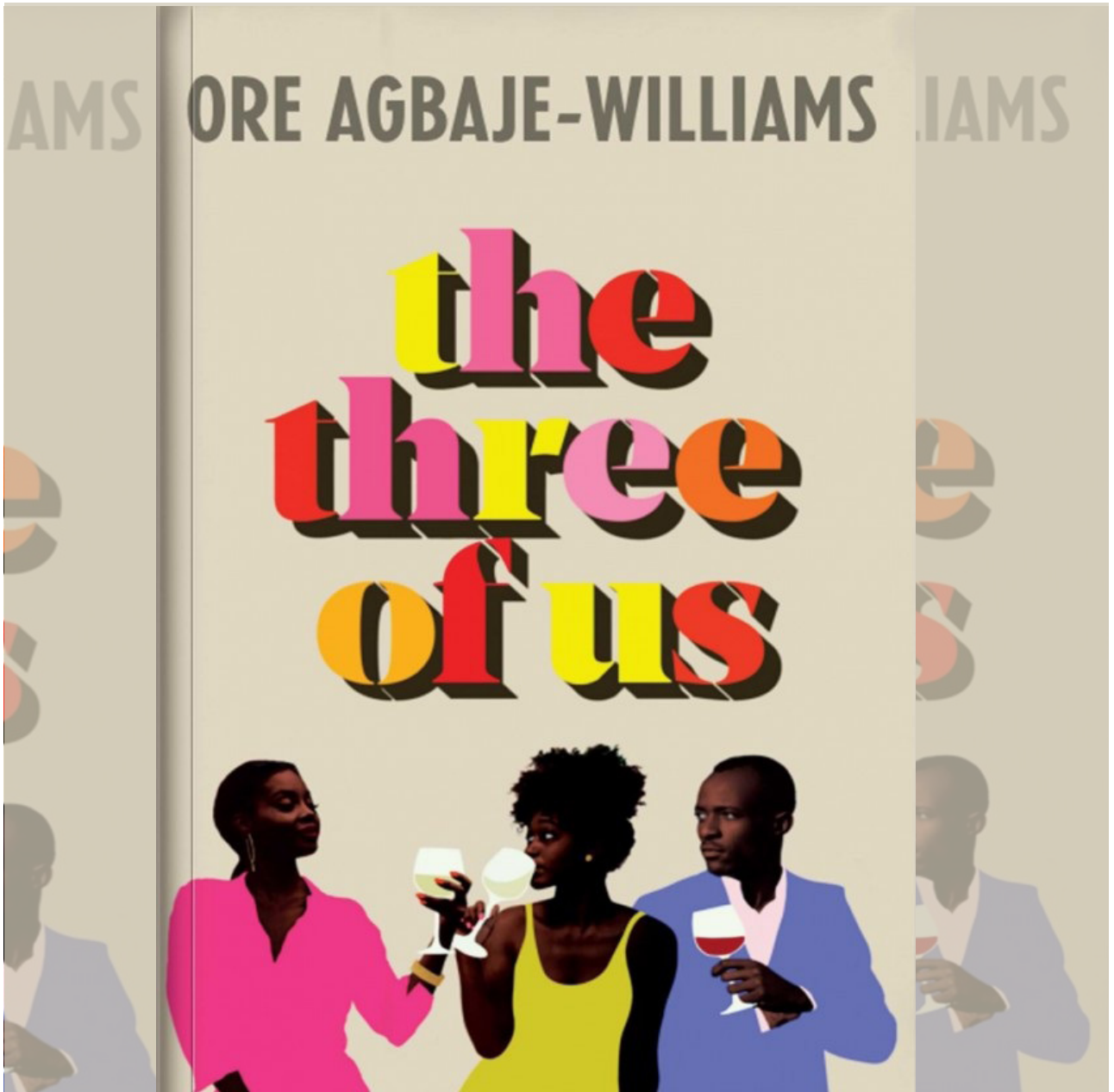
So I was made to understand that there was no collision with an iceberg, there was no naval rescue and worse still.. there was no Jordan. It was all in my head. It was reiterated many times, that I panicked and jumped out of the boat.



Udy Osaro-Edobor

Udy Osaro-Edobor is the Content Creator for SoTV (Supernatural Online TV) Nigeria. She is a movie/scriptwriter, editor, and proofreader. She has several stories to her credit which she posts for free on her Ebook called Udy's Chapter. She is currently working on two short movies. Udy is also a wife, mother, and a "serial entrepreneur".

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Signs to Figure out If Your Kid Is Dealing with Addiction-A Review of Emike Oyemade's Addictions That Can Ruin a Youth

Title: Addictions That Can Ruin a Youth and How to Overcome Them

Author: Emike Oyemade

Publisher: Jotham Publishing

Year of Publication: 2022

Number of Pages: 66

Category: Self-Help

The Three of Us

TITILADE OYEMADE

More Agbaje-Williams's book cover makes it seem like there's a juicy love triangle with a husband, wife, and mistress, but the story surprises by focusing more on the husband, wife, and the wife's best friend. This unexpected twist adds layers of intrigue and complexity, challenging what readers might expect and keeping them hooked as they uncover the truth about the relationships.

The story digs deep into the complex dynamics of relationships and friendships, especially when there's tension between spouses and friends. For a single woman, it's stressful enough if friends don't like her partner, but if they dislike her husband, things get even more tense.

Splitting the tale into three parts gives it depth, letting readers see things from each character's perspective. It's set in London and centers on a Nigerian housewife, her husband, and her best friend. Despite the straightforward writing style suggested by the blurb, the book effectively gets across its themes and complexities.

At first, the female friendships seem sweet, but they gradually turn into something more toxic, resembling an affair with blurred lines and one friend taking advantage of the other. This change might frustrate or anger readers, making them think about the true nature of friendship, boundaries, and loyalty.

The author skillfully uses flashbacks to give insight into the characters' pasts or reveal important events that shape the story. It helps us understand their motivations better. But they're careful not to get too stuck in the past, keeping the plot moving forward.

Readers might start off frustrated with certain characters' actions, only to realize later that there's annoying behavior from other characters. Readers might even say something like, "Someone needs to step in!" But hearing things from the characters' perspectives could make readers rethink their judgments or stick to their initial frustration.

Considering how much Temi is in the story, the author could've titled this book "Temi, the troublemaker."

The ending leaves things unresolved, which might leave readers wanting more and wondering if there'll be a sequel.

Overall, the book dives into friendship, love, and loyalty in a way that's both engaging and easy to get into.

Titilade Oyemade

Titilade Oyemade is a business executive in a leading organisation and holds a degree in Russian Language. She's the convener of the Hangoutwithtee Ladies Event and the publisher of Hangoutwithtee magazine.

She spends her weekends attending women conferences, events and book readings. She loves to have fun and to help other women have the same in their lives.

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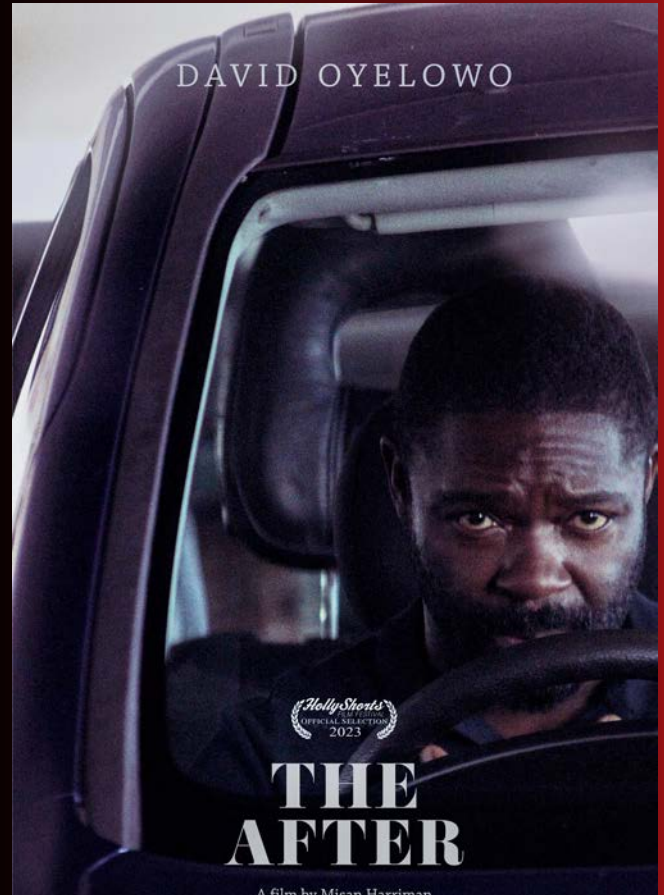


WEEKENDER

MOVIE REVIEWS

NYAD (2023)

This is a 2024 Oscar Nominee movie, it was absolutely beautiful and touching, I learnt a lot from this movie. Diana Nyad was a terrific swimmer, at 28 she went on a mission to break the world's record of "The worlds longest swimmer" across the ocean from Cuba to Florida, but she failed, she decided to revisit the mission this time at age 60 and she explained that what she lacked earlier was the mind, and she wasn't ready to allow anyone impose a limitation on her because of her age. Diana decides to practice daily, she spent over 8 hours in the pool, just to prepare for the great mission, she believed that her best friend by her side as the coach would make the journey easier. You will need to watch this movie to see how many times she had to keep trying and if she eventually broke the record. Here were some of her striking words at the end; "One Never ever give up, Two- You are never too old to chase your dreams, three - you need a very good team to succeed". Diana never gave up and she broke all records against all odds, all for trying, the movie was based on a true life incidence. The 2 hours sports/Thriller movie was directed by Jimmy chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, they featured actors like Jodie Foster, Annette bening, Rhys Ifans, Luke Cosgrove, Anna Harriette Pittman, Eric T. Miller, Karly Rothenberg and many more.



Linda Ochugbua

BADLAND HUNTERS (2024)

It took me a while before I could wrap my head around watching this movie, as I suspected I struggled with, but lockingly I made it to the very end. So to the story there was a very deadly earthquake that left the land of Seoul desolate and disserted, turning the country to a lawless bad land, where people had to do anything to survive. During the crisis there was a very corrupt doctor who was desperate to save his daughter, to do this he lured young girls and boys to his camp, where he had good food and water. He made their parents sign them up to be trained, little did they know that they were being used for the experiment to extend the life of his daughter. Unfortunately he took the wrong girl in, as she had a fearless huntsman come to fight for her and recue her from the evil doctor, do check the movie out to see how they had to destroy the entire camp to save the girl and other young kids, along side their family members. The 1h 48m Korean, action movie was directed by Heo Myeong-haeng, they featured actors like Don Lee, Lee Hee-jun, Lee Jun-young, Roh Jeong-eui, An Ji-hye, park Ji-hun, Jang Young-nam abd and many more.



THE AFTER (2023)

This was a 2024 Oscar Nominated short film, a very simple and short story that will leave you thinking and wondering how unfair life could be at times. Dayo was a very hardworking and caring father, on that faithful day, he decided to call off work, just to attend his daughters school play with her mum, only for the very worse to occur that completely chartered his life and turned him into a shadow of himself, for years he will go back to the same scene, hoping he could reverse things, but to no avail, he resulted into a rideshare driver, to help him reduce the intimacy of interactions with people. Do check out this short movie to see how one of the rides forced him to confront his long suppressed fears. The 18m short film was directed by Misan Harriman, they featured actors like David Oyelowo, Jessica Plummer, Izuka Hoyle, Dominique Tripper, Nikesh Patel etc.



Linda Ochugbua