

60 ICONS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE NIGERIA FILM AND VIDEO INDUSTRY



These individuals have broken new grounds - and continue to do so - open doors of opportunity, and have made indelible marks that have molded the Nigerian film and video industry for years to come.

NATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO CENSORS BOARD (NFVCB) TRIBUTE



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MUHAMMADU BUHARI GCFR

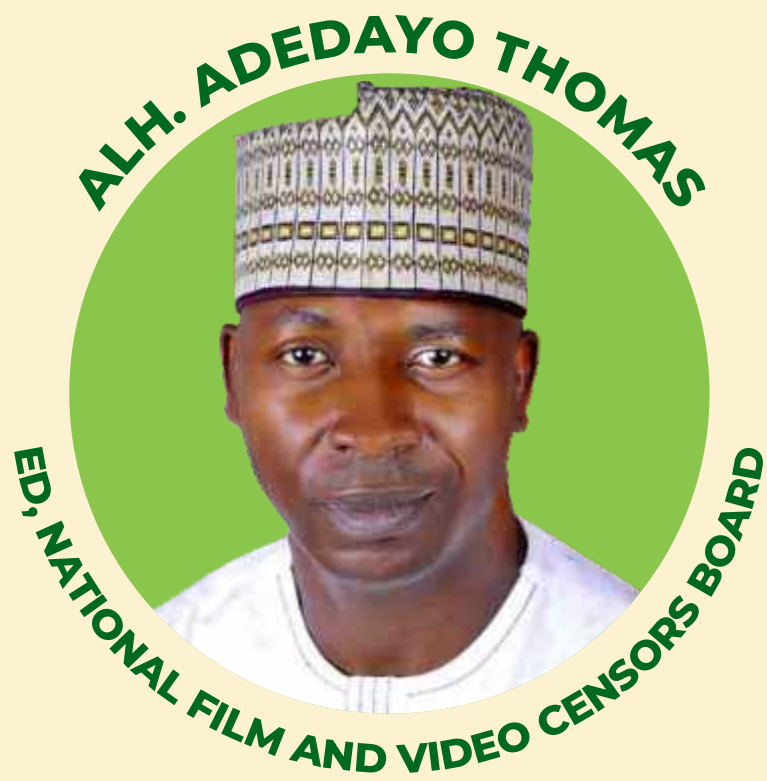


PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN CHIEF, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ALH. LAI MOHAMMED



MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE



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For the future of Film and Video in Nigeria.
May we tell stories that will spur the long-awaited Nigeria renaissance.

Alh Adedayo Thomas
Executive Director, National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB)



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FOREWORD

October 1st, 1960, is a day etched in the annals of Nigeria's history. 60 years after this day our beloved nation has transformed tremendously, our unity, resolve, and strength have been tested by so many factors, yet our determination to stay together remains stronger than ever. This outcome will not be possible without the instrumental role Nigerian films and videos have played over the years in dispelling misconceptions, enlightening minds, and fostering harmony through entertainment.

Since the inception of NFVCB our goal has remained to be the invisible background player, weaving strong connective threads and building bridges among people using Nigerian films and videos. Our actions have not only been an important source of revenue and job creation but we have also been at the frontline in combating piracy of films and videos. By leveraging the opportunities of

the digital infrastructure, we protect content with digital security features and enhance the legitimacy of the output from the talents of our creative filmmakers.

With the phenomenal ability of films and videos in shaping minds on notions of identity, nationality, and understanding, our supervisory role continues to harness the prowess of our geniuses whose repository of talent is one of a kind. Despite Nigeria's multitude of talented individuals in the film and video industry, there are those whose contributions to the advancement of cinema and our values cannot be overemphasized. These individuals have broken new grounds - and continue to do so - open doors of opportunity, and have made indelible marks that have molded the Nigerian film and video industry for years to come. They have made this country proud through their talent and commitment to bring out their best work for not only the entertainment of their audience but the progress of their nation.

With this historic day of celebration of independence, we also celebrate these marvelous creatives for their contributions in positively impacting the lives of many people across this nation and beyond. These 60 Nigerian stars come from different walks of life, with different roles, and wide a wide variety of backgrounds, but the collective love for their craft binds them together.

They, and all others not mentioned here who also have equally positively impacted the films and videos sphere, reflect what this nation was built upon, a nation of diversity, bound together by unity and solidarity

towards a common goal of progress. Nigeria, a great nation, and home to great people.

Let's celebrate our 60th national independence with love, strength, and faith. Long live Nigeria. One nation bound in freedom, peace, and unity.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL
FILM AND VIDEO CENSORS BOARD
(NFVCB)**



OPINION EDITORIAL

ACHIEVING NATIONAL INTEGRATION: THE ROLE OF FILM AND VIDEO

“of all the arts, the most important for us is the cinema”

-Vladimir Lenin-

INTRODUCTION

Indeed, the Russian leader could not but re-echo the outstanding results achieved with film in his desire to win Russian. Moving Pictures not pamphlets became his number one medium of spreading propaganda, Lenin understood that his revolutionary notes will only thrive if all of Russia began to sing in harmony.

Almost a century after Lenin's statement, there still exist a vibrant nexus between national integration and film and video. The audiovisuals have not lost its power or its relevance. Film & video continue to influence human thinking and behaviour owing to its inherent ability to

inspire very quickly the emotions of both young and old.

The success of the American film industry (Hollywood) is not only linked to empirical evidence such as the number of viewership or revenue generation. In my opinion, the real success of Hollywood is in the industry's ability to translate the “American Dream” mantra into compelling and mind-shifting films with a high ability to capture imagination, shape, and direct the sense of what is real, true, and preferable. Hollywood has skillfully used her films to tell stories of hope, peace, security and social wellbeing that captivate audience admiration of being or wanting to be “American”. Movies like, “The pursuit of happiness”, “Mr. Smith Goes to America”, “Forest Gump” amongst others is a true testament of

Hollywood's influence as a projector of American values, power and greatness. She has tactically used her films to score points diplomatically

That being said, in 1929, George Barkas produced "Palaver", widely regarded as the first made in Nigeria film. Although made in Nigeria, "Palaver" was certainly not made for the unity, progress and integration of Nigeria. It should be noted that, Entertainment was not the exclusive aim of "Palaver", embedded in the film was a deliberate plot to persuade the British public to embrace London's imperial policy in Nigeria. This attempt underlines the power of film and video in shaping ideas and mustering a sense of togetherness.

THE NIGERIAN SITUATION

Notwithstanding the negative pictures of Nigerian's painted in "Palaver", the efforts of hero's past to change this narrative is worthy of admiration. However, we cannot rest on the past laurels of these brave Icons but must continually build and push forward the Nigerian agenda of togetherness which is an essential for the economic progress and prosperity of our dear nation. Since "Palaver", the growth of the Nigerian film & video industry has been very impressive. Her large population, her rich culture complimented by a plethora of talents made the outstanding growth of her film &

video industry almost a certainty. With such unprecedented outreach, it is important to understand that Film & Video has played a significant role in fostering Nigeria's national integration.

Cock Crow at Dawn, Second Chance, the New Masquerade, Basi and Company are examples of some of the movies that reflected a true picture of Nigeria's culture, heritage and togetherness. Second Chance for instance was hilarious and featured Nigerians from various ethnic affiliations uniting in a class to acquire adult education with each character dressing in his or her own traditional attire. The movie portrayed our oneness to attain a common goal. The movie 76 can also be thrown into this category, this film in many ways illustrated the values of patriotism.

Film & Videos is indeed the warp and wept of Nigerian's national integration. Its ability to appeal to the intellect, emotions, and will of the

Film & Videos is indeed the warp and wept of Nigerian's national integration.

citizens gives it primacy of place in the business of enhancing Nigeria's national integration. Stories may be written words but they live in our minds as images. When we read or listen to stories, we use imagination to assign a physical attribute to the characters in that story. Films and movies empower us to bring to life those stories and shape how they are perceived by the audience. With stories that hold a mirror to our society of history, crime, comedy, Income inequality, ethnic relations, religious tolerance, and everything in between, through films and video we are blessed with the opportunity to impact positive change. The change that influences minds, challenges misconceptions, expands our worldview, and allows us to learn

more than we did before pressing play.

The exceptional element of Nigerian films and video is how these works of fiction are very much connected to reality. Most times they serve as the window to other people's reality that we are not aware of. They allow us to view life beyond ours and represent those that are often marginalized. Bringing to public consciousness the stories of people often out of the boundaries of influence not only inspires a sense of national belonging and community representation but it allows viewers to understand their struggles, empathize with them, and perhaps even uplift them, which is an invaluable contribution towards harmonizing our differences.

Integration and unity are rooted in understanding one another and films are an efficacious way to teach and enlighten. Take the movie "October 1st" and how it immersed viewers onto what it's like to be a police officer from another region solving inexplicable murders at the tail end of colonialism. With details and nuance through the eyes of various characters, we understand different perspectives on this monumental change and learn about something very few of us lived through. Or "The Wedding Party" and its brilliant display of Nigeria's collective pomp for grandeur and ostentatious display at weddings, showcasing the diversity in dressing, language, food, and lifestyle, and using humor and drama to show that our similarities outweigh our differences.

Some discount films and videos as mere escapism, but their impact is profound. If you also look at the main

If you also look at the main demographic consuming films and videos, you'll see that they are the drivers of change; young people who are now growing to challenge negative stereotypes and embracing unity and diversity.

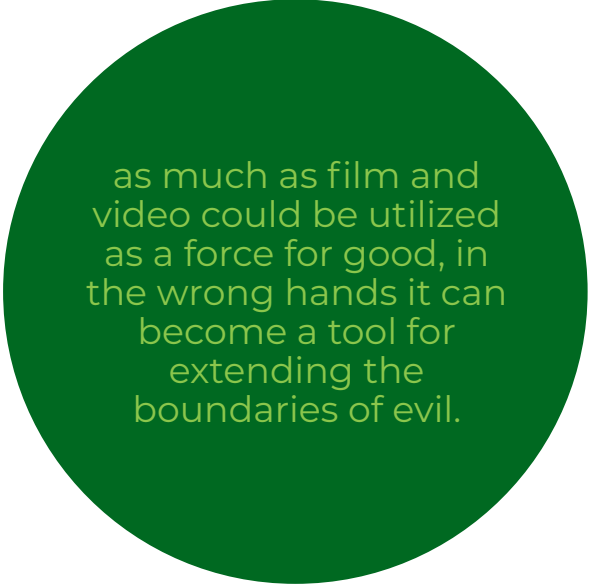
demographic consuming films and videos, you'll see that they are the drivers of change; young people who are now growing to challenge negative stereotypes and embracing unity and diversity. "The Voice" is a widely viewed reality musical show that has exemplified to Nigerians that it is possible to live and progress together in spite of differences, and showcases our innate talents to a large audience.

Compounded by the vast outreach capabilities of films and videos, the possibility of influencing millions of minds towards unity and community is unique to films and videos. Seeing a lead actor or actress take centre-stage and strive towards a shared national ambition, like in the movie "Up North" inspires the same attitude. Viewers idealize such characters and scenarios and to put themselves in their shoes. With diversity and crafty messaging, the movie taught positivity and enlightened against some negative stereotypes built from the darkness of ignorance.

In the same vein, the didactic and moral lessons in other Nigerian movies remind viewers of the grave consequences of engaging in crime and misconduct. This ability to admonish through entertainment is a cogent tool of creating sustainable peace without force.

The ability of film and video to birth change is scarcely a debate. However, it should be noted that as much as film and video could

be utilized as a force for good, in the wrong hands it can become a tool for extending the boundaries of evil. My service to Nigerian as the Executive Director of the prestigious National Film & Video Censors Board (NFVCB) has been a humbling and transforming experience. It has equipped me with the apparatuses to contextualize both the challenges and realities of fostering National unity through film & video industry.



as much as film and video could be utilized as a force for good, in the wrong hands it can become a tool for extending the boundaries of evil.

As a regulatory body, NFVCB encourages Film & Video producers to tell "unity" stories in ways in which citizens could see and feel the connection between them and national integration ideas that may have been otherwise abstract or non-existent. Our mandate of regulating content and promoting positive values while maintaining originality puts us at the forefront of fertilizing change and shaping minds towards unity and compassion.

A lot of progress had been made, which could not have been possible without the transformative leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari that is devoted to ensuring peace, security, and most importantly the togetherness of the country. The invaluable supervision and advice of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism under the leadership of Alhaji. Lai Mohammed towards the NFVCB has also been tremendously helpful. A chorus of commendation also goes to the Sons & Daughters of this great Nation who, through their tenacity and obvious talent in the film & video industry, have showcased the values of nationhood, merits of togetherness while still keeping us entertained.

CONCLUDED THOUGHTS

Contextually speaking, with the exponential growth of the internet in Nigeria, it is forecasted that, Video On Demand (VOD) services such as Netflix Naija, IROKO TV, Ibaka TV, EbonyLife ON, SceneOne TV will continue the upward mobility and upsurges in subscribers and user demand for Nollywood content. Now, more than 40 million Nigerians currently have access to smartphones and by 2025 not less than 140 million people will be mobile smartphone users. The Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) will soon issue out license to operators to provide 5G Networks to the

teeming internet population of the country. This will speed up connectivity and usher in cheaper broadband prices.

the future of film and video will be majorly propelled by the internet and internet broadcasting mediums

With these developments, it is not wrong to say that the future of film and video will be majorly propelled by the internet and internet broadcasting mediums and there is no argument that the financial turnover of the industry will be at record highs. This opens up a wide range of investment prospects and will also offer great opportunities to exact significant influence on a growing audience. It is therefore imperative for industry stakeholders to start re-evaluating their strategies in a manner that incorporates the realities of a social media age towards a more united Nigeria.

In a multi-ethnic society such as Nigeria, film and video makers cannot afford to be insensitive towards ensuring that their stories are

thoroughly screened to avoid leakage of sensitive contents that are detrimental to national cohesion. The Board on its part will continue to set up structures that will strengthen her capacity to tackle issues of piracy and distribution of unwholesome films, musical and video works that are disadvantageous to national development and integration.

It is true, that censorship alone, cannot singlehandedly encourage reflections of strong patriotic values in our films & videos as such the collective effort of government agencies,

individuals, industry giants, Media influencers, communities, NGO's among others is needed to launch a serious campaign against disunity, disharmony, and disintegration. We must be consistent in our approach, look beyond immediate monetary gains and continually take advantage of the opportunities offered by film & Video in shaping the future of our Great Nation.

TOGETHER we can win.

ALHAJI. ADEDAYO THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NFVCB

Alhaji. Adedayo Thomas is the current Executive Director of the National Film & Video Censorship Board (NFVCB). As Boss of the NFVCB, Alhaji. Adedayo's strategic leadership quality is reflective of the achievements and progress made so far by NFVCB. In this piece, the ED examines in detail the specific role of Film & Video in the National Integration discourse of Nigeria.





AMAKA IGWE

Amaka Igwe was a Nigerian writer, director and producer and owner of Amaka Igwe Studios.

She was a visionary and pioneer of modern Nigerian TV and movie production. Some of her popular productions include Rattle Snake, Violated, Checkmate and Fuji's House of Commotion. She also organized an annual TV market, Best of the Best TV (BOB TV), the regular fora she held for filmmakers to share ideas and critically assess their productions.

Amaka graduated from the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife with a B.Sc. in Education/Religion. Sometime in the 1980s, after watching some episodes of the Lola Fani-Kayode production, Mirror in the Sun, she conceived the idea for a script about an all-conquering heroine like the legendary Queen Amina in a stage format. That idea blossomed to become

Checkmate, a soap that dwelt on issues such as male chauvinism, polygamy, secret cultism and the Osu caste system. It is regarded by many as the best Nollywood soap opera of the 90s era and still evokes feelings of nostalgia among viewers.

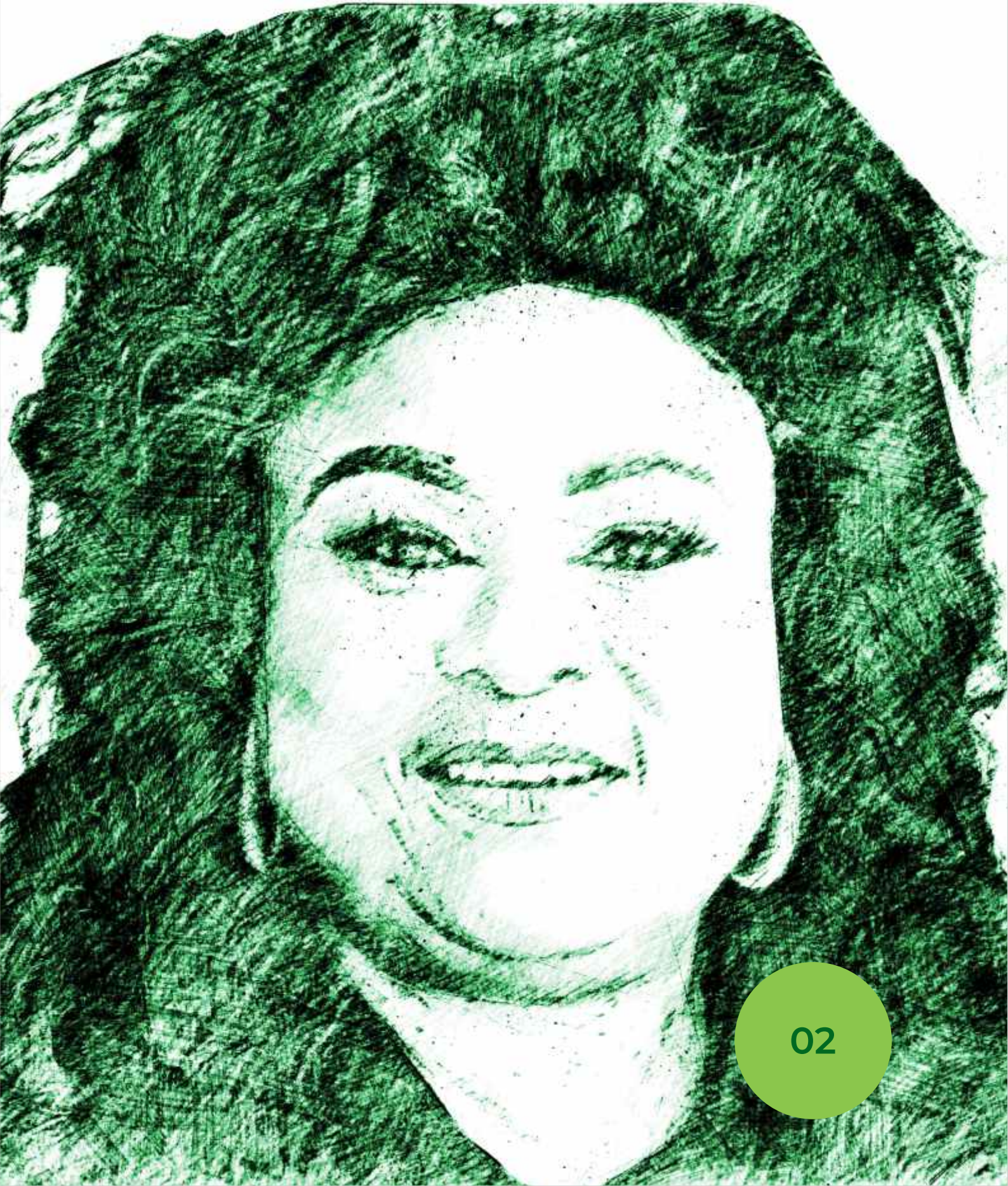
In 2011, Nigeria recognized her substantial efforts and immense contributions to the creative industry by awarding her with the Nigerian National Order of MFR (Member of The Federal Republic of Nigeria.)

Ms. Igwe passed away in Enugu, Nigeria in April 2014.

On January 2, 2019, Google paid tribute to her by dedicating its doodle of the day to her memory to mark her post-humous 57th birthday.

We at NFVCB also remember you, ma'am, and honour your memory. Continue to rest in peace, Amaka Igwe.







SOLA SOBOWALE

Notable actress, Sola Elizabeth Sobowale is the new queen of the continent: the jury of the 2019 Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA), named her the best of the seven other actresses nominated in the Best Actress In A Leading Role category of the Awards 15th edition.

This award was for her role as 'Eniola,' the protagonist in the well-helmed movie by Kemi Adetiba, King of Boys or 'KOB' for short.

Sola Sobowale is a film actress, screenwriter, director and producer. Born on December 26, 1963, she had her big break in 2001, in the premiere of Nigeria's popular TV Drama Series Super Story: Oh Father, Oh Daughter, where she played Toyin Tomato. She joined acting through numerous roles in movies produced by Awada Kerikeri Group under the leadership of

Adebayo Salami. Over the years, she had scripted, co-scripted, directed and produced several Nigerian films. She scripted, produced and directed, Ohun Oko Somida, a 2010 Nigerian film that stars Adebayo Salami. She featured in Dangerous Twins, a 2004 Nigerian drama film produced by Tade Ogidan, written and directed by Niji Akanni and also in Family on Fire produced and directed by Tade Ogidan.

After a 15-year break from acting, Aunty Sola, as she is called by the younger generation of actors, is back with a bang to the Nigerian movie scene. Upon her return, she featured in Mo Abudu's Wedding Party and Wedding Party 2. She is back for good and more of her will be seen.

Nigerians look forward to more captivating performance from you, ma'am. Well done, Ms. Sobowale.

Sola Sobowale



NKEM OWOH

Nkem Owoh is a veteran Nigerian movie actor and comedian. The actor was born on 17th October 1960 in Udi town, Enugu state, Nigeria. He first took to focus on script writing until 1944 when he was encouraged to venture into full time acting. His first big role did not come until 1987 when he featured in the screen version of Chinua Achebe's novel 'Things Fall Apart.'

The movie that eventually shot Nkem into lime light was the 2003 comedy film *Osuofia in London*. His role in the movie won him the African Movie Academic Awards for "the Best Actor in a Lead Role" and earned him the Nick name *Osuofia*. Nkem's sense of humor and acting talent made endeared him to many Nigeria's. Thanks to his natural talent complemented by a fluid comical personality. The actor fits naturally into most of his roles as he never struggled to find words in any situation. Even when acting in a closed

role, he manages to tickle the audience through witty utterances and reactions which leave movie goers in stitches.

Nkem Owoh aka *Osuofia* was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 African Movie Academy Awards, AMAA, for his contributions towards the development of the Nigerian film industry.

He is widely considered as one of the pioneers of the blossoming Nigerian film industry, having been there from the earlier days.

Big Cheers to a Legend of Nollywood Comedy.





JUSTICE ESIRI

Declared one of the strong men of the African film industry, Justus Esiri earned his fame.

After secondary school at Urohobo College, he proceeded to Germany to study engineering where he developed an interest for theater. Thus, began his acting career on stage in Germany. He was the only Nigerian male performing on stage in the years of 1968/69. He also worked for Voice of Nigeria (VON), German Service as a translator. He was performing on stage in Germany when a delegation from Nigeria invited him to perform in Nigeria in a Government sponsored program. Upon his return to Nigeria, he never went back to Europe.

Mr. Esiri was known for his position on capacity building and constant training and retraining of all players in the movie industry, especially Nollywood so as to be abreast with innovation in movie directing and production. He had this to say, 'We are at a stage where we should make technology part and parcel of what we produce. The real issue is that some of the problems we have are either technology driven or human-based. First, we must have good people trained to handle the

best of equipment that the white man churns out every year. If you use some equipment today, the following year, new ones would come out. So, we must train our people properly, meaning that we must get the right training institutes and not just the ones that want to make money.'

Esiri was one of the pioneers of the Nigerian movie industry and contributed immensely to the growth of Nollywood in Nigeria. He came into prominence for his role in the popular Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) TV series, "The Village Headmaster" and also acted in the movie adaptation of Chinua Achebe's book Things Fall Apart. He was honoured as the inaugural recipient of the "President Goodluck Jonathan" Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 2013 Nollywood Movie Awards.

In his lifetime, the Nigerian government bestowed on him several national honors, with the highest being an OON, Officer of the Order of the Niger, for his contribution to the development of film making in Nigeria. Justus Esiri is the proud father of Nigeria popular artiste and Mavin Records Musician, Dr Sid.

NFVCB remembers you, sir. Nigeria remembers you. Continue to rest in peace, Mr. Esiri.

Justice Esiri





TAIWO AJAI-LYCETT

Madam Taiwo Ajai-Lycett (OON), actress, journalist, television presenter, and cosmetologist, is the doyen of stage and screen; she needs no introduction. As far back as the time when black-and-white reigned supreme even in the western world, Ms. Ajai-Lycett was acting on British comedy programmes, complete with threaded height-defying hairstyle juxtaposed with her English accent; it was so plum, it could cut glass.

Born in 1941, Ajai-Lycett was, and is still, deliciously and unapologetically deviant, uncompromising in her unique afrocentric style at the time when her contemporaries, were europeanising their looks to fit into western view of acceptance. She never compromised, she still does not compromise!

Her acting debut was in December 1966 in Wole Soyinka's *The Lion and the Jewel*, a two-act comedy directed by William Gaskill at the Royal Court Theatre in London. Her acting debut was not planned: she was in the rehearsal hall of the play when she was asked by Gaskill to be a participant. After the encouragement she received following her performance and the invitations from producers

that followed, she decided to take a career in acting seriously. She thereafter enrolled at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

On October 1, 2006 she received a national award of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON), decorated by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In February 2008, at an All-Star Gala held at Theatre Royal Stratford East on the 10th anniversary of Tiata Fahodzi, she was honoured as a leader of British-African theatre, alongside Dotun Adebayo and Yemi Ajibade.

After a long and rich time acting on stage in England, she returned to Nigeria in 1971. She has featured in several notable Nigerian films, including *Tinsel*, the award-winning Nigerian soap opera. Taiwo-Ajai also featured in other notable works like the Nigerian movie *Oloibiri*, a 2016 Nigerian action thriller film directed by Curtis Graham, produced by Rogers Ofime and starring Taiwo Ajai-Lycett, Olu Jacobs, and Richard Mofe Damijo. The film tells a story on how government agencies, along with oil companies exploited the newly discovered oil in the historic town of Oloibiri.

We celebrate you, ma'am. NFVCB salutes your courage.

Taiwo Ajai-Lycett





SAM DEDE

Samuel Dedetoku, aka Sam Dede, born on 17th November 1965, is a legendary Nollywood actor, director, producer, politician, lecturer and a philanthropist.

A native of Okrika, a small village in Rivers State, in the south southern part of Nigeria, Mr. Dede was a onetime Director-General of the Rivers State Tourism Development Agency. He is a graduate of Theatre Arts from the University of Port Harcourt where he presently lectures in the same department, and where he also trained Nollywood stars like Yul Edochie, the son of veteran actor, Pete Edochie.

Dede entered the Nollywood industry in 1995 and rose to prominence for his role in the film Ijele. In 2005, he won the Africa Movie Academy Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his performance in the 2004 film, The Mayors. He was honoured with SVAFF 2014 Special Recognition Award for his lifetime achievement and contributions to Nigerian cinema and was nominated for the Africa Movie Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role in 2018 for his performance in the 2017 film In My Country.

Nigeria salutes you, Mr. Sam Dede.







KEMI ADETIBA

Kemi Adetiba is a Nigerian filmmaker, television director and music video director, whose works have appeared on Channel O, MTV Base, Soundcity TV, BET and Netflix.

Born in Lagos on January 8, 1980, she is the daughter of Mayen Adetiba, an actress-turned-leading civil engineer, and Dele Adetiba, a renowned advertising guru and former CEO of Lintas.

Kemi has had a foray in the media world, first as a child model and later as an OAP/radio and TV presenter. She has also directed music videos for artistes like Tiwa Savage, TY Bello, Omawumi, Waje, Olamide and Bez. She also hosted her own show, King Women, that has showcased her own mother and other women like Taiwo Ajayi-Lycett Tara Fela-Durotoye, Chigul and TY Bello.

After years of success being in front of the camera, Adetiba enrolled into the New York Film Academy to learn the ropes about being behind the cameras and today, her bodies of work as

a director are spread across the African continent and beyond its borders. Her short film 'Across a Bloodied Ocean' was screened at the 2009 Pan African Film Festival and National Black Arts Festival.

On 8 September 2016, her first feature film "The Wedding Party" (a Nigerian Rom-com film) premiered opening night at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), as the opening film of the City-to-City Spotlight. Her second movie, King of Boys (2018), has been hailed as a modern Nigerian story about power told with wicked accuracy. The movie chronicles the struggles for office both in political circles and the underworld. It was one Nigerian movie that recorded the biggest opening week for a non-comedy Nollywood movie, the second highest opening week of a Nollywood film in 2018 and the second highest opening week by a female director.

Kemi Adetiba is on the global stage and NFVCB is proud of her. We salute you, ma'am.



Kemi Adetiba





PETE EDOCHIE

Chief Pete Edochie (aka Ebubedike), MON (born March 7, 1947) is a Nigerian actor. He hails from Anambra State, but was raised in Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria.

He is a Nigerian actor who began his career in a broadcasting corporation at the age of 20 before moving into the movie industry

Edochie is considered one of Africa's most talented actors, being honored with an Industry Merit Award by Africa Magic and Lifetime Achievement by Africa Film Academy. Although a seasoned administrator and broadcaster, he came into prominence in the 1980s when he played the lead role of Okonkwo in an NTA's adaptation of Chinua Achebe's all-time best selling novel, *Things Fall Apart*.

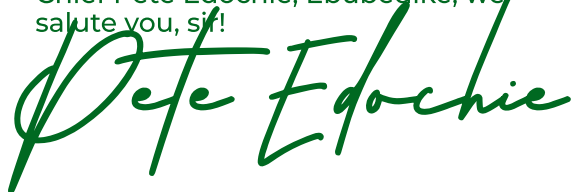
Edochie descends from the Igbo people of Nigeria; in 2003, he was honored as a Member of the Order of the Niger by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Pete, who had already featured in *Things Fall Apart* and had won international award and recognition before getting in to Nollywood, has featured in hundreds of movies and has received several accolades for his work. In 2003, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame and has many words of wisdom attributed to him, some of which are:

- a. "A man who hangs around a beautiful girl without saying a word ends up fetching water for guests at her wedding."
- b. "Your Chi has to be strong for you to be able to sustain a long-life span on some of these social networks."
- c. "A farmer who grows by the street and a man who has a beautiful woman have the same problem."

He is the father of equally popular Nollywood star, Yul Edochie.

Chief Pete Edochie, Ebubedike, we salute you, sir!







TUNDE KELANI

Tunde Kelani popularly known as TK is an internationally acclaimed filmmaker, an ace storyteller, director, photographer, cinematographer, and a movie producer. He is an advocate of Nigerian cultural heritage. So, his movies not only promote but also educate viewers about Nigeria's culture. He is also known for turning literary materials into movies.

Tunde Kelani, TK was born on the 26th of February 1948. He was born in Lagos but was sent to live with his grandparents in Abeokuta at age 5. His grandfather was the 'Balogun of Ijaiye Kukudi'. So, he had firsthand access to Yoruba culture, literature, philosophy and world view of arts.

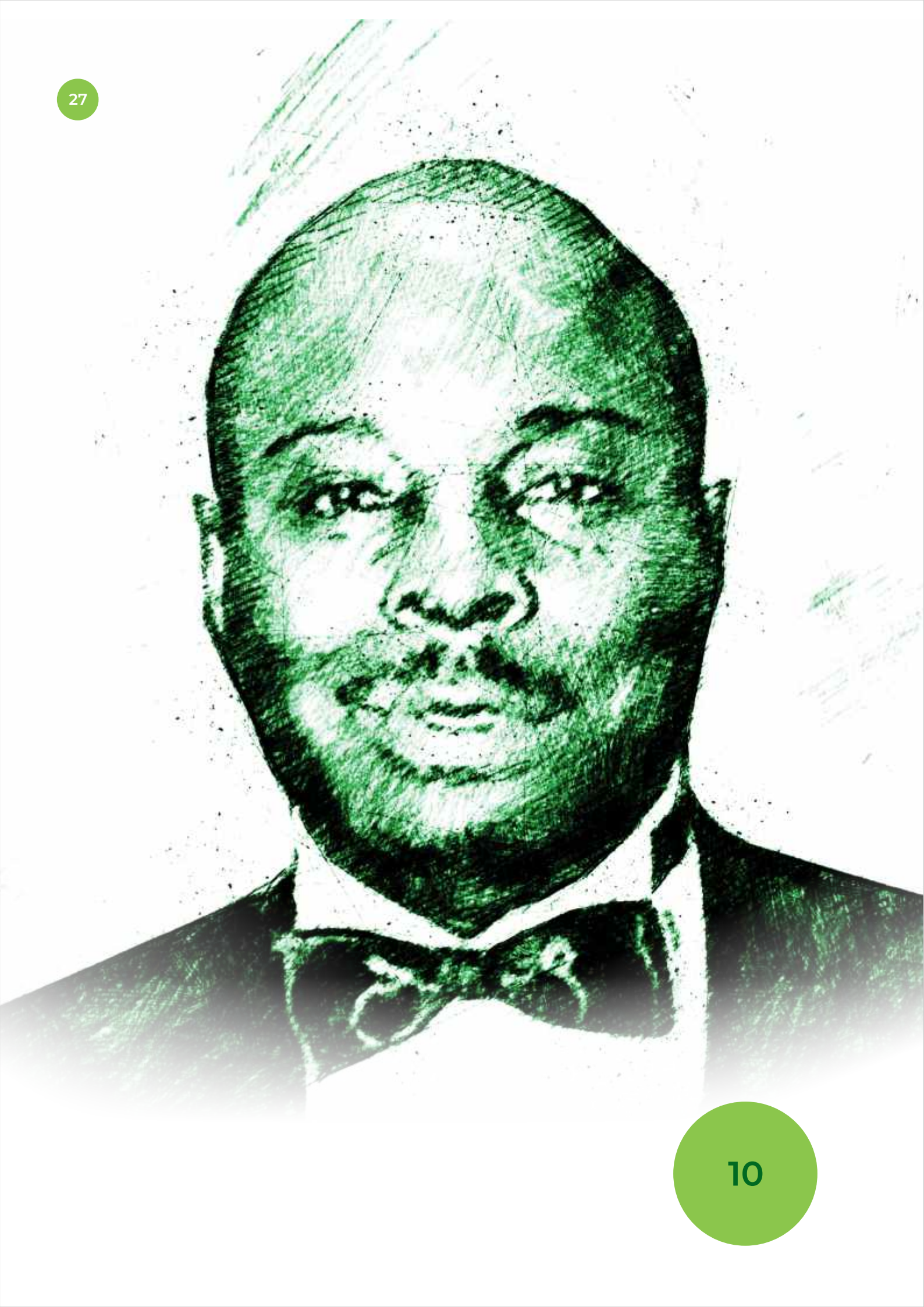
He has worked as a cinematographer on most feature movies produced in Nigeria. Some of these movies are: Anikura, Ogun Ajaye, Iya Ni

Wura, Taxi Driver, Iwa and Fopomoyo. In 1990, he was the assistant director and also acted in the first American movie to be shot in Nigeria titled 'Mister Johnson'. The film is an adaptation of the 1939 novel by Joyce Cary.

In 1991, Tunde Kelani started his own production company, Mainframe Films and Television Productions – Opomulero, so he could produce films and not just lend technical support. Having emerged from the world of theatre and literature, adaptations of books and plays for cinema are the core of Kelani's filmmaking practice and through them he celebrates writers and their work to what he sees as a public that reads less and less.

Many Salutations to this Great Icon

Tunde Kelani





TUNDE BABALOLA

Tunde Babalola is a Nigerian screenwriter who graduated from Obafemi Awolowo University with a degree in Dramatic Arts.

He started writing during his senior secondary school days. In fact, as a matter of fact, he wrote his first script when he was 14 years old. Although Tunde was drawn to all the facets of entertainment such as acting, dance and music, it was script-writing that really got him excited.

After his studies at OAU, he later relocated to the UK where he was involved in writing the screenplay for the series "In Exile"

With such great movies as Last Flight to Abuja, Maami, Aleros Symphony, Critical Assignment, The Meeting and October1,

among other critically acclaimed international TV series, there is no gainsaying that Tunde Babalola is blessed with exceptional creative ability.

He is regularly being head-hunted by TV stations and production companies to work for them and he has won and has being nominated for a number of awards for scriptwriting. He won Best Film by An African Living Abroad in 2012. Nollywood Movie Award for Best Original Screenplay, AMVCA Best Writer, 2015.

Tunde Babalola's excellence, diligence and intelligence towards script-writing brought spotlight to an area of film production that was often not given deserved accolade.

Well done Sir.

Tunde Babalola





EMEM ISONG

Emem Isong is an award-winning Nigerian filmmaker, screenwriter, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Royal Arts Academy. She is also a movie producer and a film distributor. She was born on the 5th of September, as the first of four children of her parents. Emem hails from Ikono Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

The charming Nollywood producer, officially kick-started her career in 1994 when she wrote and co-produced the movie Jezebel. Since then, she has written and produced several outstanding movies. She is a big fan of carefully written and structured script dialogues and it is evident in the quality of movies she produces.

Since 1994, Emem has written and produced more than 17 movies some of which have won awards both nationally and internationally. She has also written about 10 for other producers, and she is renowned for writing and producing highly thrilling suspense movies.

Emem directed her first feature film – Champagne in 2004, and in August 2015, she released her second feature film – Code of Silence. Emem produced and directed the movie herself under the umbrella of the Royal Arts Academy. The movie also enjoyed the support of Nollywood Workshop. Nollywood Workshop is an international NGO that effect positive change in society through movies.

Emem founded the Royal Arts Academy in 2010, and she is presently the academy's CEO. The Academy's interest is in raising young and talented film creators and producers with the best tools available. The academy is dedicated to producing students who cannot just compete and excel in the Nigerian film industry, but also in the international film industry. In 2018, she started her own clothing line tagged Apple Pine Clothiers which focuses on African Fashion especially several clothing in prints (Ankara).

Cheers to one of Nigeria's most Influential Female Movie Producer.

Emem Isong





SADIQ DABA

Abubakar Sadiq Daba commonly known as Sadiq Daba is a veteran actor, producer and director who has spent about 40 years of his life behind and in front of the camera. From news reading to acting, his sterling career has been crowned with awards and recognition.

Sadiq Daba achieved national celebrity status with a role in "Cockcrow at Dawn", one of the best-watched soap operas in the pre-Nollywood era. He has also starred in other popular series, including, "Behind the Clouds," "A Place Like Home," "Entreat," "Duplicity," "Soweto," "Moment of Truth," and "Hotel Majestic."

In 2015, he earned critical acclaim for his portrayal of Inspector Danladi Waziri in the dramatic film "October 1." The role earned him Best Actor Award at the African Movie Academy Awards

in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, where he received a standing ovation. In 2016, Daba featured in Michael Asuelime's "Entreat". In the same year, he was honored with an Industry Merit Award at the 4th Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards.

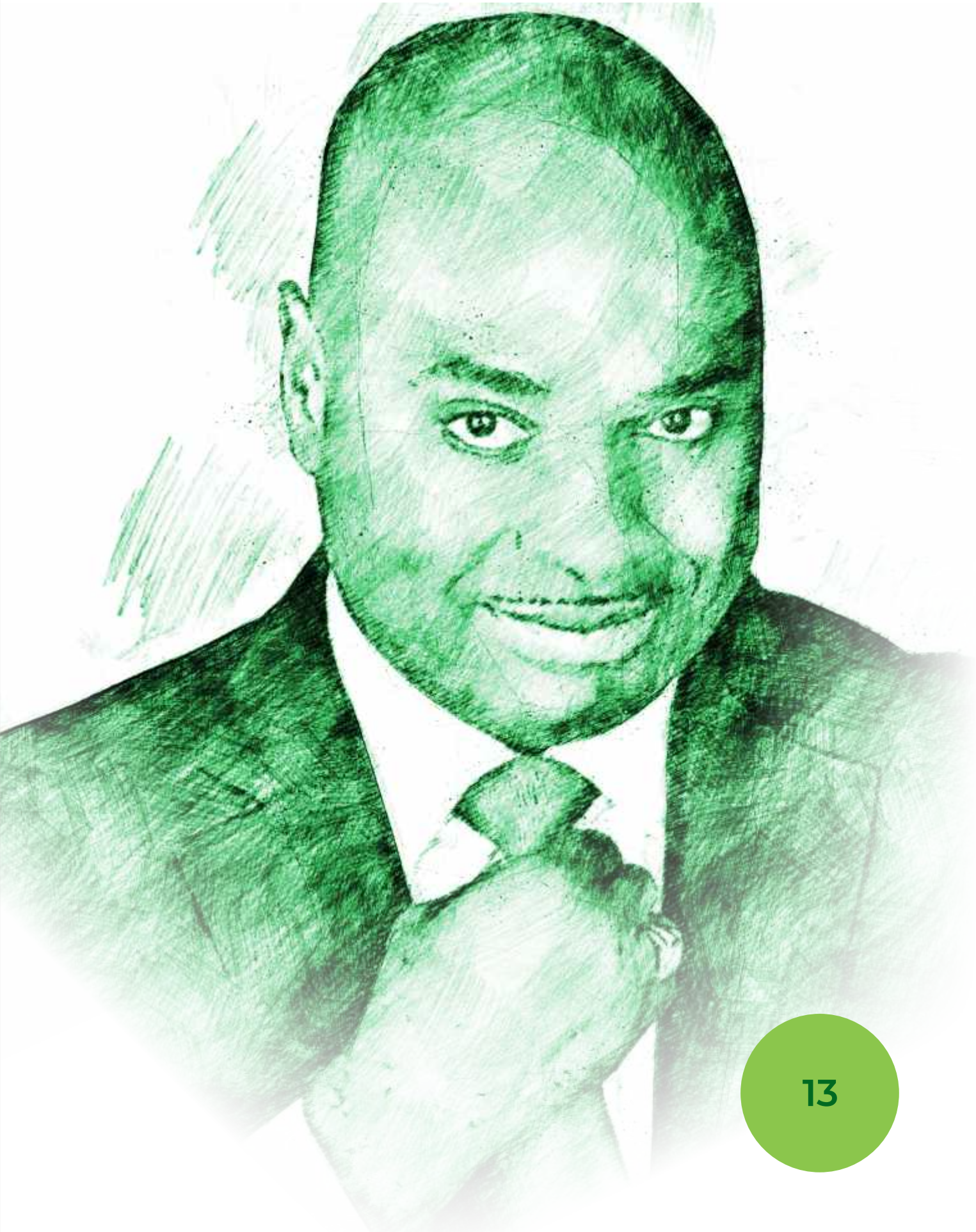
In 2018, the Actors Guild of Nigeria gave Daba the honorary title of Garkuwan Nollywood (Shield of Nollywood) to recognize his contributions to the motion picture industry.

Daba has also become a prominent voice in the fight against cancer, participating in the Project Pink Blue walk in February 2018 aligned with World Cancer Day.

Thank You Sadiq for your Stellar performances over the years.



Sadiq Daba





KENNETH OKONKWO

Nollywood actor Kenneth Okonkwo graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in Enugu State and later graduated with a Masters degree in International Law and Diplomacy from the University of Lagos, Akoka.

The general public first learned about Kenneth Okonkwo in 1992 after he played the lead role in a Nollywood movie called "Living in Bondage"; he became widely known as "Andy Okeke", which is the name of the character he portrayed in the movie. Since then, Kenneth Okonkwo has stayed true to his craft. He also

featured in the Television Soap Opera Ripples where he played the role of Captain John Mark.

Kenneth has won the hearts of many people in Nigeria and all over the world with his exceptional acting skills. He won the African Movie Academy Award on a Special Recognition of Pillars of Nollywood in 2013. In 2015, he was given a recognition awards by City People Entertainment Awards for his earnest contribution to entertainment growth in Nigeria.

Soar on Sir



Kenneth Okonkwo





FIDELIS DUKER

Fidelis Duker is a Nigerian filmmaker, writer, event organizer, columnist, public relations consultant, social critic/ commentator and politician.

Prior to gaining popularity in Nigerian film making, Fidelis wrote scripts for Tales by Moonlight, the popular television programme for kids. He also wrote scripts for Telemovies, another television drama programme and was also part of "Morning Light", which was produced by Wale Adebakun. He was a production manager between 1989 and 1991, before he left to start my own production. His first film was an Igbo film titled Skeleton in 1993 which paraded the likes of Sam Loco, Hank Anuku and Ngozi Nwosu.

With over 25 years of experience in the entertainment industry, Fidelis is one of Nigeria's

foremost filmmakers with over 250 motion picture content to his credit. Fidelis's wholesome knack for innovation is what gave birth to the annual Abuja Film Festival which has attracted thousands of film makers around the world.

Fidelis Duker a former President of Directors Guild of Nigeria DGN was re-elected Regional Secretary General, Federation of Pan African Filmmakers (FEPACI), West Africa in 2019. He has also serves as consultant on film and the creative sector to Ethiopia, Madagascar and Botswana and has been speaking and presenting papers on film and creative industry in over 45 different countries.

Thank you Fidelis for flying the flag well.



Fidelis Duker



HUBERT OGUNDE

Olooye Hubert Adedeji Ogunde was a folklorist, Nigerian actor, playwright, musician, dramatist, theatre manager, policeman, teacher, human right activist, Seer, prophet and a nationalist of class.

He was a pioneer in the field of Nigerian folk opera (drama in which music and dancing play a significant role). He was the founder of the Ogunde Concert Party (1945), the first professional theatrical company in Nigeria. Often regarded as the father of Nigerian theatre, Ogunde sought to reawaken interest in Nigeria's indigenous culture.

Ogunde's technique was to sketch out the basic situation and plot, and then write down and rehearse only the songs of his plays. The dialogue was improvised, thus allowing the actors to adjust to their audience. The plays produced by his company usually reflected the prevailing political climate and interpreted for audiences the maj

or issues and the aspirations of those in power.

Ogunde was an outspoken contemporary political commentator, who was ready to risk the possible destruction of

his Theatre in order to fight for the freedom of his people from alien rule. He was jailed and banned on several occasions for fighting and standing against the devious colonial regime with all his brains.

His company performed with equal ease in remote villages and in metropolitan centres of Nigeria (as well as throughout West Africa). Many of Ogunde's later folk operas were basically popular musicals featuring jazzy rhythms, fashionable dance routines, and contemporary satire. Through this format, he set an example for a successful commercial theatre and prepared audiences all over Nigeria for his followers. During the 1960s and '70s his plays became an important part of the urban pop culture of West Africa.

In 1987 and 88, the Ogun state Government awarded Ogunde the Excellence Award in the field of Drama and Film Production.

In 1983, Ogunde was awarded the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (OFR) by the Federal Government which he unbelievably rejected due to political reasons.

We doff our hats for a Theatre Nationalist Par-Excellence

Hubert Ogunde





TADE OGIDAN

Akintade Ogidan, aka Tade Ogidan (born July, 1960), is a Nigerian film and television screenwriter, producer and director.

After his university education in the United States in 1982, Tade joined the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA 10, NTA 2, Channel 5 and NTA National Network Service and projects) where he had a full and interesting career as a producer/director and continuity announcer.

While at NTA, he produced/directed several episodes of the PLAY OF THE WEEK drama series, TELE THEATRE drama series, LEGAL ANGLE series, THE NEW VILLAGE HEADMASTER drama series and a handful of DRAMA specials on NTA National Network. He gained renown as the producer/director of hit episodes such as Blinking Hope, The Boys Next Door, and To Save a Falling Angel. One of the drama projects worked on then, THE REIGN OF ABIKU, written by Sola Osofisan, won several awards at the

Nigerian Festival of Television Programmes, NIFETEP 1986.

Tade left NTA in 1990 for private productions in 1990 and set up OGD PICTURES, LTD. He wrote and directed hit movie projects like Golden Statue which, in 2019, won five awards at the Best of Nollywood (BON) Awards.

Other hit movies under his belt, most of which are multiple award-winners in and outside Nigeria include Hostages, Owo Blow, Diamond Ring, Out Of Bounds, Raging Storm, 7 – 12, Playing Games, Saving Alero, Dangerous Twins, Madam Dearest and Ayo Mi Da.

Tade believes in discovering one's strength and honing it, his strength being working behind the scene as a director and producer, especially as he is camera-shy.

NFVCB hails Mr. Tade Ogidan. Nigeria looks forward to more blockbusters from you, sir. Well done!



Tade Ogidan





KUNLE AFOLAYAN

Kunle Afolayan is confident in his craft and he is very matter-of-fact about it. He always says of his movies, especially *Citation*, a movie about the “sex for grades” scandal at Nigerian and Ghanaian universities which came to light in 2018: it will “beat records”.

His movies are very far from pedestrian and they challenge the status-quo. Toyin Falola, a professor of African Studies at the University of Texas, has this to say of Mr. Afolayan’s films: they ‘...are “modernising traditions, and traditionalising modernity”’.

‘At the age of 12 or 13, I began travelling beyond the borders of Nigeria with my father: Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast,’ recalls Kunle Afolayan. It was the 1980s, and his father, Adeyemi Afolayan, a celebrated director and actor, would personally distribute his films. They were often stories about ordinary people—taxi

drivers, perhaps, or farmers—overcoming difficulties. “We would go from one town to another by bus, carrying 16mm projectors,” Mr Afolayan says. It was a labour of love.

Kunle Afolayan who creates bold, sophisticated films across a range of genres, is the CEO of Golden Effects Pictures, a Nigerian film and production company incorporated in 2005. Ambassador Audu Kadiri, Nigeria’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) office in Geneva says of Afolayan, “The acclaimed producer came to limelight as a film producer in Nigeria when he founded the Golden Effect Pictures Limited, a film production company that produces and releases high-quality films.” Golden Effects Pictures Limited’s feature films include *Irapada*, *The Figurine*, *Phone Swap*, *October 1*, *Roti*, *Omugwo*, *The Tribunal*, *The CEO* and *Mokalik*.

We salute the trailblazing Kunle Afolayan. NFVCB and Nigeria celebrate you.

Kunle Afolayan





TECO BENSON

Teco Benson is a Nigerian film director and producer who started his career in film and video as an actor in 1994 before switching to producing and directing.

In 2006, he was nominated for Best Director at the Africa Movie Academy Awards and won Director of the Year at the 2011 Best of Nollywood Awards. In 2012 he was decorated by President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic. Mr. Benson in 2003, made the first Sierra Leone-made film titled Blood Diamonds.

Originally a civil servant, Teco Benson has maintained a very strong track record in the movie

industry since 1997 when his directing career began. As part of the federal government delegation via the Nigerian Film Corporation, he represented Nollywood in Ghana in 2005, and was part of the five-man delegation that represented Nigeria at the 32nd Cairo International Film Festival.

In 2006, his movie, Explosion, was chosen to represent Nollywood in Israel. His 35mm film, Mission to Nowhere, introduced Nollywood to international screens.

Mr. Teco Benson, NFVCB and Nigeria salute you.



Teco Benson





DESMOND ELLIOT

Desmond Elliot is a veteran, multiple award-winning actor and director, known for *Disguise* (2018), *Lagos Cougars* (2013) and *Knocking on Heaven's Door* (2014).

Born Desmond Oluwashola Elliot on February 4, 1974, he has starred in over two hundred films and a number of television shows and soap operas. He won the Best Supporting Actor In A Drama at the 2nd Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards and was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the 10th Africa Movie Academy Awards. In 2009 and 2010, Elliot was nominated for the Best Actor category at the Nigeria Entertainment Awards. In 2008 Elliot co-produced and co-directed the movie "Reloaded" which received 3 nominations at the African Movie Academy Awards in 2009.

Elliot has forayed into politics as he was elected a lawmaker of the Lagos State House of

Assembly, Surulere Constituency, in the April 2015 Nigerian General Elections.

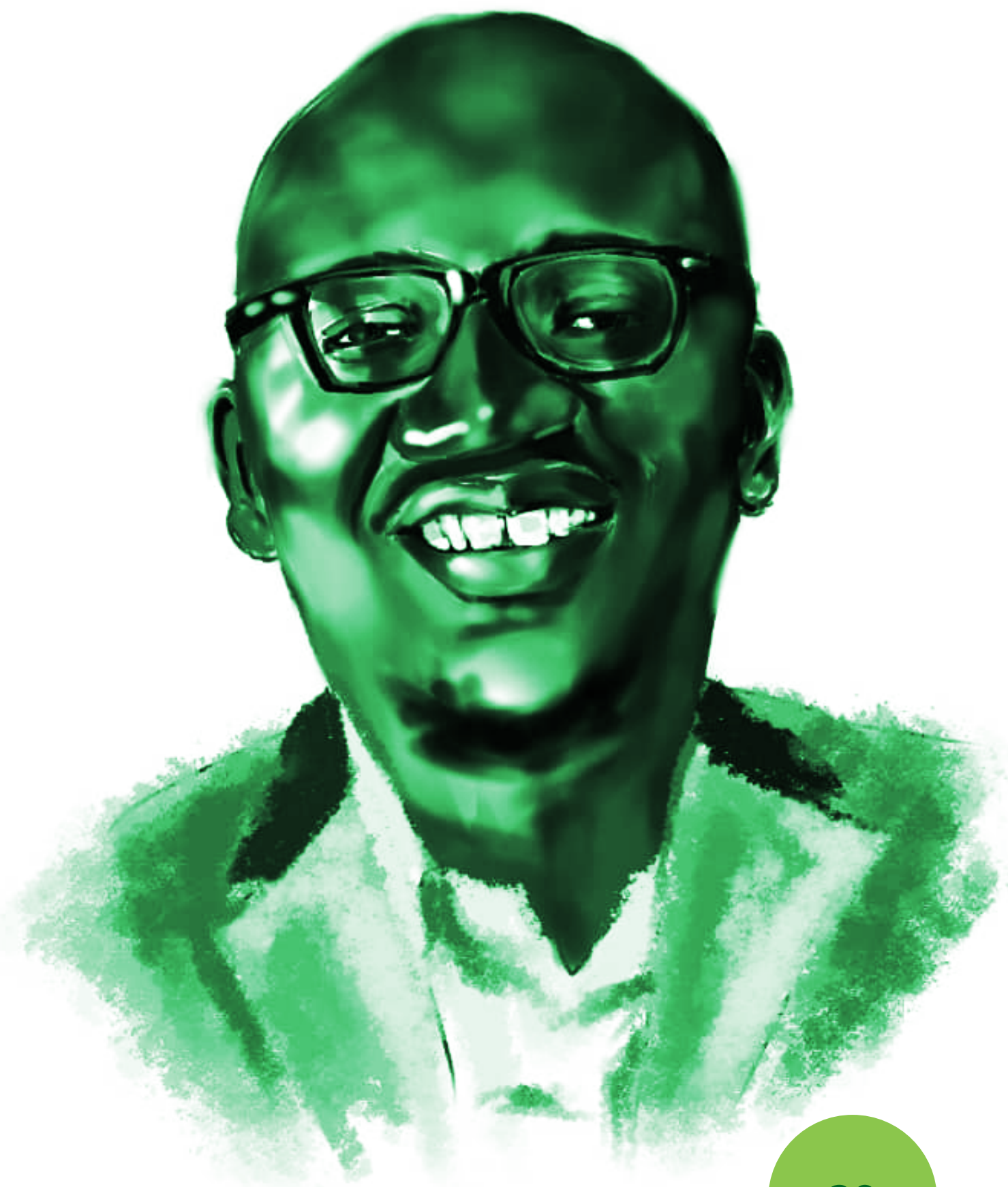
Aside acting and working as a representative of the people in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Desmond also runs an NGO, Desmond Elliot Foundation, whose thrust is to disseminate information on hygiene, sanitation, and other health-related issues in the country.

Desmond Elliot is also an astute business man who, together with his wife of 17 years whom he met in university and has four children with, runs Denziot Productions Ltd, a video production company that sells and distributes Nollywood movies.

Nollywood cannot be discussed without the mention of Hon. Desmond Elliot. NFVCB salutes and celebrates you, sir.



Desmond Elliot





IZU OJUKWU

Izu Ojukwu is a Nigerian film director, cinematographer, scriptwriter and editor. He is the director of the Nigerian historical fiction drama film '76 produced in 2016. Izu is an award-winning movie producer whose films have received recognition both locally and internationally.

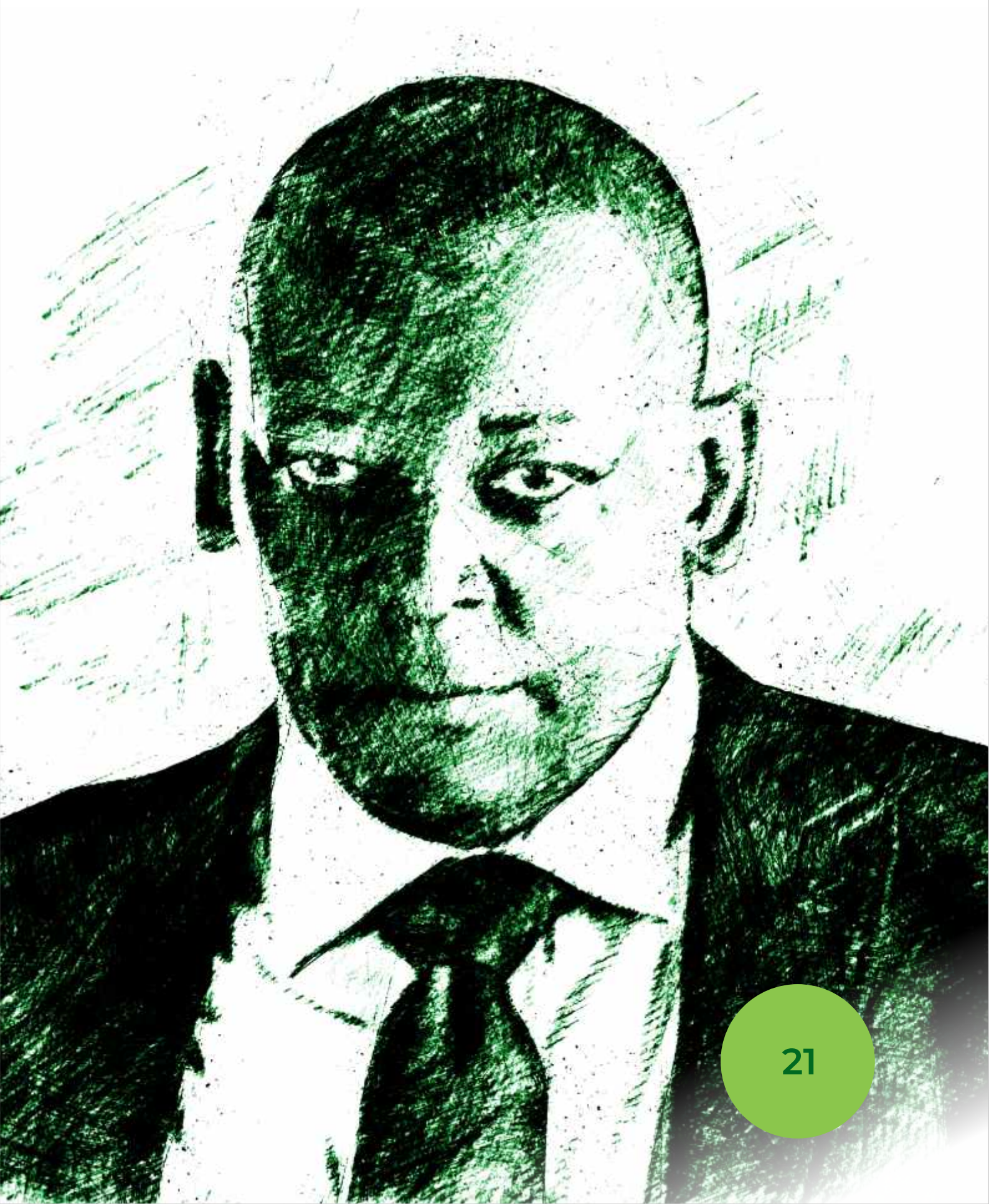
Ojukwu has been part of the Nollywood film scene since 1993, when he started making films directly out of high school. Touted in African publications as the "Nigerian Spielberg" for his fast-moving action scenes and

his increasingly ambitious movies, he won the Best Director at the Africa Movie Academy Awards for his 2007 movie Sitanda, and became one of the subjects of the documentary Welcome To Nollywood.

His latest film, 76, is an unusually high-budget, high-profile historical epic about Nigeria's 1976 coup, focusing on the pregnant wife of a soldier unwillingly drawn into an assassination plot.

Well done Izu







KEPPY EKPENYONG

Nigerian Actor, Keppy Ekpenyong was born on March 21 in Military Hospital, Yaba, Lagos state. Ekpenyong attended University of Calabar In Cross River State and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Linguistics and in 1982 obtained a Masters Degree in International Law and Diplomacy from the University of Lagos.

Ekpenyong began acquiring his acting skills during his NYSC service at NTA channel news tv station. Ekpenyong functioned In the Programmes Department and worked as an intern under the supervision of Nigerian ace

director; Tade Ogidan. In 1987 and 1988 he was trained and involved in Drama, Script-Writing, Voice- Over, Producing and Presenting. After his NYSC service he was featured in Nigerian soap opera titled Ripples where he played the lead role. When the Nigerian movie industry began to blossom he switched from Tv series to home videos. In 1993 he co-produced a movie titled Unforgiven Sin.

Thank you Keppy for your invaluable contributions

Keppy Ekpenyong





FUNKE AKINDELE-BELLO

Funke Akindele-Bello (born August 1977 and popularly known as Jenifa) is an award-winning Nigerian actress and producer who made her directorial debut with the 2019 movie, *Your Excellency*.

She starred in the sitcom 'I Need to Know' from 1998 to 2002, and in 2009 she won the Africa Movie Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role. Funke plays the lead character in the show *Jenifa's Diary*, for which she was named Best Actress in a Comedy at the 2016 Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards.

Funke has several other awards to her name: she won the Best Actress in Nigeria at the Nigeria Entertainment Awards (2014). In 2010, she was the Best Actress in a Leading Role (Yoruba) at the Best of Nollywood Awards. The year 2012 saw her winning four awards:

- a. Best Indigenous Actress at the Nollywood Movies Awards
- b. Best Actress at the Nigeria Entertainment Awards
- c. Best Actress (English) at the Best of Nollywood Awards, and
- d. Best Actress at the Zulu African Film Academy Awards.

Funke is brand ambassador for bug brands Dettol, Funke Akindele, IrokoTV Also Keystone Bank and Waw Nigeria, a company that manufactures detergent and bar soaps.

As part of giving back to the society, Funke runs a non-governmental organisation known as the Jenifa Foundation, which aims at providing young people with vocational skills.

We hail you, Funke. Keep soaring

Funke Akindele-Bello





OLU JACOBS

Born 11th July 1942, Oludotun Baiyewu Jacobs, is an award-winning actor, director, producer, businessperson, and a contributor to charity. Known professionally as Olu Jacobs, he has starred in several local and international films.

Olu Jacobs has been hailed by many as one of the greatest and most widely respected African actors of his generation. Together with Pete Edochie, he is considered by several media, film commentators, critics, and other actors to be one of the most influential African actors of all time, and is widely regarded as a cultural icon.

Olu Jacobs has distinguished himself as a godfather in Nollywood, paving a successful path for many emerging actors and actresses in the industry. The stage and screen actor who has been in the industry since the 1970s has remained one of Nollywood's leading stars and role model.

Jacobs is known to have been a mentor to many young Nollywood actors who credit him with their careers. In 2009, he established the Lufodo Academy of Performing Arts in Lagos which offers a two-year conservatory program to aspiring young actors.

For his dedication to the movie industry spanning over five decades, Jacobs was awarded an Industry Merit Award in 2013 at the Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards, as well as a lifetime achievement award by the same group in 2016. He was conferred with the prestigious honour of member of the Order of Federal Republic (MFR) which happens to be the highest award given to a Nigerian celebrity.

In fact, in every ten movies Olu Jacobs stars in, eight of them are epic movies, where he plays the role of a king. Jacobs is known as the Igwe (King) of Nollywood,' because of the number of times he's played kings in the movies.

Long live Olu "IGWE" Jacobs







EGO BOYO

Ego Boyo, born on September 6, 1968 is an actress and movie producer who is popular for her role as Anne Haastrup in the late 80s soap, Checkmate. She began her acting career in the 90s when she starred in the 1996 movie Violated.

She was also the lead actress in Checkmate, a Nigerian television serial that ran from 1991 to 1994, created by Amaka Isaac-Ene and sponsored by Lever Brothers Nigeria. In her adventures in production the Nollywood Queen, produced the movie, A

Hotel Called Memory in 2017, which won the audience award for best experimental film at the Black Star Film Festival in Philadelphia.

Ego also became the 60th president of International Women Society (IWS), an independent, non-political, non-governmental and non-profit organisation founded in 1957.

Thank you for your good works.

Ego Boyo





GENEVIEVE NNAJI

To discuss Nollywood without a mention of Genevieve Nnaji will be absurd and grossly futile. She is a force to be reckoned with in Nollywood as a Nigerian star and film director.

Born in 1979, the 41-year-old has starred in more than 100 films over the last two decades and her rise to prominence coincided with the exponential growth of Nollywood.

She is a woman of many talents and is considered Nollywood's golden girl who is showing no signs of slowing down. With more than six million followers on Instagram, Genevieve remains one of Nigeria's most popular stars.

Oprah Winfrey dubbed her the "Julia Roberts of Africa" during a segment on her talk show titled, Meet the Most Famous People in the World. The actress who is fiercely and notoriously private made her acting debut at the age of eight when she starred in popular TV soapie, Ripples. She scored her first Nollywood movie in 1998 as a 19 year old alongside Bob Manuel-Udokwu, Regina Askia, Ayo Adesanya, Ibinabo Fiberesima, Antar Laniyan and Liz Benson.

Genevieve has won several awards since her Nollywood debut, including "Best Actress in a Leading Role" at the 2005 Africa Movie Academy Awards. She was the first actress to win the award. Her close friend and fellow actress, Funke Akindele, won the award in 2008. Genevieve received one of Nigeria's highest honours in 2011 when she was recognised as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic for her contributions to the country's film industry.

Genevieve Nnaji made history in 2019 when she starred in Netflix's first original movie made in Nigeria, Lionheart. Not only was she the leading lady in the film, it was also her directorial debut. Netflix acquired the film after it was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2018. The streaming company allegedly bought the movie for \$4 million (around ₦1.4 billion).

Lionheart was released on Netflix in January 2019. The film helped expose Genevieve to an international audience, with Essence Magazine, CNN, The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and BBC World featuring her in online interviews.

We are proud of what you have achieved and are yet to achieve. NFVCB and Nigeria celebrate you, Genny.

Genevieve Nnaji





KASIMU YERO

Kasimu Yero was a prolific actor in the make-belief world. A veteran who had seen virtually every aspect of the industry, the Zaria, Kaduna State-born actor, director and administrator played the role of Uncle Gaga in the TV sitcom, *Cockcrow at Dawn*, aired on NTA network in the 1980s and has acted in several other films that were popular.

Yero was among the first set of Northerners who went into acting in the early 70s. A graduate of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, the late actor made his debut in a TV programme titled 'Kukan Kurciya.'

Kasimu Yero was a shining star whose talent brought him national acclaim for contributions to culture. He was a talented artist who was also at the forefront of drama in northern Nigeria. He mentored several artists who are now

household names in their own right. He devoted his talents to nation building, preaching unity across religion, ethnic and regional lines.

Yero was one of the leading characters in Abubakar Imam's television drama series in Hausa, 'Magana Jari Ce,' meaning 'Wisdom is an Asset.' A colossus of the creative industry, Yero had a flair for interpreting humorous scripts. No wonder, his talent and contributions to culture brought him fame nationwide and even beyond the shores of Nigeria.

He was an epitome of hard work and excellence at his chosen career, and that was evident in the fact that millions of Nigerians anxiously waited to see the next hilarious showing of Yero in *Cock Crow at Dawn*.

Respect to a Northern Drama King.

Kasimu Yero





IRETI DOYLE

In a career that has spanned two decades in the Nigerian entertainment industry, Ireti's credits cut across stage, television and film and print. Ireti Doyle is a writer, actor, producer and presenter. She produced and presented her own fashion and lifestyle show titled Oge With Iretiola for ten years and at different times anchored several television shows. She is a writer and has several screen plays to her credits Amaka Igwe's Tempest (Season 1) being one of them.

Ireti is an entertainer vast in writing, acting, TV presenting and speaking. Basically, she started acting in 1995 during one of her school strikes. She utilised the opportunity and auditioned for a role in the TV series Riddles and Hopes. Prior to that, her motivation began in secondary school while watching Joke Silva in Lola Fani Kayode produced TV series, Mind bending.

While building her career in the movie industry, she also ventured into hosting television programs. She hosted shows like Morning Ride on STV, Nimasa This Week on Channels TV, e.t.c. She also became a social commentator and was writing columns for This Day Newspaper, City People, Saturday Vanguard, e.t.c

Apart from nominations, she has also won the following awards: Best Actress in a Lead Role, GIAMA Awards, 2013; Best Actress in a Lead Role 'Torn', Nollywood Movie Awards, 2014; Actress of the Year 'Dowry'; Late Ambassador Segun Olusola Nigerian Broadcasters Merit Awards, 2016.

NFVCB appreciates a glamorous
Screen & Script Enthusiast



Ireti Doyle





JIMMY JOHNSON

The late media personality christened Jimmy J by colleagues started his foray into drama and theatre arts in Ibadan in the early 1960s with Orisun Theatre Company and the Mbari Artistes and Writers Club; a diverse group of university lecturers, writers, visual artists, musicians and actors that included Wole Soyinka, Ulli Beier, Chinua Achebe and Christopher Okigbo.

The screen star is famed for his role as “Okoro” of the NTA TV 80s series, “The Village Headmaster.” After Nigeria’s civil war, which

lasted between 1967-1970, Johnson was instrumental to the country’s reconstruction agenda. He worked as an information and culture officer in the civil service while he and his colleagues also collaborated to rebuild a national identity for radio, television, film and theatre.

Like his contemporaries, Johnson delve into Nigerian Theatre when the rewards were very minimal. In spite of that, he pursued his career with relentless passion and vigour. He was

Jimmy J was truly a Symbol of Unity



Jimmy Johnson





KUNLE BAMTEFA

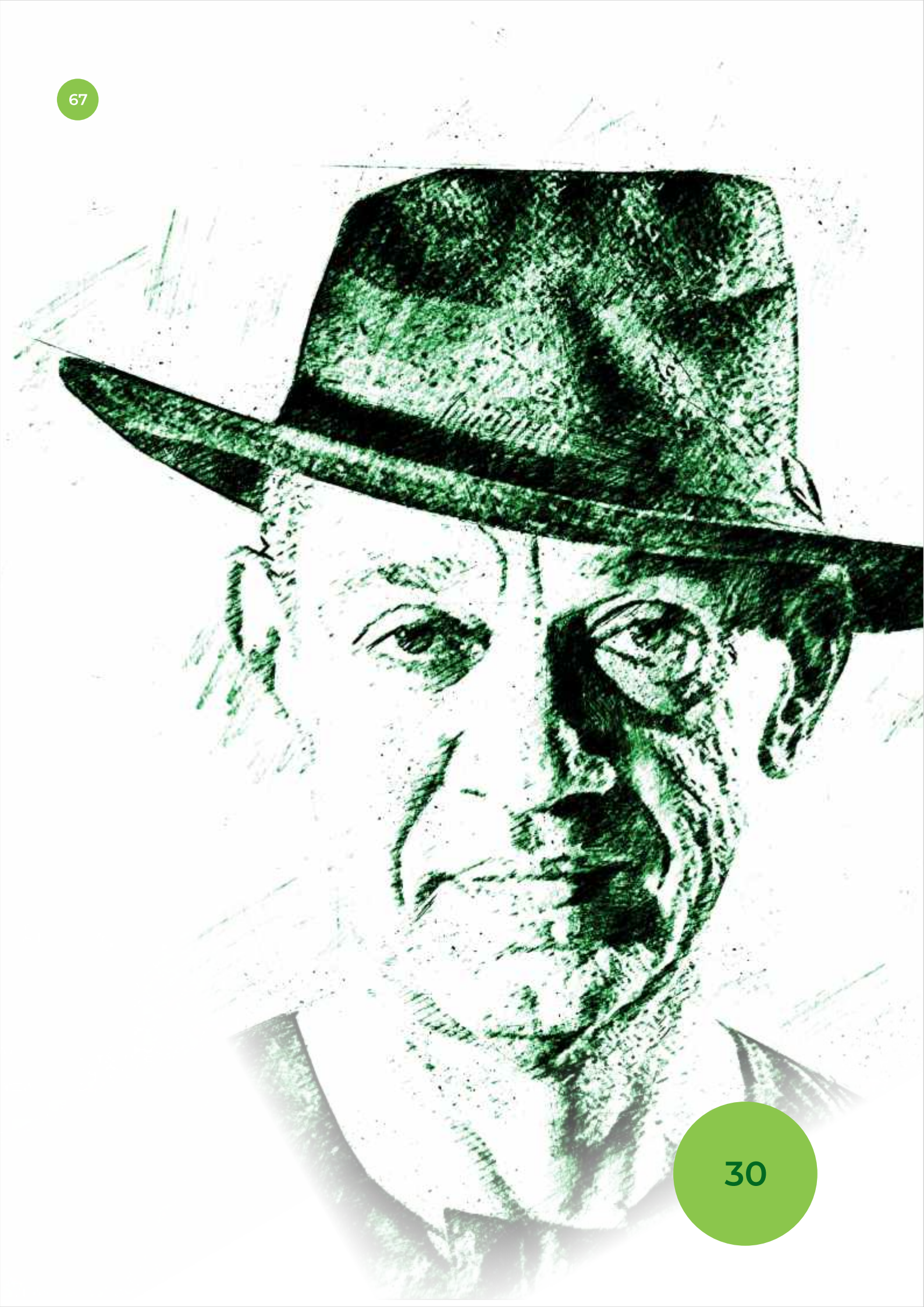
Kunle Bamtefa is a veteran Nigerian actor who has been in the movie industry for over two decades. He attended the prestigious University of Ibadan where he took an honours degree in Theatre Arts in 1979 with emphasis on Acting, Dance, and Directing. He is popularly known as Chief Fuji of the rested Amaka Igwe's Checkmate, a television drama of the early 1990s which later became Fuji House of

Commotion. Kunle also features in Nigerian TV series, The Johnsons as Pablo.

The Veteran Actors contribution to family entertainment for over two decades is warmly appreciated by NVFCB and Nigerians.

Thank you Chief!

Kunle Bamtefa





BEN MURRAY- BRUCE

Ben Murray Bruce is a business mogul, a politician, an authority in the entertainment industry and a philanthropist. Ben Bruce established Silverbird Group in 1980 after obtaining a loan from his father. Ben had only 6 members of staff and the business was involved in only pageantry and program syndication. The company's first set of pageantry jobs were the Miss Universe Nigeria Pageantry in 1983 and Miss Intercontinental Pageantry 1984.

Today, the silverbird group is one of the leading media and entertainment companies in the African entertainment industry. The company is now a conglomerate including Silverbird Cinema and Silverbird distribution Company.

The movie theatre, Silverbird Cinemas which revolutionized cinema in Nigeria pioneered the first five-screens Cineplex in sub-Saharan Africa. Silverbird Cinemas also possesses the largest cinema chain in West Africa with several locations in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Uyo and Accra, Ghana.

Silverbird Film Distribution is the body responsible for distributing all the films produced by Silverbird to the necessary platforms. In 2008, the company received an award as a "Superbrand" company in Nigeria for contributing greatly to the growth and development of entertainment and information through its Television and Radio stations.

Ben Bruce has since received numerous awards, some of which are; Showbiz Icon of the Year Award" (2005), Top Ten" Significant Nigerian Businessmen Award" (2006), Life Achiever Award" (2006), Champion for Nation Building Award" (2007), Excellent Personality Award" (2009), Officer of the Order of the Niger" (2014).

Thank you, Sir for your Patriotic Service, to Nigeria's Film & Video Industry

Ben Bruce





JOKE SILVA

Joke Silva, MFR (born 29 September 1961) is a Nigerian actress, director, and businesswoman. She remains one of Nigeria's most successful actresses who has featured in over 300 Nigerian movies and is most popular for movies like Phone Swap, The Secret Laughter of Women and as one of the Judges on the MTN Project Fame TV Series.

Silva is Director of Studies at the Lufodo Academy of Performing Arts, while her husband, Olu Jacobs chairs the school. Lufodo Academy is one of several assets she co-owns as part of the Lufodo Group, including Lufodo Productions, Lufodo Consult, and Lufodo Distribution. Silva has curated for the Bank of Industry (BOI) in Theatre, Film, Documentary and Poetry and the 2012 London Olympics. She is also the pioneer managing director of Maleté Film Village, in association with Kwara State University.

In addition to her work as an actress, Silva is a philanthropist and a strong supporter of women's emancipation and empowerment, contributing to their education, training and progress. On 29 September 2014,

Silva was honoured as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic, one of Nigeria's national honours, at the International Conference Centre in Abuja. In September 2016, she was unveiled as the brand ambassador for AICO Pension Managers Limited (APML).

Silva has starred in numerous films and television series in both the English and Yoruba languages. One of her earliest roles was in the 1990 English film *Mind Bending*. In 1993 she appeared in *Owulorojo*, followed by *Violated* in 1995, and starred opposite Colin Firth and Nia Long in the British-Canadian film *The Secret Laughter of Women* (1998), in which she portrayed Nene.

The accolades for 'Aunty Joke', as she is fondly addressed by the younger generation of actors, are too many and cannot all be mentioned for space.

We salute her, a trailblazing an African amazon. Well done, ma'am.



Joke Silva





AYO AKINWALE

Ayo Akinwale was a versatile producer, academician, playwright and former broadcaster. Akinwale was born to the royal household of Pa Akinwale in the ancient City of Ibadan and attended St. Lukes Demonstration School, Molete Ibadan, Oyo State, and then proceeded to Methodist High School also in Ibadan, where he was introduced to theater arts.

In 1966, he acted as 'Imodoye' in a movie titled 'Ogboju Ode ninu Igbo Irunmole,' produced by one of his teachers and then moved to Molusi College in Ijebu Igbo, where he obtained his Senior School Leaving Certificate.

He proceeded to the University of Ibadan before commencing academic work as a lecturer at the Polytechnic Ibadan. He became the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Culture of the University of Ilorin, and he was also the chairman of Oyo State Council for Arts and Culture.

Prof Akinwale had written several books and articles on Theatre Arts in Nigeria. Some of his publications include; 'From Compound Space, to the Living Stage' Nigerian Theatre Journal. Vol. 2, No. 1. (1998); 'Theatre and Democracy in Nigeria' Nigerian

Theatre Journal. Vol. 6, No. 1, 'Nigerian Playright'; Zulu Sofola (2005); 'The Nigerian Theatre and Economic Viability.' Arts Administration in Contemporary Nigeria; The Nigeria Broadcaster' Media Nigeria; 'The Theatre and Nigeria's New Democratic Environment: A Sociological Overview,' and many more.

He won the Best Indigenous Actor award at the 4th Africa Movie Academy Awards. He featured in quite a number of movies as an actor and producer, some of which are Sango, Ladepo Omo Adanwo, Clash of the Gods, Iranse Aje, Eti Keta among others.

Akinwale, described as one of the finest voices the institution had ever produced, was a great orator, role model and mentor to many students who passed through him in the university.

Prof Akinwale's contribution to the theatre and movie industry in Nigeria gave him the leverage of being assigned South-West Zonal Co-ordinator for the Abuja Carnivals, and also a judge for the National Festival for Arts and Culture (NAFEST).

You Fought a good fight, Rest on Legend!



Ayo Akinwale





FEMI ADELAKUN

Femi Adetakun He is the CEO of Century Pictures and is popularly known by his counterparts as Femi Baba Nla. Femi holds an HND in marketing. He developed his love for Showbiz as an undergraduate of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro.

Immediately after his graduation, Femi felt the best way he could help the showbiz industry is to go into the movie marketing business. After a few years of his foray into the business, he became a force to reckon with.

Femi Adetakun





ADEKUNLE OWOADE

Prince Adekunle Owoade is the CEO of Millennium Films and Marketing. He was introduced into movie marketing by his friend, Femi Adedokun. They both attended the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, where they studied Marketing. An HND holder, Prince is less than three years-old in the

business, but his works depict that of one who has been there for long. Prince had once worked with Citeco, Guinness and Pefac as a Marketing Executive before joining the Movie Marketing business.



Adekunle Owoade





SAM LOCO EFE

Sam Loco Efe (25 December 1945 – 7 August 2011), born Sam Loco Efeimwonkiyeke in Enugu, was a Nigerian actor and director.

Comedy in Nollywood must mention Sam Loco whenever the genre comes up. Mr. Efe lit up the screen and had people in stitches whenever he performed.

Sam Loco was born into a humble background, with a warder father and a petty trader mother. When his father died, he had to spend longer time in elementary school as he had to help his mother earn income for the family.

His first experience with acting was at his school when a theatre group came to stage a play called *The Doctor In Spite of Himself*. In elementary school, he was a member of various groups including a drama society that performed a rendition of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* at an Eastern Regional Arts Festival in Abakaliki. The play came last in the drama competition, but Efe was noted as the best actor, which earned him a scholarship to complete elementary school.

After elementary school, he attended various secondary schools and was active in the drama society, organizing a performance of *The Doctor in Spite of Himself* and a play called *Vendetta*. After secondary school, he was a member of a traveling theatre group and played soccer, earning him the moniker *Locomotive*, later shortened to *loco*.

He fought in the Nigeria-Biafra war, and after the war worked with Michelin and Dunlop selling tyres. In 1977, he left Sales for full time acting when he was cast as a member of NTA Benin's television series, *Hotel de Jordan*. He also performed in a rendition of Ola Rotimi's *The Gods are Not to Blame* and later got the lead part in *Langbodo*, a play by Dapo Adelugba, presented during Festac '77. When Festac '77 ended, Adelugba introduced him to a friend of his at University of Ibadan about opportunities in theatre where Mr. Efe got a position as a senior artiste in the institution.

We remember Mr. Sam Loco Efe today and always. May your soul continue to rest in peace, sir.

Sam Loco





LANCELOT IMASUEN

Lancelot Odua Imasuen is a renowned 49-year old movie producer and director who has worked in the Nigerian film industry since 1999.

His movies '...feature...aspects of...the African experience including tribalism, witchcraft, crime, poverty, religion and folk beliefs.'

His contributions to the Nigerian film and video industry resonates within and outside Nigeria: in 2008, a Canadian documentary Nollywood Babylon followed him as he shot Bent Arrow, his 157th movie that wove a storyline showcasing

'...the consequences of sexual abuse, betrayal, undue parental control and the male child syndrome in both the society and... young girls.'

Lancelot has directed over 160 movies, with his 2014 movie, Invasion 1897, winning the best film, best director and best sound design award and also being nominated for best cinematography, best actor, best special effects, best editing at the BON Awards.

NFVCB salutes Mr. Lancelot Imasuen.

Lancelot Imasuen





WALE ADENUGA

Wale Adenuga is a Nigerian businessman and film producer. He is the CHAIRMAN / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER of Wale Adenuga Production Ltd (WAP Ltd).

He is the son of a tobacco merchant, who used to belong to a pop band he formed in Kings' College, the secondary school he attended.

Born on September 24, 1950 at Ile-Ife, Mr. Adenuga is a former cartoonist/publisher, and currently a series producer, best known for the publications Ikebe Super, Binta and Super Story, and their televised versions through his own production company known as Wale Adenuga Production.

A 1974 graduate of Business Administration from the University of Lagos, Akoka, Mr. Wale Adenuga MFR is a humorist and creative person par excellence and has attended several training programmes on employing entertainment to instruct. He differs from his peers in the industry for his business acumen which has made the

Wale Adenuga Production Ltd one of the most well structured in the industry. Aside the WAP Ltd, he also established the Pencil Film and Television Institute (PEFTI) in 2004, which offers courses like Producing, Directing, and Cinematography. The school was featured in De Film Industries van Nigeria, a Danish documentary on the Nigerian film industry.

At the Nigeria Film Festival of 2002, he was a recipient of 5 awards, viz:

- a. Best Producer
- b. Best Script Writer
- c. Best Director
- d. Best Television Drama, and
- e. Best Socially Relevant Television Production.

The Nigerian film and video industry cannot be discuss we without the mention of Mr. Wale Adenuga.

We salute you, sir, Mr. Wale Adenuga, MFR.



Wale Adenuga





ALI NUHU

Ali Nuhu is a popular Northern movie producer, director and script writer. He acts in both Hausa and English movies and he also known as king of kannywood or “sarki” Ali by the media; Nuhu has appeared in more than 500 Nollywood and Kannywood films, and earned numerous accolades.

Nuhu is widely regarded as one of the greatest and most influential actors of all time in the history of Hausa Cinema as well as Nigerian Cinema in terms of audience size and income. He has been described as the most successful Hausa film star in the world. He is the first Nigerian celebrity to act in both the Northern Kannywood and Southern Nollywood movie industries of the country with full dominance and bringing the two cinemas together.

Ali Nuhu has won several movie academy awards. Some of the awards he has won includes; Best Upcoming Actor Award at the 3rd Africa Movie Academy Awards. He has also been nominated for The Best Actor in a Supporting Role at the 9th Africa Movie Academy Awards and won Best Actor in a Film at the 2013 Nigeria Entertainment Awards. Ali Nuhu has also won the City People Entertainment Award for Face of Kannywood of the Year and Best Actor in Indigenous Language (Hausa) at the Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards.

NFVCB hails the King of the North!







PEACE ANYIAM-OSIGWE

Pease Anyiam-Osigwe is a Nigerian filmmaker and entertainment executive who has been called "the queen of Nollywood films". She is the founder of globally acclaimed film ceremony, Africa Movie Academy Awards and the Africa Film Academy, a body that governs the film ceremony since 2005. The Guardian documents that she pioneered the screening of Nollywood films at

international film festivals. She directed the first music video of hip-hop sensation, P-Square. In 2012, she was bestowed a Member of the Federal Republic by the Nigerian government for her contribution to the entertainment industry. In 2015, she began the AfricaOne initiative to commemorate Africans in the entertainment industry.

Much respect Peace

Peace Anyiam-Osigwe





MO ABUDU

Mosunmola Abudu, also called Mo Abudu, is a popular Nigerian media personality, entrepreneur, philanthropist and former human resources management consultant born on September 11, 1964 in London, United Kingdom.

Mo is the CEO of EbonyLife TV and is known for her talk show "Moments with Mo" which she hosted alongside Bolanle Olukanni.

According to Forbes, she is the first African woman to own a Pan-African TV Channel. Ms. Abudu is often referred to as the Oprah Winfrey of Africa and was also named as "One of the 25 most Powerful Women in Global TV" by the Hollywood Reporter.

Abudu established Ebony TV in 2006, and in 2014, she established EbonyLife Films. Her first film as executive producer was *Fifty* (film). Teaming up with The ELFIKE Collective in 2016, she produced *The Wedding Party* which became the highest-grossing title of all time in the Nigerian film industry. Other films she has also executive-produced or co-produced are: *The Wedding Party 2*, *The Royal Hibiscus Hotel*, *Chief Daddy*, *Your Excellency* and *Òlòtùré*, "the story of a young, naïve Nigerian journalist who goes undercover to expose the shady underworld of human trafficking." *Òlòtùré's*

private screening was co-hosted with the Creative Artists Agency (CAA) at CAA's Los Angeles headquarters in June 2019.

In the same year, 2019, Abudu opened *EbonyLife Place*, a lifestyle and entertainment resort located on Victoria Island, Lagos.

In February 2020, a new partnership between EbonyLife TV and Netflix was announced. The streaming giant acquired EbonyLife's drama series: *Castle & Castle*, *Fifty*, *Sons of the Caliphate*, *On the Real*, and *The Governor*, along with a reality show, *The Dating Game* and the feature film, *The Royal Hibiscus Hotel*.

June 2020 saw Netflix signing a deal with EbonyLife which stipulated that Mo Abudu is to work with the teams at Netflix to create two original series as well as multiple Netflix-branded films. Among the highlights will be a film adaptation of *Death and the King's Horseman*, a play by Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka, and a series based on Lola Shoneyin's best-selling debut novel, *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives*.

Mo's drive, grit and passion is just the stuff Nigerian women are made of.

We celebrate Ms. Mosunmola Abudu.







CHIKA OKPALA

Chika Okpala, MFR (born June 10, 1950) is a Nigerian comedian. He is popularly known as Chief Zebrudaya Okoroigwe Nwogbo alias 4:30, an appellation he got from his role as "Chief Zebrudaya" in a TV comedy series, New Masquerade between 1983-1993.

Chika Okpala became famous for using incorrect English in his role as Chief Zebrudaya and continued with that style years after New Masquerade was rested. He is a successful comedian who has revealed that because of his job, every time he talks, his friends and family members think he's joking and do not take him seriously even when he is serious.

His character, Chief Zebrudaya never disappointed anybody who came across him; he had an open mind, always wanted the best for the people, the best in every home, the best in every

nation, the best in every profession and he also wanted to enjoy the best of life. These virtues were among the things that endeared Zebrudaya to millions of fans across Nigeria and made the New Masquerade a must-watch while it aired.

In 2017, the Nnobi, Anambra State-born comedian received what seemed the highest industry related honour of his life: he was awarded the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Award (AMVCA) 2017 Industry Merit Award, an award which included a brand new SUV from GAC.

One thing is pertinent to know about Zebrudaya: he is neither tired nor retired. Like fine wine, he is better with age.

We celebrate you, Mr. Chika Okpala (MFR), aka Chief Zebrudaya Okorigwe Nwogbo, alias 4:30.



Chika Okpala





OMONI OBOLI

Omoni Oboli (born 22 April 1978) is a bilingual (English and French) multi-award winning actress (Fifty, Being Mrs. Elliot), scriptwriter (Figurine, Wives At War), director and producer (Rivals, a movie she co-produced with her friend and won the prize for Best International Drama at the New York International Independent Film & Video Festival. It was the first Nigerian film to be premiered since the festival's inception in 2003. The movie was given a 3-star rating out of 4 by the festival's judges.)

She is a trained digital filmmaker at the New York Film Academy and is a gifted writer, with several intriguing screenplays to her credit, viz: 'Fatal Imagination', 'Being Mrs Elliott', 'The First Lady' and 'Wives on Strike'.

In 2010 she won the award for Best Actress - Narrative Feature

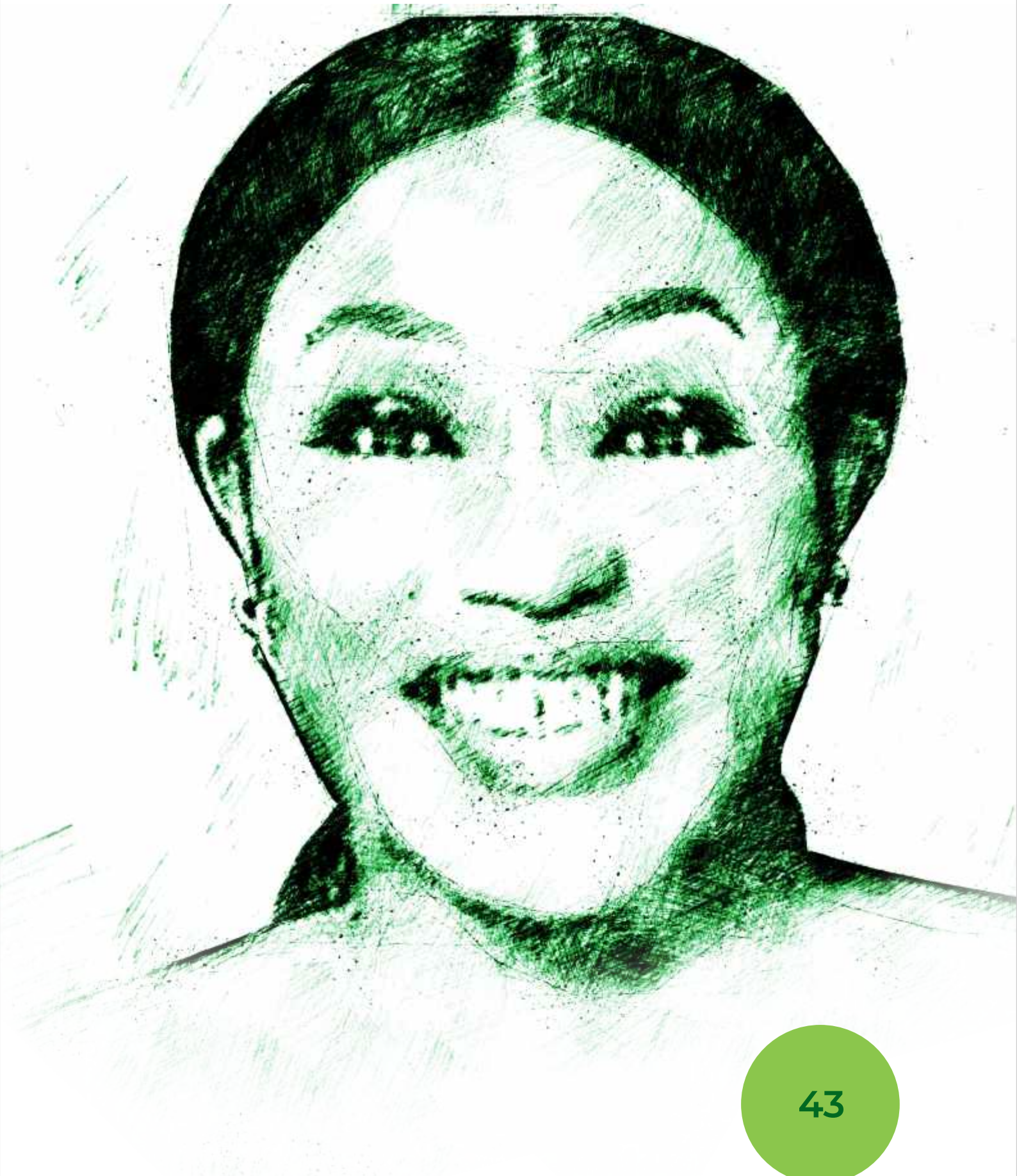
at the Los Angeles Movie Awards, and the award for Best Actress at the Harlem International Film Festival. Omoni was nominated for the Best Actress in a Leading Role award at the 2011 Africa Movie Academy Awards. In 2014, Ms. Oboli won Big Screen Actress of the Year award, at the 2014 ELOY Awards, for her movie, Being Mrs Elliott. In 2015, Omoni was awarded the Sun Nollywood personality of the year.

With her movies, 'Being Mrs Elliott', 'The First Lady' and 'Wives on Strike', she has shown her talent behind the camera as the director.

Omoni has been in the movie industry since the 90s, but took a break after school in the mid-to-late 90s and returned a decade later.

We celebrate this feisty amazon. Keep shining, Omoni.







RITA DOMINIC

Rita Uchenna Nkem Dominic, popularly known as Rita Dominic is a famous Nollywood actress, producer, model, television personality, investor and a philanthropist. She is regarded as one of the most industrious actresses in Nollywood and also one of the highest paid actresses in Nigeria.

She is always known for featuring in romantic, sorrowful and action thriller movies. She had interest in acting at a very tender age and started performing in stage drama when she was still a child, appearing in school plays, drama and children's television show in her home town of Imo State in the south eastern part of Nigeria. During her secondary school days, she was an active member of her school dramatic club. She went on to study Theatre Arts and graduated with a BA (Honours) Degree in 1999.

In 1998, Rita starred in her first ever formal movie called, A Time to Kill. Thus far, Rita Dominic has starred in over 300 Nollywood movie productions. She is one of the highest paid actresses in Nigeria and has been listed as

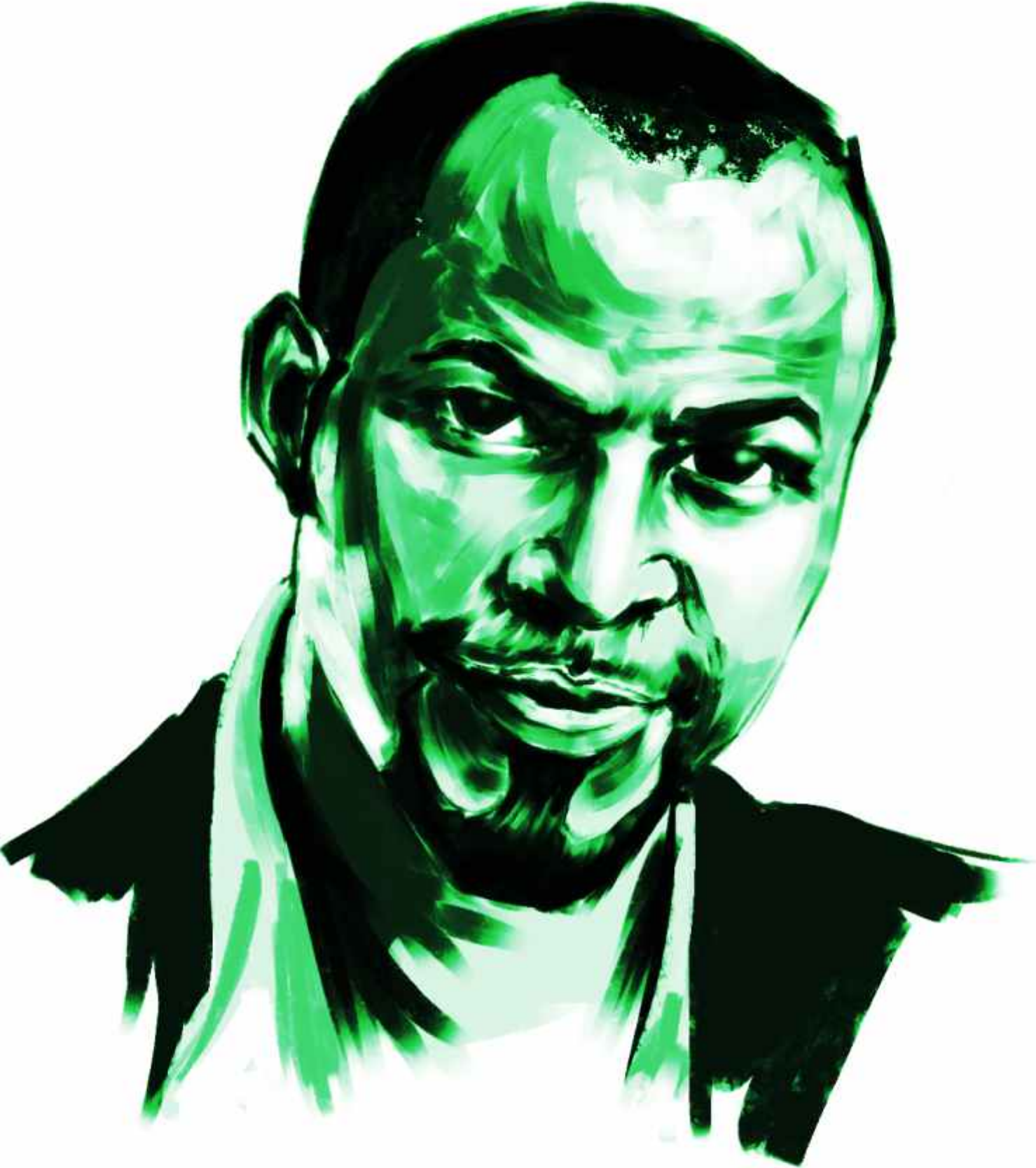
one of the most beautiful and elegant actresses in the country.

In the cause of her scintillating career, she has won several awards, some of them being: Best Actress in a Leading Role at the African Movie Academy Awards, Most Outstanding Actress in Nigeria at the City People Entertainment Awards and Most Promising Actress in Nigeria at the Nigeria Entertainment Awards. The year 2015 saw Rita Dominic winning the Best Actress in Nigeria at the Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards for her role in the blockbuster movie "The Meeting" which she also co-produced.

The smart Nigerian actress is a personalization of ideal beauty for many African women. Without a doubt, she has established herself as a leading choice in African movies. Her enchanting character attracts the attention of millions.

Well done to a Queen of Nollywood Entertainment.

Rita Dominic





RAMSEY NOUAH

Ramsey Nouah was born on December 19, 1970 in Lagos, Nigeria.

He has been in the Nigerian movie industry since 1998 when he was starting out as an aspiring musician. However, heeding a friend's advice, he took a stab at acting and by the age of 21, he auditioned and instantly won the role of Jeff in an on-coming Nigerian television soap opera, Fortunes. By the age of 23, he had been on Fortunes (from 1993 to 1994) which was a smash hit. Captivating the viewers with his performance as Jeff (a name he is widely called in Nigeria), he instantly rose to fame and became one of the most recognised face in the Nigerian entertainment industry.

Ramsey has been in hundreds of movies and is an African household name that won't be forgotten for his immense contribution to the African entertainment industry at large.

He has won numerous awards for his acting and contribution to the African entertainment

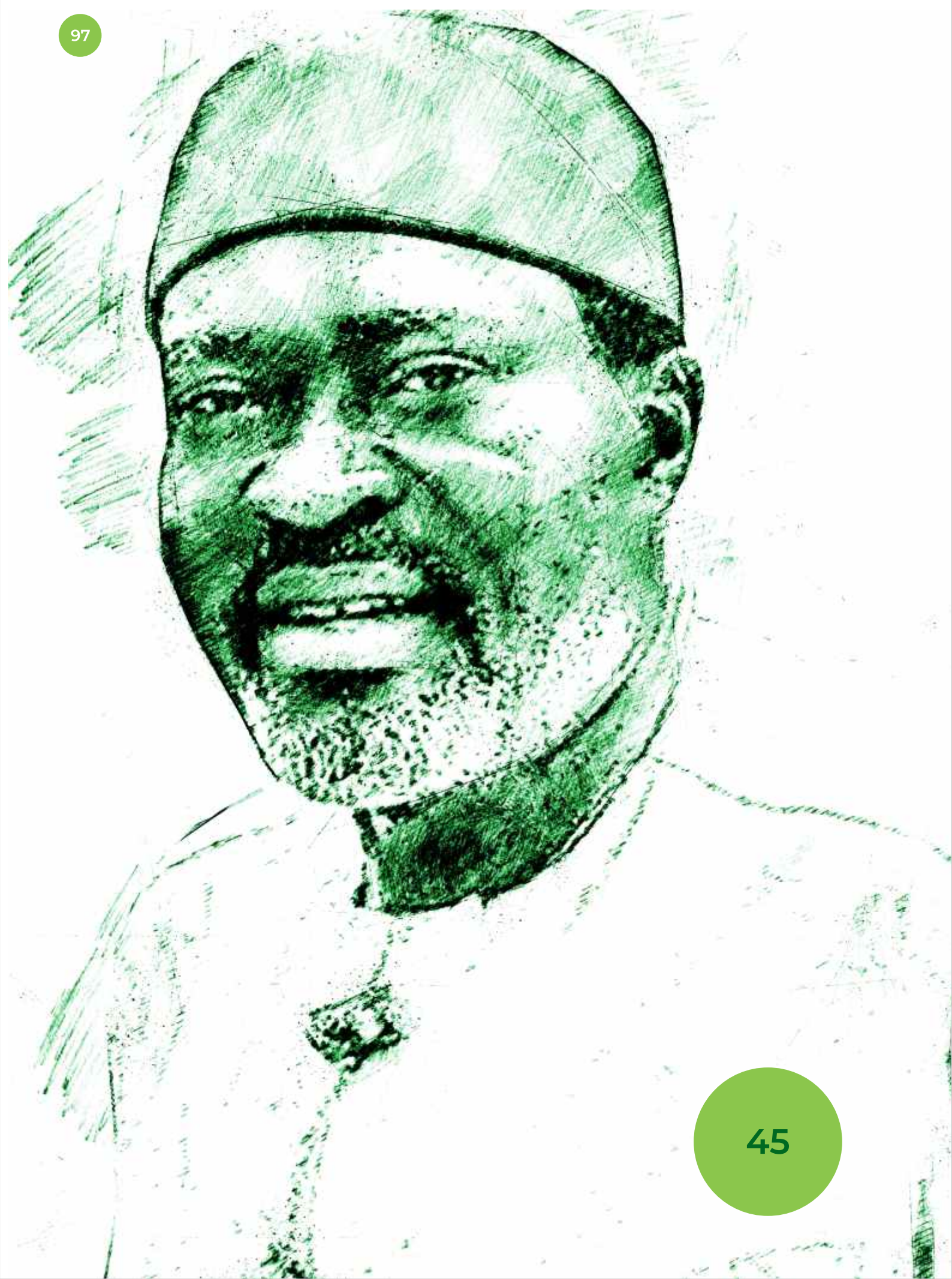
industry in Nigeria and around the world. In 2010, he won Best Actor at the African Movie Academy Awards for his performance in *The Figurine* (2009), and was also nominated, in 2017, for the African Movie Academy Award for "Best Actor in a Leading Role" in the movie "76". In 2015, he secured the rights to *Living in Bondage: Breaking's Free* from Kenneth Nnebue for a possible remake to be filmed in Europe, America, and Nigeria. With *Living In Bondage*, he cut his teeth as a director.

Considered to be one of the most sought-after Nigerian actors, Ramsey is father to three children and husband to Emelia Phillips-Nouah.

Contrary to several records that he is a graduate of Mass Communications from the University of Lagos, the prolific actor born of an Israeli father and a Yoruba mother, has debunked this claim, revealing that he does not have a university degree whatsoever.

Nigeria salutes an honest man, Mr. Ramsey Nouah. We celebrate you, sir.

Ramsey Nouah





KANAYO O. KANAYO

Anayo Modestus Onyekwere (popularly known as Kanayo O. Kanayo, born March 1, 1962 in Mbaise, Imo State, Nigeria) is a lawyer and a leading Nigerian actor.

In 1992, Kanayo, who has starred in over 100 films made his debut movie appearance in the film *Living in Bondage*. His most recent movies are *Up North* and *Living in Bondage: Breaking Free*.

He is a multi award-winning actor who is currently a United Nations Ambassador and bears the title of MFR. Kanayo was among various Nigerians

honored by the government in 2014 during the centenary celebration. He was nominated in 2008 for African Movie Academy Award for Best Actor in the movie *"Across the Niger"*. In 2006 he won the African Movie Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in the movie *"Family Battle"*.

Kanayo enrolled with the University of Abuja and in 2019 graduated with a Law degree before proceeding to the Nigerian Law School Abuja campus whereafter he was called to bar, in 2020 at the age of 58.

KOK, NFVCB salutes you, sir.

Kanayo O. Kanayo





ZACK AMATA

Zack Amata, a Christian-Muslim, as he calls himself, is a veteran Nigerian film maker who attributes the birth of Nollywood to 'Igbo boys.'

Now a major player and producer in Kannywood, the northern Nigeria movie industry, Zack starred in the hit TV series, 'Behind the Clouds,' and also featured in the celebrated 'Black November,' a film by his son, Jeta Amata. His father, the legendary John Amata, was an actor who did a film that was considered a major hit way back in 1957, long before many Nigerian movie practitioners had a clue as to what movie making was all about. The Amata family (Zack, Fred, Jeta, Mena and Ruke) is considered a family of theatre and film with Zack as its patriarch.

Known as a no-nonsense person who, as his own son's (Jeta) Theatre Arts lecturer in the university, 'Oga Zack' did not condone any form of recalcitrant misdemeanor from Jeta.

He is in his 60s and is the Chairman, Board of trustees of Centre for Change & Community Development, a body with the mission to fight poverty, disease and religious intolerance in Nigeria using the power of films, movie productions and television drama to combat and help change the societal attitudes, fears, misconceptions and misunderstandings that stand as barriers to maternal and child health, girls' education, social justice, women empowerment, human rights, good governance, stability and peace.

Nigeria salutes you, sir. Ride on, Mr. Zack Amata.







PATIENCE OZOKWOR

Who can discuss Nollywood without mentioning Mama G?

Mama G is Patience Ozokwor.

Born in 1958 at Ngwo, Enugu State, Ms. Ozokwor has starred in hundreds of movies. She is not only a renowned actress, but also a musician, fashion designer and gospel singer.

She won the Best Supporting Actress 2012 & 2013 award at the 10th Africa Movie Academy Awards. Ozokwor was among 100 Nigerians honoured by the government to celebrate the amalgamation of the northern and southern protectorates in 2014.

Ozokwor, who is known for her many movie roles as a devious,

conniving, manipulative woman, is a graduate of Fine & Applied Arts from IMT (Institute of Management Technology). She began her career in 1998 and became popular in 1999 after starring in the movie, Authority. Patience has starred in over 200 movies, and has acted with prominent artistes like Olu Jacobs, Ini Edo, Rita Dominic, Pete Edochie, Nkem Owoh, etc.

She strongly posits that hard work and passion are essential for life as an actor.

We salute you, Mama G, Patience Ozokwor. Keep moving!

Patience Ozokwor





MOSES OLAIYA

Alongside a number of other late entertainers like Hubert Ogunde, Kola Ogunmola and Duro Ladipo, Moses Olaiya Adejumo, aka Baba Sala popularised theatre and television acting in Nigeria.

The comedian discovered, tutored and mentored the lead guitarist who would later become known as King Sunny Ade. By 1969, Moses Olaiya had become a full-time professional theatre comedian after he disbanded his Moses Olaiya Concert Party. He founded the Moses Olaiya International Alawada Theatre Limited shortly after and together they travelled extensively round Nigerian towns and cities.

In his lifetime, Baba Sala was a prolific filmmaker who could not be boxed with the term musician or actor, he was a thespian who knew his art, practiced it diligently and dedicated his life to it.

His film works include Orun Mooru (1982), Aare Agbaye (1983),

Mosebolatan (1985), Obee Gbona (1989), Diamond (1990 Home video), Agba Man (1992, Home Video), Return Match (1993, Home Video), Ana Gomina (1996, home video), Tokunbo (1985, TV)

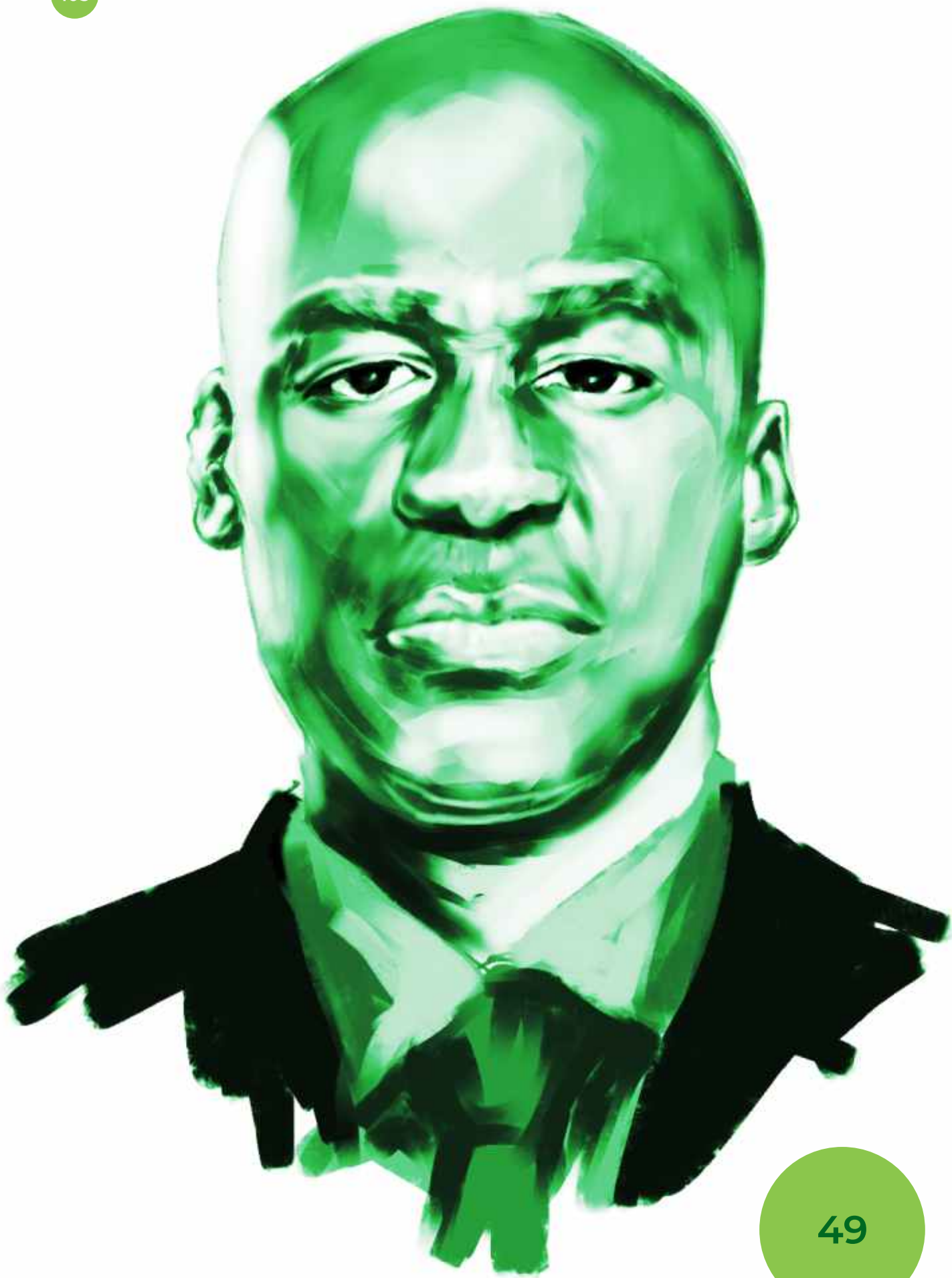
His era of reign dates back to the time before what we know as stand-up comedy. Even before the Baba Suwes and Ali Babas of this world, Olaiya was already plying the trade of humour. His humour was fresh, locally sourced, relatable and prima facie hilarious.

After his death in 2018, Best of Nollywood Magazine announced that the category "comedy of the year" will now be known as "Moses Adejumo Comedy of the Year" to honour him for his contribution to the industry

A hearty thank you to the Father of Nigerian Comedy



Moses Olaiya





NNAETO ORAZULIKE

Dr Nnaeto Orazulike is the Founder and Owner of Genesis Group Nigeria, a hospitality group which has been in existence for 25 years and is involved in contract Catering, Hotels, Restaurants, Cinemas and Snack Production, Real Estate Development and Oil and Gas Services. For over 29 years, Genesis Group Nigeria has provided exceptional products and services to multinationals, indigenous corporations and the Nigerian public.

Nnaeto's contribution to the Movie industry started in 2008 when he established Genesis Cinema. The Genesis Cinemas Brand and company was launched into the Nigerian market in the year 2008, in Lagos. By the month of December 2011, the company had served over 15 million customers. Since then, Genesis Cinemas has grown to 9 cinemas with 35 screens and over 5000 seats. Genesis Cinemas has cinemas located in Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Warri, Owerri, Abuja and Asaba.

Nnaeto's journey into the cinema industry began with the belief that he could provide a unique entertainment experience, where the best international and domestic movie releases could be enjoyed within ultra-modern, friendly and welcoming ambiance. As is typical of Genesis investments, today one can say with confidence that Genesis Cinemas is a market leader within the Nigerian cinema industry.

In recognition of his far-reaching contributions to human and societal development, he has been honoured by several organizations. In 2011, he was honoured by the Anambra State Government during the 20th Anniversary of the State's creation. He was also honoured by the University of Port Harcourt in 2015 with the prestigious award of Honorary Doctorate Degree of Doctor of Science.

Nnaeto Orazulike





RICHARD MOFE DAMIJO

Richard Mofe Damijo

Popularly known as RMD, Richard Mofe-Damijo was born into a family of 18 in Warri, Delta State, Nigeria on July 6, 1961.

He is a Nigerian actor, lawyer and politician. In 2005 he won the African Movie Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role and was a onetime Commissioner for Culture and Tourism in his home state, Delta State, Nigeria.

The veteran actor is considered as Nigeria's 'Prince of the Silver Screen', not only for his handsome look but for playing leading roles in block booster movies with his grooming and charisma. He has starred in over 60 movies and television series both locally and internationally is the founder of

RMD Productions, White Water Limited and RMD Foundation.

The RMD Productions is an umbrella for the RMDtvng and RMDtheactor, an entertainment platform that produces creative content, television and radio productions, broadcasting etc.

White Water Limited is a Nigerian PR outfit that deals with public relations consultancy, and because of his love for charitable causes, the RMD Foundation is a platform that mentor for greatness.

RMD, you're a living legend. We salute you.







RASAK ABDULLAHI

The movie entrepreneur is a graduate of the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Rasak Abdullahi is the CEO of Corporate Pictures. He is one of the earliest investors in the Yoruba movie genre of Nollywood and has been a producer for almost two decades with hit flicks like “Owo Blow” on the list of his success story. Over the years Rasak Abdullahi has invested millions of Naira into Nigeria’s showbusiness. As a respected contributor to Nigerian show business, Rasak has won several awards, including the BON Awards for the best Marketer of the year,

2013.

Sir, your love and work as one of the giants of Nigerian entertainment industry is admirable. Cheers to one of the Best.

Rasak Abdullahi



AYO "AY" MAKUN

Ayodeji Richard Makun, also known as AY, is a prolific comedian, movie producer and director, actor, radio and TV presenter, writer, and MC.

Born on August 19, 1978 in Warri, AY hails from Ondo State in Southwest Nigeria and is the eldest of seven siblings. AY identifies with his place of birth and prefers to be called a 'Warri boy'.

In 2010, he won the Nigerian Entertainment Award for Comedian of The Year and was named a U.N. Peace Ambassador in 2009 after winning six different Comedian of the Year awards in 2008. Other awards under his belt are:

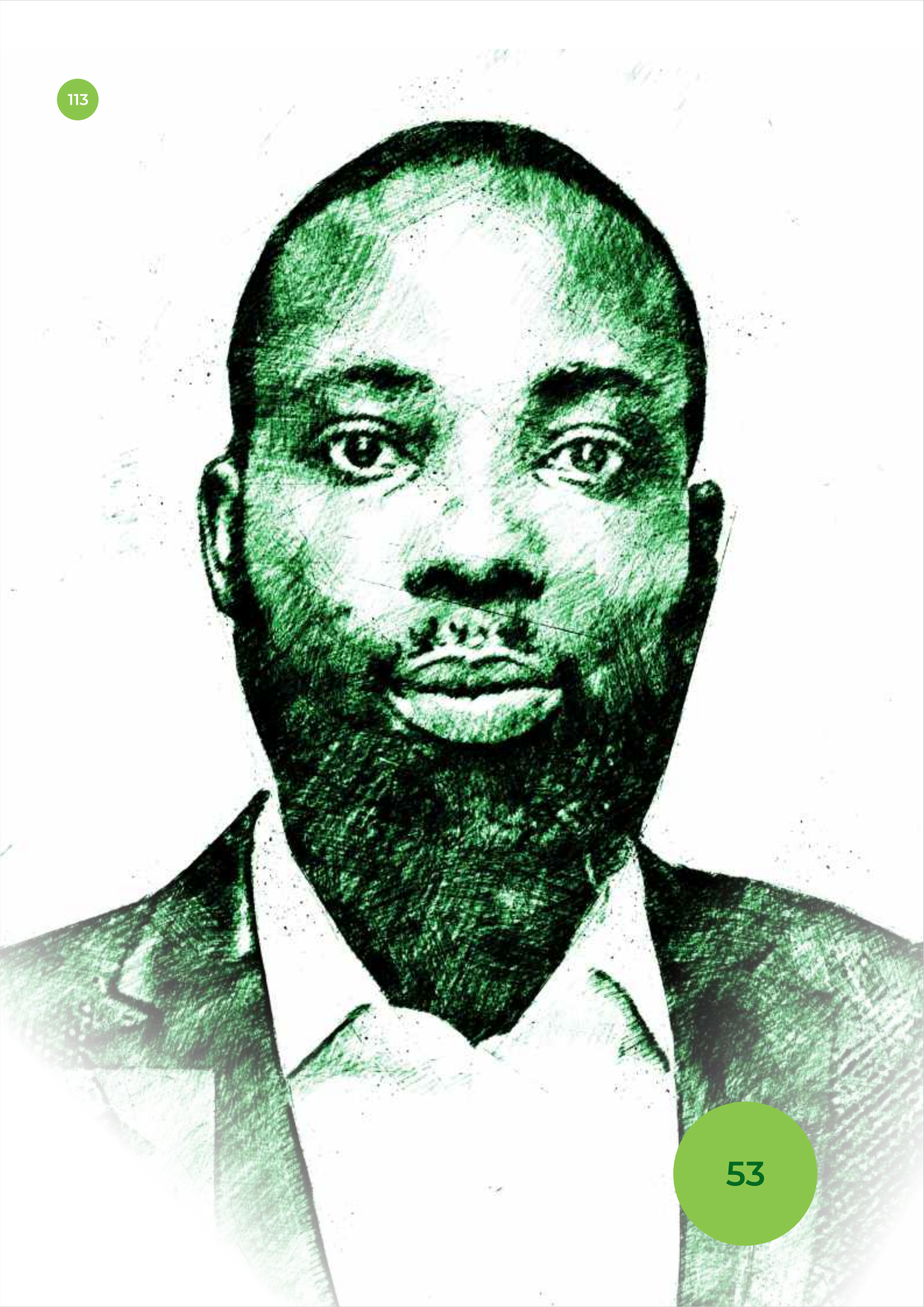
a. Most creative Entrepreneur of the year (Comedy category): C.E.A.N

b. Best Event A.Y Live: NELAS Awards 2018, United Kingdom.

An astute business man, AY signed a deal in 2019 with Chinese entertainment group, Huahua Media to produce the first major China-Nigeria film. The deal involves the co-production of 30 days in China which is part of Makun's comedy franchise: '30 days in Atlanta' and '10 days in Sun City'. In these productions, he films adventures in new countries.

AY is also the Chief Executive Officer of Corporate World entertainment, Nigeria. As an investor in stand-up comedy, he has influenced upcoming comedians through his AY 'Open Mic Challenge'.

We celebrate the maestro, AY Makun.





ISHAYA BAKO

Ishaya Bako, born December 1986, is a Nigerian film director and screenwriter. He was born in Kaduna, where he lived all his life and later moved to London, where he studied at the London Film School. After attending the London Film School, Bako went on to script and direct the African Movie Academy Awards (AMAA)-winning *Braids on a Bald Head*.

He won the Best Short Film Awards at the 8th African Movie Academy Awards. He is an emerging voice of his generation and a member of a select few Global Shapers, a collection of enterprising youths initiated by

the World Economic Forum. His film *Fuelling Poverty* (2012), a documentary on poverty and fuel subsidy in Nigeria, is narrated by Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka. His film *The Royal Hibiscus Hotel* was screened at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival and he was one of the writers for the movie *Lionheart* (2018)

Salute Ishaya!



Ishaya Bako





MOSES BABATOPE

Babatope is one of the leading stakeholders in Nigeria's cinema and film distribution industries. He is also a known writer and movie producer. With his business ventures, Babatope is not just addressing the needs of movie enthusiasts, he is also committed to delivering returns for filmmakers in the country.

Babatope has cognate experience of over 20 years in cinema operations management, film production, and film distribution. His experience cuts across several locations in the world, including Nigeria and the UK.

Both FilmOne and Filmhouse Cinema were co-founded by Babatope in December 2012. Ever since then, the companies have been major players in the Nigerian film industry. Filmhouse Cinema specialises in cinema operations.

FilmOne Distribution and Production Company is an independent distributor and

producer of filmed entertainment which provides top-end film release services, mainly in Nigeria. FilmOne's debut project "Half Of a Yellow Sun" was released in 2014. It is pertinent to note that the company also distributed "30 Days In Atlanta," a movie which was declared the highest grossing film of all time in Nigerian cinemas in 2015.

Moses also oversaw the aggregation arrangement that delivered the highest batch of Nollywood films to the world's largest internet TV platform in 2017. Filmhouse and FilmOne are the market leaders in Cinema Exhibition and Film Distribution accounting for 38% and 41% market share (as of 2017) in their respective fields.

In November 2018, Babatope was recognised as the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' by Harvard Business School Association of Nigeria.

Thank you for your outstanding performers. Your achievement in the Industry speaks for itself.

Moses Babatope





BONGOS IKWUE

Bongos Ikwue, the music legend was born in Otukpo, Benue State, Nigeria, on the 6th of June 1942. In 1956, he attended St, Paul's Secondary school in Zaria, Nigeria, where his friends called him "Forge" because he was always making up (forging) and singing his own songs. In 1962, while at Okene Comprehensive Secondary School, he formed a group called Cubana Boys with two other young boys, after which he headed off to the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), also in Zaria, Kaduna State, where he studied Business Administration.

In 1967 he founded and headed the Groovies band, which became extremely popular in the 1970's through to the 80's. Many

love him for his soulful, folksy songs, the most popular titled, Cockcrow At Dawn which was the theme song for a Nigerian edutainment serial that aired weekly on the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) network in the early 1980s also. The project was developed and financed by NTA and United Bank for Africa to promote interest in farming.

Bongus Ikwue's impact on Nigeria's entertainment industry cuts across not only the Musical but also Nigeria's film industry.

Sing on Legend!



Bongos Ikwue





STANLEY OKORIE

Many of us have listened to his composition but do not know the name and face behind the art. Stanley Okorie was one of Nollywood's veteran composers and was on most movies when the industry was budding. His soundtracks were a delight to many and made us love the movies more.

He has the Stanley Okorie Nollywood Songs, Vol. 1-6 online.

Thank you for making beautiful movies Stanley

Stanley Okorie





OMOTOLA EKEINDE

Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde, aka Omo Sexy (born Omotola Jalade, February 7, 1978) is a Nigerian actress, singer, philanthropist and former model.

Since her Nollywood film debut in 1995, the leading actress has appeared in 300 films, selling millions of video copies. After receiving numerous high-profile awards, launching a music career, and amassing an enviable fan base, she is highly revered in the Nigerian movie industry.

She is the first African celebrity to receive over 1 million likes on her Facebook page and currently has a total of 3 million followers on Facebook.

Beyond Omotola's show business accomplishments, she is also applauded for her remarkable humanitarian efforts. She is one of the pioneers of the Video Film Era of Nigerian Cinema, becoming the most watched actress in Africa. In the year (2013), she was honoured in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world alongside Michelle Obama, Beyoncé and Kate Middleton. In the same year (2013), Omotola

made her US television debut in VH1's scripted series, Hit The Floor. Still in 2013, she spoke at the 2013 edition of the WISE- Summit, held in Doha, Qatar.

The year 2014 saw her being honoured by the Nigerian government as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic (MFR) for her contributions to Nigerian cinema/movie industry. In 2018, Jalade-Ekeinde, was invited to become a member of the voting membership of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Academy which organizes the Oscars awards ceremony. Upon her invitation, she opined that that was a sign that Hollywood was ready to "move closer to African filmmakers." With that invitation also, she has become one of 928 artists and executives who are voting members and will decide the Oscars nominations for motion pictures.

The year 2020 marks Omotola's 25th year in the entertainment industry. She is married to Captain Matthew Ekeinde in 1996. Together, they have four children.

We celebrate you, 'Omo Sexy'
Omotola Jalade Ekeinde.







ODUNLADE ADEKOLA

Odunlade Adekola was born on December 31, 1978 in Abeokuta, Nigeria. He is an actor and producer, known for *Wives on Strike: The Revolution* (2019), *Taxi Driver: Oko Ashewo* (2015) and *Kabiosi* (2015).

Odun gained popularity with his lead role in Ishola Durojaye's 2003 movie, *Asiri Gomina Wa*, and has acted in multiple Nollywood movies since then.

Adekola began acting in 1996, the same year he joined the Association of Nigeria Theatre Arts practitioners. He has starred in, scripted, produced and directed several Nigerian films

over the years. In 2014, he won the Africa Movie Academy Award for the best actor of the year. In the Yoruba movie industry, Odun is a force to be reckoned with. He has starred in hundreds of movies with photographs of Adekola during filming widely used as internet memes across the Nigerian webosphere.

He is the CEO of Odunlade Adekola Film Production (OAFP).

We salute you sir. Shing.







PRINCE OSITA OKEKE

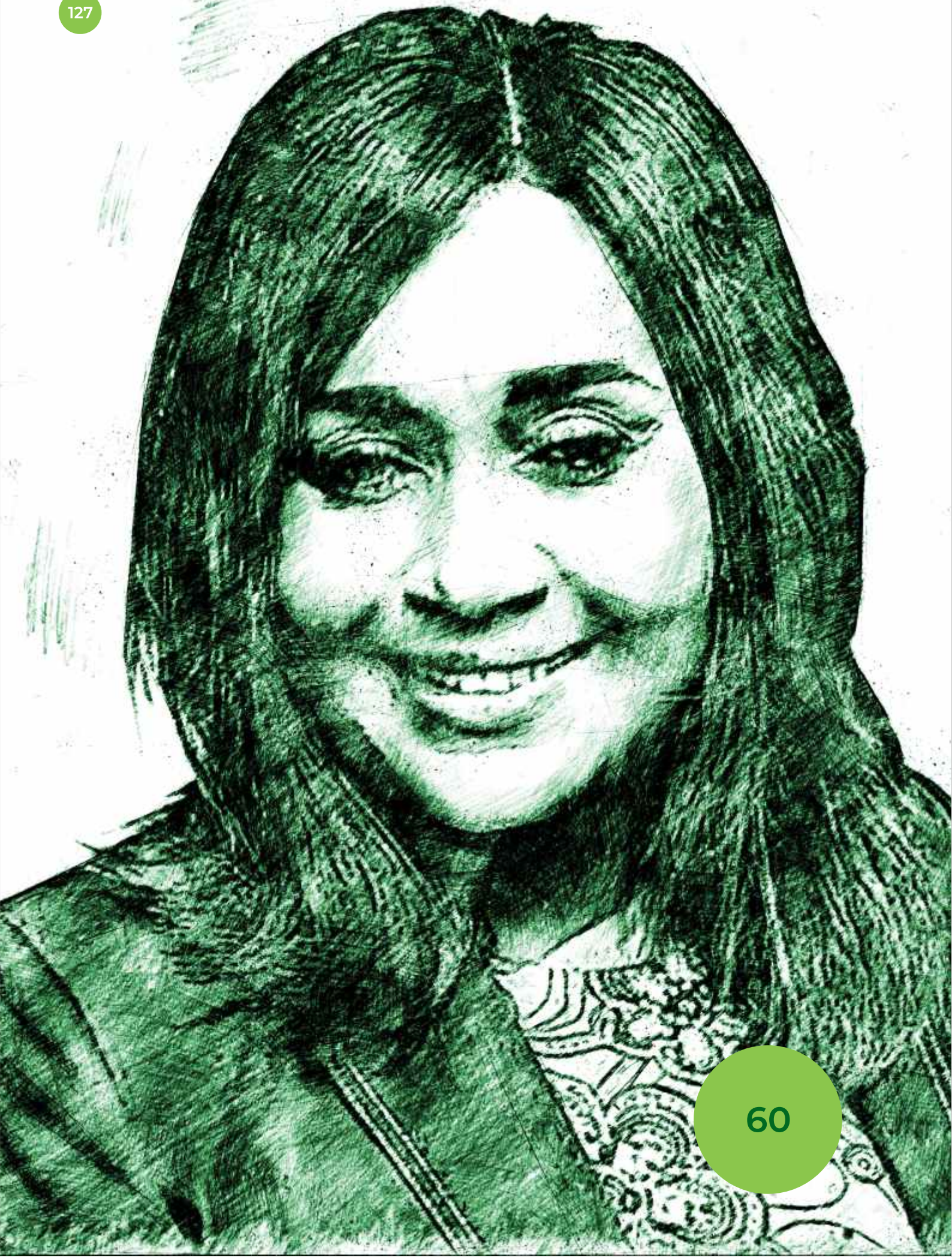
Prince Osita Okeke is the founder of Ossy Affason. He is the founder of the oldest company in the entertainment industry in Nigeria, with a solid background in several aspects of production spanning over 35 years. The company started business in 1976, with gramophone records with the and gradually expanded with time to its present level.

Amongst other things, under the leadership of her vibrant founder, Ossy Affason has been involved in the production, marketing and distribution of hundreds of Nollywood Movies. The company

is well known for the production of "Witches," "Scores to Settle," "State of Emergency," "Danger Signal," "Sensational Spy," among others. Movies produced by the company has brought several Nollywood stars in to the Sir Osita Okeke was a given a life time Achievement Award in 2013 for his contribution to the Nigerian Movie Industry in 2013.

Happy Cheers to an Icon of Nigeria's Movie Industry

Prince Osita Okeke





HILDA DOKUBO

Hilda Dokubo was born as the first of six children in Buguma, a town in Asari-Toru, Rivers State where she went on to complete her primary and secondary school education at St Mary State School Aggrey Road and Government Girls Secondary School respectively. She is an alumna of the University of Port Harcourt where she earned her Bachelor and master's degrees in Theatre Arts.

Dokubo made her screen debut during her youth service in a 1992 film titled *Evil Passion*. She has since been featured and has produced several Nigerian films. Upon starring in a supporting role in a 2015 film titled *Stigma*, Dokubo won Best Actress in a Supporting Role at the 11th Africa Movie Academy Awards.

Thank you Hilda!





CREDITS

Abubakar Abdullahi (CEO, Ideosphere Limited) assembled and captained the team of experts that put together this beautiful piece. The coffee table book is another proof of his knack for excellence.

Even at odd hours Stella Uchechi Nnodi, brought her critical thinking prowess to table. What a brilliant show of commitment this was.

Douglas Okonko built a reputation for prompt responds to task and devotion to duty. His research and writing skill is commendable.

Najib Kazaure's problem-solving strategies more often than not added significant value to team effort.

Paula Ukwenya offered the artistry dexterity that speaks for itself through the pages of this work.

The cooperative effort of the NFVCB Team through the course of the project has been solid.



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The book, *60 Icons That Have Shaped The Nigeria Film & Video Industry*, is filled with insights on Nigeria's journey in the film & video industry. By showcasing icons cut across industry value chain, ethnic affiliation and religion, it forges within its pages examples of personal experiences, bold steps, challenges and achievements of personalities who dared to follow the tenuous path of entertainment.

The stories in this compendium flaunt the tireless contributions of both the new and the old schools and immediately stir within any one who cares to peep, a sense of Nigeria's outstanding feats in the film & video industry.



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