

LAGOS INTERNATIONAL
POETRY
FESTIVAL

OCT 28TH - NOV 1ST

THEME

BORDER
LESS
WORDS

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



FREEDOM PARK, BROAD STREET,
LAGOS ISLAND AND OTHER VENUES



WARSAN SHIRE

WARSAN SHIRE IS A WRITER, POET, EDITOR AND TEACHER. BORN IN KENYA IN 1988 AND RAISED IN LONDON TO SOMALI PARENTS, SHE HAS READ HER WORK EXTENSIVELY AS AN INTERNATIONALLY TOURING POET. IN 2014

SHE WAS APPOINTED THE FIRST YOUNG POET LAUREATE FOR LONDON. HER FIRST BOOK 'TEACHING MY MOTHER HOW TO GIVE BIRTH' WAS PUBLISHED BY FLIPPED EYE IN 2012. IN 2013 SHE WON THE INAUGURAL AFRICAN POETRY PRIZE AND IN 2014 SHE WAS SELECTED AS QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA'S POET IN RESIDENCE WHERE SHE SPENT SIX WEEKS COLLABORATING WITH THE ABORIGINAL CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

WARSAN LIVES IN CALIFORNIA AND IS WORKING ON HER FIRST FULL COLLECTION.

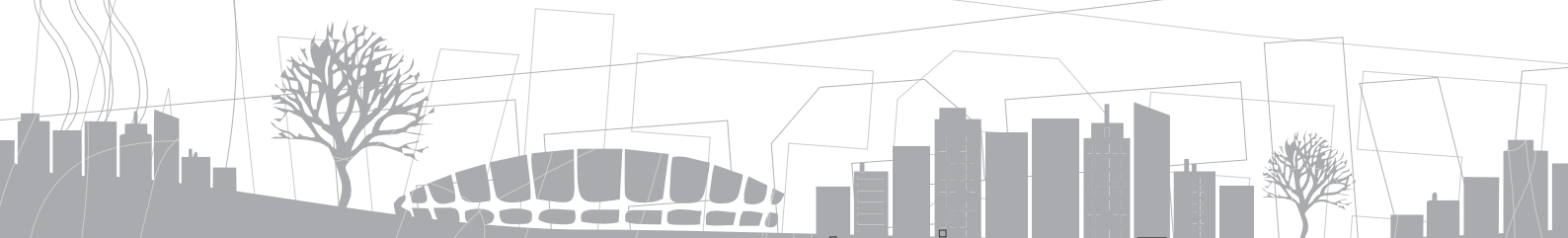


INUA ELLAMS

INUA ELLAMS IS A CROSS ART FORM PRACTITIONER, A POET, PLAYWRIGHT & PERFORMER, A GRAPHIC ARTIST & DESIGNER BASED IN LONDON.

HE IS A COMPLETE WORKS POET ALUMNI, A PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENT AT SOHO THEATRE, RESIDENT AT THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE'S POETRY LIBRARY, AND A GRAPHIC DESIGNER AT WHITE SPACE CREATIVE AGENCY. ACROSS HIS WORK, IDENTITY, DISPLACEMENT & DESTINY ARE REOCCURRING THEMES IN WHICH HE ALSO TRIES TO MIX THE OLD WITH THE NEW: TRADITIONAL AFRICAN STORYTELLING WITH CONTEMPORARY POETRY / PENCIL WITH PIXEL / TEXTURE WITH VECTOR IMAGES.

HIS FIRST TWO BOOKS OF POETRY ARE PUBLISHED BY FLIPPED EYE, AND SEVERAL PLAYS BY OBERON.





LEBO MASHILE

THE POET, PERFORMER, ACTRESS, PRESENTER AND PRODUCER LEBOGANG MASHILE, THE DAUGHTER OF EXILED SOUTH AFRICANS, WAS BORN IN THE U.S. IN 1979. IN 2006 SHE WAS AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS NOMA AWARD FOR PUBLISHING IN AFRICA, THE PREMIER PRIZE FOR LITERATURE FROM THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

THE JURY CHARACTERIZED HER POETRY AS OF “A DISTINCT ORAL FLAVOUR, DEVELOPING ORAL POETRY AND PERFORMANCE BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE POETRY OF THE ERA OF RESISTANCE”.

MASHILE IS ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST RENOWNED VOICES LIVES WITH HER SON IN JOHANNESBURG.
WWW.LEBO-MASHILE.CO.ZA.



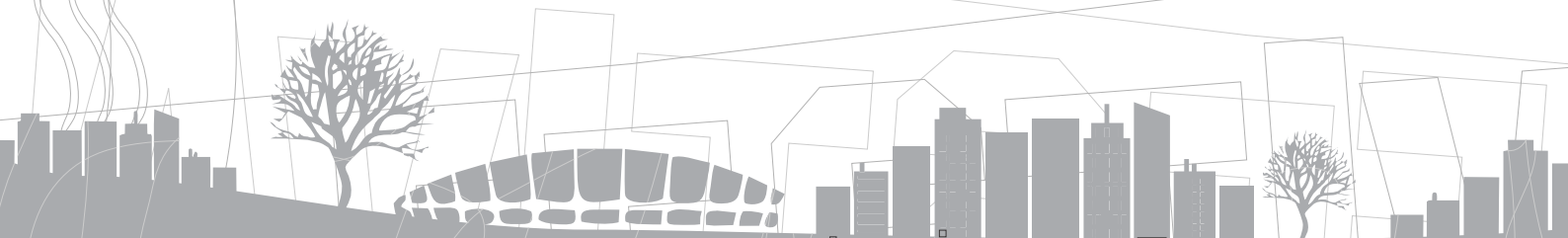
SAFIA ELHILLO

SAFIA IS SUDANESE BY WAY OF WASHINGTON, DC, LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY. SAFIA IS A CAVE CANEM FELLOW, AND RECEIVED AN MFA IN POETRY AT THE NEW SCHOOL.

SHE IS A POETRY EDITOR AT KINFOLKS QUARTERLY, A JOURNAL OF BLACK EXPRESSION. HER WORK HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR A 2015 PUSHCART PRIZE, AND SHE IS CO-WINNER OF THE 2015 BRUNEL UNIVERSITY AFRICAN POETRY PRIZE. HER WORK APPEARS IN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS AND IN THE ANTHOLOGIES

“THE BREAKBEAT POETS: NEW AMERICAN POETRY IN THE AGE OF HIP-HOP” AND “AGAIN I WAIT FOR THIS TO PULL APART.” SAFIA IS A THREE-TIME MEMBER AND FORMER COACH OF THE DC YOUTH SLAM TEAM, AND A FOUNDING MEMBER OF SLAM NYU, THE 2012 AND 2013 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP SLAM TEAM.

SHE HAS SHARED THE STAGE WITH ?UESTLOVE AND BLACK THOUGHT OF THE ROOTS, GIL SCOTT-HERON, THE LAST POETS, IMMORTAL TECHNIQUE, AND APPEARS ON SEASON 3 OF TV I 'S VERSES & FLOW.





LOLA SHONEYIN

LOLA SHONEYIN IS A NIGERIAN POET AND AUTHOR WHO LAUNCHED HER DEBUT NOVEL, *THE SECRET LIVES OF BABA SEGI'S WIVES*, IN THE UK IN MAY 2009. SHONEYIN HAS ALREADY FORGED A REPUTATION AS AN ADVENTUROUS, HUMOROUS AND OUTSPOKEN POET (OFTEN CLASSED IN THE FEMINIST MOULD), HAVING PUBLISHED THREE VOLUMES OF POETRY.

IN APRIL 2014 SHE WAS NAMED ON THE [HAY FESTIVAL'S AFRICA39 LIST OF 39 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN WRITERS AGED UNDER 40 WITH POTENTIAL AND TALENT TO DEFINE TRENDS IN AFRICAN LITERATURE. SHE IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE AKE BOOK AND ARTS FESTIVAL.](#)



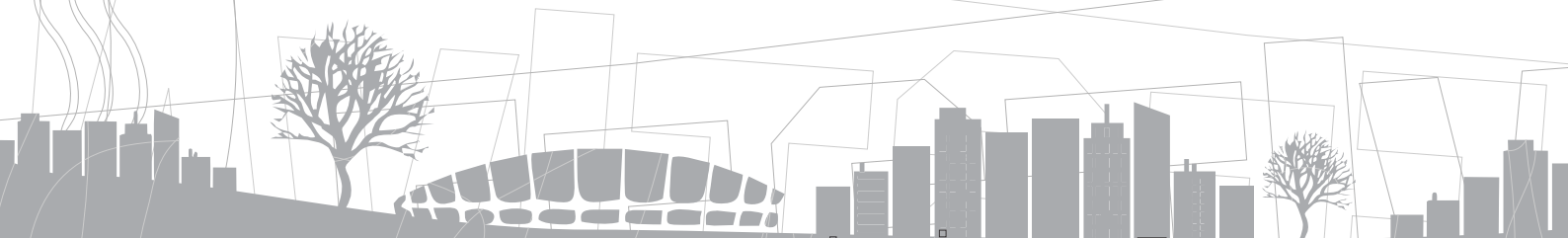
PROF. J. P. CLARK

J.P. CLARK HAS BEEN ONE OF THOSE PRINCIPAL NIGERIAN POETS WHOSE WORKS HAVE BEEN STUDIED FAR AND WORLDWIDE. AS ONE OF AFRICA'S LEADING AUTHORS, HE HAS CONTINUED TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLES ON LITERARY AFFAIRS EVEN AFTER RETIREMENT, RESULTING IN HIS RECEIPT OF THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT AWARD FOR LITERARY EXCELLENCE IN 1991. A WIDELY TRAVELLED MAN, CLARK HAS, SINCE HIS RETIREMENT, HELD VISITING PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS AT SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, INCLUDING [YALE AND WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES](#)



ODIA OFEIMUN

ODIA OFEIMUN IS A NIGERIAN POET AND POLEMICIST, THE AUTHOR OF MANY VOLUMES OF POETRY, BOOKS OF POLITICAL ESSAYS AND ON CULTURAL POLITICS, AND THE EDITOR OF SIGNIFICANT TWO ANTHOLOGIES OF NIGERIAN POETRY. HIS WORK HAS BEEN WIDELY ANTHOLOGIZED AND TRANSLATED AND HE HAS READ AND PERFORMED HIS POETRY INTERNATIONALLY INCLUDING GHANA, SOUTH AFRICA, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, SOUTH KOREA, COLUMBIA, GERMANY, ISRAEL, GREAT BRITAIN, CHINA, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, CUBA, SWEDEN, ITALY AND CUBA.





TJ DEMA

TJ DEMA IS ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST SOUGHT AFTER POETS. SHE IS A BOTSWANA BASED SPOKEN WORD ARTIST, WRITER, COLUMNIST AND VOICE OVER ARTIST. AN ENTREPRENEUR, SHE RUNS A BOUTIQUE SIZE ARTS AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION THAT SEEKS TO CRAFT NEW WAYS OF APPROACHING THE BUSINESS OF ART. SHE HAS PERFORMED IN NUMEROUS FESTIVALS AND OTHER LITERARY GATHERINGS INCLUDING THE CAMBRIDGE SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE, JOHANNESBURG ARTS ALIVE,

DELHI LITERARY FESTIVAL, BRITISH COUNCIL'S POWER IN THE VOICE, AND WAS A FELLOW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM.



SAGE HASSON

SAGE HASSON IS RECOGNIZED AS THE PREMIER SPOKEN WORD POET IN NIGERIA WEST AFRICA.

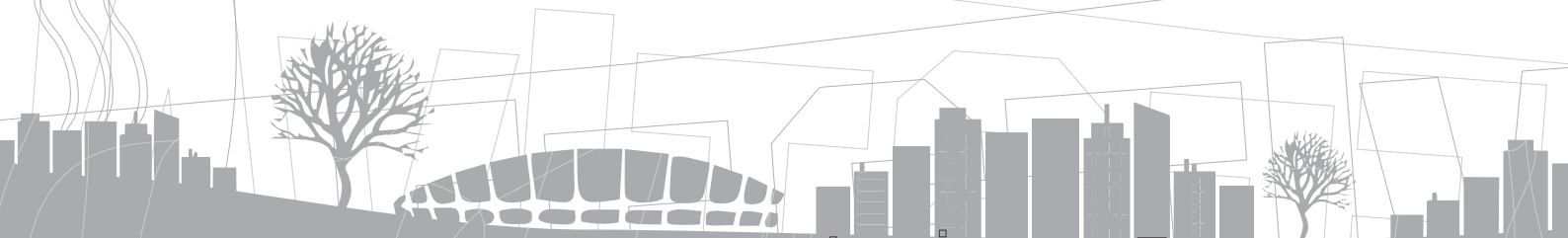
SAGE HAS PERFORMED AT HUNDREDS OF MAIN STREAM EVENTS INCLUDING THE BIGGEST MUSIC AND COMEDY CONCERTS IN THE COUNTRY; PLUS WRITING AND DELIVERING HUNDREDS OF BRAND POEMS FOR THE BIGGEST CORPORATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. SAGE HAS TWO POETRY ALBUMS, A NUMBER OF VIDEOS THAT ENJOYED AIRTIME; HE IS ALSO AN AUTHOR, ACTOR AND FILM MAKER.



BASSEY IKPI

A NIGERIAN-BORN POET AND WRITER, BASSEY IKPI HAS APPEARED ON HBO'S RUSSELL SIMMONS PRESENTS DEF POETRY FIVE TIMES AND HER POETRY HAS OPENED SHOWS FOR GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTISTS. IKPI APPEARED AT THE NAACP IMAGE AWARDS AS PART OF A TRIBUTE TO VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS, AND HAS BEEN A FEATURED CAST MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TOURING COMPANY OF THE TONY AWARD-WINNING BROADWAY SHOW, "RUSSELL SIMMONS'S DEF POETRY JAM."

IKPI WAS A PART OF THE EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL IN SCOTLAND. IN THE SUMMER OF 2009, SHE WAS A FEATURED PERFORMER FOR JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA'S ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL, JOBURG ARTS ALIVE. SHE HAS GRACED THE PAGES OF MAGAZINES SUCH AS NYLON, MARIE CLAIRE, GLAMOUR, AND BUST, AND RECORDED AN ORIGINAL POEM FOR THE KAISER FOUNDATION'S HIV/AIDS CAMPAIGN, KNOWING IS BEAUTIFUL.





**TITILOPE
SONUGA**

A NIGERIAN BORN POET, PERFORMER AND CIVIL ENGINEER. SHE WAS THE WINNER OF THE 2011 CANADIAN AUTHORS ASSOCIATION EMERGING WRITER AWARD FOR HER FIRST COLLECTION OF POETRY, DOWN TO EARTH, AS WELL AS THE 2013 RISE AWARD IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA. SHE RECENTLY PERFORMED AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI AND IS INTEL 2015 SPOKESPERSON FOR ITS SHE WILL CONNECT INITIATIVE.



NIYI OSUNDARE

POET, DRAMATIST, CRITIC, ESSAYIST, AND MEDIA COLUMNIST, NIYI OSUNDARE HAS AUTHORED 18 BOOKS OF POETRY, TWO BOOKS OF SELECTED POEMS, FOUR PLAYS, A BOOK OF ESSAYS, AND NUMEROUS MONOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES ON LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY.

HE HAS CARRIED OUT READINGS AND PERFORMANCES OF HIS WORKS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND HIS POEMS HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH, ITALIAN, SLOVENIAN, DUTCH, SPANISH, JAPANESE, ARABIC, AND KOREAN.

HE HAS BEEN A RECIPIENT OF HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM THE UNIVERSITE DE TOULOUSE-LE MIRAIL IN FRANCE AND FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY IN RINDGE NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA.



WANA

WANA UDOBANG IS A POET, JOURNALIST, WRITER AND GENDER ACTIVIST LIVING IN NIGERIA. HER AUDIO COLLECTION OF POETRY, DIRTY LAUNDRY WAS RELEASED IN 2012.

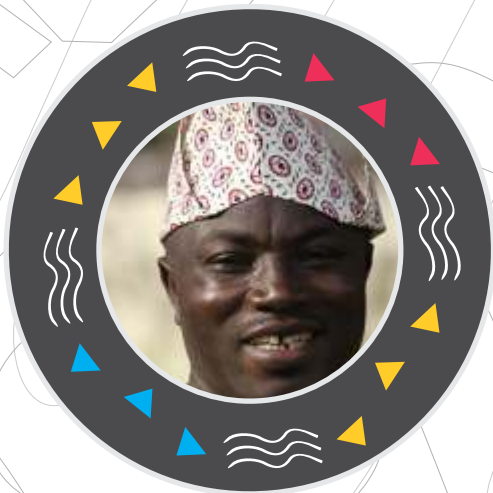
SHE CURRENTLY WORKS AS A RADIO PRESENTER/PRODUCER AT 92.3 INSPIRATION FM IN LAGOS.



**JUMOKE
VERISSIMO**

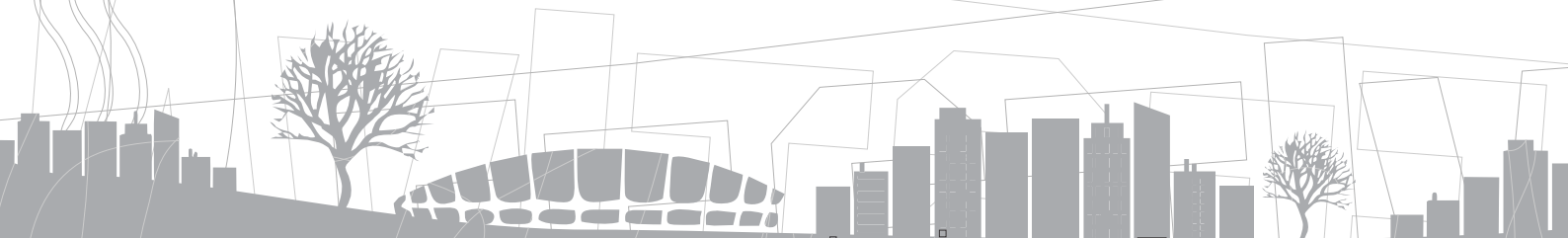
JUMOKE VERISSIMO IS THE AUTHOR OF THE AWARD-WINNING BOOK, I AM MEMORY (DADA BOOKS, 2008) AND RECENTLY PUBLISHED, THE BIRTH OF ILLUSION (FULLPOINT PUBLICATIONS, 2015).

SOME OF HER POEMS ARE IN TRANSLATION IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES. SHE IS A 2012 RECIPIENT OF THE CHINUA ACHEBE CENTRE FELLOWSHIP. SHE ALSO WORKS AS A SENIOR ANALYST, COPYWRITER, RESEARCHER AND EDITOR.



AKEEM LASISI

AKEEM LASISI IS ONE OF THE LEADING LIGHTS IN CONTEMPORARY POETRY PERFORMANCE IN NIGERIA AND ACROSS AFRICA. IN 2000, HE WON THE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS/CADBURY POETRY PRIZE WITH HIS FIRST COLLECTION OF POEMS, IREMOJE: RITUAL POETRY FOR KEN SARO-WIWA. HE HAS PERFORMED AT MANY PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THOSE ORGANISED BY THE FORD FOUNDATION, THE BRITISH COUNCIL, FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE, GOETHE-INSTITUT, GLOBACOM, MTN, GTBANK, THE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS, THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ARTS, CENTRE FOR BLACK AND AFRICAN ARTS AND CIVILISATION, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, POETRY AFRICA IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AFRIVENIR, GERMANY.





**AJ DAGGA
TOLAR**

AJ. DAGGA TOLAR IS A POET, FRONTLINE ACTIVIST, AND A SOCIAL CRUSADER. HE WAS THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WEST AFRICA YOUNG WRITERS 1994-1998, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA AUTHORS, LAGOS CHAPTER 2007-2009, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS, 2009-PRESENT. HE IS THE FOUNDER OF THE AJ HOUSE OF POETRY, A POETRY COLLECTIVE USING ART AS A MEANS OF SOCIAL REENGINEERING.



DAMI AJAYI

DAMI AJAYI, IS A POET, SHORT FICTION WRITER AND CO-PUBLISHER OF SARABA LITERARY MAGAZINE. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF DAYBREAK AND OTHER POEMS, AND THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED CLINICAL BLUES.





**CHIJOKE
AMU NNADI**

CHIJOKE AMU NNADI IS THE AUTHOR OF THREE COLLECTIONS OF POEMS – 'THE FIRE WITHIN', WINNER OF THE ANA GABRIEL OKARA PRIZE FOR POETRY, 'PILGRIM'S PASSAGE', SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2005 NIGERIA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE, AND '

THROUGH THE WINDOW OF A SANDCASTLE', WINNER OF THE 2013 ANA POETRY PRIZE, RUNNER-UP TO THE 2013 NIGERIA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE AND WINNER OF THE 2014 GLENNA LUSCHEI AFRICAN POETRY BOOK PRIZE –

HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON HIS FOURTH COLLECTION, 'A FIELD OF ECHOES', A BOOK OF OVER 200 NEW POEMS, WHICH IS DUE FOR PUBLICATION LATER IN 2015.



DIKE CHUKWUMERIJE

DIKE CHUKWUMERIJE IS AN ALS SLAM CHAMPION. AND THE PRODUCER OF THE POPULAR PERFORMANCE POETRY LIVE SHOW – DIKE CHUKWUMERIJE'S NIGHT OF THE SPOKEN WORD. HE CONTINUES TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE ABUJA LITERARY SOCIETY TO INTRODUCE POETRY TO NEW AUDIENCES, BY ORGANIZING WEEKLY OPEN MIC SESSIONS AND BOOK READINGS IN NIGERIA'S CAPITAL CITY.

A HIGHLY EXPERIMENTAL WRITER, HIS 2013 TRIBUTE TO CHINUA ACHEBE, 'NNA ANYI, IS IT TRUE?' SET NEW STANDARDS IN THE TRANSLATION OF POETRY TO VIDEO. DIKE IS ALSO AN AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR, CLINCHING THE 2013 ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS (ANA) PRIZE FOR FICTION WITH HIS NOVEL, 'URICHINDERE'. KNOWN WIDELY FOR ITS SIMPLICITY AND DEPTH, DIKE CHUKWUMERIJE'S POETRY IS TRULY UNMISTAKABLE.



**IQUO DIANA
ABASI EKE**

IQUO IS A WRITER AND PERFORMANCE POET WHO RENDERS HER WORDS TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF FOLKLORE, TYPICALLY EMBELLISHED WITH INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS DRUMS, FLUTE AND /OR STRINGS.

RAISED IN LAGOS, NIGERIA, HER PROSE AND POETRY HAVE BEEN WIDELY ANTHOLOGIZED, AND HER MAIDEN COLLECTION OF POEMS; SYMPHONY OF BECOMING, MADE THE LONG-LIST OF THE 2013 NLNG NIGERIA PRIZE FOR LITERATURE.