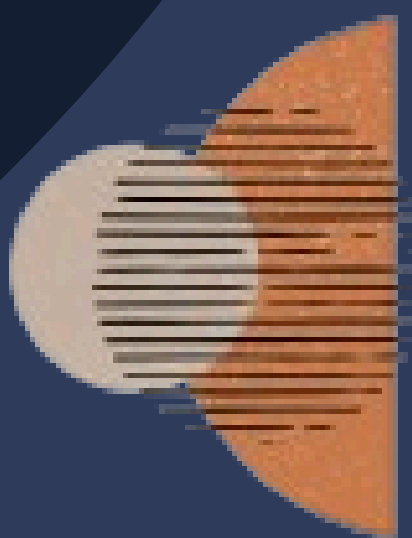




# LAGOS INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL

26 - 29 OCTOBER, 2023

SANGRY  
STUARY



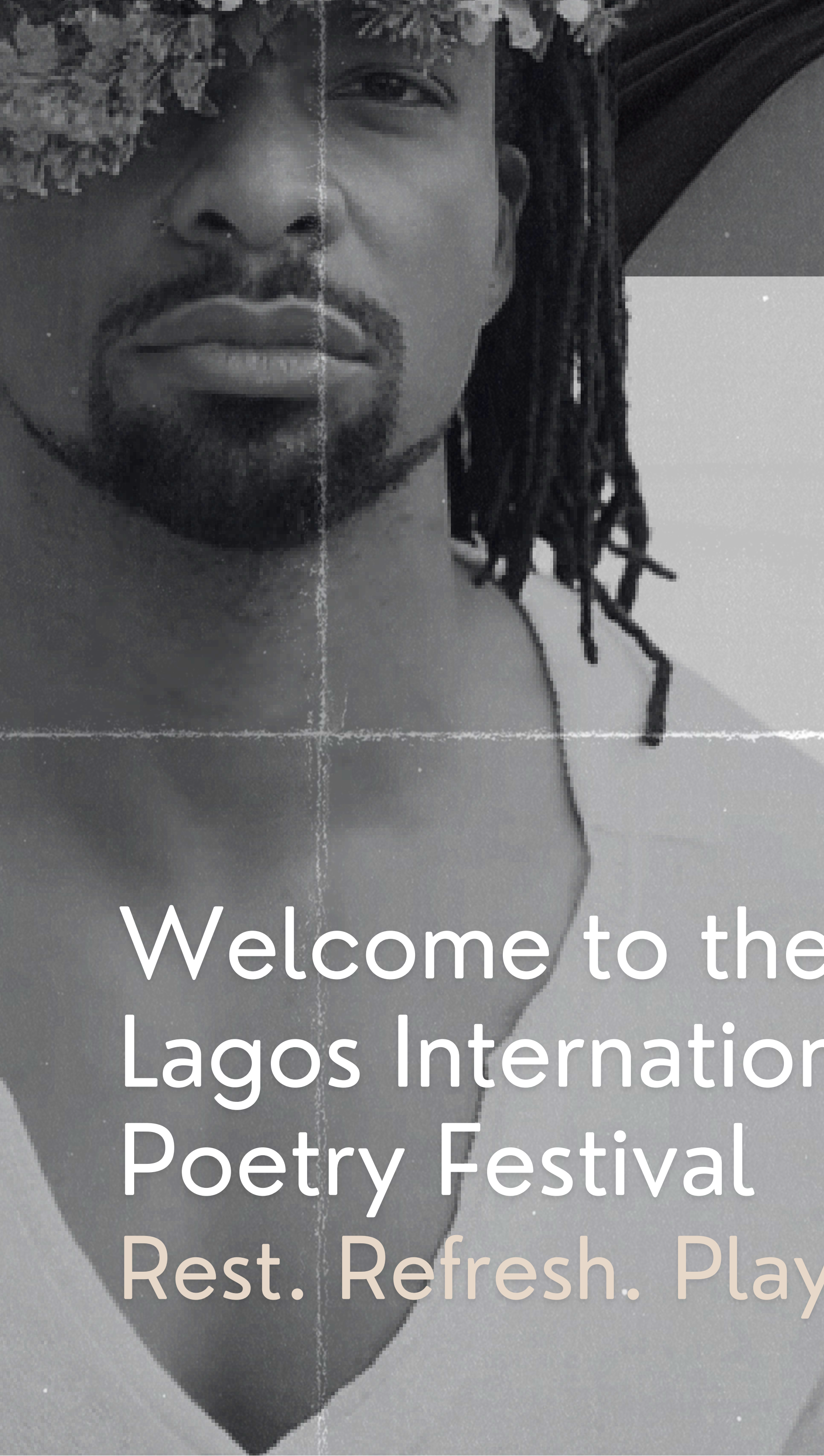
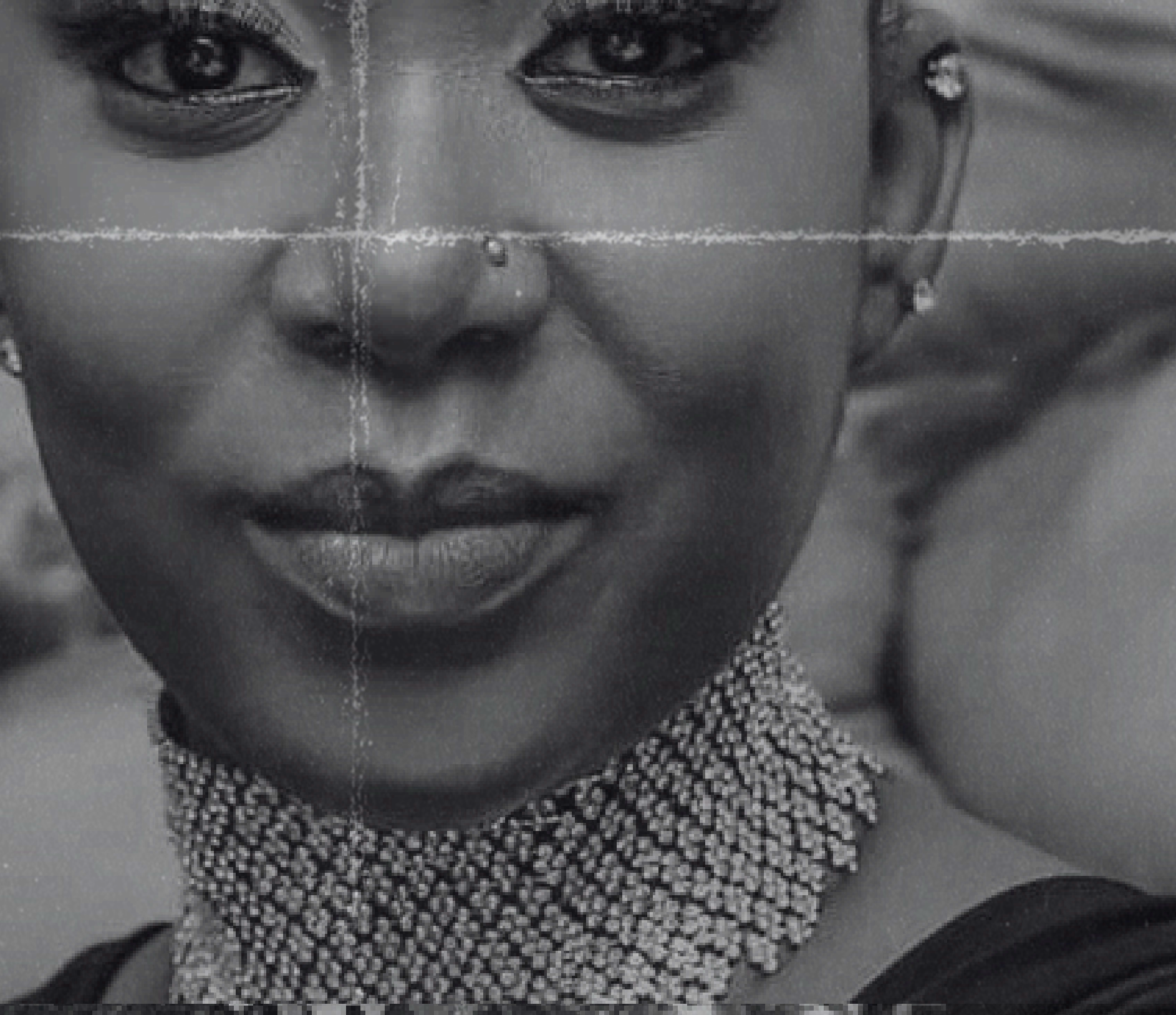
Alliance Française - Mike Adenuga Centre | 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

# Sponsors and Partners

---

With the Support of  
the U.S. Consulate  
General, Lagos.





Welcome to the 2023  
Lagos International  
Poetry Festival  
Rest. Refresh. Play. Connect.



# 2023

**This year, the festival returns from 26 - 29 October with the theme Sanctuary, a four-day series of events designed to hold space for stillness and renewal.**

# T

As the accelerated pace of hyper-capitalism continues to splinter our attention in several anxious directions, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain private and public environments for the kind of contemplative attention to which we owe the most profound of human achievements.

# S

The consequence has been the steady dissolution of silence into noise, independent thinking into group-think, and as the Korean philosopher, Byung-Chul Han, cleverly puts it, “a low tolerance of boredom,” that disallows “the profound idleness that benefits the creative process.” And so, for LIPFest 2023, we draw on the psycho-spiritual resources of art and poetry, literature and culture, to call us back to solitude and a re-connection to self and truth.

# E

This year’s programme will feature performances and readings, panel discussions and workshops, film screenings and exhibitions, with artists, poets, writers, activists, healers, and thinkers invested in creating an immersive four-day sanctuary for reflection and wellness.

# F

LIPFest 2023 will feature fifty-five (55) guest artists, poets, and writers from over ten (10) cities across the world. Events will include: evenings of live spoken word, poetry, and music performances, creative writing workshops, a photography exhibition, a film screening, a one-million-naira winner takes all poetry slam, and a closing party.

# R

LIPFest 2023’s underlying themes of **Rest, Refresh, Play, Connect** will also find expression in the festival’s revolving door Yoga and wellness sessions, movement therapy space, game room, and a private oasis for festival visitors to anonymously write out their thoughts, feelings, inspirations, or anxieties.

# I

The venue for this year’s festival is the Alliance Française Mike Adenuga Center, 9, Osborne Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

# L



# Programme

Thursday  
**26**



## How We Do It – Writing Masterclass with Jericho Brown

**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Take a deep dive into the nuances of language and form with Pulitzer Prize winning poet, **Jericho Brown**.

Whether you're an aspiring poet hungry for guidance or a seasoned writer looking to refresh your perspective, this masterclass offers a unique opportunity to learn from one of the most profound contemporary voices.

Highlights:

- In-depth Craft Analysis
- Hands-on Exercises
- Personalized Feedback
- Interactive Q&A

## Writing the Personal: Creative Non-fiction Workshop with Bassey Ikpi

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

From memory to manuscript, bestselling author **Bassey Ikpi** takes us into the depth and richness of writing your personal story with authenticity and flair. This creative non-fiction workshop is an immersive journey of self-exploration and literary craftsmanship. Perfect for writers at every level looking to elevate their personal stories into universally resonant narratives.

## Opening Cocktail and Performances

**7:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

US Consul General's Residence,  
25 Modupe Alakija Crescent, Ikoyi

As the sun sets and stars emerge, join us for an evening of cocktail and performances at the festival's official opening event with readings and performances from Nigeria, Ghana, and the Gambia. Featuring: **Faith Moyosore, Kweku Abimbola, Ruth Mahogany, Chika Jones, and Apiorkor (Host)**.

## Preface: Tares Oburumu and Abu Bakr Sadiq

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Hybrid: Online/In-person

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Recent winners of the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, **Tares Oburumu** and **Abu Bakr Sadiq** discuss their award-winning debuts in a session x-raying the challenges and triumphs of what a promising literary career looks like at the start. Moderated by writer and critic, **Paul Liam**.

## Love Offers No Safety

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Hybrid: Online/In-person

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Love Offers No Safety: Nigeria's Queer Men Speak is a groundbreaking anthology exploring the tenderness and struggle of Nigerian queer male experiences. Join writer **Chimee Adioha** in conversation with the book's editors, **Jude Dibia** and **Olumide Makanjuola**, as they consider the limitations and liberties of love in contemporary Nigerian society, confront and reconsider long-held notions of masculinity, challenge restrictive frames of gender, and unpack the courage and vulnerability that ripples through this moving collection of stories.

## Gotta Find Peace of Mind: A Working Artist's Guide to Selfcare & Wellness

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Moderated by **Aanu Jide-Ojo**, we channel the collective wisdom of seasoned psychotherapist, **Amanda Iheme**, and celebrated author and mental health advocate, **Bassey Ikpi**, for a conversation exploring sustainable artistic practices that center self-care and wellness, emotional resilience in the arts, and strategies for maintaining mental equilibrium amidst creative pressures.

## Speaking in Other Tongues A Translation Workshop with Brane Mozetic and Kọlá Túbòsún

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

For writers, linguists, or anyone with a passion for global literature and culture, *Speaking in Other Tongues* offers a unique opportunity for storytellers looking to expand their works into other languages. Join acclaimed Nigerian and Slovenian writers, poets and linguists, **Brane Mozetic** and **Kọlá Túbòsún** in a special hands-on session, with dialogue and discussions, and a collaborative exploration of texts that deepen our understanding of the transcultural subtleties that make literary translation a critical practice in a globalized world.

## Here and Now: Anthology Launch

5:45 PM - 6:45 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Celebrate the culmination of a profound transatlantic journey at the launch of the "Here and Now" anthology, a collaborative project between LIPFest, Moniack Mhor, Scotland's creative writing center, and the Library of Africa and the African Diaspora (LOATAD).

Published as a special edition of the festival's second annual print issue of *Máròkó*, this unique collection is a testament to the magic that unfolds when diverse voices converge, inspired by their shared experiences across Scotland, Ghana, and Nigeria. Together, **Alycia Pirmohamed**, **Amanda Thomson**, **Edwige Renée-Dro**, **Chika Jones**, **Heather Parry**, and **Tolu Agbelusi**, have curated a collection that offers perspectives spanning continents, cultures, and experiences, reflecting both the individual and collective journeys of these talented artists.

Join us for an evening of readings and conversation moderated by **Elizabeth Johnson**.

## From Memory to the Back Seat: A Performance Poetry Workshop with Nana Asaase

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

This Performance Poetry workshop would seek to explore various facets of the creative process, from conceptualization, through writing till the performance hits the last row. It would be an interactive multi-disciplinary performance art conversation and time of sharing. By the end of this workshop, relevant topics like sources of creative ideas and memorization techniques, would have been covered. It would see practical demonstrations from both facilitator and participants, as well as group activities. Come with questions, contributions, confusions and experiences.

## "I Hear You": Readings & Performances by Nigerian and Slovenian Poets in Translation

4:35 PM - 5:35 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Three Nigerian poets join three Slovenian poets and writers in reading and performing each other's work in their own language.

Don't miss **Àrẹ̀mọ̀ Gemini**, **Karlo Hmeljak**, **David Odiase**, **Veronika Razpotnik**, **Ismail Bala**, and **Brane Mozetic** as they expand portals of knowledge through the collaborative practice of literary translation.

## Tell It Slant

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

A poetry concert featuring **Jericho Brown**, **Bassey Ikpi**, **Apiorkor**, **Genevieve Carver**, **Nana Asaase**, **Tobi Abiodun**, **Deborah Johnson**, **Karlo Hmeljak**, **Dwin**, **the Stoic**, and **David Odiase**.

## Silk Routes for African Verse: A Creative Economy Conversation on Publishing and Distributing African Stories and Poetry

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Hybrid: Online/In-person  
Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

In this pivotal conversation centering the vibrant creative economy of African storytelling and poetry, we discuss the avenues and strategies for publishing and distributing African narratives globally, with industry stalwarts, **Ojiugo Uche**, **Eghosa Imasuen**, **Adedotun Eyinade**, **Adedayo Agarau**, and **Richard Ali** (Moderator).

For writers, poets, readers and enthusiasts eager to understand the intricacies of the publishing world, this session offers rich insights into the ever-evolving landscape of African literature, charting future paths for African stories and poetry in the global marketplace.

## Where Stories Come From

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Journey into the heart of storytelling with two remarkable authors, **Edwige Renee-Dro** and **Heather Parry**, as they discuss the origins and intricacies of myths and tales that reverberate across cultures yet root themselves in unique contexts.

In *Where Stories Come From*, we unearth the sources of stories and explore the common threads and divergences in mythmaking across different cultures and traditions. Heather Parry's chilling debut novel, "Orpheus Builds a Girl," tells a story of love, obsession, and the power and danger of stories and who gets to tell them.

From the Ivorian shores, Edwige Renée Dro, a writer, translator, and literary activist, brings a wealth of perspectives grounded in her diverse body of work and her co-founding venture, Abidjan Lit. Her stories, often deeply rooted in African contexts, resonate with universal themes and emotions, offering a rich oeuvre that challenge, inform, and enthrall.

Join us for an enlightening exploration of how stories shape, mirror, and challenge our understanding of the world around us. Moderated by Elizabeth Johnson.

## "Pay Attention. Be Astonished. Tell About It."

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Join us for an immersive journey into the natural world through the captivating words of **Amanda Thomson**, **Taiye Ojo Genevieve Carver**, and **Immaculata Abba** (Moderator).

This event combines insightful readings and engaging conversations, offering a unique opportunity to explore the beauty, wonder, and ecological concerns of our environment through their distinct literary perspectives.

## Unlayering the Self: Wana Udobang in Conversation with Bassey Ikpi

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

In her instantly bestselling memoir *I'm Telling the Truth, but I'm Lying*, **Bassey Ikpi's** radical candor challenges our understanding of mental health, normalcy, and the duality of truth and fiction.

In conversation with beloved poet and writer, **Wana Udobang**, both writers explore the dichotomies of truth and myth, vulnerability and strength, and confront the complexities of what it means to unlayer the self in a world obsessed with curated realities, where authenticity and vulnerability can both attract and terrify, heal and wound.

## Reciting the City

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

37 Lagos  
37 Glover Court, Ikoyi

The city, with its unending buzz and ceaseless motion, has stories whispered in every corner. From the bustling markets to silent alleyways, from towering skyscrapers to hidden basements—every brick and pavement holds a tale.

Join us for *Reciting the City*, an evocative evening where some of Nigeria's finest young poets breathe life into urban narratives. Experience the rhythm of traffic jams, the murmurs of evening vendors, the silent gazes of strangers, and the secret hopes of dreamers looking up at city lights. Through their words, **IB**, **Iyanu Adebisi**, **Tobi Abiodun**, **Faith Moyosore**, **Oloyede Tom**, and **Taiye Ojo**, will transport you to familiar lanes and unknown pathways, revealing the heart and soul of the city.

## Lyric Portals to Past and Future Events

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Hybrid: Online/In-person  
Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

**Alycia Pirmohamed's** *Another Way to Split Water* paints an intimate portrait of family across generations. Using elements from the natural world, she touches on themes of language, migration, and belonging, weaving tales that reshape and redefine identity.

According to Keguro Macharia, **Ngwatilo Mawiyoo** writes a poetry of place. With a growing body of work including two chapbooks (*Dagoretti Corner*, 2016, *Blue Mothertongue*, 2010), one EP, several published poems, essays, and films, Ngwatilo's work is a mesmerizing blend of vivid imagery, rhythmic language, and profound introspection, traversing landscapes both external and internal, illuminating the complexities of identity, culture, and human connection with a unique and resonant voice.

In an enriching event of conversation and readings both poets share insights from their works and offer a space to explore how poetry can be a vehicle for interrogating the past and anticipating the future through personal and communal lenses. Moderated by **Eghosa Imasuen**.

## Tenderness As Resistance

6:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center, 9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Join **Jericho Brown** and **Kweku Abimbola** as they explore the ways in which tenderness challenges, disrupts, and redefines power dynamics, zooming in and out of their respective seminal collections, *The Tradition* and *Saltwater Demands a Psalm*. Jericho Brown's unapologetic exploration of blackness, queerness, and the everyday violence wrought upon our bodies and spirits is offset by moments of profound intimacy and softness—a call to witness and resist in the same breath. Kweku Abimbola's *Saltwater Demands a Psalm* sings its own hymn of resistance, drawing on ancestral rhythms and the relentless tug of diaspora. Navigating the intricate terrains of identity and displacement, the collection resonates with a yearning for belonging, balanced by the acceptance of the often tumultuous journey to self-discovery. Moderated by **Richard Ali**.

## Come to the Water

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Embrace the tranquility of Sunday morning as we invite you to a serene and meditative experience. Join us for a morning that intertwines the grace of yoga with the beauty of poetry, featuring readings by a remarkable lineup of artists including **Genevieve Carver, Chika Jones, Tanasgol Sabbagh, Veronika Razpotnik, Ismail Bala, and Nana Asaase.**

In addition to our curated performances, we're opening the mic to you. Bring your thoughts, bring your verses, and join us in a communal space where hearts and words unite. This is more than an event; it's a journey of self-discovery and collective connection. Don't miss this opportunity to nurture your soul and share your voice with us.

## LIPFest 2023 Poetry Slam

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Ten shortlisted poets battled it out for One Million Naira in this contest of words, wit and courage. Don't miss the festival's annual poetry slam. Join us as we crown a new champion with **Dike Chukwumerije** returning as this year's Slam Master.

## Poetry After Dark

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Get ready to ignite your senses at the LIPFest 2023 closing party, "Poetry After Dark." Join us for a night of sheer indulgence as we bring together your beloved writers, authors, and poets for an evening that promises to be unforgettable.

As we bid farewell to the festival, we'll do so in the most seductive way possible—with an intoxicating blend of erotic poetry, soul-stirring music, tantalizing drinks, and rhythmic dance. This is not just a party; it's a celebration of passion and artistry that will leave you spellbound.

## Feminist Joy As Resistance

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

A space with creatives, activists, and Nigerian feminists in a gathering that inspires rest, joy and agency as part of our toolkit for liberation. An early afternoon of music and poetry, culminating with a reflection-based panel discussion led by **Ohotuwo Ogbeche, Omolara Oriye, Wana Udobang, Aanu Jide-Ojo, Nana Sule,** with music and performances by the **Ignis Brothers, Obii Ifejika, Kamnelechukwu,** and **Kafayat Quadri.**

Join us as we reflect on the capitalist demands that extol relentless efficiency and production, champion the radical act of choosing rest, and inspire the spirit of collective transformation using the lived experiences and creativity of women and gender-diverse persons.

## Folklores and Gyration of the Oppressed

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Enchanting folktales, songs, and cultural celebration. For Folklores and Gyration of the Oppressed, we'll be revisiting tales of resilience, pre-colonial traditions, and Afrocentric fantasies that have shaped our culture. This event brings to life the entertainment of village squares and cityscapes and adds a touch of humor to everyday life.

We'll also have a story jar where the audience can participate by selecting a story to share or even contribute their own favorite folklore in a spirit of togetherness. Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of folktales and songs.

Hosted by Oloyede Tom.

## Film Screening: I Am Still With You

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Center,  
9 Osborne Road, Ikoyi

Titled after Emmanuel Iduma's 2023 memoir about individual and collective loss that have shaped him, his family, and our country Nigeria, this event presents four short films from Nigerian (& diasporic Nigerian) filmmakers that explore moving on in the wake of grief/loss/trauma. Together, these films show many ways that both events of traumatic losses and the people we lose in them continue to live with/in us.

The five films follow a journey, starting with Azuya's *Swimming in a Sea of Trauma* (2022), a ghost story about memories of the Biafran War which paints the emotional landscape of trauma.

Caleb Femi's *Survivor's Guilt* (2019) uses humour and poetry to illustrate the burden of guilt and disbelief survivors often face. Kasumnu's *Losing Joy* (2022) is a fiction short set on the 1-year anniversary of Joy's death as Faith, Joy's sister struggles with the fact of her reality. In Adepeju's *Appreciation* (2019), grief makes a Pentecostal pastor question everything she believes. Abba's *You Matter to Me* (2022) is a personal documentary that explores her parents' ideas around finding joy despite the loss and tensions in their lives.

# Guests

Fifty-five guests.  
Twenty-four events.

## Aanu Jide-Ojo



Aanu is a writer, clinical psychologist, and founder of UsTherapy, a resource platform created to make mental health support accessible through psychotherapy, policy, research, and education. Through her work, she merges intersectionality with client care to enable access for everyone, and create safe spaces for healing, openness, and vulnerability in healthy ways.

## Adedotun Eyinade



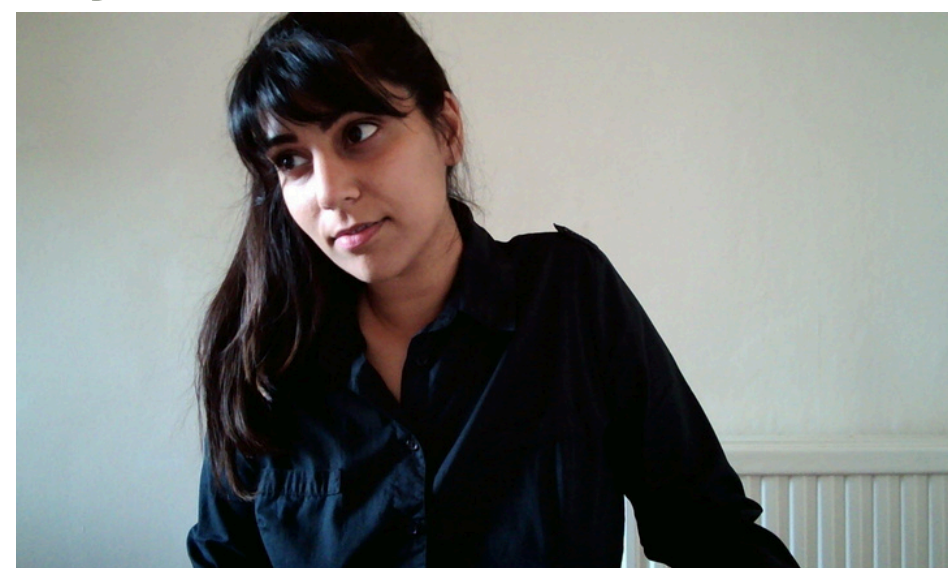
Adedotun Eyinade is the co-founder and CEO of Rovingheights, a chain of bookstores. Adedotun and his co-founders, Adebola and Oluwatobi have grown Rovingheights into one of the most recognizable bookselling brands in Nigeria, with footprints in Lagos and Abuja. He started his career in management consulting at a Big Four firm. He was an Acumen Global Fellow in 2013. He previously lived and worked in East Africa, leading business development for a renewable energy company. He has a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology and a Master's in Public Policy from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria and University of Oxford, United Kingdom respectively. He sits on the board of the Commonwealth Drone Partnership and is a trustee of the Madiba Foundation for Good Governance.

## Abu Bakr Sadiq



Abu Bakr Sadiq is a Nigerian poet. Author of *Leaked Footages* (University of Nebraska Press, 2024), winner of the 2023 Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poetry. He is the winner of the 2022 IGNUYE award for Best Speculative Poetry, and a finalist for the Evaristo Prize for African Poetry, 2023. His work is nominated for the SFPA Rhysling Award, Pushcart Prize, and is published in *Boston Review*, *The Fiddlehead*, *MIZNA*, *FIYAH*, *Palette Poetry*, *Uncanny Magazine*, *Augur Magazine*, *Fantasy Magazine*, and elsewhere.

## Alycia Pirmohamed



Alycia Pirmohamed is a Canadian-born poet based in Scotland. She is the author of *Another Way to Split Water*, as well as the pamphlets *Hinge* and *Faces that Fled the Wind*, and the collaborative essay *Second Memory*. She is the co-founder of the Scottish BPOC Writers Network, a co-organiser of the Ledbury Poetry Critics Program, and she currently teaches on the MSt. Creative Writing at the University of Cambridge. Alycia has held post-doctoral positions at University Edinburgh and at the University of Liverpool, and she received an MFA from the University of Oregon and a PhD from the University of Edinburgh. She is the recipient of several awards, including the 2019 CBC Poetry Prize, a Pushcart Prize, and the 2020 Edwin Morgan Poetry Award. Find her online at [alycia-pirmohamed.com](http://alycia-pirmohamed.com), on Twitter @a\_pirmohamed, and on Instagram @alyciap\_.

## Adedayo Agarau



Adedayo is a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, a 2022 Robert Hayden Scholarship fellow, and a recipient of the 2022 Stanley Awards for International Research at the University of Iowa. He obtained his MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop '23. His poems have been featured in *Poetry Magazine*, *Poetry Society of America*, *World Literature Today*, *Tab Journal*, *Anomaly*, *Frontier*, *Iowa Review*, *Boulevard*, and elsewhere. He is the author of the chapbooks, *Origin of Names* (African Poetry Book Fund) 2020, and *The Arrival of Rain* (Vegetarian Alcoholic Press). Adedayo is the Editor-in-Chief at *Agbowó: An African magazine of literature and art*.

## Amanda Iheme



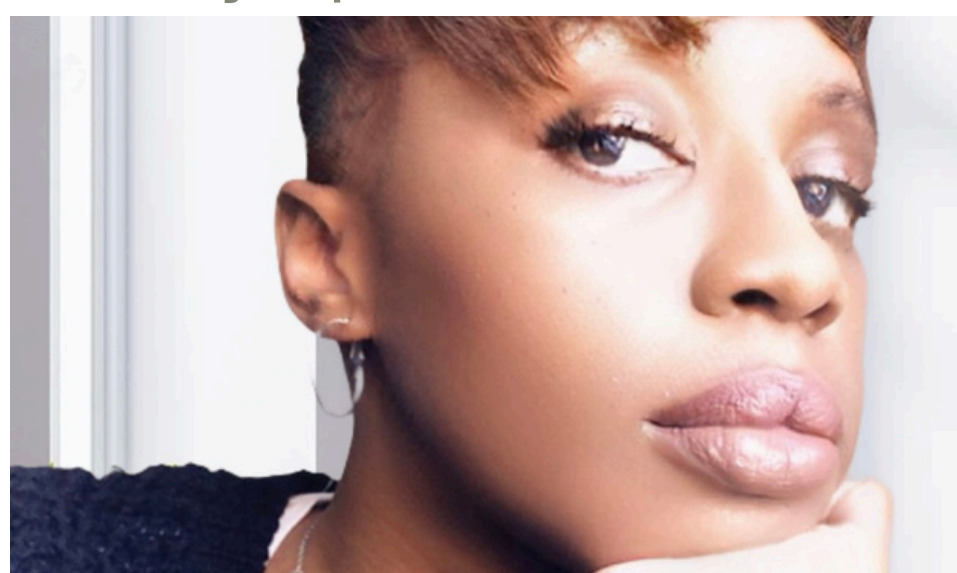
Alycia Pirmohamed is a Canadian-born poet based in Scotland. She is the author of *Another Way to Split Water*, as well as the pamphlets *Hinge* and *Faces that Fled the Wind*, and the collaborative essay *Second Memory*. She is the co-founder of the Scottish BPOC Writers Network, a co-organiser of the Ledbury Poetry Critics Program, and she currently teaches on the MSt. Creative Writing at the University of Cambridge. Alycia has held post-doctoral positions at University Edinburgh and at the University of Liverpool, and she received an MFA from the University of Oregon and a PhD from the University of Edinburgh. She is the recipient of several awards, including the 2019 CBC Poetry Prize, a Pushcart Prize, and the 2020 Edwin Morgan Poetry Award. Find her online at [alycia-pirmohamed.com](http://alycia-pirmohamed.com), on Twitter @a\_pirmohamed, and on Instagram @alyciap\_.

## Amanda Thomson



Amanda Thomson is a writer and visual artist who lives and works in Strathspey and Glasgow and lectures at the Glasgow School of Art. She's written for BBC Radio 3 and 4 and her essays are in several anthologies including *Antlers of Water*, writing on the nature and environment of Scotland and *Gifts of Gravity and Light*, *A Nature Almanac for the 21st Century*. She has published three books: *A Scots Dictionary of Nature* (Saraband Books); *microbursts*, a collaboration with Elizabeth Reeder (Prototype); and most recently, *Belonging*, *Natural Histories of Place*, *Identity and Home* (Canongate). She's a regular contributor to the Guardian newspaper's *Country Diary*. She was a commissioned artist for the Edinburgh Art Festival in 2022 and *Boundary Layers*, a dual-screen filmwork and spoken-word essay about nature's reclamation of the former steelworks at Ravenscraig, Motherwell, is part of *A Fragile Correspondence*, Scotland's collateral exhibition for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2023. Insta: @dr\_amanda\_thomson w: www.passingplace.com

## Bassey Ikpi



Bassey Ikpi is a multifaceted creative force. A renowned poet featured on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, she has toured globally with its Tony Award-winning Broadway show. Her debut book, *"I'm Telling the Truth, but I'm Lying"* (Harper Perennial, 2019), became an instant New York Times bestseller, lauded as "beautiful and compelling" by *Essence Magazine*. Bassey's work as a writer, performer, and mental health advocate has earned her stunning reviews, captivating readers and media alike. Her upcoming book, *"Home Rarely Feels Like This,"* initially released as an Audible Original, showcases her versatile talent. Bassey Ikpi's brilliance extends beyond stages and screens, inspiring audiences worldwide through her unique perspective and powerful storytelling.

## Apiorkor



Apiorkor [Seyiram Ashong-Abbey] is a Ghanaian-American Poet, Writer/Author, Literary Scholar/Critic, Activist, Media Practitioner, and TED Speaker. She is the author of "The Matriarch's Verse" and "When The Person Who is Called COVID Came". She weaves poetic and journalistic styles together (Verse Journalism). She founded TeamApiorkor, focusing on Creative Entrepreneurship, advocating for African artists, grooming writers and the youth, and promoting Literacy. In 2018, TeamApiorkor and Fablinks Media instituted The Matriarch's Verse Poetry Concert – Ghana's largest annual Poetry event, hosted by an individual artist, having featured over seventy Artists, with an audience of almost ten thousand people. Apiorkor has led a campaign to document Ghanaian/African Poets/ Poetry/Artists in local media sources and on Wikipedia. Wikimedia in Ghana is progressing, in this regard. Apiorkor is the Head of Programmes Production at Accra-based Citi 97.3 FM/Citi TV, and hosts "Diplomatic License" and "What's Cooking?". Additionally, she is Multi-format/ Multi-scale Television Producer & Programmer, with 11,000+ content hours, to her credit. She is also a Multi-format Radio Producer & Programmer.

## Brane Mozetič



Brane Mozetič (1958) is a Slovenian poet, writer, editor of the *Aleph* and *Lambda* book series and translator from French (Rimbaud, Genet, Foucault, etc.). His oeuvre extends to 16 poetry collections, a book of short stories, three novels and six children's picture books. He has edited four anthologies of queer literature and several presentations of contemporary Slovenian literature. He has more than 70 books in translation, his poetry collection *Banalije* (*Banalities*, 2003) alone being translated into 13 languages, making him one of the most translated contemporary Slovenian authors. He also organises translation workshops, readings of Slovenian authors abroad, a small literary and music festival *Living Literature*, the *Ljubljana LGBT Film Festival*, etc.

## Àrẹ̀mọ̀ Gemini



Yusuf Àlábí Balógun, going by the stage name 'Àrẹ̀mọ̀ Gemini' is an experimental performance poet, with a core focus in Yorùbá arts and culture. Recipient of Horn of Afroclassical Merit Award for excellence in the propagation of arts and culture (2018), his art is guided by so many drives, one of which is to sell out O<sup>2</sup> Arena, London for Yorùbá oral arts. Recognised as the First Runner Up of the Grooming Talent Hunt 2020, his craft have received successful acceptance and validation from media houses within Nigeria and outside the shore, including BBC Yorùbá and The Folio Media (Nigerian exclusive affiliate to CNN). Àrẹ̀mọ̀ Gemini is a self published author of a best-selling Yorùbá novel, *Şẹ̀gíloḷá Arómire' Ògìdán* and he has so many works to his credits, including a collaboration with South African artiste – Willemien Rust (Beginnes & Eindes) and Nigerian musical artiste, Temmie Ovwasa (Space Fuji).

## Chika Jones



Chika Jones is a performance poet and writer who lives in Southeastern England. He lived most of his life in Lagos, Nigeria and writes about the city, gender based violence, the Biafra war and the pursuit of joy. He won a national poetry slam in Lagos in 2013, and has performed at the Lagos International Poetry Festival and several others. He attended the Farafina Creative Writing workshop in 2016 curated by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and has been commissioned by MacArthur Foundation to write and perform poems creating awareness for voters. Since moving to England in 2021, he has performed at *Jawdance*, *Sunday Papers Live* in London and other spaces. He was part of the *Lyrical Arts* production – *Soul Food*, which toured the Medway in October 2022. He is currently working on his first collection of poetry and other projects He posts about his work on Instagram under his name. [https://www.instagram.com/chika\\_jones](https://www.instagram.com/chika_jones)

## Chimee Adioha



Chimee Adioha is the Founding Editor of the literary blog called Black Boy Review.

---

## Dike Chukwumerije



Dike Chukwumerije is the 2011 Abuja Literary Society (ALS) Poetry Slam champion, the 2012 The African Poet (Nigeria) Grand Slam champion, and the 2013 Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) winner of the prize for prose fiction. In 2013, he created the Night of the Spoken Word (NSW) platform to showcase emerging talent. In 2016, building on NSW success, Dike launched Simply Poetry Ltd, a production company focused on staging poetry commercially. The company's first production premiered in October 2016, and went on to tour the country, staging over 20 times, in more than 9 cities. Dike is an accomplished public speaker and, in 2019, participated in the US International Visiting Leaders Program (IVLP) on Art for Social Change.

---

## Eghosa Imasuen



Dr. Eghosa Imasuen is a Nigerian writer and cofounder of Narrative Landscape Press Limited. He graduated with a 1999 medical degree from the University of Benin. Eghosa's second novel, *Five Boys*, a coming-of-age novel, was received to wide acclaim in 2012 and was published in America by the Ohio University Press' Modern African Writers Series in 2021. Eghosa Imasuen teaches creative Writing at the annual Chimamanda Adichie Creative Writing Workshop. He lives in Lagos with his wife and their twin sons.

## David Osaodion Odiase



David Osaodion Odiase who also goes by the moniker "78th psalmist" is a poet, performance artist, and storyteller, who, through poetry, performance art, film, and experimental forms, shares conscious stories, seeks to rectify biases, and offer fresh perspectives about Africa. His works have been screened at prestigious film festivals like the African International Film Festival, the Zebra Poetry Festival, and the Silicon Valley African Film Festival. David has also shared his craft on platforms such as The Gathering Africa and Živa književnost in Slovenia. A recipient of the Ekonke African Storytellers' Prize, his co-written poem in West Africa – West Oakland Poetry Exchange, was nominated by Elyssar Press for the Pushcart Prize. He actively engages in community-centred activism and advocacy initiatives, including the Sound of Unity Audiovisual Peace Compendium against electoral violence and serving as the project manager for a poetry-infused documentary for the National Agency for the Great Green Wall. He is currently the community manager of TrueMyVoice, a collective utilizing art for advocacy and social change.

---

## Edwige Renée Dro



Edwige Renée Dro is a writer, literary translator, and literary activist from Côte d'Ivoire. Her short stories and articles have been published in anthologies such as *New Daughters of Africa*, *Africa39*, the *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies*, *This is Africa*, etc. As a literary translator, she has mentored emerging literary translators as part of the Bakwa Literary Translation workshop that birthed the anthology: *Your feet will lead you where your heart is / Le crépuscule des âmes soeurs*. She is also the translator of the anthology *Les oiseaux d'eau sur la rive du lac / Water birds on the lakeshore* (English and French), the children's book: *Rêve d'oiseau* by Shenaz Patel (*A Dream of Birds* – English), the short story: *Petit Pa* by Hemley Boum (*Little Pa* – English), etc. In 2020, she founded 1949: the library of women's writings from Africa and the black world in Abidjan.  
<https://edwighedro.wordpress.com/>

## Deborah Johnson



Deborah Johnson is a spoken word performance artist. Published in the front runners poetry booklet gift to UN and in an anthology "bloom". She is an alumni of UNICEF poetry mediathon, a winner of British council's new narratives challenge and a winner of the "Doing Inings with Stories Global play off Contest" by the University of Art, Netherlands and Oxfam. She is also a 2nd place winner in brave new voices X st slam. She has lent her art to VOICE X the Us embassy for the creation of learning vignettes on mental health, and has worked in radio as a voice actor @spf and intern @silverbird. She is the 2022 winner of Abuja literary society and Lagos International Poetry Festival slams. Deborah hopes to use art as a means for social change.

---

## Elizabeth Johnson



Elizabeth Johnson is a writer and researcher. She has won the Random Story prize by Random Photo Journal and 3rd place in the Kofi Awoonor Literary Prize. Her play has also been selected and staged by Accra Theater Workshop. Her short stories, poetry and creative nonfiction have appeared in a few online and print publications. She works with The Writers Project of Ghana as a projects and media coordinator and manager of their annual literary festival, Pa Gya! A Literary Festival in Accra. She also works with The Library of Africa and the African Diaspora (LOATAD) and produced the maiden edition of their festival, Womanfest Ghana. She also works with Flash Fiction Ghana. Her full time job is as a researcher & projects co-coordinator with Dr. Monk's Accra office.

## Faith Moyosore Agboola



Faith Moyosore Agboola is a performance poet, writer and cultural producer. She has performed poetry on various stages including the Netherlands Embassy Nigeria, TEDxAlausa, GT Bank's You Read, Kokopelli's Night of Storytelling, Faaji Friday, Ubuntu Festival and Lagos International Poetry Festival among others. She has also shared her ideas as a creative entrepreneur on global stages such as the Dubai Expo 2020, Africa NXT Festival and the Abuja Literary Festival. She has been commissioned to create recorded poetry campaigns for brands such as Norfolk Black History Month, a UK cultural organization and Do Take Action, an African NGO. She is the founder of The African Writers and the convener of African Writers Meet. In recognition of her work in literature, she was awarded the fully-funded Chevening Scholarship in 2020 and in July, 2023, she was nominated as the "rising talent of the year spoken word" in the APVA awards.

Social media handle: @faithmoyosore

---

## IB



Abu Ibrahim popularly known as IB is a socially conscious poet whose work has caused tremendous influence and change. He sees poetry as a powerful tool to cause positive change and redefine society. In 2021, he was part of a group of poets that advocated that the Recording Academy make spoken word poetry a distinct category at the Grammys, and this led to the birth of the "Best Spoken Word Poetry Album" category in 2022.

His debut poetry album "Music Has Failed Us" got a Grammy acceptance. This body of work is available on all major streaming platforms. Some of his works have also been published in literary outfits in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. He has performed at the Lagos International Poetry Festival, Say It Out, Lagos Talks Town Hall Meetings, Nigeria National Chess Championship, Global Poetry Meet organized by Poets of Bangalore, India, and more.

## Genevieve Carver



Genevieve Carver is a writer, performer and arts educator. She is the author of *A Beautiful Way to be Crazy* (Verve Poetry Press 2020), and *Landsick* (Broken Sleep Books 2023). Her poetry has appeared in journals including *Mslexia*, *The White Review*, *The North*, *Magma* and *Poetry News*, and she won The Moth Nature Writing Prize 2022, judged by Max Porter. Genevieve performs regularly at prestigious events and venues including music festivals, theatres and literature festivals. Previous appearances include Shambala music festival, Underbelly at the Edinburgh Fringe, The Roundhouse, The Royal Albert Hall, Cheltenham Literature Festival, Ilkley Literature Festival and Banff Mountain Book Festival in Canada. Genevieve has been commissioned to write poetry, theatre and television for organisations including The National Portrait Gallery, Sky TV, Apples & Snakes and the University of Aberdeen. She also works as a freelance arts educator delivering creative writing and performance workshops to schools, universities, and community groups.

---

## Ignis Brothers



Ignis Brothers is a Nigerian indie group consisting of lead singers Ruka and Dwin The Stoic. The group has been active since 2018 when they put out their debut single "Braveheart" which was also featured on Dwin, The Stoic's debut solo LP "heavy heart" (2018). The group followed up with their single "Alien at Home" which received wide critical acclaim and inspired an EP of electronic remixes. Their debut album "The Cost of our Lives" was released in August 2020 and was hailed by Pulse as "one of the best Nigerian albums of 2020".

## Heather Parry



Heather Parry is a Glasgow-based writer, editor, and publisher. She is the co-founder and Editorial Director of *Extra Teeth* magazine, co-host of the *Teenage Scream* podcast and the Scottish Senior Policy & Liaison Manager for the Society of Authors, a trade union for writers. In 2021 she created the free-access *Illustrated Freelancer's Guide* with artist Maria Stoian. Her short stories and nonfiction have been published internationally, and her debut novel, *Orpheus Builds a Girl*, was published in October 2022 with Gallic Books. <https://heatherparry.co.uk/>

---

## Immaculata Abba



Immaculata Abba is a researcher and artist whose work explores the history and manifestation of ideas that inform how Africans make a living, find belonging and create meaning/healing in our lives. *Studio Styles* is her vehicle for research, curatorial and creative projects that use self-reflection as a tool for individual and communal/national self-connection. Her work has been screened, exhibited and published widely on platforms such as *Le Temps* (Switzerland), *The Brooklyn Rail* (USA), *The Guardian* (UK) and *Jameel Arts Centre* (UAE). She was a 2021 journalism fellow with *African Arguments*, a 2021 filmmaking grantee with the *Black Art Joy* project (UK), a 2022 writer-in-residence at the *Library of Africa* and the *African Diaspora* (Ghana), a research fellow on the 2022 *DOCOMOMO Shared Heritage Africa* project and a 2023 participant of the *New York Portfolio Review*. She has an academic background in history, literature and cultural theory and degrees from *Queen Mary University of London* and *University of Oxford*.

## Ismail Bala



Ismail Bala writes in English and Hausa. His poetry and translations have appeared in the UK, the USA, Canada, India and South Africa, in journals such as Poetry Review, Ambit, New Coin, Ake Review, Lunaris, A Review of International English Literature and Aura Literary Arts Review, among many others. Born and educated to university level in Kano, he did his post-graduate studies at Oxford. Line of Sight (2020) is his first collection. His poems have been translated into Latvian, Belarusian, Nepalese and Polish. He is a Fellow of the International Writing Programme of the University of Iowa.

---

## Jude Dibia



Jude Dibia is an author, queer rights advocate, winner of the Ken Saro-Wiwa Prose Prize, and shortlisted for the Nigeria Literature Prize, Commonwealth Prize and the Swedish Natur och Kulture Pris. His debut novel 'Walking with Shadows' is the first full length novel devoted to queer issues in Nigeria. Dibia currently lives in Sweden where he works with displaced artists as the administrator of the Malmö City refuge artists' program (Malmö Fristads Program).

## Iyanu Adebisi



Iyanu Adebisi is an award-winning writer and performance poet exploring social issues with an aim to inspire and reimagine the self. Her work often moves towards mental health, healing and hope. Her debut spoken word album, Wonder, was released to both local and international acclaim, across platforms. She was awarded by the Presidency for her service to arts, received an award from the U.S. Consulate in Nigeria for her poetry video 'I Am Something', an AFAA award nomination for Spoken word, and many other recognitions. Iyanu's work has been commissioned and featured by several organizations, including the University of Bayreuth Germany, Association of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, BBC Kent UK, the Korean Cultural Centre, University of Global Health Equity Rwanda, National Agency for The Control of AIDS, and many more. She has also appeared in various local and international media, and mentored young writers across the world.

---

## Kafayat Quadri



Kafayat Quadri is a poet (poetographer), singer-songwriter, music producer and a doctor of philosophy (law). Her music and poetry have been performed on various stages and community spaces in Malaysia, India, Egypt, Namibia, Nigeria, Algeria, Benin Republic, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Uganda and Saudi Arabia, some of which include the Generation-Y Music Festival, the Lagos International Jazz Festival 2009 & 2017, George Town Literary Festival, KAKISENI International Arts Festival, Anne Kansiime's Fun Factory 2020, Queen of England Birthday Party 2019, Omawunmi's Industry Night 2019, Midem Showcase 2019, Lake Garden Music Festival, Ugandan National Theatre, Coffee & Fringe Art Festival, etc. Her five studio albums, 'KQ (The EP)', 'April 16', '1984', 'Humanity' can be found on all streaming and online music platforms except her COVID-19 album titled 'Urban Healing' (eclectic & Asian sounds) which is exclusive to BandCamp and was released in 2020.

## Jericho Brown



Jericho Brown is author of the The Tradition (Copper Canyon 2019), for which he won the Pulitzer Prize. He is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and he is the winner of the Whiting Award. Brown's first book, Please (New Issues 2008), won the American Book Award. His second book, The New Testament (Copper Canyon 2014), won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. His third collection, The Tradition won the Paterson Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. His poems have appeared in The Bennington Review, BuzzFeed, Fence, jubilat, The New Republic, The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, TIME magazine, and several volumes of The Best American Poetry. He is the director of the Creative Writing Program and a professor at Emory University.

---

## Kamnelechukwu



Kamnelechukwu is a visual artist and poet who is a firm believer in kindness, joy and love as tools for healing. In 2017, she was a participant of the Gary Knight storytelling masterclass which led to her documentation of the male body and its choice to internalize its issues by using silence as punishment and also defiance which was exhibited the following year. In August of 2019 - Her experimental videos on aging were exhibited at the Makers Lab. She has also been featured in publications like No Wahala Magazine, Konbini, Elsieisy, SisterNamibia, Kabaka Magazine, and Guardian Nigeria (Print). Popularly known online as "The Joydragger" she lives each day with intuition and gratitude with the intention of becoming her highest self. She's always excited to be in community with other people who are interested in building fantastical worlds rooted in empathy and love. When she's not making films or content she's busy writing her newsletter called "Get in, We are going to drag joy"

## Karlo Hmeljak



Karlo Hmeljak, (1983), sailor and poet. Hmeljak has published three poetry books: *Dve leti pod ničlo / Two Years below Zero* (2007), *Krčrk* (2012), *Zategadalj* (2022). And the chepbook *Ljubavne* (2012). He gained the Veronika prize for the best poetry book in Slovenian in 2013. Excerpts of his work has been translated in several european languages and published in literary magazines. *Ljubavne* was published in 2015 in Serbian. He was a member of the editorial board of *Idiot* magazine. Since 2019 he has been involved with the art collective *Stran22* on several projects. Adapting texts and working on the dramaturgy for the theater plays *Podgane / Rats* (2019) and *Samost / Solitude* by the theater director Marko Čeh. *Stran22* presented few of their light installations at *Svetlobna gverila / Light Guerrilla Festival* (2019-2022) in Ljubljana and staged a solo exhibition in *Vžigalica / Match Gallery* in Ljubljana in 2021. He is a member of the organization team of the *IZIS Festival*, produced by PiNA in Koper, Slovenia. Matej Bonin, a contemporary composer, used his texts for his piece *Gymnastics of non/sense I* in 2015, followed in 2022 with the second part of the project, with new texts written by Hmeljak for the composition for six percussionists and voice, performed several times lived and published on CD and vinyl by *Zavod Sploh*.

## Nana Sule



Nana Sule is a Writer, Journalist, and a Communication Associate with Liberation Alliance Africa. Nana is an Ebedi Fellow and Author of the Children's book, *A New Name*. She was also a contributor to the feminist anthology, *In Her Words*. She volunteers as Poetic Wednesday's Communication Director and Arts- Muse Fair's Managing Editor. She enjoys writing fiction, and creative non-fiction and spends some of her time planning and moderating literary and corporate events. Instagram- @sule\_ize X- @izesule

## Kọlá Túbòsún



"Kọlá Túbòsún is a Nigerian writer and linguist, author of *Edwardsville by Heart*, a collection of poetry. Read more at [kolatubosun.com](http://kolatubosun.com)"

## Nana Asaase



Nana Asaase is a Ghanaian Poet, Writer, Literary Coach, Cultural Practitioner, multi artist and Storyteller. His works are mostly rendered in a blend of English and Twi (one of the dominant Ghanaian languages). He has served audiences from all walks of life, including all Presidents of Ghana's fourth republic, the current King of England, then Prince Charles, to corporate giants, academics and art lovers in general, within and beyond the borders of Ghana, having practiced his art for 23 years. Despite being young, Nana's deep appreciation of 'Akan oratory' embodied in appellations directed at the high and mighty, and of Ghanaian folklore, has earned him a seat around the table of the country's literary giants. He is a former student of the University of Ghana, and was under the tutelage of Prof Kofi Anyidoho, a giant in Ghanaian and African literature, and many more Ghanaian literary greats afterwards. He has been interviewed on both local and international media, including the BBC and CNN's "African Voices" program. He is currently serving his second term as the Secretary of the governing board of Ghana's National Folklore Board. Nana Asaase is the CEO of Asaase Inscriptions, Ghana's first Literary Coaching Agency and Cultural Consultancy.

## Kweku Abimbola



Born in the Gambia, Kweku Abimbola earned his MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program. He is of Gambian, Ghanaian, Nigerian, and Sierra Leonean descent. Abimbola's first full-length poetry collection, *Saltwater Demands a Psalm*, was published by Graywolf Press in 2023. In 2022, the debut collection was selected by Tyehimba Jess to receive the Academy of American Poets' First Book Award. He has worked as a teaching artist for the literary nonprofit *Inside Out Literary Arts* and lectured in English and creative writing at the University of Michigan. Abimbola is presently a visiting assistant professor of English and creative writing at the University of Tampa.

## Ngwatilo Mawiyoo



Poet, filmmaker, and performer Ngwatilo Mawiyoo is the author of two chapbooks, *Blue Mothertongue* and *Dagoretti Corner* and the EP album *Introducing Ngwatilo*. A *Callaloo* Fellow twice shortlisted for the Brunel University African Poetry Prize and twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize, her poems appear in *Transition*, *Johannesburg Review of Books*, *Obsidian*, *Wasafiri*, *The Malahat* and elsewhere. Ngwatilo is a graduate of The University of British Columbia's MFA in Creative Writing program. Her multi-award nominated debut short film *Joy's Garden* has screened at over a dozen international festivals, while her forthcoming short is a trilingual magical realism drama. In all her work, Ngwatilo works to forge paths to joy and freedom.

## Olumide F. Makanjuola



Olumide F. Makanjuola is a Sexual Health and Rights advocate with specific interest in LGBT rights. Makanjuola's work focuses on expanding public knowledge and discourse on queer issues through new and alternative narratives. Makanjuola is an alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Programs, Associate fellows of the Royal Commonwealth Society, and honoree of Queen Elizabeth II.

---

## Paul Liam



Paul Liam is a poet, critic, and author of two poetry collections; *Indefinite Cravings* (2012) and *Saint Sha'ade and Other Poems* (2014). A 2014 Fellow of the Ebedi International Writers Residency, Iseyin, Oyo State, Nigeria, and co-editor of the *Ebedi Review*. In 2014, he was honoured with an award of literary excellence for his contributions to the development of literature in Nigeria by the Ebedi International Writers Residency. Similarly, he has also been recognized by the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation and the Association of Nigerian Authors, Niger State for his contributions to the growth of literature with various certificates of merit. His poems have appeared in the following publications; *Revista Prometeo Numeros 119-120* (*Memorias*; 33rd Festival Internacional de Poesia de Medellin, Julio de 2023), *Mingled Coins*; *Seventy Love Poems*, (selected and edited by Okina Launko (Kraft Books Ibadan, 2020, anthology), *Echoes of Carnage*; *A Collection of Poems on Zamfara*, (edited by Jalaludeen Ibrahim and Maryam Gatawa, A.I Publishers Kano, 2021, anthology), *Blank Pages Anthology of Poems, Issue I* (a cross-cultural anthology, of Blank Pages Global Collective, Germany, 2021, online anthology), *Fireflies* (Kraft Books Ibadan, 2009, anthology), and *Life is Like a Flower* (Maziriyya Books, 2005, anthology).

## Ohotuowo Ogbeche



Ohotuowo Ogbeche (she/her) is a writer, lawyer, researcher, feminist, and LGBTIQ rights advocate from Nigeria. As OurRight's Global Researcher, she designs and conducts research geared towards the promotion of LGBTIQ persons' rights worldwide. Prior to joining Outright Ohotuowo worked with The Initiative for Equal Rights, Nigeria (TIERs) as the Director of Research and Knowledge Management. At TIERs, Ohotuowo's work centered around conceptualizing research on sexual and gender minority issues, discriminatory laws, policies, and social norms; to feed into policy development, increased social acceptance, advocacy and training efforts. She also strongly believes in and advocates for the liberation of all from the patriarchy. Ohotuowo writes on feminism, sexual minority rights and social issues.

---

## Richard Ali



Richard Ali is a Nigerian lawyer and Managing Editor of *Jalada Africa* ([www.jaladaafrica.org](http://www.jaladaafrica.org)), a digital publishing arts collective based in Nairobi. Author of the 2012 novel, *City of Memories* (Parresia Books), Richard held a public policy-shaping role in Nigeria and presently runs *Engaging Borders SRD* ([www.srd.engagingborders.com](http://www.srd.engagingborders.com)), an Open Society-funded PCVE project which uses literature and the arts to address violent extremism in the Sahel. His debut collection of poems, *The Anguish and Vigilance of Things*, was published in 2019 by Konya Shamsrumi. He is a partner at the firm of Asia Ahmed & Co. in Abuja, Nigeria.

## Omolara Oriye



Omolara Oriye is a lawyer, feminist researcher and decolonial feminist organiser. Her work operates at a pluriversal crossroads, doing work that confronts power structures and dynamics and asks critical questions of systems through the embodiment of knowledge as liberatory practice. Omolara remains grounded by feminist, pan-African and decolonial ideals and believes that our liberation requires interacting with and democratising knowledge outside the realm of the allowed. She seeks to support individuals and collectives to do the intentional work of dismantling imperialist and patriarchal structures and building the blocks for individual and collective liberation. She co-leads the work of the *Liberation Alliance Africa*, a feminist, pan-African collective raising critical consciousness through radical knowledge production, policy advocacy, decolonial feminist organising, and documenting the cultural evolution of a liberated Africa.

---

## Taiye Ojo



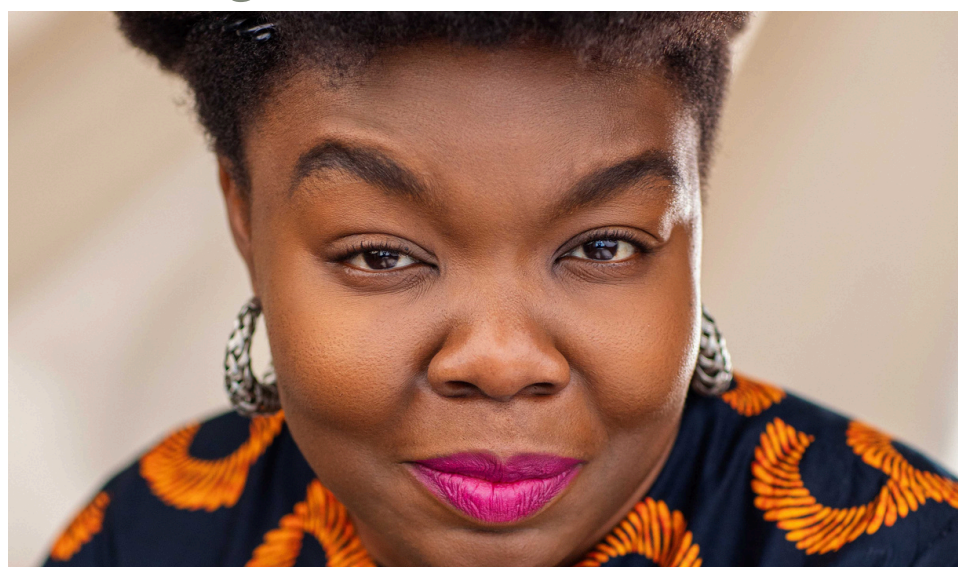
Ojo Taiye is a Nigerian eco-activist and writer who uses poetry as a handy tool to hide his frustration with society. Taiye's most recent work is largely concerned with the effects of climate change, homelessness, migration, drought and famine, as well as a range of transversal issues arising from racism, black identity and mental health. Taiye worked on the 2021 *Sustrans Black History Month Art Project*, 2021-22 *Scene Stirling COP26 Climate Commission*, 2021/22 *switch art project*, 2022 *Green Transitions Conference*, Norway; 2022 – *CHCI/MELLON Global Humanities Institute*, South Africa; *We Hear You—A Climate Archive*, 2023.

## Tanasgol Sabbagh



Tanasgol Sabbagh, born in Amol, Iran, brought up in Germany, is a Berlin-based artist and poet who has been performing spoken word pieces for over a decade. Her work situates itself between stage and page poetry and takes shape in form of embodied performances, audio pieces, video installations, and musical collaborations. In 2017, together with Temye Tesfu, Jacinta Nandi, Zoe Hagen, and Jokaa, she co-founded the collective *parallelgesellschaft*, an event series dedicated to exploring the spectrum of the creative and the political beyond the standards of German dominant culture. Together with poet Josefine Berkholz she founded and hosts the auditive literature magazine *Stoff aus Luft*: its audio format tries to examine the poetics of spoken and sound-based literature in a format outside the frame of print. Besides her creative work, Tanasgol teaches poetry and gives workshops for creative writing.

## Tolu Agbelusi



Tolu Agbelusi is a Nigerian British poet, playwright, artist and lawyer. Author of *Locating Strongwoman* (2020), Agbelusi's play, *Ilé La Wà*, opened to a sold-out audience in 2016 and toured the UK between 2018 – 2019. She has performed internationally, including at Cheltenham Lit Festival, Stanza International Poetry Festival, Lagos International Poetry Festival, Poetry Africa & Manchester Literature Festival. Her work has been published widely including in *Aké Review*, *White Review*, *Pittsburgh Poetry Review*, *Brittle Paper* and *Wildness Journal*. A lecturer in Writing & Dramaturgy at London Southbank University, she teaches workshops and guest lectures regularly and has worked collaborated with academics at King's College University London & Birkbeck University on artistic approaches to understanding academia. Films produced/directed by Agbelusi screened at Toronto Food Film Festival (2022), New York Museum of Food and Drink and Forecast International Festival (2021), and the Zebra Poetry Film Festival (2016).  
[www.ToluAgbelusi.com](http://www.ToluAgbelusi.com)

## Tares Oburumu



Tares Oburumu is a poet and essayist. He writes from Warri, Delta State. His works have appeared in *Connotation Press*, *Ice Floes International Journal*, *Praxis*, *Expound*, *African Writer*, *Kalahari Review*, *Agbowo*, *Loch Raven Review*, and elsewhere. He is the winner of the inaugural GAP poetry prize, a two time pushcart prize nominee, and the tenth winner of the Sillerman prize for African poets. He has published seven chapbooks of poems.

## Tom Oloyede



Oloyede Taiwo Michael is an art critic, cultural producer, poet, satirist, actor and playwright. His poetry book, *Lagos is killing me*, won the Prof Akachi Ezeigbo poetry prize and is still gathering rave reviews. He produced the play, "Wrinkles, dimples, Naira and bets," during the Lagos Theatre Festival in partnership with the British Council. He appeared on the chart buster film on Netflix, *Collision Course*. He was shortlisted for the Etisalat Flash Fiction Prize, Quramo writer's prize and many other awards. His works have appeared in *Ake review*, *Prairies reviews*, *Sankara Africareview*, *Bournemouth Review*, *The Ghana review* and in many other journals. His play, *Baby Melodies*, was on display at the Peterborough Celebrates, United Kingdom. He recently headlined the Millfield Festival, United Kingdom and many other poetry concerts. He is the creative director of Lagos Poetrython and CLAP Festival, United Kingdom. He loves the chafe of conga drums accompanying the blare of folklores and hymns. He is currently working on a feature film and a truckload of plays. His new collection of poems, *all rivers run into the sea*, is due for publication in 2023.

## Tobi Abiodun



Tobi Abiodun is a Benin city born writer and spoken word poet. A multiple poetry slam champion winning titles across major Nigerian cities including the inaugural Lagos International Poetry Festival (LIPFEST) Slam. Tobi's poetry is heavily influenced by his upbringing – a ghetto-ish command of words and raw delivery. His short story 'EYES LIKE THE BURNING END OF A CIGARETTE' was long listed for the PIN prize for fiction. His works have appeared on *NantyGreens*, *Animal Press*, *Feral*, *How To Fall In Love Anthology*, *Nymphs and Thugs*, *Komorebi Magazine*, *Quality Press* and elsewhere. Tobi has shared his poetry on numerous platforms including the Poetry Africa Festival in Durban, Lights Camera Africa Festival, and BBC Radio London. His pidgin spokenword poetry ad for Heritage Bank in 2019 shot him to limelight, after which he went on to produce work for corporates and multinationals including Oando PLC and Hewlett-Packard. Tobi is now mostly caught in the world of advertising, cooking ideas and influencing the mass market with his writing. He can be found sharing reels on Instagram at : @toby\_abiodun Or reading tweets @abiodun\_toby

## Veronika Razpotnik



Veronika Razpotnik (1997) has a master's degree in biochemistry. She was awarded first place at a students' literary contest *Rdeča nit* in 2019 and is a two-time (2019, 2022) finalist of the contest for the best protest poem or social satire, *Mentorjev feferon*. In 2021, she became one of the five finalists of the Festival of Youth Literature *Urška* and in 2022 and 2023, one of the semi-finalists of the contest *Poetry Tournament (Pesniški turnir)*. She was published in numerous main Slovenian literary magazines. She is a co-founder of the group of young poets who create under the name *Pseudopoeti (Pseudopoets)* and whose anthology, titled *Milimeter in pol (Milimeter and a half)* was published in 2021. She also published her poems in the anthology of the contemporary youth literature, *Srca v igri (Hearts in the game, 2021)*, in the anthology of young authors from the area of former Yugoslavia, *Rukopisi 45 (Manuscripts 45, 2022)* and in the anthology of protest poetry, *Beseda upora (The word of rebellion, 2022)*. Her poetry collection, *Krekspot na požarnih štengah (Crackspot on the fire escape)* was chosen to be published in 2021 at the editorial house *Hiša poezije's* poetry book publication contest and was nominated for the best literary debut of the 38th Slovenian Book Fair in 2022.

## Wana Udobang



Wana Udobang is an artist and storyteller working at the intersection of writing, poetry, performance, curation, and installation art. She released three spoken word albums titled Dirty Laundry, In Memory of Forgetting and Transcendence. Her work as a performer has taken her across Africa, Europe and the US, along with working on commissions for Edinburgh International Festival, Deutsches Museum, Fondz SozioKultur and The Gates Foundation. She has received the International Writing programme residency at the University of IOWA and the Ama Ata Aidoo Fellowship at North Western University. Wana has worked with the Guardian, Aljazeera, CNN, Observer as well as producing and presenting documentaries for BBC Radio4 and BBC World Service. Her curatorial projects include "Strip" and "Who we are when the glory is gone" for Rele gallery and "Reclaiming the tongue" a video series exploring history, geography and memory through food. Wana runs The Comfort Food workshop which uses memories around food as a conduit to create new stories. In 2022, she showed her first solo multimedia exhibition Dirty Laundry, an immersive installation of poems printed on linen hanging from laundry lines.

For partnership and enquiries,  
please email us at [info@lagospoetryfestival.com](mailto:info@lagospoetryfestival.com).

For more information about the festival  
check us out on Instagram, X, and Threads at [@lagospoetryfest](https://www.instagram.com/lagospoetryfest).

We are on Facebook too at Lagos International Poetry Festival.  
Visit our website [www.lagospoetryfestival.com](http://www.lagospoetryfestival.com) for further information.

**Rest.**  
**Refresh.**  
**Play.**  
**Connect.**

# The Team

---



Efe Paul Azino

Creative Director

Widely regarded as one of Nigeria's leading performance poets, Efe has been a headline performer at many of the nation's premier performance poetry venues. He is the director of the Lagos International Poetry Festival (LIPFest), director of poetry at the annual Lagos Book and Art Festival, and coordinator of spoken word poetry at the Open Door Series' International Cultural Exchange and the Lagos Black Heritage Festival. Efe Paul is the producer of Nigeria's first spoken word poetry theatre production, Finding Home, and has performed at Johannesburg Arts Alive Festival, Ake Book and Arts Festival, Lagos Book and Arts Festival, Lights Camera Africa Film Festival, and British Council Lagos Theatre Festival amongst others. He is an Osiwa Poetry Residency Fellow. For Broken Men Who Cross Often, published by Farafina Books, is his first collection.



Uchenna Emelife

Project Officer

Uchenna Emelife is an arts curator, administrator, and a bookseller. He is the founder and director of Book O'Clock — a literary organisation that hosts a literary blog, book clubs, and a bookstore. In 2021, he co-curated the first Book and Arts Festival in Sokoto and was nominated as Mediapreneur of the Year in the Founder of the Year Awards. In 2022, he was selected to attend the maiden Sharjah International Booksellers Conference in UAE and was shortlisted for the Ashoka Africa Changemaker Prize. In 2023, he was listed by Vanguard Press as one of the top 20 influential graduates of UDUS and was awarded the best graduating student of Literature in English. He has been featured in several book and literary festivals, including the Kaduna Book and Arts Festival, Kwara Book and Arts Festival, Abuja Literary Festival, and HIASFEST. In addition, he curates conversations and special projects for Africa in Dialogue and Isele Magazine and serves as the project officer of the Lagos International Poetry Festival (LIPFEST).



Adesola Fakile

Lead Technologist

Adesola Fakile is a maverick Designer, Creative Technologist, Solutions Architect, Digital Author, Poet and Multipotentialite. He creates and proffers design and technological solutions through critical needs analysis, leading to the materialization of cutting edge aesthetics and interactive works, based on user, data and product centricity as well as digital operational excellence. With over 2 decade's worth of experience in design and digital technology, He is today, the founder of Udesign; Nigeria's first Do-It-Yourself Design Platform, Lead Designer and Technologist of the Lagos International Poetry Festival, a 5 star digital author on Envato's Graphicriver, Founder and Lead of Megaheadz (Nigeria and Canada), a high-end design tech company. He has worked on brands such as MTN, Heritage Bank, Lagos Momentum, British American Tobacco, Total, Total Ascent, Ican-UK, Goldberg, Malta Guinness, NISER, Lagos@50 digital arts collection for Lagos State Government, trainings on digital technology for the Nigerian Army and Naval officers, Transatlantic Trade Expo (USA) and much more. He is an astute lover of digital arts, science, Tech and everything in-between, a transformer of imagination into fruition and a strong believer in the matrix of possibilities. Adesola Fakile is the Manager, IT Infrastructure and Solutions Architect for the International Psychometric Centre



Obii Ifejika

Media

Obii Ifejika's storytelling exists in poetry, performance, design, photography and film. She has been awarded a Cannes Young Lion Award for her work in Design, won the first National Poetry Slam and has performed widely across Nigeria as well as Germany. Her poems have been featured in campaigns and projects for United Nations, Heritage Bank, The McArthur Foundation and Creative Africa, respectively. She is a part of the poetry theatre production, Finding Home. Swallow, her one-woman show where she played 8 characters, was commissioned by British Council and performed at the Lagos Theatre Festival. Her poetry films integrate her aesthetic of naturalism and minimalism. Connect at [obii.xyz](mailto:obii.xyz)



Lake Adedamola

Project Manager

Lake Adedamola is a graduate of the Obafemi Awolowo University, O. A. U., Ile-Ife; a poet, curator, and editor who's worked with several literary blogs and journals including Nantygreens and Brittle Paper. He is also an alumnus of I.S. Jones's Singing Bullet Poetry Workshop. He has since 2018 served in various capacities on the LIPFest team, currently the Project Manager. He is also a "need-greater."



9<sup>TH</sup>  
LAGOS  
INTERNATIONAL  
POETRY FESTIVAL

26 - 29 OCTOBER, 2023



[www.lagospoetryfestival.com](http://www.lagospoetryfestival.com)