



SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 22 – August 2011

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1. Welcome

Welcome to the 22nd edition of *Shangwe News* – the quarterly on-line newsletter that aims to keep you informed of past events and gives you a preview of future topical events, along with the opportunity to network and/or contribute a poem or article. The purpose of *Shangwe News* is to promote new and diverse creative writing. If you have any comments or information for the newsletter please email: nicole@shangwe.com

2. Shangwe Creative Writing Consultancy

Shangwe Creative Writing Consultancy sessions are based on a broad definition of creativity. "Creativity" being the power to make the choices that impact on our lives.

Intensive, individual guidance for you and your writing:

A well balanced blend of advice and support with creating work that is original, powerful and with strong market potential.

- Clarify your writing goals, purpose and passion
- Identify and constructively address any obstacles
- Build a bridge to realise your writing goals
- Develop a step-by-step action plan and follow through with your writing commitments

To find out more: email: nicole@shangwe.com

3. Shangwe Play Project Collaboration – NEW!

Inspired by *Shangwe's* third anthology, *Hair Power Skin Revolution*, contributor Pauline Walker has written a play and is working in collaboration with *Shangwe* to produce the three-act play in October as part of Black History Month. Rich Mix www.richmix.org.uk have agreed to support this project and will host the play on 21st October 2011. More details will follow as soon as possible.

Pauline Walker, Playwright & Co-Producer said:

"Why do Black women do what they do with their hair? A subject of endless fascination for my male, white, bald, Jewish friend Mike (he won't mind me labelling him according to gender, skin colour, religious affiliation and follicle challenges). For anyone who's curious about hair and why it's important to us, I've written a play about my take on British Black women and their hair in the 21st century."

Nicole Moore, Co-Producer & Founder of Shangwe said:

"I am thrilled and excited to be working on this innovative theatre project with Pauline Walker and Gail Babb. I am particularly looking forward to the artistic experience of producing theatre, bringing a new dimension to my work."

Gail Babb freelance theatre practitioner, and currently Participation & Education Officer at Talawa Theatre Company, Britain's foremost-led Black theatre company said:

"The world of Black hair care (and the rest of the beauty industry) is littered with rules and rituals. I can't wait to start unpacking some of them in rehearsals."

4. Shangwe's Website Under Construction – NEW!

Shangwe's website: www.shangwe.com is in the process of being redesigned. If you'd like a sneak peek at the design you can although you will be notified when the new site is launched. Shangwe's blog: www.shawana-lulu.blogspot.com is still active, which is where you can view more recent activities.

5. Writer Spotlight: Nelissa Mendy – NEW!

Introducing a new Writer Spotlight section, where each *Shangwe News* will feature a writer. If you would like to be featured in the next edition, please email: nicole@shangwe.com with your biography details and photo by **20th October** to be considered in time for the November issue.

http://www.facebook.com/I/FAQAtpnRWAQALDq598EGbwXqjX02ySLz5FPgFrmoibF7RzQ/www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoYD5bIq_g4



Nelissa.Mendy.mp4
www.youtube.com
Poet

Nelissa Mendy writes and performs poetry. Her works are inspired by using creative writing as a way of exploring themes such as identity, culture, place/community, spirituality, bereavement, faith and self discovery/self

recovery. Nelissa has a BA Hons in English and IT Humanities and Her creative writing dissertation is titled *Creative Writing As A Way To Reclaim The Self*. She believes that we all have the ability to utilize creative writing as a way of self expression, healing and as a therapy.

Nelissa also facilitates creative writing workshops within the community, with the main aim of enabling participants to create a complete piece of work, largely through using free-writing exercises. Through creative writing she hopes to offer people a way to release the 'silent' inner voice that is often overshadowed by the everyday demands, without the worry or fear of language and/or literacy barriers.

Under her performance name, *Nyalissa*, she recently supported Jean 'Binta' Breeze at an evening of poetry readings at St Johns Wood Church in London, July 2011. Her first solo publication is called:
Black History: Part of the Journey: A book of poems inspired by her experiences around the subject of Black History (ISBN 978-0-9556145-0-7) 2007.

Some of Nelissa's work has also been published in:
Brown Eyes: A selection of creative expressions by black and mixed-race women. Edited by Nicole Moore. (ISBN 1-905237-14-6) Sept 2005.
life, soul and survival: women's writing from the heart of experience.- An anthology of women's writing.(ISBN 0-9548685-0-1)Sept 2004.
Rumour of many sounds ii - an anthology of writing by young people (ISBN 0-9542846-0-7) 2002.
Rumour of many sounds - an anthology of writing by young people (July 2001).
African Roots. Printed in Mano Vision (1999).

6. Poet's Corner – Nicola Greenwood

Me-n-u

I came here to taste new flavours
I came to find a bite to fill me full of life
I ordered a main of love, a side of providence
Sprinkled almost entirely with a bright shiny new city
Its charm rested in steam pouring from streets
But I stayed home, mostly. Nesting like a Rubik's Cube
Manic change coloured me confused with its snap -
Turn – change. It was hard to eat out despite this charming place
I didn't know what it would become
I didn't know how it would become
I was not the chef, so I cooked in an ineffectual surrender
Relinquishing familiar flavours as I watched my waiter attend my future
My main course arrived, no longer on the menu but on my plate
Familiar new smells drifting deeper into my soul
My waiter and his pepper stick had sprinkled me into New York

I am in awe at all that has arrived and I pause while the side completes my meal.

Biography:

Nicola is a Bristol born New York dweller who began writing as a child on everything from the wallpaper behind a wardrobe to napkins at dinner, revealing the carvings of her perception in poetry. Her love of language, filled with the beauty, expression, clarity and confusion of words, continues to grow.

7. Shangwe News – Next Edition

Shangwe News is distributed to a target audience of black & mixed-race women of African & Caribbean descent in the UK and to other relevant and interested parties. If you would like to write an article of between 500 to 1000 words (max) or submit a poem (any theme) for the next issue of *Shangwe News*, the copy deadline date is: **20th October 2011** for the November 2011 edition. Please email your submissions to: nicole@shangwe.com

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