

SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 10 – August 2008

What's In This Issue?

1. Welcome
 2. Shangwe Poetry Nights Held at the Poetry Café, Covent Garden – Update & Two Year Anniversary
 3. Shangwe's 'Grants for the Arts' - Decision on Application
 4. Trespass Magazine Feature: 'Exploring Black Sexuality'
 5. Poet's Corner: Paula David
 6. Shangwe News – Next Edition
-

1. Welcome

Welcome to the 10th 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:
shangwewriters@yahoo.co.uk

2. Shangwe Poetry Nights Held at the Poetry Café, Covent Garden – Update & Two Year Anniversary

Shangwe is the vibrant and energising monthly performance poetry space, founded and hosted by Nicole Moore, which showcases and promotes fresh emerging artists' talent in a supportive atmosphere.

Since the last newsletter (May '08), the following Shangwe Poetry Nights were held on:

- **Thursday 26th June 2008**, featuring Sheree Mack, Natalie Fiawoo, Lyricaly Gifted and Achilles. The theme for the evening was '**Freedom for the people**'.
- **Thursday 31st July 2008**, featuring Akuba, and Cezanne. The theme for the evening was '**Home & Belonging**' with 6 open mic performers: Katherine, Alan English, Paula David, Sharon, Lucy and Matt.

- **Thursday 28th August 2008: Two Year Anniversary** with 5 open mic performers including Paula David, Christine Bell, Akuba, Ursula Troche and Devon "The Split" Jones, international performer from Canada. The theme for the evening was '**Celebration**'. 53 featured artists have performed during the 2 years August 2006 to July 2008 plus 36 open mic performances at a total of 21 poetry night events.
Do visit my blog for more details: <http://www.shawana-lulu.blogspot.com>

Coming soon....

The next Shangwe Poetry Night will be held on **Thursday 25th September 2008** at the Poetry Café, Covent Garden and hosted by Nicole Moore. Publicity details will be distributed nearer the time.

3. Shangwe's 'Grants for the Arts' - Decision on Application

Shangwe's Grant's for the Arts funding application was not successful. The news was received on 26th August and highlighted below is an extract of a letter from Anna Gorman, Interim Head of Finance & Business Analysis, Arts Council England, London:

'Thank you for applying to Grants for the arts. I am sorry to tell you that your application for SHANGWE Cultural Heritage Creative Writing Prog' was not successful.

We realise that this is disappointing news and we recognise the time and effort you have taken to prepare and submit your application. We have carefully assessed your application against the criteria published in the Grants for the arts guidance notes. There are a number of factors we consider when assessing applications. Your application was not successful mainly because:

- **Competition for funds.** Our funds are limited and we had more good applications than we could fund. Although your application met the criteria, we had to make difficult choices about which applications to support.

Grants for the arts is a highly competitive programme and the national average success rate for individuals during the first six months of 2007/08 was 38%...'

Despite this setback, **Shangwe's Cultural Heritage Creative Writing Programme of workshops** is a project that is ready to be put into action subject to funding and this is still a possibility through sponsorship or other funding bodies. Discussions will now be taking place with the parties who have already supported this project idea, as to alternative funding possibilities. Further ideas are welcome.

4. Trespass Magazine Feature: Writing from the darkness

Shangwe's editor has been busy writing a feature for Trespass Magazine 6th edition, and will explore the theme 'NOIR'. The feature, '**Exploring Black Sexuality**', is due for publication on 1st October 2008 and discusses Black British Women's Sexuality using personal perspectives and drawing reference to those contributions within the anthology *Sexual Attraction Revealed: a selection of creative expressions by black and mixed-race women (2007)*.

For more information about Trespass Magazine visit: www.trespassmagazine.co.uk

5. Poet's Corner – 'The goodness that is you' by Paula David

Paula David has been a singer/songwriter for most of her adult life and has recently completed a degree in Creative Writing. Paula is writing her first novel as well as putting together a collection of short stories. She has recently begun to perform her poetry, although she says, "Singing comes naturally; I do find it difficult to perform without the melody to hide behind."

The goodness that is you

I love your hands,
they glide and dip and rise across my skin,
I tingle and tremble and sing from within.

I love your lips,
the way their soft gentle whispers
sigh and breath a message of love
that resonate and form emotions in me.

I love your neck,
it leads me to explore the curve of your back
to the firmness of your muscles
to surrender to your will

I love your voice,
the way it speaks my own words
in my own rhythm, in my own time,
planning my own life.

I love your eyes,
the original pools of truth
that reflect all that I am
and all that I could be.

I love your strength,
That holds me still enough
to see a way thorough
life's many storms.

I love your scent it reminds me of the goodness that is you.

6. 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 2008** for the November 2008 edition. Please email your submissions to: shangwewriters@yahoo.co.uk

© copyright 2008 Shangwe