

SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 11 – November 2008

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1. Welcome & Seasons' Greetings

Welcome to the 11th 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.

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to officially thank those artists and other interested parties that have supported Shangwe this year. And what a year it has been! I won't go into how the credit crunch has led us into a recession but I will say this – let's always remember to stay focused on the positive and keep those creative juices flowing. Have a great Christmas and New Year whatever you do.

To keep up-to-date with my writing projects, please do visit my blog, where I aim to post an entry every three days. Postings include a selection of my poems, selected author's poems, book reviews, commentary on selected arts events I've attended, creative writing tips and a monthly commentary called Talking Point. The link is:

<http://shawana-lulu.blogspot.com>

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

The final Shangwe Poetry Night was held on **Thursday 25th September 2008** at the Poetry Café, Covent Garden. The theme for the show was 'Journeys'. This special event featured two poets: Christine Bell and Ursula Troche with five open mic performers: J C Abraham, Jennifer, Christopher, Julie and Mark.

Whilst we were being entertained with superb, quality spoken word performances, we dipped into a box of home made cakes, courtesy of Christine Bell who got these gems whipped up at 5am that morning!

I felt a mixture of pleasure and pensiveness as it was such a goose pimply evening for me made even more emotional by Christine Bell's finale poem highlighted below:

Farewell to Shangwe

Sweet celebration mixed with sadness
Saying farewell to Shangwe
So many connections forged
Friendships fostered
A kinship of those who care for creativity

The speciality of Shangwe will endure
Open atmosphere allowing
a freedom of expression without fear
Rich diversity forming a fabric
of shape and sound
Magical power of personal stories
Unfolding in rhythm and rhyme
Enriching the gathering

Heartfelt thanks to our Nicole
Creator of Shangwe, keeping things going
Encouraging others to blossom
No ending really but sweet certainty
of the birth of something even more beautiful

3. Hair Stories Blog – A Black History Month Project

During October, and as part of Black History Month, I set myself the challenge of collecting women's Africentric natural hair stories; particularly our journeys to natural hair styles, to post on my new blog, which was launched on 1st October 2008.

The aim was to post one hair story every 3 days during October. As a result, eleven stories were posted. I would like to thank the following Contributors for their thought-provoking and inspiring stories and poems: Lavern Buchanan-Sy, Brenda White, Monique Campbell, Christine Collymore, Leaya Collymore, Hyacinth Myers, Sheree Mack, Patsy Antoine, Anduosjahla James-Wheatle and Colette Machedo.

To view the hair stories blog, please visit:

<http://hairjournal.blogspot.com>

4. Trespass Magazine Feature: 'Exploring Black Sexuality'

Trespass Magazine, NOIR edition, October/November 2008, published a five page feature I wrote called, '**Exploring Black Sexuality**'. This was the sixth issue of Trespass and the final one for this year. In this issue, the magazine included features, poetry, art, short stories and an interview.

My feature discussed Black British women's sexuality using personal perspectives and drawing reference to those contributions within my anthology ***Sexual Attraction Revealed: a selection of creative expressions by black and mixed-race women*** (2007). I was particularly pleased to see my feature published with images from **Adelaide Damoah**, best known for her 2006 exhibition ***Black Brits***. <http://www.damoaharts.com/>

A magazine launch event was held on 5th November at the Cross Kings, London N1, where I gave a short presentation about the feature and one of the contributors, Akuba, performed her poem 'Sexual Emotion', which was published within the feature. The event featured poets, performance artists and a bit of musical madness as well to put it mildly!

I must admit that I thoroughly enjoyed the whole writing experience, from sounding out my ideas with the magazine's editor, Sara-Mae Tuson, whose editing expertise was extremely helpful and enlightening, to discussing my ideas with my writing colleagues.

For more information about Trespass Magazine visit:
<http://www.trespassmagazine.co.uk/>

5. Poet's Corner – Leaya Collymore

Leaya Collymore is 13. From the age of 11, Leaya found that poetry let her imagination wander and be free. One of Leaya's interests is music. She enjoys all types but mostly prefers soca. Leaya plays various instruments and currently is learning to play the tuba.

Freedom

Finally we are free
Rotting in hell the slave masters should be

Emancipation day, we all celebrate
Everyone parties and stays out late

Day after day we are free to do as we like
If you think you're going to stop me you better take a hike

My life is good, all because of freedom
So I will continue to build my kingdom

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 January 2009** for the February 2009 edition. Please email your submissions to: shangwewriters@yahoo.co.uk

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