

SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 14 – August 2009

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1. Welcome

Welcome to the 14th 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's 3rd Anthology Secures Arts Council Funding

Shangwe Community Arts Consultancy has been awarded a £5,000 *Grants for the Arts* Award from Arts Council England, London, to produce an anthology of writing by women of African and African-Caribbean descent.

Shangwe's third anthology, which is being designed to reflect the themes of hair and skin will be edited and independently published by Shangwe's founder and director, Nicole Moore. Two volunteer artists, Sheree Mack and Patsy Antoine, will be involved in the project to ensure dialogue and mutual artistic development takes place and that the project achieves high-quality work throughout.

The project will involve developing, editing and publishing an anthology of personal essays and poems on the themes of hair and skin, written by black and mixed-race women of African & African-Caribbean descent. Up to forty participants will have the opportunity to write, discuss and express their hair and skin stories. Once the book is published, a series of twelve readings and four spoken word events will be held, where contributors may perform their contribution to a wider audience.

This national project builds on the successful Hair Stories Blog www.hairjournal.blogspot.com, which was a Black History Month project launched in October 2008, to collect and edit Black women's Africentric natural hair stories. After evaluating the project, Nicole Moore decided to add the theme of skin so as to widen the scope for a potential anthology.

If you are interested in submitting poems and/or personal essays for this publication, please email: nicole@shangwe.com or you can download the guidelines from my website: www.shangwe.com



LOTTERY FUNDED

3. Black Beauty & Hair Magazine – Hair Stories Feature

In April 2009, Nicole Moore approached Irene Shelley, Editor of *Black Beauty & Hair Magazine*, to pitch an idea of writing a feature based on the Shangwe Hair Stories Blog, www.hairjournal.blogspot.com which was launched in October 2008. As a result, Nicole has been commissioned to write a 1,000 word piece, which will include her own hair story and draw upon references from two of the contributors' submissions plus photographs. The feature will be published in the November issue of the magazine.

4. Poet's Corner – Ursula Troche

Origins and Other Issues is the second collection of poetry, self-published by **Ursula Troche**, who states 'This is a deeper exploration of my central concern about how we all relate - or could or should, or must relate - to Africa.' She also includes poetry from her trips to Barbados and to South Africa.

Night with New Moon

The New Moon
Was the last
I saw of my first
Trip to the New World
The daylight of Barbados
Had changed into nightlights
Therefore I could only see the city
Whereas the country
Without lights
Was as dark as the ocean

In the previous night
I remember looking at the New Moon too
In clear definition
In a clarity you do not find in England
Here in Barbados, on the other hand, things are clear
So you can understand
More easily
The nature of life

Old me and women here
Are the guardians of wisdom
They have lived so long
That they remember their origin
They have lived here all this time
And I am such a latecomer
To the New World
What an irony!

I have distanced myself from history
I have distanced myself from atrocity
Instead
I am watching the new moon
I am waiting for a new dawn
And I am observing the night consciously

My interpretation of the night
Is that this is the time for reflection
And recognition
But you have to go to an island like Barbados
To see clearly
Because vision
Is the condition for recognition

I wish I could have stayed
Until Full Moon.

© Ursula Troche, 1.09

5. 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** for the November 2009 edition. Please email your submissions to: nicole@shangwe.com

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