

## **SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 2 - March 2006**

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### **1. Welcome**

Welcome to the 2nd edition of Shangwe News – the quarterly 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 missed the 1st edition of Shangwe News, please visit [www.shangwe.com/newsletter\\_dec05.htm](http://www.shangwe.com/newsletter_dec05.htm)

I hope that the newsletter proves useful to you as writers and readers. If you have any comments or information for the newsletter please contact me, Nicole Moore by email at [nicole@shangwe.com](mailto:nicole@shangwe.com)

### **2. Shangwe Events – 27/01/06 & 17/02/06**

Two Shangwe Poetry evenings have been held:

The Launch Opening Poetry Night was hosted by Nicole Moore and held at Community House, North London on Friday, 27th January showcasing poets Bisi Akinola, Patricia Foster, Nicola Greenwood, Louise Hercules & Hyacinth Myers, with open mic performances from Nathan West & Julia Hendricks.

Shangwe & Spot-On Arts Productions' Night of Love Poems & Love Songs was hosted by Nicole Moore and Brenda White and held upstairs at the Rose & Crown, Walthamstow, East London on Friday, 17th February showcasing poets Zara Bailey, Nicola Greenwood, Steve Rock and singer Jodie White with open mic performances from Adrian White.

A BIG thank you to all those who participated and who attended/supported these events.

### **3. Brown Eyes Reading Events held...**

#### **Saturday 4th March (4.20pm-4.50pm)**

Brown Eyes Reading at The Word, Newham's Literature Festival at Stratford Circus, Theatre Square, Stratford, London E15 featuring Nicole Moore.

#### **Monday 6th March (7.00-8.00pm)**

Brown Eyes Reading at SPIT-LIT, Oh! Art Centre, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green, London E2. Featuring Monique Campbell, Patricia Foster & Louise Hercules. Nicole Moore presented a group of writers who have contributed to her recent anthology Brown Eyes (Troubador). For the full SPIT-LIT programme visit: [www.alternativearts.co.uk](http://www.alternativearts.co.uk)

This was a great evening, with excellent poetry performances followed by a lively and a thought-provoking discussion.

#### **Dates for Your Diary...**

#### **Monday 27th March (10-11pm)**

Brown Eyes Reading on Bless FM 'Food for Thought' radio programme. Tune into 106.7FM or on line at [www.blessfm.com](http://www.blessfm.com) Guest Speaker: Nicole Moore presents Brown Eyes' Contributors Christine Collymore, Nicola Greenwood & Louise Hercules. For more information about Bless FM visit: [www.blessfm.com](http://www.blessfm.com)

#### **Friday 31st March (8-10pm)**

SHANGWE in collaboration with CENTERPRISE BOOKSHOP presents Brown Eyes Reading. An Evening with Nicole Moore, Editor of Brown Eyes. Featuring Nicola Greenwood, Monique Campbell & Hyacinth Myers – An International Women's Day Event at Centerprise Bookshop, 136 Kingsland High Street, Hackney, London E8. Tel: 020 7254 9632. Admission: £2.50 includes a glass of wine/juice.

#### **Coming soon...**

#### **Writers' Personal Development Sessions:**

Are you a writer – or do you want to be a writer? Shangwe will soon be offering tailor made writers' one-to-one personal development sessions to enhance your writing career. Whether you want to write articles, fiction, non-fiction, or poetry, you will feel empowered and able to develop your writing ideas and plan how and where to sell your words. Interested? Email: [nicole@shangwe.com](mailto:nicole@shangwe.com)

### **4. New Anthology Submissions – Extension to June 2006**

To those of you busy writers who have already submitted your contribution – thank you. To those of you who haven't yet – there is still time as I am extending the deadline until **30 June 2006**.

You can download a full set of guidelines from my website: [www.shangwe.com](http://www.shangwe.com)

However, a reminder of the submission guidelines is detailed below:

Nicole Moore (Editor) is compiling two new anthologies of poetry and autobiography contributions that portray the perspectives of black and mixed-race women of African & African-Caribbean descent.

#### **THEMES:**

**Non-fiction:** Poetry/Autobiography/Essays

**Subject:** Sexual Attraction Perspectives

Themes should explore whether race, culture, identity, ethnicity and heritage play a part in sexual attraction and whether these factors are important or not. Is sexual attraction merely a feel good factor we seek in relationships? Do we seek a partner that mirrors us? Or are opposites attractive too? What is the 'magic' component (i.e. chemistry) that makes us 'fancy' one person and not another? Does sexual attraction last or is it a temporary illusion? Does sexual attraction lead to love or lust, or both? What happens when we fall in and out of love? Contributions can use humour/comedy, romance, fantasy, inspirational and spiritual approaches.

**Non-fiction:** Poetry/Autobiography/Essays

**Subject:** Motherhood Perspectives

Themes should explore the state of becoming and being a mother, life changes, unwanted/wanted pregnancy, effects on mind, body & spirit, labour of love? Themes can include lone/single parenthood, teenage motherhood, mother/daughter; mother/son relationships; race, culture, identity & gender especially of inter-racial relationships i.e. black and/or mixed race mother/non-black father. Contributors **must** be mothers, i.e. who have actually given birth (rather than step parents, foster parents, etc) and must draw upon actual personal experiences using magic realism, humour, family, fantasy, inspirational and spiritual approaches.

**FORMAT:**

- Essay & autobiography pieces length: 1,000 – 2,000 words exploring Themes 1 and/or 2.
- Poems: Maximum of 4 poems exploring themes 1 and/or 2, with a limit of 40 lines each. Can be previously published.
- A4 - printed one side only.
- Double line spacing (except poetry).
- Number each page and please include your name, address, title of entry on a separate cover sheet with each contribution.
- Short Biography: Maximum of 100 words.
- Word count.
- All work should be clearly typed.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 30TH JUNE 2006**

**NOTES:**

- Submissions must reflect the perspectives of black and mixed-race women born/living in the UK of African or African-Caribbean descent.
- Writers, who are published in anthologies, journals and magazines for example, are still eligible – but new, unpublished writers are particularly encouraged to make a contribution.
- Please note that submission of your poetry, essays, etc. does not guarantee inclusion.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO: [nicole@shangwe.com](mailto:nicole@shangwe.com)

## 5. Poet's Showcase

Featuring: Nicola Greenwood, Louise Hercules & Monique Campbell.

### School Days

Hazy school days whisper forgotten memories, recalling the tall proud, all knowing corridors  
Heading towards the great hall, concerned only that you didn't have to sit next to the  
Fat kid, the boring kid, the weird kid - already begun in a cycle of labeling  
Creating misconceptions, lasting a lifetime, securing emotional doubts and self inflicted  
hatred  
This isn't how I want to remember those days, full of doom & gloom, weaving the future  
with sadness

Those same whispers recall excitement, the day you got to sit next to the most popular  
crowd  
The feeling of belonging, short lived, but they spoke to you, to you, looked you right in the  
eye  
Popular kid, liked kid, accepted kid - already begun in a cycle of labeling  
Creating misconceptions, lasting a lifetime, securing emotional stability based on an ego  
This isn't how I want to remember those days, full of fighting to belong, weaving the future  
with struggles

The whispers get louder, contemplating the laughter, the laugh you couldn't laugh, or that's  
IT.  
They make faces, breaking the silence, you can hold it no more, burst into chorus, break  
into laughter!  
Heads spin, people look, everyone grins - already begun in a cycle of smiling  
Creating conceptions, lasting a lifetime, securing emotional giggling and lots more fun  
This is how I want to remember those days, good memories, but glad to be free.

© Nicola Greenwood 2006

### Brail

In truth I feared to touch you just beneath those rendered spots  
Which kept me tripped for hours where I  
Licked you raw but would not dare to kiss along that arid stretch  
Across the cheek, around the neck  
Ingrained into deceptive twists these leathered parchments would insist  
On urging me to read your histories past  
These permanent and everlasting scriptures etched into your skin.  
Desensitized – So why should I ingratiate in my flow?  
Your legacy I'll never know,  
I'll never thaw enough to feel the nuances that make you real to - BE.

© Louise Hercules 2006

### You...

When I close my eyes, I see you  
Not necessarily asleep  
Lids drop, but peep  
Even so, I see you  
You're so beautiful  
It's true

When I walk in a daze, it's because of you  
Not that I intend to  
My eyes are open, but my mind...

Well, it's just not focused  
The purple haze blurs it  
Even so, it's because of you  
Your ways, your pace, your nurture  
You...

When I'm sleeping, I dream you  
Not that I dream nothing else  
It's just that all other memory fails  
Except that of what I dream of you  
You seem to cloud my mind...  
Well, majority of the time  
Even so, I dream you, I see you  
I feel you, I guess I love you  
And yes, it's because of you.

© Monique Campbell 2006

## **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: **20 May 2006** for the June edition.

Please email your submissions to: [nicole@shangwe.com](mailto:nicole@shangwe.com)

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