

SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 5 - January 2007

What's In This Issue?

1. Welcome
 2. Shangwe Poetry Nights Held at the Poetry Café
 3. Shangwe Poetry Nights – Coming Soon
 4. Shangwe's 2nd Anthology: *Sexual Attraction Revealed*
 5. Poets' Corner: Michelle White
 6. Shangwe News – Next Edition
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1. Welcome

Welcome to the 5th 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 have any comments or information for the newsletter please contact Nicole Moore, on 07960 120468 or by email at nicole@shangwe.com

2. Shangwe Poetry Nights Held at the Poetry Café

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

On **Thursday 25th January 2007**, Shangwe Poetry Night featured **Nicola Greenwood** (Resident Poet) and **Metis** with open mic performances from Louise Hercules, Zara Bailey, Tommy, 'Akuba' and Achilles.

With a 'freedom' theme, this was a fantastic night and a great start to the New Year. With outstanding performances from **Nicola Greenwood** and **Metis** and great performances from the open mic performers, Shangwe is going from strength to strength. With a diverse

audience as well as a rich cultural mix of performers we all 'travelled' to far away places and our minds and spirits were uplifted and sweetly soothed.

3. Shangwe Poetry Nights – Coming Soon

The next Shangwe Poetry Night is scheduled for Thursday 22nd February 2007: featuring Nicola Greenwood (Resident Poet) and an artist to be confirmed. The theme is '**Love & Romance**'. (As usual publicity will be emailed nearer the time).

2007 Shangwe Dates for your diary:

Shangwe Poetry Night will be held at the Poetry Café, Covent Garden on the **last Thursday of the month** during the year 2007 (except March).

4. Shangwe's 2nd Anthology: *Sexual Attraction Revealed*

Sexual Attraction Revealed: A Preview of Shangwe's second title due to be published in April 2007.

This anthology of poetry and autobiographical writing is eclectic and revelatory. The 19 authors are black and mixed-race women ranging from their early twenties to early fifties, living in the UK, offering us an insight into their distinct and diverse creative writing perspectives.

The Editor, Nicole Moore's aims were clearly and simply to discover new and diverse talent, ensure representation and to promote poetry and autobiographical writing of black and mixed-race women from African and African-Caribbean backgrounds. The writers tell their narratives, presenting their views in passionate, intelligent, humorous, strong, reflective and spiritual voices, some unheard; some previously published in the first anthology ***Brown Eyes***.

The book is divided into two sections: ***Sugar and Spice***, which includes a collection of 30 poems and 6 essays on the themes of sexual attraction, in particular, whether race, culture, identity, ethnicity and heritage play a part in sexual attraction and whether or not these factors are important or not. From losing your virginity, one night stands, other women, unconventional relationships, to love at first sight; this is a must read.

The second section ***Joy and Pain*** includes a collection of 15 poems and 4 essays on the themes related to the many aspects and layers of motherhood. Both the *Sugar and Spice* and *Joy and Pain* sections are intrinsically linked and complement each other.

Sexual Attraction Revealed offers a fresh and revealing insight into the lives of black and mixed-race women in 21st century Britain. This Shangwe produced 2nd anthology will provide a showcase for today's black and mixed-race writers; a permanent record of diverse creativity for today and tomorrow.

Just to give you a little taster here are three poems from the ***Sugar and Spice*** section: *Meet Me in that Place* by Karen Plumb, *One Night Stand* by Nicola Greenwood and *The Succulence of Fruit* by Louise Hercules.

Meet Me in that Place

Meet me in that place where only you and I can go;
Our lips join, skin and bodies mould
United in a haven of our own design.
Raw passion unleashed has freedom to explore;
Oh I need you inside, how much further before...
Our minds, hearts, all intimate parts melt:
To form a molten whole.

Time and time you have taken me to that place
To others, unknown and unseen

Leaving no trace when we go,
No one can tell where we've been.
Conspicuously we are hand in hand
Towards a path of discovery
That leads to each other's secret space.

Higher and higher we climb ecstatic,
Harder and harder it is to come to the end
Taking turns to lead and then to follow
Intimacy, desire and obsession
Become our special friends.

That place is more familiar now.
Yet again and again, I am struck by how
You surprise me
With what you know:
A familiarity that breathes content.

No longer do we need to map directions;
Highlighting landmarks and beauty spots.
Together we have discovered new places of desire;
New heights to soar: unknown to us before.
And our bodies merged long ago too:
You are now part of me,
As I am part of you.

Karen Plumb

One Night Stand

She had he
He had she
It was a bedtime story
Never to be read again

Nicola Greenwood

The Succulence of Fruit

When I sealed you to my sequined breast
You bore right in and never left
For there you grazed across the core
In seasons four? Well, I'm not sure
But through every vacant pore you crept
To bind me tighter as I slept to dream of heaven scented flesh
Upon my own there you would rest
For days....nights....unhurried....still
Enough to claim the shattered will that lay in pieces at your feet
Perhaps it was a clear defeat
Complete annihilation of the soul?
Indeed, I still resolve into the bitter succulence that is....
This unrelinquished bliss.

Louise Hercules

5. Poets' Corner

Many thanks to Michelle White who submitted the following poem for publication in Shangwe News:

Mr. Insey Spider

You invade my property, violate my space and run real quick.
Armed with 8 bendy creepy legs, which makes me feel sick!

A stare of glee with law is on your side, I'm a state when you're around,
I really wish you'd just evaporate permanently into the ground.

What's your purpose in *my* life; do my screams and terror thrill you?
Gallivanting onto my property, do you have nothing else better to do?

One day, I'll find the courage to escort you to my front door,
No need for any navigation, I'll just lift you off the floor.

It will be such a triumph battle, my 2 legs against your 8,
But for now, all intentions on hold, as my fear is far too great!

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 March 2007** for the April 2007 edition.

Please email your submissions to: nicole@shangwe.com

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