

SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 9 – May 2008

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1. Welcome

Welcome to the 9th 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.

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

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

- **Thursday 27th March 2008**, featuring Vanessa Walters and Jasmine Ann Coray. The theme for the evening was *'Nature and Environments'*.
- **Thursday 24th April 2008**, featuring Grace Quansah ('Akuba'), Patsy Antoine and Louise Hercules. This was a *Sexual Attraction Revealed* Reading hosted by Nicole Moore.

- **Thursday 29th May 2008** featuring Saran Green and 'Alien' with 8 open mic performers including Vanessa Walters, Natalie Fiawoo, and international performers from Chicago and Australia. The theme for the evening was '*Self Expression*'.

Coming soon....

The next Shangwe Poetry Night will be held on **Thursday 26th June 2008** at the Poetry Café, Covent Garden and hosted by Peter Kallon. Featured artists will be Sheree Mack (based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne) and Aliese Kellner-Joyce. Publicity details will be distributed nearer the time.

3. Shangwe's 'Grants for the Arts' Funding Application

Nicole Moore (Shangwe News Editor) is currently working on an Arts Council England '**Grants for the Arts**' funding bid with the aim of producing a **Cultural Heritage Creative Writing Programme of workshops**. This would involve designing and facilitating workshops using the writing themes of '*Freedom*', '*Home*' & '*Belonging*' and using the anthology *Brown Eyes* as a reference for dialogue, discussion and writing. A showcase of participants' completed work will be held at the end of each set of workshops.

This project will provide an opportunity for participants to write, discuss and express their cultural heritage using the genre of creative non-fiction, memoir, autobiography, poetry and prose. The project will also encourage participants to pursue their potential/future creative writing goals/projects, e.g. writing competitions, publishing their works.

The bid will be submitted in early June 2008 and, subject to funding, the workshops will commence in October 2008 and be held in the London Borough of Enfield to start with in collaboration with Nehanda Black Women's Organisation www.nehanda.org.uk and in collaboration with Enfield County Upper Secondary School for Girls www.enfieldcs.enfield.sch.uk. Plans are also underway to run a number of related events at Edmonton Green Library and at Forty Hall, Enfield during Black History Month.

The *Brown Eyes* anthology is a culturally diverse production and offers a unique and groundbreaking development opportunity and as a resource will provide creative and artistic methods for reaching wider audiences.

In the long term this project could be developed on a wider scale providing a model for cultural heritage creative writing workshops for London-wide Secondary Schools' After School Projects, Community and Youth Sector, Black & Ethnic Minority Groups, Black Women's Organisations and Multicultural Organisations.

The Cultural Heritage creative writing workshops could also offer empowering and encouraging ways of relating to and dealing with complex and often misunderstood difficulties and challenges faced by black and mixed-race women, relating to gender, race, culture, heritage and identity.

This new initiative will continue to promote black and mixed-race women's writing adding a new dimension to UK Black literature.

Included in the '**Grants for the Arts**' funding application is a request to support the development of **Shangwe News**, in particular to improve the style and content, to increase membership and build awareness of specific arts/literary issues and current affairs, to run contests and to provide information that encourages members to meet their writing goals.

For more information about the 'Grants for the Arts' funding application visit www.artscouncil.org.uk

Shangwe would like to thank the following supporters of the funding application who have provided their advice and testimonials:

Sheree Mack, Brown Eyes' Contributor
Nicki Murphy, Brown Eyes' Contributor
Natalie Smith, RED (Reading Educational Development) Culture Ltd
Colette Hibbert, Chair, Nehanda Black Women's Organisation
Andrea Enisuoh, Director of Literature, Centerprise Trust Ltd
Pamela Rutherford, Head teacher, Enfield County Secondary School for Girls
Rupert Colley, Edmonton Green Library
Zoe Prosser, Arts Officer, Enfield Council

4. Shangwe's 3rd Title: From Love and Back Again – coming soon.

Shangwe's 3rd title: *From Love and Back Again* is almost ready for production. Edited by Nicole Moore, published by Troubador, this is a debut collection of poetry written by Peter Kallon aka 'Achilles' and will include approximately 40 poems, divided into three sections: Love at First Sight, In Love and Missing You.

This is a collection of poetry with love expressed in all its forms. Peter Kallon shares his perspectives on the joy of that love at first sight scenario, the pleasures of falling in and being in love through to the heartache and pain of the loss of love.

This is Shangwe's 3rd poetry publication and offers an expressive collection of the author's spiritual and reflective mood revealing an insight into a young Black male's view of love and relationships in 21st century Britain. Proposed publication date is: October/ November 2008.

Just to give you a taster listed under *Poet's Corner* is a poem from the Love at First Sight section.

5. Poets' Corner – Peter Kallon aka 'Achilles'

So Miss...

So Miss
If you're cold I'd give you my coat
not just to keep you warm
but
mainly to provide
thoughts in your third of
you and I
walking hand in hand
sharing private jokes
while we both individually
and subconsciously
plan that night's entertainment.
I myself see sunny days
started off with shared showers
and then hours and hours
of eye, lip and skin contact
of the purest and most sincere kind.
All of this and I haven't even seen your smile

and don't have the nerve or
avenue to ask you your name.
But
if it's all the same
I'd call you midnight.
Maybe or maybe not from your tone
but
definitely from the way your aura
subtly roams the room
and seems to only land with me.
Or maybe I'm one of many.
But right now I'm too gathered in my own thoughts,
too blinded by my own shining light to care.
And me?
I've retired but
I use my pen to depict
and hopefully predict
present and future events.
So
as I slowly get bent
off this red wine
and evening daydreams of
your lips touching mine for the most gentle-ist
version of a kiss
just know that I wish
it could have been...
And by the way
loving the way you're filling your jeans today.

© Achilles 2008

NB: Achilles is a North Londoner who, along with his alter ego Alien, composes poetry on life as they see it. The full titles are Achilles the dreamer and Alien the realist. Achilles' pieces are in the main his life stories through his relationships but there are a lot of idealistic fantasy pieces. Achilles has performed at Poetry N Motion, Shangwe, Troy Bar and with Under Da Poetree. He has also taken part in poetry slams at Farrago Poetry. He is currently working on an audio CD.

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

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