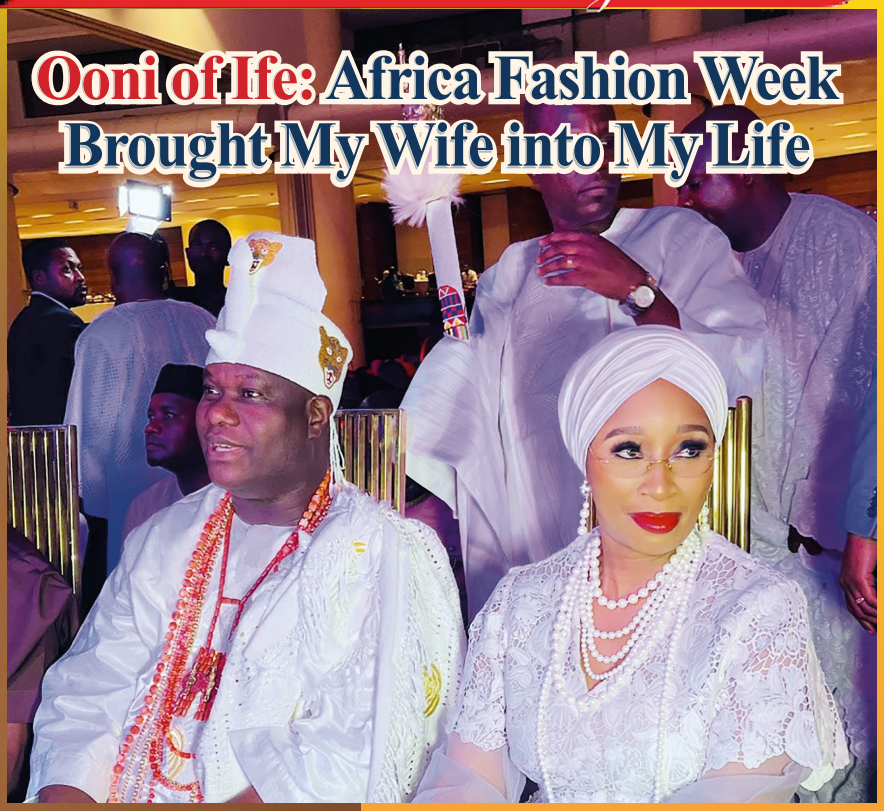
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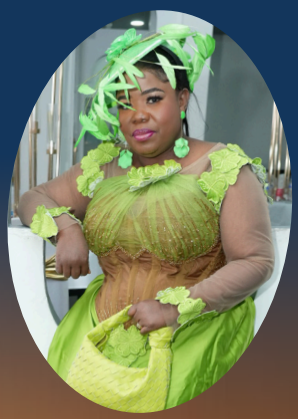
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## Ooni of Ife: Africa Fashion Week Brought My Wife into My Life





I Was Made for Entertainment and the Spotlight – Theodore Ibekwe, *UK-based entertainer*

My brand is built on commitment to excellence –Nikki Khiran



# SOCIETY MATRIARCH, SHADE OKOYA TURNS 49, CELEBRATES DAUGHTER'S ENGAGEMENT

It's another refreshing edition of your darling inspirational, entertainment, life and style companion, The Laurel.

Delectable, hardworking fashionista spouse of Eleganza magnate, Shade Okoya, clocked 49 on April 24, 2026, and Laurel wishes her Happy birthday and good health as she adds another year.

The Ojaja of Yorubaland, Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Ogunwusi, publicly and affectionately narrates how he met his beautiful, resourceful wife, founder of Africa Fashion Week London and Africa Fashion Week Nigeria, Olori Aderonke Ademiluyi Ogunwusi.

Charming and exquisite Interior decorator, Mabel Nwegbu, takes us through her world of interior decorations.

In this edition also, aside from interviews, Laurel features iconic designer, Nikki Khiran, Ngozi Modebelu of 2+2 Adire Clothing, Guodo fabric on runway at Tin City Fashion Weekend and, of course, the team preempted the kind of outfits to expect from fashionistas in the forthcoming AMVCA on May 9, 2026.

For Events, you'll enjoy unforgettable moments and interesting pictures of Dr.Tewa Onasanya's book launch and Seinde Signature/Sarah Baker's perfume unveiling.

The Entertainment pages feature United Kingdom-based Nollywood former president, Theodore Ibekwe.

Enjoy your Laurel and remain blessed.



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## Contents


5 **Cover:** Society Matriarch, Shade Okoya Turns 49, Celebrates Daughter's Engagement

9 **Cover: Ooni of Ife:** Africa Fashion Week Brought My Wife into My Life

11 **Interview: The Art of Design:** Mabel Nwaegbu's Journey to Excellence

13 **Fashion and Beauty:** My brand is built on commitment to excellence –Nikki Khiran

14 **Fashion and Beauty:** Guodo in the Spotlight as Tin City Fashion Week Celebrates 5 years of Nigerian Heritage

15 **Fashion and Beauty:** Fashionistas Set For 12th AMVCA

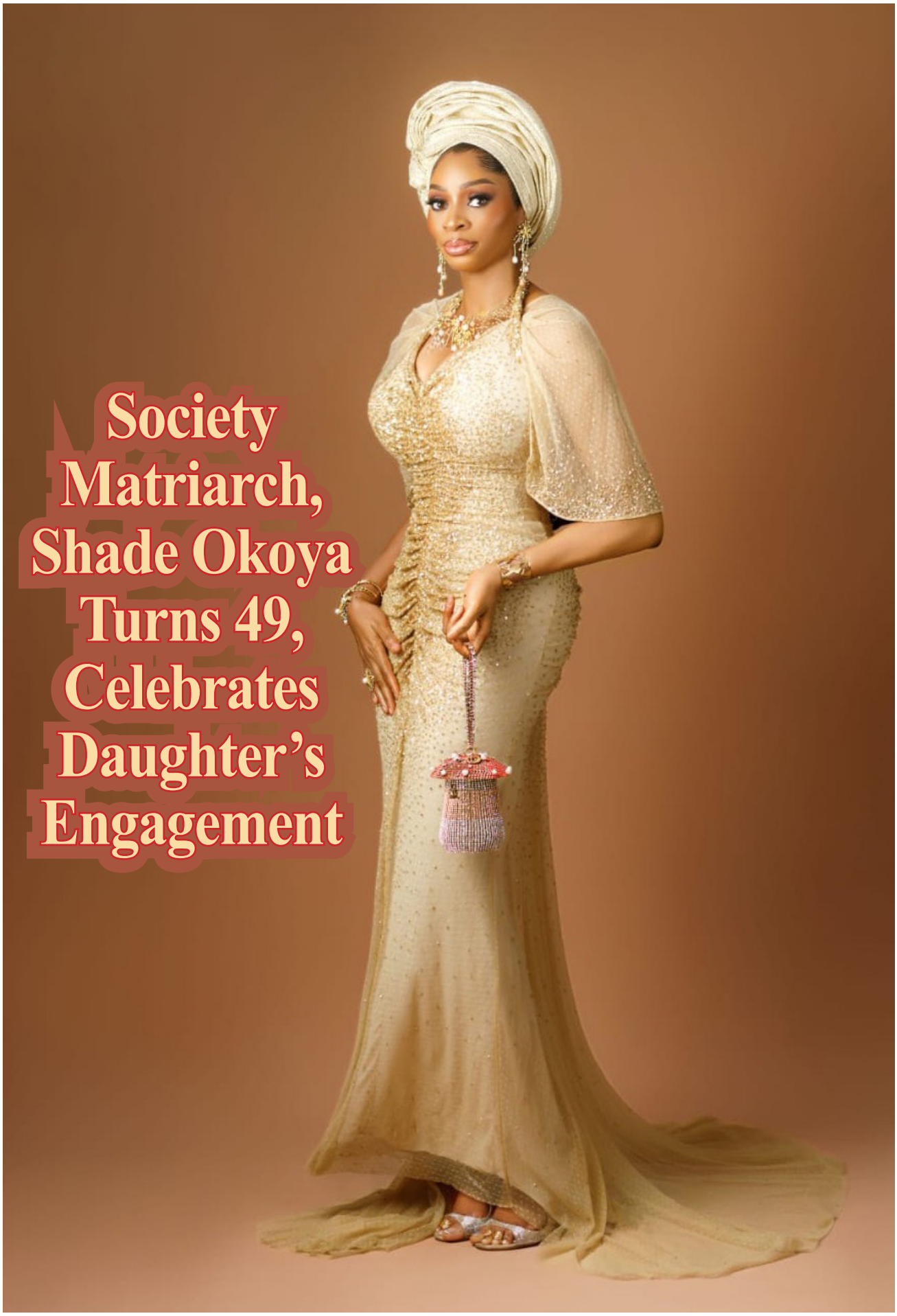
16 **Fashion and Beauty: Ngozi Modebelu:** An unending love for Adire

17 **Entertainer:** I Was Made for Entertainment and the Spotlight –Theodore Ibekwe, UK-based entertainer

20 **Events:** Fragrance meets theatre as Seinde unveils Sarah Baker's perfumes

22 **Events:** With 'Rule Your Mind' and 'Convince Yourself First,' Tewa Onasanya steps up to change the world


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# Society Matriarch, Shade Okoya Turns 49, Celebrates Daughter's Engagement



In what can best be described as a moment of celebration marked by grace and gratitude, the household of Alhaji Rasaki Akanni Okoya, CON, founder of the famous Eleganza conglomerate, is aglow with double joy this weekend as his wife, Dr. (Mrs.) Folashade Okoya, MON, marks her 49th birthday.

The joy of the graceful woman who sits atop the Eleganza Industrial City Limited as its Managing Director knows no bounds and, for the family, it is a symbolic alignment of milestones that reflect both enduring love and the promise of a new chapter.

Close friends and associates describe the atmosphere as warm and reflective, filled with prayers, appreciation and hope for the future as the family also celebrates the engagement of their beloved first daughter, Olamide.

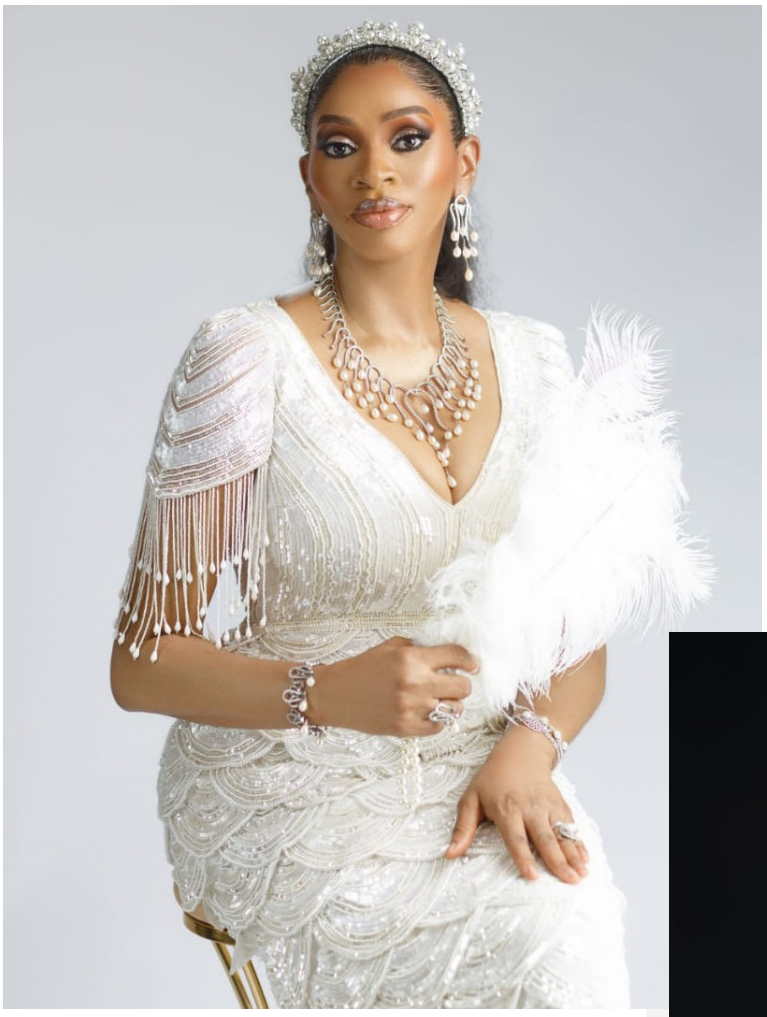
Proceedings regarding the marital journey of the beautiful, humble, soft-spoken and super-religious young woman will kick off this Saturday, April 25, 2026, which, coincidentally, falls on her mother's birthday, with an engagement to which family members and very close friends are invited.

Olamide is the eldest of the four children born to Alhaji Razaq and Shade Okoya and many society observers are of the view that it is payback time for Shade Okoya, the elegant mother of four and society matriarch who is known to always show up for family and friends.

At the heart of it all is the enduring bond between Chief Razaq Okoya and his wife, whose union has stood the test of time. Now spanning nearly three decades, their marriage is often admired by many as one built on mutual respect, shared values and unwavering support.

Many within their circle fondly refer to it as "a marriage made in heaven," a phrase that seems even more fitting at a time like this as they are ready to give their beloved daughter out in marriage.

As family members gathered to mark the birthday of the elegant matriarch, attention naturally turned to the joyful news of their daughter's engagement, a development that has been received with immense happiness, not just within



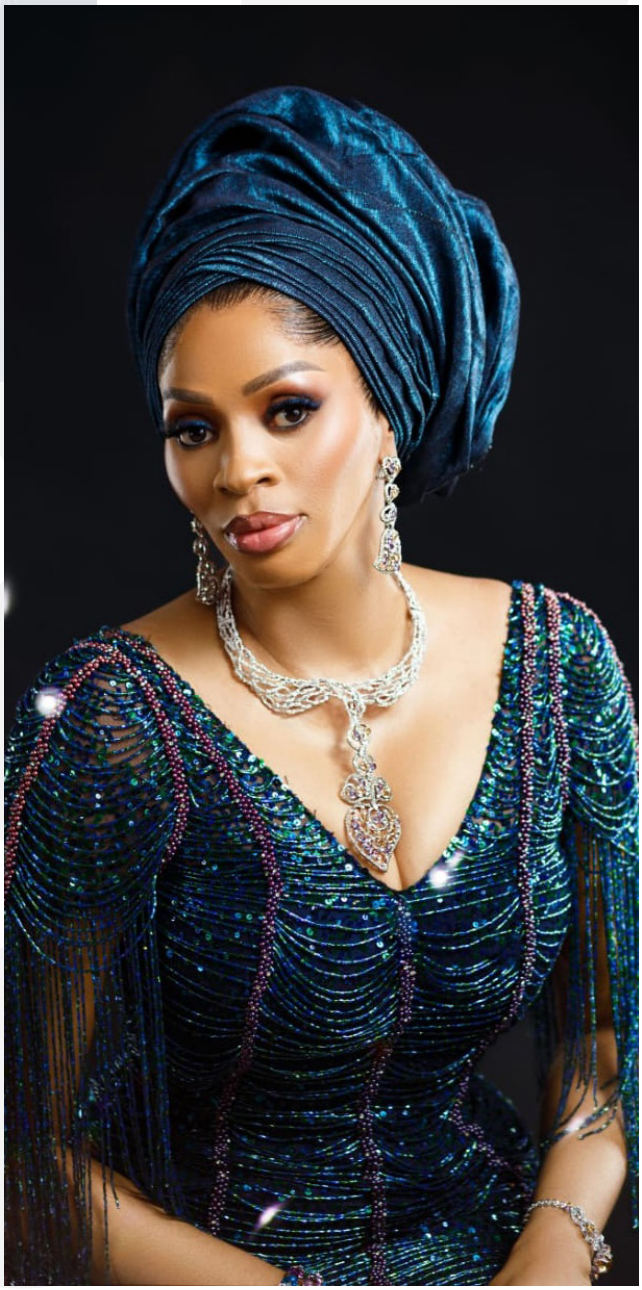
the immediate family, but also among their extended network of friends and well-wishers.

Ever measured in what he says, Chief Okoya is described as grinning from ear to ear while expressing gratitude to almighty Allah for the blessings surrounding his family. According to him, there could be no greater birthday gift than witnessing such a significant milestone in the life of their daughter, Olamide.

In his statement, he praised his wife of 27 years.

"Happy birthday, my darling wife. Wishing you long life, good health and continued happiness. There could be no greater gift on this special day than the engagement of our beloved daughter. We pray that their union is blessed with love, peace and prosperity. May Allah grant them a joyful and lasting









marriage. God bless us all," Chief Okoya said in effusive fashion.

For now, society should hold their breath. The event will take place on Saturday, April 25, with the name and identity of the groom still under wraps.

Observers believe the double celebration underscores the values the Okoya family has come to represent, strong family ties, faith and a commitment to nurturing the next generation.

While the birthday marks a personal milestone, the engagement indicates a passing on of the legacy of love against all odds. As congratulations continue to pour in for the Okoyas, one thing is clear: This is not just a celebration of events but a celebration of life, family and enduring blessings.





# Ooni of Ife: Africa Fashion Week Brought My Wife into My Life

Spiritual leader of Ile-Ife, Osun State, popularly regarded as the cradle of Yoruba civilization, Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, last weekend, tickled the audience at an august gathering with his startling revelations about the genesis of his love life with one of his wives, Olori Ronke Ogunwusi.

Over the years, he has been saying that one day he would spill the beans about his romance with soft-spoken Olori Ronke, founder of Africa Fashion Week London and Africa Fashion Week Nigeria.

That fateful evening was last Sunday, during the 11th edition of Africa Fashion Week Nigeria, held at the JK Randle Centre, Onikan, Lagos.

As he mounted the stage to give the keynote speech of the day, he revealed what he had been keeping private about his relationship with Olori Ronke Ogunwusi (nee Ademiluyi).

In his words: "This platform brought myself and her together. It's like a path that we belong to, a single light age that we live in.

"She mentioned the story 11 years ago, when our paths crossed. I could remember vividly like yesterday. I wasn't Ooni of Ife then, I was a prince. Someone told her that there's a young guy that could coin the whole Africa Fashion Week.

"So she was desperately looking for me. She wanted money to sponsor her project. I'm saying this for the very first time. There was a friend of mine then that is still very active in business now, the owner of

Bet Naija, my friend, my brother, my partner, Ayo Ojuroye Odunlami.

So, they called us that day that there's a lady coming to look for us. I met this beautiful lady. Immediately I saw her, I couldn't even move. I said, 'What is wrong with me?'

"In fact, they tutored her, the way and manner she should dress to see me. So, myself and Ayo Ojuroye saw her that fateful day. She said she was looking for money to do Africa Fashion Week. I said, 'Stop talking about money, don't worry about money'. She said, 'Are you sure?' I said, 'Don't worry Ronke Ademiluyi.'

"That day, I delayed her, engaged her in discussions. In fact, I wasted her time and spent much that day that her driver left and there was no way she could leave our meeting point. Guess what? I became her driver. I was driving her all around Lagos and I was enjoying it.

"We were so connected, and look at where we are today, to the glory of God. She has been my very good friend, good sister and amiable wife. She is so passionate about what she does, and I vowed that I would be a strong supporter in what she's doing at both African Fashion Week London and Africa Fashion Week Nigeria.

"Anytime she's planning this show, she is always tense because it's a very expensive project, but her passion has actually made way for her."

Oba Ogunwusi, who is revered and loved in Yorubaland and beyond, during his narrative, said a striking feature about the Olori before they got married was her royal lineage, which was equally a good and bad thing. Coincidentally, Olori Ronke Ademiluyi was a princess, the granddaughter of a former Oba in the same kingdom.

"Though Olori Aderonke was posing for me, at one point I had to call my dad. I found out we were from the same royal lineage.

So I asked my dad if it's possible for us to have (relations) he said we were related but there is a long (distance). Myself and my dad just aligned. My dad called her Princess Charming. Today, she is Queen Charming."






Queen Ronke Ogunwusi, a longtime champion of African creativity whose portfolio includes founding Africa Fashion Week London, the Adire Oodua Textile & Training Hub and Africa Fashion Week Nigeria, has built a reputation for elevating emerging talent and merging fashion with culture and purpose. Her vision is that AFWN should be more than a catwalk: it must be a catalyst for economic growth, artistic exchange and deeper cultural resonance.

AFWN has in previous years served as a showcase and launchpad for designers across Nigeria and the African continent as a whole. More than 3,000 designers have participated in AFWN and its sister events to date, drawing more than 90,000 visitors, including industry buyers, media and other stakeholders.

In 2025, the festival is being reimagined to deliver immersive experiences beyond standard fashion week models.



# The Art of Design: Mabel Nwaegbu's Journey to Excellence

For Mabel Nwaegbu, interior design is not just a profession, but a passion that drives her to create spaces that inspire, delight, and enhance the lives of those who inhabit them. As the CEO of Midas Interiors Limited, she has honed her skills and expertise over the years, developing a unique approach to design that combines functionality, sustainability, and aesthetics. With a commitment to excellence and a focus on client satisfaction, Mabel's work is a proof of her dedication to the craft.





## What inspired you to pursue a career in interior design, and how do you stay inspired and up-to-date with the latest trends and technologies in the industry?

My journey began with a passion for transforming spaces into functional, beautiful environments that enhance people's lives. The defining moment was my first major commercial project, which taught me the power of design to influence productivity, comfort, and client satisfaction. That experience cemented my vision to build a company that delivers not just interiors, but experiences.

As a seasoned interior design consultant with over 12 years of experience, I've had the privilege of working on numerous projects that have allowed me to hone my skills and develop a unique approach to design. My passion for creativity and commitment to excellence drive me to continuously seek new inspiration and stay up-to-date with the latest trends and technologies in the industry. Whether it's through reading novels, sketching, or traveling to experience different architectural styles, I find that my personal interests and hobbies play a significant role in shaping my design aesthetic and informing my approach to problem-solving.

I believe that interior design is not just about creating beautiful spaces, but also about crafting environments that are functional, sustainable, and tailored to the needs of the people who inhabit them.

## Can you tell us about your educational background and how your academic experiences have influenced your approach to interior design and business?

My educational background in interior design from the University of the Arts London and strategic business management from Harvard University has provided me with a solid foundation in both the creative and business aspects of the industry. This, combined with my practical experience in business administration, enables me to approach projects with a holistic perspective and deliver results that meet and exceed client expectations.





What skills and qualities do you believe set you apart as a leader in the interior design industry, and how do you foster a culture of collaboration and innovation in your work?

What sets me apart in the field is my ability to multitask, develop creative solutions, and effectively manage high-value projects. I thrive in fast-paced environments and am adept at juggling multiple projects simultaneously while maintaining attention to detail and ensuring that every aspect of the design is meticulously executed.





# My brand is built on commitment to excellence –Nikki Khiran

Nikki Khiran Couture is a legacy brand with over three decades of history, built on consistency, craftsmanship and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Over the years, she has had the privilege of dressing some of the most remarkable women across Africa and other continents of the world who understand the power of clothing not just as fashion but as identity, confidence and self-expression.
















# Guodo in the Spotlight as Tin City Fashion Week Celebrates 5 years of Nigerian Heritage

Tin City Fashion Week (TCFW) has just held its fifth edition at Novel Suites & Resort, Jos, Plateau State.

The event, themed "Guodo Glam," showcased the rich cultural heritage of Nigeria's central and northern regions through the iconic woven fabric, Guodo.

Christabel Bentu expressed her excitement and gratitude as she talked about it.

"The fashion week is all about celebrating our unique Guodo fabric, which is a product of our woven factory and a symbol of our region's rich cultural heritage.

"Over the past four years, we have worked tirelessly to bring Guodo to the forefront of the fashion world, and this fifth edition is a testament to our resilience and determination," Bentu said.












# Fashionistas Set For 12th AMVCA

Renowned for its celebration of African talent, iconic red-carpet moments, fashion, and cultural impact, the 12th AMVCA promises another unforgettable celebration of African film, television, and creative expression. The awards ceremony will take place in Lagos, Nigeria, on May 9 2026..













# Ngozi Modebelu: An unending love for Adire

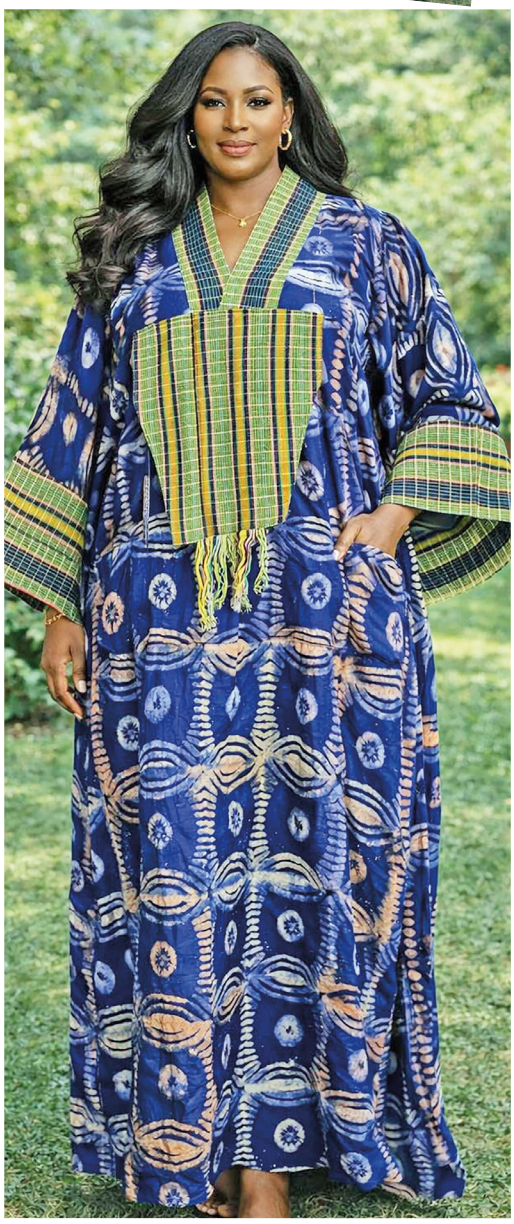


Ngozi Modebelu, the founder of 2+2 African Clothing, is synonymous with Adire tie-and--dye clothing, based in Surulere, Lagos.

She started in 1994, 32 years ago, and today she is an acclaimed authority in Adire apparel.

"I love fashion a lot," she says, "I read Marketing in university but I used to be fashion-crazy. And I just have this flair and love for Adire."





# I Was Made for Entertainment and the Spotlight – Theodore Ibekwe, *UK-based entertainer*

United Kingdom-based Nigerian entertainer, moviemaker, teacher and actress, Theodore Ibekwe-Oyebade, supports Black talent in the diaspora and serves as the founder/president of Actors' Guild of UK Nollywood. She is also the brain behind the non-governmental organization, Diamonds and Pearls Charity Gala in London, UK, that supports the underprivileged. She opened a window into her life and career in this interview.



**You have come a long way since you left Nigeria for Europe; how would you describe yourself and what you do in the UK?**

Let's just say, right now, I'm a teacher. I teach. I work with an agency. Yes, I'm a teacher. I also do entertainment. I'm a movie producer. I produce movies and organize events, I do charity balls to support charity and any organization that actually needs support, especially those in Nigeria and in this place. I organize this yearly and I give cheques to them to carry on with the charity works they are doing.

I used to do beauty pageants but I have stopped because I don't really break even. The pageants were usually very well done but I discovered I was spending more of my money and not making anything back at all.

Then I also founded the Actors' Guild of UK in Nollywood. We have an actors' guild here and I am the founder. We bring people together and network and do something beneficial for everyone. I'm also one of the founding members of the Producers' Guild; we have a new exco, which we are going

to inaugurate soon and I'm the public relations officer of that executive committee. It's a platform we created so that people there can collaborate, network and showcase stories. Also, I have produced several movies.

The first one I produced was called "Shameful Deceit". That movie is now on YouTube. I have another one called "Mother-in-law Wahala", and many others I have co-produced with other people. And then there is a series called "Maids of Docklands" and other productions I have executed with other people. Some are on YouTube and some were shot in Nigeria.

Entertainment is something that I really love. I have always wanted to be in the entertainment industry, even when I was growing up. My parents didn't want that to happen, they always wanted their children to become doctors, professionals and all that. At the end of the day, I still listened to them. I went to school. I studied education. I also read accounting. But I have not done anything in accounting professionally because it's not something I really wanted to do. Well, as a teacher, I teach in this country. But still, my passion, my first love, is entertainment. I try my best to do everything in entertainment. So, I'm into media, entertainment, acting and producing.

## How has your stay been in the UK and what were you doing in Nigeria before you left for Europe?

When I was in Nigeria, I would say I graduated and worked briefly with Waterparks. I used to be the manager of Waterparks. I was managing the park. I was actually living on the premises, and you can see that was entertainment. I was doing everything entertainment before I came to the UK. However, before I started working with Waterparks, I wanted to work in a bank. That was my first choice. If at all I wanted to work in Nigeria or if I really wanted to be in any kind of office, I wanted to be in the bank. I had interviews for a bank (names withheld) at the time. I don't even like to talk about them,




I don't want to mention their names. One thing is, if you don't have connections in Nigeria, you won't get to the Promised Land. As intelligent as I was then, I did interviews and I passed. The interviews we did were mainly written interviews, although we had oral interviews later. The written interview then, I was told that I came tops. I was number one on the list. And when the results came out, the same day my name was first on the list; I was invited for an oral interview. The day I went for the oral interview, people whose names did not even come up on the board as people that passed the written interview were already working. They were already working!

I was number one on the list but I never got to do the interview. After the oral interview, I didn't hear from them again. And then I contested it. I had to even send messages to the bank to say my views about everything that happened. They then called me for another interview, where I was interviewed by the chairman

of the bank at the time. After that interview, I didn't hear from them at all. I just knew that I did not have to pin them in the woods. It was just a personal problem. All that informed my decision to travel abroad. I was like, if my father knew nobody, I would not get anywhere in Nigeria, but in the Western world you don't need to know anybody to do whatever you want to do. If you are looking for a job, you go to agencies, online and apply. If they see that you are what they want; you will be given the job. Sometimes they don't even know you. This time round, people find jobs online. You don't even see the people that interviewed you. You don't even know where the office is and you work remotely from home and you earn salaries every month. They pay you. They don't even need to know who you are. All they want to know is that you can do that job that they want. So all of that informed my decision to leave Nigeria, to go where people will not be biased and I will get a job, if I am qualified. That's how I left the country, which was exactly 25 years ago.







## If you wanted to work in the corporate world in Nigeria, how come you went into entertainment abroad?

What happened when I came to the UK was that I went to an event, a child-dedication event. When I got there, they were supposed to have an MC for the event but the MC didn't turn up until probably 8.30 in the evening. This event was meant to start at about 5pm. And there was someone that actually knew me there. He said, "I better tell these people to just allow you to do this thing because I know anything entertainment is your thing and I know you can do it".

And I just smiled. Then he asked me to be the MC. And I did it well. That was in 2001. As soon as I finished, a movie producer there came to meet me and said they told him that I was not really the MC for the day. I said, yes, I wasn't. They just asked me to do it impromptu. He said I did it fantastically. Based on that, he said, "I have a movie coming up. I would like for you to be my lead actress". That movie was called "Heavy Mama in London". I just smiled. I think that happened in 2006. So I did the movie. I played the lead role. That was how my journey in acting started. I didn't look for it. It just came to me on a gold platter. Today, I have produced two films to my name, my own films. And then I have co-produced with other people. I have been in many movies. I have co-produced over 20 movies. When I did the premiere of my first movie in 2013, that's "Shameful Deceit", we had over 2,000 people at the premiere in Odeon Cinema. It was massive.





# Fragrance meets theatre as Seinde unveils Sarah Baker's perfumes

It was a glamorous outing recently as niche perfume firm, Seinde Signature, hosted perfume lovers to the latest launch of Sarah Baker's newest creations: Velvet Vendetta and Vava Vanilla, in Lagos.

Actor Deyemi Okanlawon took centre stage at the grand event in scintillating dramatic fashion to project the fragrance of the day.














Va Va Vanilla












You can be, do, and have anything you desire When you rule your mind to convince
CONVINCE YOURSELF FIRST
How Entrepreneurs Can Overcom


Yourself first.


TEWA ONASANYA


Convince Yourse


you desire When you rule
your mind to convince
yourself first.







# With 'Rule Your Mind' and 'Convince Yourself First,' Tewa Onasanya steps up to change the world

Writer, business leader, publisher, teacher and leadership coach, Dr. Tewa Onasanya, recently released two books, 'Rule Your Mind' and 'Convince Yourself First', to build nations, improve lives and bring about change for the better, starting with the mindset of individuals, groups and whole societies.

At the official launch of the books in Lagos, Dr. Onasanya explained why she authored the books, the target audience and the impacts so far.

She said: "I actually wrote 'Rule Your Mind' in 2018. I did a soft launch online in 2018, and 'Convince Yourself First' in 2023."

The event, which was held at Oriental Hotel, Lagos, witnessed the creme de la creme in different sectors. The dignitaries added glitz, glamour and gravitas to the occasion.



















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