

Peculiar

INTERNATIONAL

A MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE OF DISTINCTION

21th July, 2013.

Efya
Ghanaian Songbird

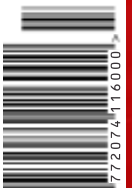
INSIDE:

FUNKE AKINDELE RELEASES OFFICIAL STATEMENT,
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DOTUN & TAIWO RELEASE NEW PHOTOS AS THEY
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WAZOBIA FM OAP IGOS WEDS

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CONTENTS

21th July, 2013

FASHION
PLUS

Exclusive Fashion
Pictures
Inside

5

HEALTH

Exposure to Traffic Exhaust Fumes Increases Risk of Lung Cancer

6

RELATIONSHIP

How to Get Your Way With Body Language

7

ENTERTAINMENT/NEWS

13

TECH

- Halfbrick Wants To Watch It All Burn With Colossatron: Massive World Threat
- Notion Ink Renders Show Adam II, Accessories And Eve Smartphone
- Galaxy S 4 For Verizon Spied In Brown Autumn
- Nokia Lumia 925 Review: Lots Of Changes, But Not Much Difference

18

BEAUTY

Be A Natural Beauty

19

CUISINE

Biscuit cake (Tarta de galletas)

29

SPORT

- Ex-Super Eagles Taiye Taiwo indicted in France on tax fraud
- Mourinho Rejects Monaco's Bid For Omeruo
- Liverpool skipper Gerrard pleased with return from injury
- Onazi's Recovery Excites Keshi

21

EVENTS

First Photos & Scoop of Yvonne Nelson, Banky W, Waje, Don Jazzy, Fade Ogunro, Iyanya, Dr Sid, Noble Igwe & More at Emma Nyra's Surprise Birthday Party in Lagos

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Exposure to Traffic Exhaust Fumes Increases Risk of Lung Cancer

Air pollution, chiefly from traffic exhaust fumes in cities could have serious and sometimes fatal effect on health, according to two studies that link it to lung cancer and heart failure.

Although smoking is a far bigger cause of lung cancer, a significant number of people will get the disease because of where they live.

The study, codenamed Escape, combined data from 17 cohort studies in nine European countries covering a total of almost 313,000 people. The size of the research gives it greater authority than previous work.

It looked at the effect of long-term exposure to nitrogen oxides and particulate matter PM2.5, which has a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres, and PM10, with a diameter less than 10 micrometres.

exhaust fumes

Among the participants, 2,095 developed lung cancer during an average 13 years of follow-up.

The researchers, led by Ole Raaschou-Nielsen from the Danish Cancer Society Research Centre, found that for every increase of five micrograms per cubic metre of PM2.5 pollution, the risk of lung cancer rose by 18%, and for every increase of 10 micrograms per cubic metre in PM10 pollution the risk increased by 22%.

The second study published by the Lancet, shows that short-term exposure to air pollution increases the risk of being admitted to hospital with and dying of heart failure.

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The second study published by the Lancet, shows that short-term exposure to air pollution increases the risk of being admitted to hospital with and dying of heart failure.

The scientists behind the two studies say that their findings indicate that current safety limits on air pollution are still too high and need to be lowered.

"Everybody is exposed to air pollution and it is difficult to escape," said Dr Anoop Shah. "Our results indicate that

How to Get Your Way With Body Language

By Brittani Renaud



Did you know that the way you stand can make you more persuasive—or more attractive to your date? And the way you hold your arms can be a tip off that you're tense? Send out the best possible message to your guy, your friends, and your coworkers with this quick primer.

Be a copycat

Mirroring someone else's body language is a great way to show that the two of you are in sync. In fact, when you talk to a close friend, you may find yourself matching her posture—she leans forward, you lean forward; she takes a sip of her latte, you take a sip.

"You're saying, 'I feel comfortable and at ease,'" says Patti Wood, MA, a body language expert in Atlanta. "And when someone mirrors you, it calms you." This move can also show empathy. When listening to your child, a friend, or even a client describe a problem, matching their posture and tone of voice shows them that you truly understand what they're going through.

Take up space

Do you keep your arms close to your sides or folded in front of you? This makes your body more compact, which sends out the signal that you're not only closed but subordinate. "When you take up less space, you appear and feel less

powerful, and people may treat you that way," Wood notes.

If you want to command respect, whether it's from a co-worker or a family member, take up a little more space. Remember to stand up straight and relaxed, with your feet 6 to 7 inches apart.

Hold your head up

There's a good reason why "jump for joy" is a cliché. When you feel happy and confident, your body automatically lifts up, Wood says. You may raise your head, shoulders, and/or chest, and momentarily push up on the balls of your feet. Feeling down? Hold up your head, bring your shoulders back, sit up, and smile. "It can change your mood in less than a fraction of a second," Wood says. Believe it or not, our body movements actually change our feelings.

Watch your arms

Though anything from stress to an overly air-conditioned room may prompt you to cross your arms, people assume you're trying to keep something inside or someone out when you get in this stance. You might unconsciously do it at a party to keep others at bay or at work as a way of holding back your real opinion. To appear more approachable, leave arms by your sides or gesture with them.

Open up

If you're physically attracted to a date (or your husband on date night), you might reach out with open palms or push your hair behind your ear with your palm facing out. "That's a signal to his brain that you're open to seduction," Wood says. Similarly, turning the upper part of your chest—what Wood calls "the heart window"—toward a person and pointing your toes toward him show a desire to connect, whether it's a romantic interest or a potential new friend.

Try something new together

Climbing out of a dating rut can be difficult. But couples who participate in exciting activities get a big boost in relationship satisfaction, according to a study in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. So grab your significant other and get ready for a good—but different—time.

Laugh it up: Crack up at a comedy club with your sweetie.

Get comfy in the kitchen: Take a cooking class (bonus points for learning a foreign cuisine).

Hit the road: Rent a fun car—a Prius, a Volkswagen Beetle, a Smart Car, a Mustang—and go for a mini-road trip.

18YEAR OLD ANNA BANNER CROWNED MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN NIGERIA 2013



18 year old Anna Ebiere Banner, representing Bayelsa State, beat 31 other contestants to emerge the 2013 Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria queen. The pageant took place in Bayelsa state this evening. Congrats to her!

WAZOBIA FM OAP IGOS WEDS



Popular Wazobia FM presenter, stand up comedian and event consultant, Iledal Grandball Omoro Samson...you see why he goes by the simpler name, Ighos? :-), married his longtime girlfriend Linda, traditionally yesterday Thursday July 18th in Ajao Estate.

Their white wedding will hold this Saturday. Congrats to them.

DWAYNE WADE'S EX-WIFE STAGES PROTEST AGAINST HIM ON THE STREETS



two children, Siohvaughn Funches-Wade on Friday staged a protest against him on the street in Chicago...claiming he's worth millions but has left her homeless. According to reports, Siohvaughn was ranting about child support, judges, a \$90 million contract and "houses on the water."

Dwayne Wade divorced Siohvaughn in 2010 and was awarded full custody of their two sons in 2011 after a public legal battle. Siohvaughn was in court last week

to get more money from her ex but it didn't work out well for her so she took to the streets.

"Dwyane Wade is offering to pay only some of what he owes me if I sign an agreement never again to discuss what happened in our marriage or with our children. I refuse. I finally told Carr I just wanted to end the case and keep my freedom and my voice. I told him I didn't want anything from Dwyane. The judge demanded the trial continue. I couldn't

NBA player Dwayne Wade's ex-wife and mother of his believe it."

Siohvaughn Funches once claimed that when they started dating in their teens, Dwayne lived with her at her mother's house and she took care of him financially. Guess, that's why she's very bitter now.

Wade is currently dating actress Gabrielle Union, and Siohvaughn has repeatedly protested that the relationship has a negative impact on their children.

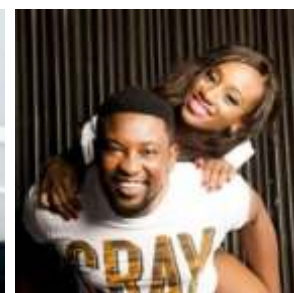
HOLLYWOOD/NOLLYWOOD ACTOR CHET BASHARI ANEKWE WEDS



Nigerian born award winning actor and film maker, Chet Bashari Anekwe, whose work spans Hollywood, Nollywood and the New York Theatre married his

longtime girlfriend, Rebekah Walker yesterday Saturday July 20th in Detroit, Michigan, US. Congrats to them.

DOTUN & TAIWO RELEASE NEW PHOTOS AS THEY ANNOUNCE WEDDING DATES



Dotun Cool FM and Taiwo Oyeбанjo, (D'banj's younger sister and Kay Switch's twin sister) have announced their wedding dates. Their traditional wedding will hold on Saturday July 27th while the white wedding will hold the next Saturday August 3rd. Congrats to them. Beautiful couple!

NEW MBGN QUEEN APPOINTED SPECIAL ASSISTANT ON TOURISM & CULTURE



18 year old Anna Ebieri Banner has been appointed Special Assistant on Tourism & Culture to Bayelsa Governor, Hon. Seriake Dickson. The governor himself got on stage after she won the crown last night and made her his new special adviser.

You know how some queens come from one state but represent other states at the pageant? Well, that didn't happen with Anna. She's originally from Bayelsa state and I hear she's really 18 years old. She was born February 18, 1995. 18 year old special assistant to Govuno? OK! Congrats to her!

FUNKE AKINDELE RELEASES OFFICIAL STATEMENT, CONFIRMS SEPARATION FROM HUSBAND



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WIZKID FEATURED ON UK DAILY MAIL ALONGSIDE 1 DIRECTION LIAM PAYNE



Wizkid celebrated his 24th birthday with One Direction member Liam Payne at a UK club a few days back, and for that reason, he made the UK Daily Mail website. Below is what they reported:

His band One Direction are officially the highest-earning youngsters in the music industry, and he took home a whopping £5million earnings in the last year alone.

And Liam Payne was evidently feeling very generous indeed on Tuesday night when he reportedly treated a pal to a bottle of champagne, worth a staggering £1.2million.

Dubbed 'the world's most expensive champagne', the kind-hearted 19-year-old is believed to have made sure his Nigerian musician pal, Wizkid, had the best 24th

birthday a boy could wish for by splashing out on a bottle of Taste Of Diamond at London's Funky Buddha nightclub.

You make £5m in a year and spend £1.2m on a bottle of champagne? LMAO! Yeah right. Alexander Amosu probably also gave this as complimentary!

ACTRESS TAMERA MOWRY REVEALS SHE WAS A VIRGIN UNTIL SHE WAS 29



Wait, say what one man, the man sister who is also an actress, revealed that it and women don't Adam Housley.

usually lie about things like this. The Tamera said: 'I don't know how to explain this. I'm religious, so I waited until I was 29 on HOT97NY that to lose my virginity.' not only did she wait until she was 29 to The now 35-year-old have sex, she also said reality star, who has she's only been with an identical twin married.'

after finally having sex, she regretted it and then decided to stay celibate until she got married...three years later. "'You may not understand this but I did it, then I felt guilty, then I became celibate until I got married.'

Tamera married Fox News correspondent Adam Housley in 2011 after dating for almost six years.



TONTO DIKEH REPLIES IYANYA

When asked who he would have dinner with, die for and dust off on Rubbing Minds yesterday, singer Iyanya said he would have dinner with Genevieve, die for Yvonne Nelson and dust off Tonto Dikeh. Trust Tonto Dikeh to reply...but she went easy on Iyanya, only writing 'Nigga sounds pained'. Guess she still has a soft spot for him...:-)



TONTO W.C DIKEH @TONTOLET
Lol nigga Soundz Pained**Y Dou?#SHEBA#
Expand

2h



NORWEGIAN WOMAN: I WAS RAPED IN DUBAI, NOW I FACE PRISON SENTENCE



Norwegian interior designer Marte Deborah Dalelv has spoken out after being handed a 16-month prison sentence in Dubai -- after she went to police to report she had been raped by a colleague.

The 24-year-old was convicted and sentenced on charges of having unlawful sex, making a false statement and illegal consumption of alcohol.

Her story is dominating the headlines in Norway, and has raised serious questions over the way women who allege sexual assault are treated in the United Arab Emirates.

Dalelv, who had been working at an interior design firm in Qatar since September 2011, told CNN on Saturday how a work trip to Dubai in March with three colleagues turned into a nightmare.

She said she had been out at a bar with her colleagues and friends, and asked a male colleague to walk her to her room when they returned at 3 a.m. to the hotel. She'd asked him to escort her because the hotel was large and confusing, and she didn't want to be wandering on her own, knowing she'd been drinking, she said.

When they reached a room, she realized it wasn't hers -- but the man then pulled her inside despite her vocal objections, according to Dalelv.

"He dragged me by my purse in, so I thought, 'OK, I just need to calm the situation down. I will finish my bottle of water, I will sit here and then I will excuse myself and say I feel fine,'" she said.

That was pretty much the last thing she said she remembers before the alleged sexual assault. "I woke up with my clothes off, sleeping on my belly, and he was raping me. I tried to get off, I tried to get him off,

but he pushed me back down."

After someone knocked -- the hotel wake-up call -- she managed to get dressed and make it downstairs to the hotel reception, Dalelv said. "I called the police. That is what you do. We are trained on that from when we are very young," she said.

Some 10 or 12 male police officers arrived, but no female police officers were present, she said. Statements were taken from both Dalelv and the alleged rapist.

She was then taken to Bur Dubai police station, she said.

After again giving her version of events to officers, Dalelv said, "They asked me, 'Are you sure you called the police because you just didn't like it?' I said, 'Well of course I didn't like it.' That is when I knew, I don't think they are going to believe me at all."

Dalelv says she was taken for an intimate medical exam and tested for alcohol consumption. Her belongings were taken and she was kept in jail for four days, she said, with no explanation as to why.

Dubai police and UAE government officials have not responded to repeated CNN requests for comment.

Dalelv said she managed to call her parents

on the third day to tell them she had been raped and ask them to contact the Norwegian Embassy. A day later, a representative from the Norwegian consulate came to the police station and she was released -- but her passport was not returned.

A piece of paper with Arabic text was handed to her, she said. An Arabic speaker told her it listed two charges against her: one for sex outside of marriage and the other for public consumption of alcohol. Both are violations of the law in the United Arab Emirates.

It was the first time she was made aware that she faced charges, Dalelv said.

She was allowed out on bail and has been staying since at the Norwegian Seaman's Center in Dubai.

Subsequently, she said her manager advised her to tell the police it was voluntary sexual intercourse and likely the whole issue would just go away. She followed the advice and in one of the many hearings at the public prosecutor's office, she made a statement saying it was voluntary.

Dalelv was then charged into English by her manager.

POLICE DECLARE RIVERS ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER, CHIDI LLOYD, WANTED



You all remember the law maker who was filmed hitting his colleague with the mace during the mayhem at Rivers State Assembly last week? Yeah well, he's been declared wanted by the police.

Punch reports

Following the free-for-all that took place in the chambers of the Rivers State House of Assembly, the state Police Command has declared the Majority Leader, Mr. Chidi Lloyd, wanted.

Lloyd was on Wednesday declared wanted for his involvement in a case of conspiracy, attempted murder, wounding and willful damage on Monday last week.

The lawmaker, representing Emohua State Constituency, was caught in a video footage hitting a member of the House of Assembly, Mr. Michael Chinda, several times with a mace during the fracas in the Assembly.

Chinda, whose health condition became worse after the incident, had since been flown abroad for proper medical attention. He represents Obio/Akpor Constituency II in the State House of Assembly.

The injured legislator was one of the five lawmakers that attempted to impeach the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Mr. Otelemaba Amachree.

In a statement by the state Police Public Relations, Mrs. Angela Agabe, the command explained that Lloyd was declared wanted after he failed to honour the invitation of the police, which elapsed on July 16, 2013.

"The Rivers State Police Command has declared wanted one Honorable Chidi Lloyd (male); a native of Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State. He is the Majority Leader of the Rivers State House of Assembly.

"He (Lloyd) was involved in a case of conspiracy, attempted murder, wounding and willful damage on the 9th of July,

2013," the command's statement read.

The crime, according to the statement, is being investigated by a special team from the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Mohammed Abubakar, in collaboration with the State Criminal Investigative Department, Rivers State Command.

It noted that the lawmaker was last seen at the Rivers State House of Assembly on July 9, 2013 and called on any person or group of persons with information of Lloyd's whereabouts to call 0808088890 or 08033277007.

Reacting to the development, the State Peoples Democratic Party described police declaration of Lloyd wanted as a welcome development.

A statement by the Special Adviser, Media, to the State PDP Chairman, Mr. Jerry Needam, urged the Police to also arrest and investigate the Aide-de-Camp and Chief Security Officer to the state Governor, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi.

However, the Deputy Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Mr. Leyii Kwanee,

expressed dissatisfaction with the decision of the police to declare Lloyd wanted.

Kwanee, who spoke in a telephone interview with The PUNCH on Wednesday, said the fracas in the state House of Assembly was not the first.

The deputy speaker recalled that lawmakers had fought in the National Assembly in the past without the police declaring anybody wanted.

In a related development, the Force Headquarters, Abuja, has summoned Lloyd; the ADC to the Rivers State Governor, Debeware-Semeikumo; and the Chief Security Officer to the Governor, Tony Iwelu, for interrogation.

They are to report to the Force Criminal Investigation Department, Force Headquarters, Abuja, for interrogation for their roles in the Assembly mayhem as seen in the video clips in circulation, according to the police.

Lloyd is one of the members of the House loyal to the Rivers State Governor, Rotimi

Amaechi.

The PUNCH had exclusively reported on Monday that Amaechi's ADC had been summoned for interrogation by the Force Headquarters for engaging in a brawl with

a member of the state assembly as captured in a video.

A statement by the Deputy Force Public Relations Officer, Frank Mba, on

Wednesday stated that the men were invited to obtain further details that would assist proper investigation into the matter.

NOLLYWOOD ACTRESS TAIWO AROMOKUN WELCOMES TWIN BOYS



Popular Yoruba actress Taiwo Aromokun gave birth to twin boys in a UK hospital on Saturday night. Mother and sons are said to be doing great. Congrats to Taiwo and her husband.

NAIJA FM OAP OSAM CELEBRATES ONE YEAR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Popular stand up comedian and On Air Personality on Naija FM, Osam, today celebrated his 1st year wedding anniversary with his wife, Tonia Kairaa! Congrats to them! Osam does the Gra Gra Xpress show on Naija FM from 4pm to 10pm, Monday to Friday.

'DAME PATIENCE, OUR PRESIDENT'S DARLING WIFE' - AN OPINION BY REUBEN ABATI IN 2010



I am sure you all know that before Reuben Abati became President Jonathan's Special Adviser on Media and Publicity in 2011, he was a newspaper columnist and the chairman of the editorial board of the Guardian Newspaper (2001 to 2011). Well, here's a 2010 article he wrote about the wife of his current boss...Dame Patience Jonathan, before his appointment. Very interesting read...enjoy :-)

Democracy is readily associated with freedom: the freedom to be free in many respects and increasingly in Nigeria, many of our compatriots, particularly persons in positions of privilege and authority confuse this with the right to be

disagreeable. The sober truth is that democracy is about rights and responsibilities, a democratic dispensation therefore cannot be a licence for disagreeable conduct as a norm; just as the possession of power in any form does not guarantee the right to be reckless or to ignore the etiquette required of office holders. Anyone in the corridors of power, either by chance or right, or appointment, is expected to

behave decorously.

Dame Patience Jonathan, as she is now referred to, our President's wife, failed the test this week in Okrika, Rivers State.

It is trite knowledge that there is a critical difference between Yenagoa and Abuja, and a world of difference between being the wife of a Deputy Governor/Governor/Vice president and being the wife of Nigeria's No 1

citizen. When people suddenly find themselves in such latter position, prepared or unprepared, anywhere in the world, they are taken through a crash programme in finishing and poise and made to realize that being the wife of an important man comes with serious responsibilities lest they sabotage the same person that they should be supporting.

HALFBRICK WANTS TO WATCH IT ALL BURN WITH COLOSSATRON: MASSIVE WORLD THREAT

By Richard Lawler



The makers of Jetpack Joyride and Fruit Ninja want you to destroy the planet. From the halls of the first annual PAX Australia comes Colossatron: Massive World Threat. Sure, the game's whole mass-destruction-via-aliens concept sounds a lot like Rampage, but as the announcement trailer shows, it's oh so much more. Players take control of a modular robotic snake, using all manner of upgradeable weapons and abilities to wreak wanton top-down chaos on an unsuspecting populace. The goal? Causing as much property damage as possible. Think of it as a modern take on Godzilla with a campy anime slant and you're mostly there. The Queensland, Australia developer's latest will be playable at its booth for the duration of the show. Can't make it to the expo? Skip past the break for the debut video.

NOTION INK RENDERS SHOW ADAM II, ACCESSORIES AND EVE SMARTPHONE

By Jon Fingas

Notion Ink's been teasing the Adam II for well over a year now, and while the first generation left us cold, we're curious to see what the second attempt brings to the table. A series of renders recently surfaced that allegedly show the Android tablet, its accessories / packaging and a companion smartphone concept named EVE. It's unclear if the images -- which have since been pulled -- are legitimate, but the design appears to match previous leaks. The accessories include a collapsible docking station, USB charger, stylus and dual-tone leather carrying case. What's most intriguing, however, is the EVE smartphone which also runs Android and features a 4-inch capacitive touchscreen along with a secondary display mounted on its spine, just like the Adam II. Check out the gallery below for the complete set of pictures.



GALAXY S 4 FOR VERIZON SPIED IN BROWN AUTUMN

By Jon Fingas



History might be repeating itself. Just as Samsung launched a red Galaxy S III for AT&T and followed up with black and brown Verizon models, a new @evleaks image hints that AT&T's red Galaxy S 4 could be matched by a Brown Autumn equivalent on Verizon. The product shot doesn't reveal more than the

color, mind you -- we don't know when this GS4 could ship, or if Blue Arctic would tag along. If the past is anything to go by, though, customers won't have to pay a premium for any additional Verizon hues.

NOKIA LUMIA 925 REVIEW: LOTS OF CHANGES, BUT NOT



It's been just half a year since Nokia revealed its first Windows Phone 8 device, and we've already got another flagship to review. The Lumia 925 marks a departure in design for Nokia -- it looks nothing like its predecessors, barring an expanse of screen and some capacitive Windows buttons. This time around, the phone is housed in an aluminum frame, making it Nokia's first metal smartphone since those heady Symbian days. This, alongside some hardware repositioning and (minor) specification changes has been enough for the Lumia 925 to weigh notably less than its 920 forebear -- and we think

it's enough to feel in your hand. As we juggled the two Windows Phones ahead of this review, our first impressions were that the 925 was also much easier to hold, despite only a negligible difference in thickness.

SWISS SCIENTISTS CREATE CATBOT: A ROBOT THAT RUNS LIKE A CAT

By Mariella Moon



Someone call MIT's researchers and tell them their terrifying cheetah robot has a long-lost teensy sibling in Switzerland. Developed in the laboratories of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, the "cheetah-cub robot" is a four-legged metallic critter modeled after a house cat. The scientists focused on designing legs that can move like our feline friends', paying particular attention to their stability while moving on uneven surfaces. While it has a long way to go before it becomes a graceful daredevil, it's a fast little bugger that can run seven times its body length in one second. The researchers hope their creation

gives rise to more robots for exploration and search-and-rescue missions in the future -- a far more noble goal than some cat-owners' dream to have their pets' pictures land on the front page of Reddit.



Efxa

Ghanaian Songbird

From the red carpet to the music stage, Efxa, also known as Jane Fara Fauzzier Afia Boafowaa Yahaya Awindor, has been around the world and back and is now ready to solidify a place in our hearts as our favourite Ghanaian songbird.

She hopes to one day be an African music legend and has been in the pursuit of this since she competed in Ghanaian music talent show, "Star of the Future" in 2008 where she was the first runner-up. Crossing

over into other markets than just Ghana's, Efxa has been able to gain quite a large following spanning across the African continent and its diaspora.

Raised in quite a number of countries abroad as she followed her mother on the road for a hit Ghanaian TV show, Efxa, encouraged by her family, pursued her passion for the Arts, studying Theatre Arts and Directing in the University of Ghana, Legon.

Having won 'Best Female Vocalist' four times at the Ghana Music Awards, Efxa's vocal prowess cannot be underestimated. And, with hit singles "Best In Me", "Little Things" and "The Getaway", Efxa's voice has never been far way from her fans' minds.

While on a short visit to Nigeria, Efxa took a break to have a word with BN. She was very frank, polite and bubbly as she opened up on her life, her style, her music career and more.



Tell us who Efyia is with just a few adjectives.

Efyia is eclectic, musically inspired, energetic, forgiving and very very very patient. Let me add one more – I'm very loving but I can be crazy when you get me crazy. Also, let me add – I'm very adaptive. I can survive in almost any situation.

You're mum, Nana Adwoa Awindor was the host of hit Ghanaian TV show "Greetings From Abroad". Do you think this ease to adapt to your environment has something to do with her?

Well, may be. My mum hosted this show where she would go around the world and she would contact Ghanaians. You know, there was no Skype back then so it was her and Ghanaians loved her. So, I grew up in different countries for about 15 years.

If you were a Bond Girl in a 007 movie, who would be your James Bond?

It would be Komla Dumor, the presenter on BBC Africa.

Apart from your music, you're known for your attention-grabbing outfits on the red carpet. Describe your style.

It depends on how I feel. But, when I'm Efyia, it's very Neo-Soul and afrocentric, but young. So, it has a bit of Mariam Makeba but she's contemporary.

If you were to steal a celebrity's closet, who would be your target?

Kim Kardashian.

Who are your favourite African designers IamIsigo, Duaba Serwa, Re Bahia, Deola Sagoe, Wana Sambo and Papa Oppong, who is probably the youngest African Fashion designer.

If you were granted three wishes from a magic genie, what would they be?

I'd wish to be a legend with the first one; then, to be super rich with the second. It's all about money in the end. Then the third one would be for world peace.

Are you dating anyone?

Not at the moment but I have a best friend.

How did you get into music?

My whole family is music oriented. I grew up in the house with a lot of church people so my aunty used to play the guitar and my mum used to sing. Everybody in my family has a little bit of music in them so it was just one of those things for me. They were certainly one of the things that helped me establish my musical background so they were where it all started from. I've been singing since I was six.

When did music get professional for you? It all started after 'Stars of the Future', a competition in Ghana.

You emerged the first runner up in that competition in 2008. When did you have that moment when you knew music was the path for you?

I've known ever since then that this is what I want to do. I went to the University of Ghana, Legon. I have a B.A in theatre arts and directing. So, in between all of the singing, I want to direct shows for the theatre but we'll get there. For now, this is what I want to do and I know for sure.

You did dabble in a little acting though. We saw your sultry performance in Yvonne Nelson's "Single & Married". Are we going to see more of you in movies?

That was for fun. No, I doubt you'll see

me in any more. When it comes to TV, I'll be behind the scenes, it's okay.

Speaking of acting, your mum was on TV and you studied acting in university, how come you tended more towards singing career-wise?

Because I sing better.

African Jazz legend, Hugh Masekela said that you're the type of act that needs her own club, something like Fela's "Shrine" where you would entertain week in, week out. How does that make you feel?

Everybody has their own 'shrine' – somewhere they can hang with their friends and people who believe in what you're doing. It's not so bad. It could be your home too but I think it's really nice that he said that about me.

So, what challenges did you have as a budding musician?

It's always hard. People judge you. People are not sure you're good enough until you enter their hearts. And, once you enter their hearts, you're good to go because you're going to be there forever and that's what I want. I want to make music that lives forever so even when I die, I can still live.

In hindsight, what would you have done differently?

I wish I went to music school for my university. I should have done that but I can still go. I'm actually still going right after I put out my album and go on tour.

When should we be expecting your debut album?

It should be out this August, 2013.

Your fans have been waiting for your debut album for a while now and its

release keeps getting pushed back. Is this the final date?

I've been saying this for about 2 or 3 years now and I know my album has been anticipated and been waited for but that's why I've been putting out singles. I also realized that I have a lot of singles out and everybody loves them. I was going to put some of the singles on the album but I have a lot of new music too so it's battling with me. I'm thinking I should put out all the singles in one compilation – a mixtape, before I put out the album. Either way, we're still working on the album and may just put out one more single before it comes out. The last one we put out, "Life" has started working its way in. Before the album comes out, I'm sure we're going to put out something. The 'Best In Me' video is almost done too.

Back to the music, what do you call your genre of music?

I'm beginning to call it Efy music because I want to do everything and, you know, why not? What I say is that the basis of my music is Soul so whatever I do, you'll still feel my soul in it. I want to make party music. I want to make love-making music. I want to make cool music and make indie music. I want to make Jazz. So, what does that become? Does that mean I don't know what I'm doing? No! It just means I'm diverse and when an artiste becomes that it doesn't mean they are selling out, it just means that they want to do something different and that's not wrong. If you have a lot of people who believe in you, the person, the music changing doesn't change their heart as long as you make good music and you keep doing what you believe in, nothing can stop you.

Would you say your music has evolved

over the past five years?

Of course! Now, we record live band. We're mixing genres so it's amazing now because we can do anything we want and that was the whole idea from the start.

Who are music inspirations?

Right now, a lot of people because I'm listening to a lot of new music – Frank Ocean, Rihanna, India arie, Mary J Blige, Jay-Z, Kanye West; I love his new album by the way. As for Nigerian artists I love all the females – Tiwa Savage, Waje, Omawumi. They are people I look up to and they are older so it's nice to know that they are doing all these amazing things. Because I'm younger, I believe that when I get to where they have reached, I'll be able to do more so they will know that I learnt well.

Where did you have your first performance in Nigeria?

It was at Industry Nite. Shout out to Matthew because he was the person that gave me my first platform here. He's amazing and he's always believed in everything I wanted to do. Let me tell you the story.

I went out and people were performing at this show and it looked like an open mic so I went to him and told him I can sing and I sang one song after which they made me sing for thirty minutes. So, from then on, I started performing at Industry Nite regularly. After school, I came here for like a month and did a lot of free shows just to put my voice out there. That's when I met Chin (Chinedu Okeke) and he started getting me the right shows. So far, I've done Lagos Jazz Series, WCW conference, Ovation Black & White Ball, Lagos FashionWeek, Music Meets Runway and more. Recently, I performed at the Tinsel 1000 show.

With your style of Soulful music, do you think it would be suited for the Nigerian audience?

I mean, I'm about to make some music that it going to make them dance. If I can make some Afrobeat-inspired Soulful music with a little Funk in it, I think I can make them dance. I've been learning a lot. I've been hanging out with Wizkid, Maleek Berry, Sarz, LeriQ, Ikoni, Dokta Frabz, Masterkraft and they've been teaching me a lot about the music; also, DJ Klem, who is on my album.

So what collaborations should we be expecting to hear from you soon?

I was in town a few weeks ago to do a song with Wizkid for his album. As for collaborations I want to do, I would like to work with 2Face Idibia and Wizkid again, for my album this time. I want to work with the girls – Tiwa Savage, Waje and Omawumi. I want to do a song with Femi Kuti because he's one of my mentors. I would also like to work with Ajebutter22 and Butter Boy Rilwan. I'm doing a song with Syndik8 Records' Blink and hopefully work with Banky W very soon. I would really like to work with Kenya's Camp Mulla and South Africa's Zahara.

How do you describe Nigerian music?

It's fun, energetic and bouncy and makes you want to dance. People want to dance to forget their worries. But, I thought about it, when you're done dancing and don't want to listen to the dance music anymore, I'll be there to make that cool music for you. I'll be there to make that love-making music for you too. So, that way I can please all my audiences. I like the fact that grownups like my music too so it's not like my music is immature.

Naturally Gorgeous Hair Makeovers

By Jolene Edgar



Hairstyles made simple

Want a fresh look for fall? These women did, too, so we asked star stylist David Evangelista, owner of the David Evangelista Salon at the Cornelia Day Resort in New York City, to tweak away. One ground rule: The cuts had to be truly low-maintenance. Check out the amazing results.

Libby Sentz, 35

After I let go of my long hair, I felt a sense of liberation. And it's so wash-and-wear. In fact, blow-drying turns it into a frizzy mess."

The backstory: "Being a dancer, I never wore my hair down because it was so big and heavy—and it made me sweat more," Libby explains. David agrees: "We needed to lose about 10 inches since all this hair was robbing her ringlets of bounce and pulling down her features."

The update: Libby

A chin-length bob with long, angled layers adds much-needed sass and exposes this dancer's long, graceful neck. Colorist Gary Wagner gave Libby's hair a chestnut base, then wove

in subtle auburn highlights throughout her top layers.

Her go-to styling aid Ken Paves Healthy Hair Curl Balm (\$30)

Vennie Lau, 34

This cut saves me 15 minutes in the morning. I just shampoo, rub in a little styling wax to enhance the texture, and go."

The backstory "I'm starting my own interior design firm, and I wanted a cut that's stylish and mature," she says. David's take: "Before, her hair was shapeless and dragged down her pretty facial features."

The update: Vennie

David cut off 9 inches to create a shaggy (and low-fuss) textured crop with short layers in back and longer ones in front. Colorist William Simon applied a clear gloss—a mix of cuticle-sealing silicones and conditioners—to amp up shine and enhance Vennie's natural shade.

Her go-to styling aid Bed Head Wax Stick (\$17.95; professional salons)

Kimberly Lenny, 28

"My new look is stylish yet practical. I can blow-dry for a more polished effect or keep it a little wavy by air-drying it."

The backstory "My father called my old style—or lack of style—'surfer hair,'" Kimberly says. "I think my level of effort was apparent." ? David pointed out that she has a strong jawline and didn't need to go too short. "If the ends fell near her cheeks, they'd add unwanted fullness," he says.

The update: Kimberly

David took Kimberly's length up 4 inches to just below her chin, then added angled layers. And colorist Eugenia Iordache-Cabrera lightened Kimberly's dirty blonde hair to a sunnier hue.

Her go-to styling aid Suave Professionals Vibrant Shine Mist (\$2.49; drugstores)



Biscuit cake (Tarta de galletas)

Does the idea of cooking or baking with kids scare you out of your wits? Yep, it petrifies me too, so I promise you this one is as easy as it gets. Even better, there are no ovens involved! The “Tarta de galletas” (literally “Cake of biscuits”) is a Spanish classic. There are as many variations of this recipe as there are households in Spain.

What makes this cake a hit is that it is so easy that even a child can do it. This year for my birthday I put this theory to the test with very pleasant results: my 25 month

old was able to make me a tasty cake under my supervision and we had a blast in the process.

I have found that the key is to be organised so this list is long because it’s comprehensive and I give you tips to keep you sane before and during the process.

Equipment:

A mold, I used a round non-stick tin so that it would slip off easily when turning it, but you can use whatever you have at home.

A bowl

A deep plate

A spatula for you

A wooden or silicon spoon for each child

Aprons, tabards, old clothes to cover them

A bath to stick the kids into once you’re finished, they will get covered in chocolate

Ingredients:

A couple of packs of Marie biscuits (we always find them easily at Tesco, by a brand named Crawfords)

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EX-SUPER EAGLES TAIYE TAIWO INDICTED IN FRANCE ON TAX FRAUD

According to reports, former Super Eagles player Taiye Taiwo has been indicted in France on tax fraud charges. The French authority say the 28 year old player is owing them €1,025,000 in back takes after failing to pay his income taxes in 2008, 2009 and his property taxes in 2011.

Taiwo owns a €600,000 mansion in Allauch, Marseille and the French authority say they plan to seize the home and auction it.

Taiwo, who currently plays for Turkish football club Bursaspor, played for French club, Olympique de Marseille from 2005 to 2011. He is yet to respond to the charges.

The Anfield captain reflected positively after making his first start since undergoing successful shoulder surgery in May against an Indonesian XI on Saturday

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard declared he felt "fantastic" during his return to action in the side's 2-0 victory over an Indonesia XI.

It was his first appearance since a shoulder injury ruled him out of the final two games of last season, and he completed the first half without any problems before being replaced by Joe Allen.

The 33-year-old, who recently signed a new two-year contract, says he is feeling no after effects from the injury and now has his sights set on further playing time.

"It's nice to play football again in front of our all our supporters," Gerrard told LFC TV.

"My shoulder felt fantastic, so it was nice to get the first 45 minutes under my belt and hopefully I'll get slightly more time in Australia.

"It's been feeling fine now for a few weeks in training, there have been absolutely no problems. The surgeon gave me the go-ahead to play tonight and the manager was sensible in giving me 45 minutes. I'm really happy with how I feel."

Gerrard was also full of praise for Liverpool's four new signings, Simon Mignolet, Kolo Toure, Iago Aspas, and Luis Alberto, all of whom started the match.

"I thought that all the new lads did well tonight," Gerrard continued.

"I thought [Mignolet] was fantastic with his feet and he did everything well.

"Toure looked assured at the back and was very vocal. People are talking about missing Jamie [Carragher] and Jamie's voice, but I thought Kolo led from the back tonight.



MOURINHO REJECTS MONACO'S BID FOR OMERUO

"The two Spanish lads, as I said earlier in the week, are wonderful technicians on the ball. Aspas works his socks off for the team and you can see Alberto's quality. That's what we bought him for - to play against sides where it's difficult and you need someone to unlock the door.

"They're the magicians who are going to unlock the defence. I'm really pleased with all the newcomers tonight."



ONAZI'S RECOVERY EXCITES KESHI

The Lazio midfielder missed out of the squad that represented Nigeria at the Confederations Cup in Brazil last month, after sustaining an injury in the FIFA 2014 World Cup qualifier against Namibia in Windhoek.

The former youth international player has since returned to full fitness and has been included in the squad that will face South Africa in an exhibition game at the Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban, next month.

And Keshi who led the Super Eagles to their third Africa Cup of Nations title in South Africa, can't wait to see the young midfielder feature for his side again.

He declared; "I must confess, it's good to hear that Onazi is fit after the recent injury setback. We missed him so much at the Confederations Cup in Brazil, but now that he is back we can expect the best from him against South Africa and Malawi".

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LIVERPOOL SKIPPER GERRARD PLEASED WITH RETURN FROM INJURY

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DON JAZZY, FADE OGUNRO, IYANYA, DR SID, NOBLE IGWE & MORE AT EMMA NYRA'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY IN LAGOS

What are friends for? To be companions, share your joy and sorrows and of course, throw you a surprise birthday, right?

Well that's what Emma Nyra's friends did. On Thursday 18th July 2013, the fast rising songstress turned a year older and a surprise birthday party was held for her at the Four Points by Sheraton, Lagos.

The b-day girl who sizzled in a black dress and orange ankle strap heels, was surrounded by some of her famous friends including Iyanya, Lilian Unachukwu, Don Jazzy, Fade Ogunro, Koch Okoye, Dr Sid, Ubi Franklin and Dotun Kayode.



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