

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

THIS DAY

Style



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20 QUESTIONS

EVENT PLANNERS' UNEVENTFUL COVID-19



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COVER

Nigerians, as a people, are generally happy. In terms of celebrations, we tend to go overboard. We have excess of everything and leave no stone unturned to ensure everything is the best quality. The role of an event planner is to ensure everything is put in place to make the occasion a memorable one. This week's Covid 19:20 QUESTIONS series dwells on the fate of Event Planners during this pandemic. **EXECUTIVE EDITOR, RUTH OSIME** interviews four of Nigeria's most prominent Event Planners as they talk about their adjustment to the new reality, the way forward and their hopes for the future.

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Even though as a nation, we are facing times of adversity, never has this been more pronounced as a time like this...the Corona virus pandemic. As a people, we are warm by nature. We forge ahead against all odds to make our lives more meaningful. We build relationships and lean on each other when the weight of our shoulders become too heavy for us to carry. Regardless of how tough it is to survive in such a harsh climate, somehow or the other, it doesn't totally kill our spirit as a people. We forever remain hopeful and look forward to better days. The popular response when asked about our welfare is "We thank God". To a foreigner, this might sound strange to their ears because the usual response to "How are you?" is normally "Fine thank you" as is the norm. But when a Nigerian says "We thank God", we automatically accept and more importantly, understand the reason because we know and appreciate the importance of those three words because of the climate we live in.

Our social lives is an outlet for us. To some it is a stress reliever and to others it is an act of love for the celebrant. The same way we attend social functions is also the same way we attend church or mosques. We find spiritual solace in religious services and enjoy the festivities of events because, in such places, we connect with people. Many a time, the preparation to attend such events, putting everything together dressed to the nines, gives us joy. That our social events are most times outlandish and over the top, doesn't faze us. We are not conservative by any shape or form. We love to celebrate. We love to dance. We love to be merry. No matter how big or small the event is, the guests ensure they have a great time. Pictures are taken. Numbers are exchanged. Styles are displayed. Social media is agog with pictures. And after each celebration, souvenirs are distributed. For a country ravaged with poverty, Nigerians are well known for their excesses when it comes to celebrations.

There are professionals paid to bring these activities to life and ensure it is run smoothly. They are in charge of setting up the venue, providing ushers and also catering to the needs of all the guests. Event planners can make an event unforgettable depending on how well they deliver. During this pandemic, they are one of the sectors most badly hit. No more parties. No more weddings. No more celebrations of any kind whether formal or informal. This is the new era. This is the new normal. Virtual events have taken over. How are they coping? How will they survive this gaping lull? Will we ever return to what we once enjoyed? Will the fear of the virus kill the mingling amongst our people? Will there now be no more hugs and air kisses? No more handshakes? Has what we once enjoyed as an expression of ourselves as a people now become a thing of the past?

Our cover personalities, four of Nigeria's top Event Planners give us a deep insight into how they are adapting to this new age. Stay safe.

Ruth

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Africa Avant- Garde

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WHEN FASHION MEET DÉCOR

These days, fashion isn't just something that is limited to the closet - you can make it part of your entire home. Designer home furnishings first stepped on the scene in the mid-'80s with fashion labels like Ralph Lauren and Missoni. Since then, a series of other luxury labels have made the foray into interior decor. From Louis Vuitton hammocks to Gucci wallpaper, we round up the top designers with homeware collections that'll make your house as stylish as you are.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

DIOR MAISON

The new Dior Maison homeware brings the spirit of the house to life with a series of items that are inspired by the founding designer's love of entertaining guests. The tableware incorporates themes found in Dior's runway shows translated for the home. From the house's toile de jouty signature print to florals referencing the gardens in Dior's childhood home, a bit of history adds an elegant touch to the homeware.



GUCCIDÉCOR

Made for lovers of the nouveau retro, the Gucci décor collection features those special conversation pieces that are a must-have for the home. The assortment includes several of the house's most loved logo-ed prints and animal motifs applied to nostalgic wares like detailed panel screens and clamshell chairs in old world fabrics like moiré and velvet. Pre covid-19 crisis, the house opened a pop-up exclusively for their homewares on Milan's via Santo Spirito offering "augmented reality technology" experiences.



FENDI CASA

Fendi Casa's dynamic design portfolio includes a variety of furnishings fit for hospitality and residential environments that integrates the Italian label's signature elegance. Aside from private residences around the world like the Fendi Château in Miami, Fendi Casa's designs are found in some of the most prestigious hotels, clubs, and yachts around the world.



BERLUTI

Following creative director Kris Van Assche's homeware design debut at Art Basel Miami in 2019, Berluti has finally taken the plunge into designing a collection of home and office wares. Partnering with a group of respected artists—including Simon Hasan, Carl Auböck, Bottega Ghianda, and San Lorenzo, each piece contains a part of the menswear brand's identity in the form of rich leathers, silky woods, and delicate ceramics.



VERSACE HOME

Versace first dropped its luxury homeware collection in 1992, initially launching with fabrics and dinnerware and later expanding to a wide range of items for the home from bedding to wallpaper. Aligning with the brand's DNA, the aesthetic of these pieces follow a maximalist Baroque style that's practically dripping in gold. Not to mention, the house's signature Medusa head is used on a variety of the homewares for an added touch of Versace to the home



RALPH LAUREN HOME

"Home for me has always been a place of warmth and security and enjoying simple moments with my family," designer Ralph Lauren said. Since 1983, the Ralph Lauren Home subdivision has created furnishings and accessories that instill the designer's classic, timeless style to chic interiors.



HERMÈS HOME

The French heritage house offers a variety of dreamy pieces to add to the home ranging from sleek chaises to printed backgammon games. The Luxe Hermes Home decor and furniture provide a modern aesthetic in the form of luxurious fabrics and finishes that last a lifetime in the home.



MISSONI HOME

The Missoni Home collection first launched in 1983 as one of the first instances of bringing fashions from the runways into the home. Incorporating Missoni's bold color combinations and iconic linear patterns, Missoni Home currently has boutiques in New York, Los Angeles, and Saudi Arabia with furnishings also in Missoni Hotels worldwide.worldwide.



BALENCIAGA X HARRY NURIEV

While the house doesn't have an official homeware collection, Balenciaga displayed its first dip into homewares in 2019 at Art Basel Miami, where New York-based designer Harry Nuriev partnered with the house in creating a furniture piece. The colorful sofa comprised old pieces of Balenciaga clothing packed under a layer of vinyl. The art piece presented a new idea for designers to upcycle their clothes in new and interesting ways. Though it doesn't seem far off, we can only hope for a Balenciaga home collection.



ALTUZARRA HOME

Designer Joseph Altuzarra's spare time is oft spent antiquing or hunting for vintage treasure. His hobby made it quite easy to dive into interiors partnered with e-commerce site Etsy. "I wanted to express the universe of the brand, but in an interior way," said Altuzarra. The home accent pieces are crafted by eight Etsy artisans across various fields from ceramics to weaving. Despite being made by different hands all around the globe, each item breathes a little of Altuzarra's flair into the home, whether through coasters made of espadrille materials or accents of cognac tones (the designer's signature).



6 FASHION BOOKS EVERY STYLISH PERSON SHOULD OWN

What books are on your bookshelf? Do you have all fiction, selfhelp, or style-related books? Maybe a mixture of all three? Constantly expanding your knowledge within different fields you're interested in is so important for personal growth. Even something that may seem frivolous like fashion can be improved through reading. Listed below are six books that can help improve your fashion and personal style.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

Vogue: The Covers

(by Dodie Kazanjian)

What it's about: Vogue: The Covers is exactly what it sounds like. With little to no text, this book is purely a collection of various Vogue magazine covers dating all the way back to 1892. It showcases the evolution of fashion, photography, art, and culture all through a chronological "picture book" of Vogue covers.

Why you need it: This is the perfect coffee table book. Physically speaking, it's large in size and in the amount of pages it contains. It's a must-have book for any fashion girl who has ever gone through the phase of consistently purchasing Vogue magazines each month. It's inspirational to flip through the various decades and see how style has evolved by looking at the older magazine covers.



Influence

(by Mary-Kate Olsen and Ashley Olsen)

What it's about: Influence is a behind-the-scenes look into Mary-Kate Olsen and Ashley Olsen in terms of their growth in the fashion industry. It's filled with interviews from designers and others within the fashion industry that have in some way, influenced the Olsens.

Why you need it: The Olsens inspire a lot of young fashion lovers and if you are one of this crowd, Influence is the book to grab. It's also a perfect coffee table book for anyone who loves a clean, minimal aesthetic.

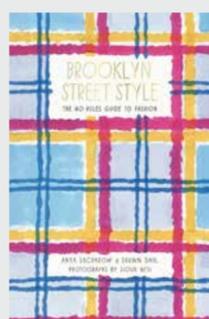


Brooklyn Street Style

(by Anya Sacharow and Shawn Dahl)

What it's about: Brooklyn Street Style is a comprehensive guide to Brooklyn fashion. It contains street style photos to provide visual inspiration, but it also provides Q&A style interviews and tips for creating a wardrobe.

Why you need it: If you find yourself getting stuck in a fashion rut, owning fashion books that focus on cities outside of where you live can help spark some inspiration.



Love, life and Style

(by Garance Dore)

What it's about: Love, Style and Life is a book focused on capturing the true essence of Parisian fashion. Filled with street style photography, love and life fashion tips from the writers personal experience, it has everything you need to navigate your way around creating a timeless outfit.

Why you need it: It's a bit cliché these days to talk about Parisian style and all of the key must-haves, but there's a reason. Paris style is classic, chic, and timeless. This book is the modern girl's guide to mastering the effortless style.

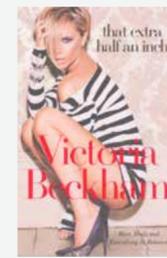


That Extra Half An Inch

(by Victoria Beckham)

What it's about: That Extra Half An Inch is a practical fashion and beauty book filled with advice from Victoria Beckham herself. While it primarily focuses on luxury fashion, the tips are all useful regardless of your budget. The luxury recommendations can even serve as a good reference for future investments.

Why you need it: Victoria Beckham is another style icon for the modern fashion girl. Even as Posh Spice, her personal style was clearly defined. If Victoria Beckham is one of your style inspirations, this book is a must-have



Refinery 29: Style Stalking

(by Christene Barberich and Piera Gelardi)

What it's about: Refinery 29: Style Stalking is a modern-day street style book filled with bold, classic, and unique outfits to keep your creative juices flowing. Along with the snapshots, this book provides helpful tips when it comes to styling and shooting outfits.

Why you need it: This is the book you need if you love taking fashion photos. This book will help you add variety to your Instagram outfit posts. It's filled with street style photography, but the tips are what really inspires you to boost your style.



DENIMS are FOREVER



MARRI PAZZ

THE WIDE-LEG
Ranging from more structured hemmed styles to raw-edged cropped styles, the wide leg jeans is endlessly flattering and, even better, incredibly comfortable.



ALYSSA MARIE

THE MOM JEAN
Comfortable, flattering and forever on-trend, the key to wearing the mom jeans is to hold out until you find a pair that fits you perfectly. Ideally with a mid-to-high rise waist, a loose but tapered leg and a slight crop.



LISA FOLAWIYO

THE CROPPED FLARE
A transitional seasonal jean that's on the more feminine side thanks to its subtle kick, the cropped flare started as a trend in 2018 but proved very quickly that it was here to stay.

Trends may come and go, but jeans are forever. As such, investing in a core rotation of reliable denim favourites is a wardrobe decision you'll rarely regret. From sleek skinnies to relaxed '90s-style mom jeans, here are a few staples every woman should own.

BY FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI



LORETTA HOVE

THE BOOTCUT
The bootcut is back and the new version lengthens the leg and pairs perfectly with boots and everything else.



KIKA OSUNDE

THE DENIM CUTOFF
Avoid the awkwardness of having your denim shorts cling in all the wrong places by finding a relaxed vintage pair on the baggier side, which sit on the hips and have just the right amount of slouch.

TOYOSI GREGORY-JONAH

THE SKINNY
Easily tucked into boots or worn off-duty with a fitted t-shirt, the skinny jeans has proved it has serious staying power. Opt for a pair in black to start, then stock up on blue washes and whites.

PRISCILLA AKOGYERAM



PLUNGE TAKE THE PLUNGE

BY FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI

The shirt might be a basic style when buttoned up but nothing grabs plenty of attention when worn unbuttoned down to the waist and tucked in! This style is most certainly a head turner. As of late, it seems like everyone on the gram has been wearing this look lately. It is easily the most visually tempting sight because you cannot but wonder how the opening stays in place without any mishap which makes it even more alluring.

Some might say this is unethical but we all know fashion has gone way past being unethical. The unbuttoned shirt is very sassy, sexy and feminine and more fashion it girls have embraced this look.

But what those daring enough to pull it off have in common is that they are not heavy chested and as such, can pull off going bra less with ease. One would not advise women outside that category to 'take the plunge' because nothing is more unattractive than exposing parts best left cupped in a cushioned or supportive bra to hold them in place.

This look is not for the faint-hearted and for those who can 'take the plunge' and get away with it, kudos to them!



JOLIE MAQUEREAU



SARAH HOLDER



NATASHA TEE



CHARLOTTE KAMALE



LORETTA HOVE

10 INDUSTRIES MOST AFFECTED DURING THE LOCKDOWN

RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

In this lockdown and even after that, the restaurant industry is going to be super affected. Main reason being the lack of guts or even permission to step out of the house. Nobody is going to risk going out and eating



food. The safest thing to do right now is to have fresh home cooked food. Consuming anything from outside is deemed to be extremely risky. The estimated loss is around...\$225 billion

HOTEL INDUSTRY

Due to this pandemic and lockdown, hotel industry has come to a standstill. There is no business happening at all. With people not leaving their houses and travel industry completely shut, hotels are not even expected to see the dawn of normalcy anytime soon. Things look dim and a lot of hotels all around



the globe have already been shut forever. Such has been the effect of this lockdown on the hotel industry.

TV AND FILM INDUSTRY

Now that all of us have been at home for over a month now, one thing that all of us must have realized, is the fact that none of the shows that are being shown on TV are freshly shot. All the shows are old and the episodes are being repeated. There are so many people working

in the entertainment industry all around the world and the fact that all of them are out of jobs for now will raise a lot of concerns in the minds of a lot of people.



SPORTS INDUSTRY

No sporting events are taking place at all, all the football, cricketing, basketball etc events are cancelled till everything gets back to normal which



by the way doesn't seem to be possible anytime soon at least. So, everyone even remotely related to the sports industry is going through a very difficult time and will have to live like this for God knows how long. The estimated loss of the sports industry sector would be somewhere around...\$600 billion

FITNESS INDUSTRY

One of the first things to get shut just before the lockdown were gyms and as gyms see a lot of people at the same time, social distancing is hardly possible there. So, it doesn't really help to visit during such a pandemic. They will continue to remain close for long and the total loss is expected to be...\$94 billion

CRUDE OIL INDUSTRY

With absolutely no major business taking place, the consumption of crude oil has seen a drastic low as



well. With people forced to stay home because of corona, the demand for petrol and diesel has gone down giving a major blow to crude oil industry. The effects are already seen with the prices going in negative in USA for the first time in the history. Things are not looking good for this industry and the wait for things to get back to normal can be long and painful.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

People are facing difficulties in making ends meet



with no work happening whatsoever. In this crunch situation, with bare minimum cash in hand, no one is really looking to purchase or invest in new properties. This has caused a steep decline in the demand and has caused major problems for the construction industry as well. A lot of people working in this industry have already lost their jobs.

RED LIGHT DISTRICT WORKERS

A lot of countries might not have legalized the activities taking place at the red-light areas but the reality is that it is one of the worst hit industries.



With no people leaving their houses and visiting these areas, there is literally no work left for those

marketing the activities available. Prostitutes are also struggling to make ends meet.

AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Undoubtedly, one of the worst hit industries in the world is the airline industry. Nothing in this world can compensate for the kind of loss this industry is going through. With international travel almost dead and doesn't seem to open anytime soon, it is safe to say that the airline industry is going to take



a lot of time to regroup and go back to normal. The estimated loss is a whopping...\$113 billion dollars

TRAVEL INDUSTRY

You don't really need to be a rocket scientist to understand why travel industry is the worst hit industry by this pandemic. Nobody is allowed to travel and even if they do get permission to travel in few months, the fear of contracting corona is too severe to let anybody travel with an open mind. The



situation is extremely critical with a lot of companies having to shut their businesses altogether. The GDP of a lot of countries is dependent on the travel industry and with this current loss, their GDP is going to get affected as well.

Culled from Cool Dudes

CORPORATE TO EDGY

BY USIADE ISIOMA



NOBLE IGWE

Transitioning your style from corporate to edgy is about owning pieces that are interchangeable and versatile. One piece can remain the same while you swap the shirt for a jacket with maybe an accessory or two. This way you can pack light and take clothing items that will completely transform your style from the corporate guy to the edgy guy. Another swap you can make is with your cologne. Your daytime scent is probably faded after eight hours of working. Throw on a night time cologne that's great for close encounters, something that announces your presence, but is subtly discovered.

DAY LOOK

The fit and pattern of the suit is key here. The pants keep things business casual and if you end up losing the shirt to replace with a polo shirt, make sure the sleeves end mid-bicep. This is a great look for a business casual work environment.

NIGHT LOOK

This look is also good for an evening out. Throw on a jacket and wear a hat for a fun night out especially when you end up having to stay late with no time to go home to change. So you kill two birds with one stone while seamlessly defining your style.

Make it fashion with a **DISTRESSED PAIR OF BAGGY JEANS**, a butterfly neck button down top, and heels. This ensemble works so well for a casual event. LISA FOLAWIYO

ELEVATE BALLOON JEANS for a more formal setting with a tailored blazer, top, and sleek heels. That professional look gives you a classy boss look.

BAGGY/BALLOON JEANS 90'S VIBE

BY USIADE ISIOMA

With so much nostalgic '90s fashion continuing to trend in 2020, from the triumphant return of the wide leg pants, puffed sleeves and chunky footwear from sandals to platforms, it's no surprise that ballon/baggy jeans are in the mix as a right-now staple. Whether it's a slouchy and low-stung straight leg, a loose and tapered silhouette. With this look more of the "mom" jean vibe, or with high rises and nipped waists, or a wide leg with raw hems distressed details, there's a baggy jean to suit a range of aesthetic. Sporty, bohemian, minimalist, or a mix depending on your mood. Baggy jeans have a "cool factor" to them that makes even the simplest wardrobe basics, from t-shirts to hoodies and blazers, feel fresh but chill. They're an ideal look when you're doing low-key stuff like hanging at home, taking a stroll, or going to the grocery store or even hanging out with the girls!

The statement-making nature of **BALLOON JEANS** means they can work flawlessly with simple items like a basic T shirt. But mixing in other eye-catching items like a designer oversized bag and heels amps up the look even more.

For chic "dad" vibes, team a pair of **SLOUCHY JEANS** with strappy sandals, a crop top, and a bright bag. Rolling up the jeans makes you super smart.

Try the **DENIM-ON-DENIM VIBE** with a darker-wash corset top. For a polished and bohemian look style with heels. 90's vibe.

While any top would work with **LIGHT-WASH JEANS**, a voluminous puff sleeve top and balloon jeans feels quite fresh. Add heels for a chic look and sunglasses for a cool and low-key finish.



KEKE CAMERON



YAMIKO



SHADE AKINOSHIO



CHICAMA



LISA FOLAWIYO



DAMILOLA



KERRY

An easy hack for making **BAGGY JUMPSUIT** look polished and classy is to add a statement belt, heel and a cross structured bag. This look brings baggy back to life.

AFRICA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL MALE SUPERMODEL

ALPHA DIA

Alpha Dia, a Senegalese born, German raised fashion model has taken the international fashion industry by storm, he is listed in model.com as the top 50 male models in the world. Alpha has stayed in ad campaigns and walked in fashion shows of some of the world's top fashion brands. Alpha, is undoubtedly Africa's first international male supermodel and he is not only using his talents on the runway but also using his success to inspire the youth of Africa and help local communities in Senegal affected by COVID 19.



The Alpha Dia Fondation was established in 2019, to help assist and inspire local street children in Dakar Senegal. In 2020, with the on-set of COVID 19, Alpha applied himself to helping the local community by providing protective supplies, food and health-care information. Alpha Fondation organized a collective of on-the-ground grass-roots charities organizations in Dakar to hand-make one million reusable face-masks which were given out to the local community.

RESUME

- Nominated for Best International Male Model by World Fashion Awards, London 2019
- 2019 Hot List, models.com
- 2019 Top 10 Male Models S/S •2020 Fashion Week, Vogue Hommes
- Top 10 of Runway Men S/S 2020 Men's, models.com
- Pirelli Calendar "In The Call" 2018
- 2018 Top 10 Male Models 2017, Dazed Magazine NY

- Hugo Boss (2019) Givenchy (2019) Levis (2019)
- Prabal Gurung (2019) Reserved (2019) Y-3 (2019)
- Bottega Veneta (2018) Prada (2017) Versace (2017)

EDITORIALS

- V Magazine Calendar (2019) GQ Germany (2018) Matches Fashion (2018) Essential Homme (2018)
- Le Monde M Magazine (2018) Antidote Paris, CR Fashion Book (2017) Document Journal (2017)

TOP CAMPAIGNS

- Fucking Young (2017)
- THE GREATEST Magazine (2017)
- Telegraph Luxury (2017)
- Vogue Italia (2017)
- W Magazine (2017)
- GQ Milan (2017)

TOP PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Giampaolo Sgura (Milan) Willy Vanderperre (Milan) Bruce Weber (Miami)
- Carin Backoff (New York) Craig McDean (London)
- Ethan James Green (New York) Ren Hang (Paris)
- Terry Richardson (New York) Tim Walker (London)

MAGAZINE COVERS

- Document Journal (2017)
- INDIE Magazine (2016)
- Numero Homme Germany (2017) MFF Magazine

SHOWS

- 1017 ALYX 9SM S/S 20 Men's (2019)
- Amiri S/S 20 Men's
- Ann Demeulemeester S/S 20 Men's
- Balmain S/S 20 Men's
- Balmain F/W 18 Men's
- Boss S/S 19
- Boss F/W 18 Men's
- Boss S/S 18 Men's
- Bottega Veneta F/W 18
- Bottega Veneta S/S 18
- Burberry S/S 20
- Calvin Klein S/S 18
- Christian Dada S/S 19
- CMMN SWDN S/S 19
- CR Runway X LuisaViaRoma 90th Anniversary
- DSquared2 S/S 18
- Dolce & Gabbana S/S 20 Men's
- Dries Van Noten S/S 20 Men's
- Dries Van Noten S/S 19
- Dries Van Noten F/W 18 Men's
- Dries Van Noten S/S 18 Men's
- Ermenegildo Zegna S/S 18 Men's
- Fashion For Relief 2019
- Fendi S/S 20 Men's
- Fendi F/W 18 Men's
- Fendi S/S 18 Men's
- Givenchy S/S 18
- Heron Preston S/S 20 Men's
- Kenzo S/S 20
- Kenzo F/W 18
- Kith F/W 19
- Maison Mihara Yasuhiro S/S 20 Men's
- Men's Missoni F/W 18
- Missoni S/S 18
- Neil Barrett S/S 20 Men's
- Off-White S/S 20 Men's
- Off/White S/S19 Paul Smith S/S 19
- Prada S/S 20 Men's
- Prada F/W 18 Men's and Women's
- Prada S/S 18 Men's
- Ralph Lauren 50th Anniversary (2018) Salvatore Ferragamo S/S 20 Men's
- Salvatore Ferragamo F/W 18
- Thom Browne S/S 20 Men's
- Tom Ford F/W 18 Men's
- Versace F/W 18 Men's
- Versace S/S 18 Men's
- Y-3 S/S 19
- Y-3 F/W 18
- Y-3 S/S 18



Alero Adollo
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CAPSULES

Why me?...Many have asked this question through the different seasons of life. It's very easy to glow when things are summery but when the winter cold drums her peculiar beat on our backs, we bow defeated. It is not an easy terrain to traverse, this journey through life.

Why me?...I remember asking my late mum through my many challenges, I was so sure I was marked out for punishment, I tried to be good but life still stared me down with her frosty eyes and dealt me resounding slaps and whilst dealing with the stings, it served me and forced down my throat unsavoury meals. It made me stronger no doubt, it toughened me, it taught me how to fight, it taught me how to survive, initially I whined and whinged, wondering what I did wrong, who I offended so that I could quickly make amends and move on, but why a loving God will allow me to continue to stew in recycled punishment I just didn't get then, I still don't get now, a rather simplistic reasoning you probably reckon. My mother, God rest her soul always responded to my chagrin, "why not you, we cannot question God" as if the welts on my back drawn by the cruel hands of fate served any purpose, so why can't I ask questions, her answer used to infuriate me because I felt that I did not sign up to be a lamb to the slaughter, in fact not even sure I signed up for anything at all, I just found myself on this side of eternity, far away from heaven's cossetting.

Why me?... hmmm, I recently stumbled on the story of the 5 young men called the "Central Park 5 of New York" sent to prison for the rape and assault of a young white female jogger, they spent between 6-14 years of their lives incarcerated, years taken from them never to be returned for something they knew nothing about. They were eventually exonerated and got a settlement of \$41m yes, BUT what they must have gone through in prison, scarred for life, what is wrong with this picture, anguish, despair, pain... Kilode!!

How does anyone navigate this sea of unending chaos, the winds are angry, the firmament furious, everything seems at odds with everything else. The whole world seem to be in an unending love affair with fury, rage, turmoil... pilgrims wounded yet we continue to embrace every sunrise with strength, weary and worn we continue to try again and again and again, because of the belief that the hotter the battle, the sweeter the victory.

At departure many talk about a life well lived, well spent doing what exactly, crying, weeping, gnashing of teeth, toiling, laughing while others weep, cruising while others die, well lived doing what? I dare to ask...

Life is a conundrum, let nobody tell you otherwise, I have watched people suffer helpless, I have watched people hurt, and asked why? Why do we have to pass through this macabre of the bizarre when we have the ability to walk on water. Today many cannot see their way through but for a stubborn hope, and a dogged faith. We sometimes seem to be battling destiny, because we just don't know how our stories are supposed to play out, we believe we are in control until the rude shock, we just ain't. The quintessential question we always ask speaks to purpose: what exactly is the point of it all, one minute you are here with the hustle, the determination to get to the top of the pyramid, the next minute, poof.....you're gone before you are able to catch your breath. Many feel hard done by providence.

We cannot give up oo...as lame as this might sound, we just cannot give up, we must daily wake up to hope, befriend courage and embrace faith, persuade our pain to move on and then launch out to sea again and again until we get that which we set out to get, we must continue to try, the storms will come, undoubtedly, the winds may not always be in our favour, the whales may try to swallow us, but we must hold on to an unwavering faith, because as long as we are alive we must continue to try, trusting the one in whom we are anchored. Do not be deceived, you cannot do this life thing alone, if you try to do it alone, you will do it insane. We all need God, we need to learn to do it with him.

THE ALPHA DIA FOUNDATION

What is the Alpha Dia Foundation about and when was it launched?

The primary objective of this Foundation is to put the child at the center of our actions. To promote equal opportunities while helping to give disadvantaged children a better start in life and equal opportunities to increase their chances of success. ALPHA DIA FONDATION also recommends developing a spirit of mutual aid and solidarity, and raising awareness among young people who practice in the field in which it operates through values such as respect and convictions, through a neutral and apolitical approach for a better future in the world of art and fashion in Africa. We invite everyone to return to essential values "You need a village to raise a child". The foundation is therefore active in the fields of childhood, youth education, and solidarity.

When was the moment you decided to do something in your country to support the fight against Covid?

I decided it was time to help in my home country when I saw the effect the COVID-19 pandemic had on the education systems and forced the child beggars off the streets. I realized that this was a moment to put together something that would help the children of Senegal and possibly find a way to protect and influence others to help out as well. This is when I decided to start a health relief fund under the Alpha Dia Fondation.

What have you been able to achieve so far, how have you used your star power to pull strings to make your desired impact?

With a goal of €10,000, we have raised more than half. We have donated to local hospitals, we have donated food and cleaning supplies to 500 families, and we currently have a goal to produce one million face masks for Dakar all being made within the community to fund our local tailors. I believe that social media has definitely been very important during this whole fundraising. I was able to use my followers on Instagram to reach a lot of people who I have worked with and influenced. I have formed lots of meaningful relationships with many friends and colleagues who have gained trust in me and helped support me through this.

You are Africa's first black male supermodel with a robust resume and history of work which must have come in most useful to you during your fund raising?

First, Thank you very much for the humbling compliment. This fundraiser has helped me to reach people like Naomi Campbell and connect ideas with top brands that I have had the honor to work with. Brands like Hugo Boss, Odda magazine, the support of all my agencies, and the idea was even published by Vogue Italia. I believe I would not have had such support from these big names if I wasn't making my impact in this industry.

Since you commenced, what has been the most impactful moment for you?

For me personally, the best moment was when we started to hand out the supplies to the people and seeing how much of a difference was made. I was very happy to see how many people donated and supported my people not knowing how much of a change they were making in these strangers lives.

Is there any particular scene during this cause of 'giving back to society' that touched a deep chord within you?

The most touching part of all of this has been supplying kids with face masks and seeing them have the possibility to play outside and live.

Is this a foundation that will continue to exist post-Covid?

This Fondation existed before COVID-19. I started this last year as a way to help children and supply them with the tools to succeed. Currently, our focus is helping during the pandemic but in the future we will continue back on track with what we were already doing.

Do you have any other further plans you will like to execute in future with the foundation?

Yes, definitely in the future we want to work and connect with more people who want to help and grow the image of models in Africa. I want to form a community of young people

to have the chance to speak about the changes we want to make in our community. One of my goals is to find a way together to change the view of African creatives and models and make a difference that actually can be seen and felt.

Is this a cause you will like other models to chart in support of their countries at this trying times, a way to also, in their own little way, make lives better for the less-privileged in their societies?

I believe everyone who has a platform to bring people together and get people to listen to what they have to say should definitely use it. As a model, we have the privilege of being in the spotlight and be able to influence. Whatever we do can never be too small to help others.

What is your take on the roles Fashion brands have played in this pandemic.

I have been seeing many brands reacting towards this pandemic in a very great way. I am really proud to see so many fashion brands supplying masks and also using their platforms to show others how they can connect and help. It is very important.

Instagram: @alpha_dia_



Colours of Life

with Koko Kalango



A LESSON FROM THE BIRDS

I love a simple poem about a conversation between birds that goes:

*Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I would surely like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Fret about and worry so!"*

*Said the sparrow to the robin.
"I imagine it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me!"*

Today's world gives us more than enough to worry about. Where do we begin – health, education, safety, job security, food security. Not to talk of the strain the lockdown has placed on our lifestyle, our relationships, what it continues to do to our minds! The fact is things are tough and the future is uncertain. But the truth is there is a heavenly Father, whose care the birds enjoy and which makes them feel pity as they watch us lose sleep over our challenges. Can we learn a thing or two from the birds?

To illustrate how important we are to Him, God calls our attention to nature. All around us we see God's creation, displaying His awesome splendour, declaring His mighty power. While we are on the look out for shooting stars and fire works, God is speaking to us through birds and flowers.

"Look at the birds, they don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to Him than they are" (Matt. 6:26).

And if bird watching is not your thing, then He says to you "Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are." (Matt. 6:30).

The world as we know it has changed forever and with that change has come a feeling of apprehension. The systems we trusted are no more, the structures we relied on are now in disarray. Many of us are not sure how we would make a living in the post-COVID society. We are worried and trying to stay alive and safe. Our anxiety is legitimate – It is not the extras we are concerned about but the essentials. We are burdened.

Every burden falls under two categories; God's and 'others'. The Lord's burden is light and His yoke is easy. Burdens that weighs heavy on us and yokes that are difficult, do not come from God. They may come from the devil, from others, from society or from ourselves.

The Lord says we should not bother about even our needs. Rather, God calls the weary soul to Himself and to rest. He invites us to exchange our burdens and yokes for His. This we do by shifting our focus primarily from ourselves to Him; from our physical wellbeing to our spiritual

wellbeing.

God is a caring heavenly father, as we can learn from the birds. He loves us and is concerned about us, down to the minutest detail. We must intentionally draw close to God. And when we do, God expects us to relate to Him constantly and consistently. Our faith should become a lifestyle.

This forced holiday is a good time to pause and ponder about the way we live. When it is over, just as the world would not go back to what it used to be, we cannot afford to return to business as usual. We must be prepared for a new normal and this new normal will mean we re-consider our values and re-visit our priorities. Do we pay more attention to your body than our spirit? What better time than now to do some soul-searching and more importantly, re-setting.

One of the ways we draw close to God is by study of scriptures. There we learn that we cannot please Him by our good works, as important as they are. We get to know that we can come to this God of love through faith in His son Jesus Christ. When we have placed our faith in Him, then the only burden we should carry ought to be the burden of the kingdom; the burden to see God's purpose fulfilled on earth. And part of this purpose is to share the message of God's wonderful love with others.

As He has lifted our burdens, taking our yokes, we too ought to reach out and lift the burden of others by telling them the good news that:

"... if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't He more surely care for you?" (Matt. 6:30).

"Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. ...So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows." (Matthew 10:29,31).

When next you are tempted to worry just take a walk outside, take a look around and learn a lesson from the birds.

THE COLOURS OF LIFE SHOW

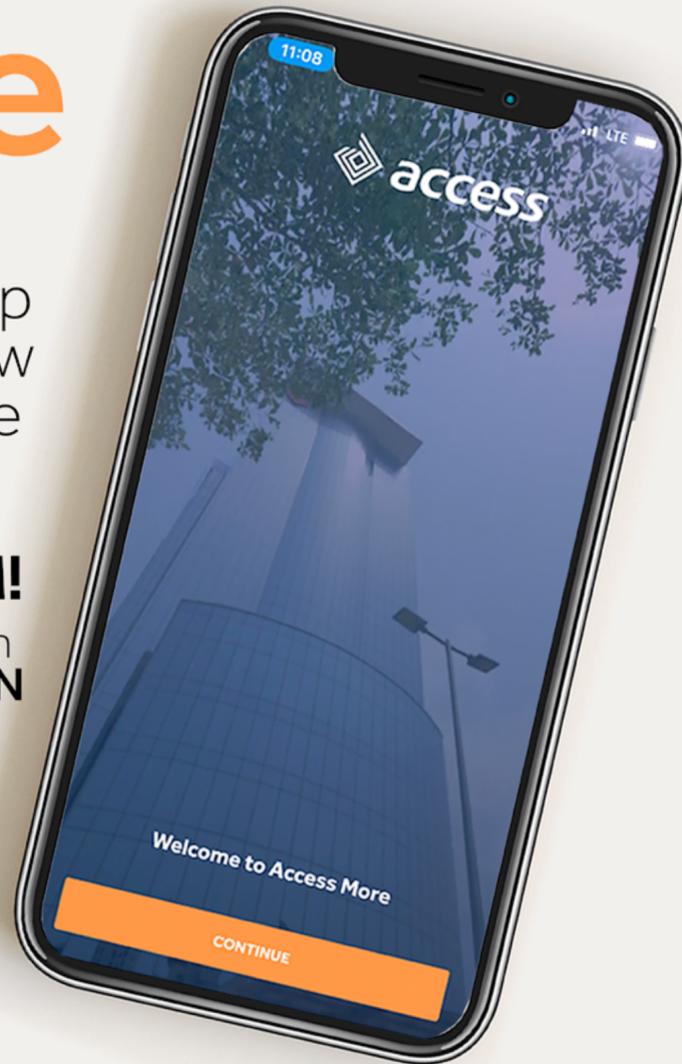
Tune into our Colours of Life on show on you tube every Sunday at 5pm (WAT) for conversations that bring hope. Through this lifestyle show we hear personal stories, testimonies, and discuss topical issues. Last week we talked to Wale Aderafasin and Deolu Aderafasin about The Succession Crisis in Nigeria. This week we will be hearing the wonderful story of how Becky Musa was healed of terminal cancer and went ahead to have biological children, contrary to the doctor's report. We have new episodes weekly and all episodes are available. Follow me on Instagram for updates @koko.kalango

Koko Kalango is author Colours of Life devotional. contact@coloursollife.org

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FUNKE
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IBIDUN
ICHODALO



UCHE
MAJEKODUNMI



YEWANDE
ZACCHEUS

Nigerians, as a people, are generally happy. In terms of celebrations, we tend to go overboard. We have excess of everything. Drinks, food music et al...we celebrate like there is no tomorrow and we leave no stone unturned to ensure everything is the best quality. The decor can be as flamboyant as we like and most times, one elaborate occasion is used as a yardstick to outdo each other. Many a time, these decors are astonishing and jaw-dropping! With events as grand as this, you can easily think you are in one of the beautiful countries in the world as the decor instantly transports you to fantasy land with all the lights, flowers and draping, not to mention the elaborate table settings. One can list at least 10 events in the past year that can easily pass as one on the grandest celebrations in the shores of Nigeria even by global standards. It all depends on cash.

Our champagne consumption is also notoriously second to none as people have spent tens of millions to ensure the flow remained constant. As of course, in the name of merriment, many a glass have been gulped down with relish as their 'cups runneth over'. Aside from the ambience of the decor, there are also various colourful attires in display. Diamonds glistening on necks and wrists as air kisses are exchanged, expensive wristwatches displayed during the numerous handshakes and the most exotic, expensive and amazing fabrics showcased as the women parade the hall like peacocks as the lights capture their stunning attires. Not only that, in their exit, waiters are seen carrying armloads of souvenirs for the guests after an even of fun, gaiety and laughter...some fake, some real!

There were no masks. No gloves. No social distancing. No corona virus. Everyone moved freely like the world belonged to them. They temporary forgot their problems and issues as they happily mingled with friends, family and loved ones. But not anymore. Gone is the music. Gone is the dancing. Gone are the beautifully made up faces. All we have now, till the pandemic is over, are fond memories.

But these events could never have happened without the job of an Event Planner. They who put such festivities together, are now suddenly out of work. All there is now is the deafening sound of silence! No more deadlines to meet. No more sleepless nights in erecting structures overnight. No more coolers to store the drinks. No more catering, no more waiters or ushers. This week's Covid 19:20 QUESTIONS series dwells of the fate of Event Planners during this pandemic. EXECUTIVE EDITOR, RUTH OSIME interviews four of Nigeria's most prominent Event Planners as they talk about their adjustment to the new reality, the way forward and their hopes for the future.

COVID-19 SERIES 20 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH EVENT PLANNERS



**YEWANDE
ZACCHEUS**
(FOUNDER/CEO EVENTFUL LTD)

several corporate and personal events are now virtual and save for a few technical hitches (which I believe will be perfected over time), they are going fairly well and at least serve the purpose of allowing people to congregate but yet be socially distant. I however do not believe people will jettison live events post Covid. Firstly because we are human and we have the need to connect with others at that level and secondly because I know we Nigerians love and miss our parties and other events and will be only too happy to revert to them (albeit in less numbers than we used to) as soon as it is safe to do so.

3 Do you see any opportunities for the events industry during this Covid and semi lock down period?

I am an eternal optimist so yes I do see opportunities. There is no crisis that does not present an opportunity within if you look hard enough. Clearly we will need to invest in infrastructure that will provide us with greater capacity to host digital events. We will need to think outside the box to determine how to serve our client's changing needs within the parameters now available to us. We may have to look at the events industry value chain and diversify our business to take advantage of any low hanging fruits. Some of us may even have to begin new businesses in areas which are not traditionally events but require the same skill set that we use in events such as logistics and project management. I am a firm believer in the maxim that where if there is a will, there is a way!

4 Eventful is known for the various industry Souks you host which provide a platform for many small businesses. How do you think these businesses and the Souks will be impacted by the Covid pandemic?

The effect of this pandemic on businesses small or large, is clearly devastating but even more for the small businesses which probably will not have the retained earnings to sustain a long term loss of income. Entrepreneurs need first to conserve as much cash as possible by cutting non essentials and reviewing staff costs. They must also look for opportunities at this time. I am aware that several of our entrepreneurs in the fashion space have diversified into production of face masks and PPEs, whilst many of our caterers and restaurants in the food space have changed their business models and are now actively advertising take away services! You simply have to rise up to the challenges and get with the programme. As for the future of our various Souks, we are exploring various possibilities that will allow us serve our vendors and consumers in an innovative and fun way.

5 In situations when your venue can accommodate, say 400 guests, will you still accommodate such numbers or as a rule of law for social distancing, you will only allow for half of the numbers?

I expect event venues will likely have to work with 50-60 percent occupancy for as long as physical distancing is required. Venues will have to be very strict on guest numbers. The days of saying you are expecting 500 guests and then end up with 1000 are over. Venues will going forward have to ensure

that only the numbers set up for are admitted and may withhold further admission to the venue until some guests leave. This will be quite controversial as we are used to the flexibility our event venues allow but we will have to be very strict in order to ensure we are well within the necessary social distance spacing protocols.



**IBIDUN
IGHODALO**
(CEO ELIZABETH R)

6 What do you think will become of the destination wedding culture post Covid, will you see more of them settling for home based wedding instead?

Our industry has been one of the worst hit during this pandemic. The aviation industry has also been hit severely. One of the keys to having destination events is travelling. As of this moment, most people I have spoken to are adverse to travelling which automatically means destination weddings might be on hold for the foreseeable future. On the flipside, within our beautiful country, we can have destination events, for example weddings could be conducted at exotic locations within our country like Epe, Ikogosi, Tinapa etc so we can say destination events within our country might be a possibility which will also aid tourism eventually.

7 In moving forward, will it be required for a venue to be disinfected before and after every event from now henceforth or what extra measures will you take with your staff and guests to ensure they are protected and prevented from any contamination?

Everyday we have safety measures being put in place by the government and I expect that sanitizing every event centre before and after events should the priority and policy of every event centre. Other safety measures to take would be ensuring vendors maintain a high level of hygiene by providing mobile wash stations in and around halls, these stations which would have running water and soap will also have antiseptic wipes and is also available to guests for their usage. Possibly

if doable, all vendors and their boys should provide Covid19 certificates showing they have been tested and certified Covid19 free. There would also be enforcement of masks and gloves for all vendors. Finally, a fuller equipped ambulance should be on standby at every event centre.

8 Have you considered the impact of this pandemic on the emotional and mental health of your staff and clients, and if so what measures are you taking to help them cope better during this period?

We are regularly checking up on our clients, putting them at ease and reassuring them that we are here to help them in any way they could want us to. We are also sending them relevant covid 19 materials as regards government policy as it affects their events and advising them the best plans to follow.

9 Are mergers of event companies a likely fall out of this pandemic given the drop in demand?

Collaboration is always a good thing especially in uncertain times like these but I also believe that eventually, things will normalize and we can get on with the business of the day. We all have differing and varying strengths and structures so merging might be cumbersome and unfruitful but like I stated, collaborations are always welcome in the meantime.

10 What have you done with your staff during this period to save costs as a reflection of the times and if the situation continues, might you have to take more stringent measures so as not to bleed too heavily financially?

I have to give thanks to God for providing another source of income in the guise of installing and equipping isolation centres around the country which has helped greatly in stemming the bleed. As such, the staff on the isolation projects are being paid in full while the staff not on the projects are being given some palliatives. I must really commend the zeal and tenacity of Mr Herbert Wigwe who has worked tirelessly via the Coalition against Covid19 (CaCovid) spearheaded by our very capable and hardworking CBN Governor Mr Godwin Emefiele to ensure that isolation centers are built and fully equipped in each and every state of the federation in readiness to combat this Corona Virus.

11 What has been the most memorable experience whilst building these isolation centers?

In life we meet different people who leave an impression on us. I met the Governor of Enugu State on one of our trips and without knowing who I was, his kindness and humility shocked me to my bone marrow. I had sprained my ankle in the course of working and he showed so much care and concern. Not only did I notice his kindness and humility, I also saw how passionate he is about his people and their well being. As we moved from one venue to another to determine the location for the isolation centre, I observed his people waving at him and happy to see him and that spoke volumes to me. Anytime we get to any venue, he would

come down and ask all his cars to move so my car can park right at the entrance of each location so I wouldn't have to walk so far because of my ankle. At some point he asked me to take a seat whilst he stood. Such humility despite a lofty position. Thank you Gov Ifeanyi for being such a gentleman, kind hearted, thoughtful, humble and simple. The bible says by their fruit you shall know them. I have met quite a number of people on my travels and honestly Governor Ifeanyi stands out from the pack. Thank you gburu gburu!



**FUNKE
BUCKNOR-OBROUTE**
(CEO ZAPPHIRE EVENTS)

12 Usually when guests leave venues of events, there is a barrage of people... drummers/area boys and what not... all looking and begging for money. As the event planner, will you have to take extra measures to put security at exit points to enable guests get to their cars with minimum fuss making the atmosphere more safe for them to get to their vehicles?

This is one of the major security, health and safety precautions we are putting in place for our re-entry into the event space now and post covid. Health and safety being of utmost priority. Additional security personal and crowd control measures are now more than necessary.

13 If a client were to approach you for advice on how best to conduct a wedding under this circumstances, what key things will you list and advice them to adhere to as a reflection of the times?

The first question is number of guests they intend to have as this will include the officiating minister and the couple. Even if they require a photographer and videographer, it has to be limited to one person per team.

We are still not permitted to gather with more than 20 people. Luckily their are video conferencing apps that can allow over 500 people join in virtually. Secondly what location? It has to be their house at this point. Thirdly, the strictest form of

protocol of has to be adhered to. Food and drinks can only be dropped as we can't have waiters at this time. Decor will be done the day before and the team will have to vacate the premises immediately. The attention to detail for intimate events are now more obvious so this is the time to create amazing experiences and personalization. The two meter rule of social distancing will have to be applied for anyone coming in to the building. Temperature checks, hand washing and the use of masks and gloves by the suppliers have to be strictly adhered too.

14 Will the masks and gloves rule be something you insist on before guests enter the venue or do you see this gradually becoming a fruitless exercise post Covid or after a vaccine comes out?

If one insists on having an event now then that is the only alternative we have at the moment. Safety of all the guests is very key. I think it's very essential so that we can all stay alive to have more celebrations when the cure or vaccine is found. We have already produced thousand of masks for any of our events that will be handed over to guests before they enter the hall.

15 Nigerians, as you know, love to have a good time and many a time, when a time is set as closure of event, they extend it by a few hours, sometimes for a fee. Post-Covid, do you plan to stop extension of hours because of safety measures?

Extension of hours to me is still ok as long as it's not in violation of the laws of the land.



**UCHE
MAJEKODUNMI**
(CEO NEWTON AND DAVID EVENTS LTD)

16 When people think of event management, they refer to the outward appearances. But there is back story to every job. Can you tell us about

2 Do you think this new normal is here to stay or will we revert to our old ways post Covid?

I don't believe the new normal is here to stay. I think it will operate for a season because of the circumstances we find ourselves in. Obviously

the people who work behind the scenes and their financial losses as a reflection of the times?

Events are a very integral and vibrant aspect of our lives and the Nigerian economy. One may call events a waste, but we must remember there are various types of events. There are very few avenues for entertainment in Nigeria that costs you nothing but transport fare to and from your event. One must also remember that celebrating is an integral part of our cultural identity. This is who we are as Nigerians and we should have no apology for it. This is our authentic self. I do not advocate waste by any means, but there must be some outlet in our busy, stressed lives and events are one such outlet. One must also not forget the integral role the events industry plays in supporting a huge segment of our economy. When one reflects on the effects of the covid 19 pandemic on the Nigerian event industry, the losses run into billions of Naira nationally. I describe the loss to the economy as colossal.

A very smooth, well-organized supply chain has evolved around the event industry that, up until this pandemic, one has taken for granted. Every week, not just weekends, there are events all over Nigeria.

We usually class the events as follows:

- Corporate events
- Social events
- State events

Corporate events would normally include AGMs for banks insurance companies, commercial entities, exhibitions, seminars and product launches.

Social events would include landmark birthdays, chieftaincy titles, turbaning, weddings, funerals, memorials etc.

State events would be government events, international events hosted by a state or our country e.g Nigeria's centenary celebration, events hosting another country's president, regional meetings, Ecowas etc.

For these events to take place, there is an incredible amount of work that goes on behind the scenes handled by professionals the general public would not think of carry out this vital work. For events to take place successfully, several factors come to play in the entire supply chain. Areas that have suffered loss of revenue include but are not limited to the following:

You have your advert or invitation to the events. These naturally will involve printers and printing. Placing of adverts in newspapers, delivery of invites by currier, designers hired to create designs for said adverts.

Event centres are another aspect. These centres have been booked and paid for. These are all sectors that add up to revenue lost. Sets are designed, halls are decorated and stages set up. These involve the agro allied industry via large quantities of wood, plywood, carpenters, iron mongers, fitters for exhibition booths as well as spray men and painters.

Carpet workers, drapery workers and carpet manufacturers are also affected. This is mainly due to the high quantities of red carpets that need to be manufactured and processed for events on a regular basis.

Food and beverages, your caterers, they are all part of the event industry. They obtain ingredients from suppliers in commercial quantities. Your pepper, onions, tomatoes, beef, fish and condiments are all purchased at commercial quantities

There are caterers cooking for 500, 1000, 1500,

2000 people a few times every month.

The event centres all over Nigeria are privately owned and for the period of this pandemic, these is no business. Staff are employed and salaried at these venues. With the loss of revenue from no bookings how will the staff be paid?

Social events mean the culture of Asoebi applies. The various tailors and fashion designers, fabric sellers, asoke weavers, okene fabric weavers, tiv fabric, idoma fabric, akwete, akwa ocha fabric have all had to stop production. All the weavers looms are silent, no income. The designers and tailors cannot earn, as there are no events.

Events of any type have the ushers, waiters and hostesses. The ushers earn anything from N5,000-N15,000 per event. The successful usher can pack in as many as five events in a weekend. All of that revenue is gone. A lot of the ushers are young people who use their proceeds from their work to see themselves through school. Makeup artists, gele tying, stylists, event and party planners, event stylists and decorators, are all part and parcel of those who have suddenly found themselves without an income.

You also have to consider the security companies that have become part of the event landscape, bouncers (etc) who have also found themselves with no source of income.

Haulage trucks, logistics personnel, loaders, off loaders, daily paid laborers, diesel suppliers. Mobile toilet rentals cannot be ignored either.

The loss to the event industry during the lock down runs into billions of naira nationally.

17 As a rule, especially concerning venue or tents, what extra measures will you take concerning safety post Covid?

In regards to health and safety, I refuse to accept that this Covid 19 social distancing will end up as our new reality. I call it temporary.

What measures would we put in place? Firstly there should be a maximum number of people allowed at any venue. Hand sanitizers are a must at the entrance to all venues.

Thermometers should be present at the entrance to all venues in order to monitor temperatures of all guests and staff.

Disinfectant chambers at all entries to venues and seating plans should figure in social distancing into the seating structure of events.

Ushers have to be kitted out in PPE to ensure their personal safety at the entrance of the venues. Tables of ten banquet style will now sit four only. Buffet will be the preferred method to serve food and drinks will have to be collected by guests at the bar.

I suggest these measures going forward. Until a vaccine is found, these guidelines could help us move forward while saving lives in our industry.

18 How will you describe the Nigerian culture when it comes to celebration and festivities and explain why it will be difficult for such culture to change moving forward?

Why should we change our culture? This is who we are. As Nigerians we brought celebration into existence.

Historically we started carnivals. In Oguta, it is called omerife. Yoruba do owambe. All tribes have their festivals and celebrations. Why should we want to change our way of being. I appreciate

authenticity. There is nothing as sad as someone not being authentic. It's really not by force to celebrate and hold events for one purpose or another. It should be a free world of live and let live.

In Nigeria, it is hard to run away from celebrating. 'Person papa die', if you do not do the needful, it's considered that the person has buried their papa 'like chicken'.

There is no bigger thank you from a child to the parent in Nigeria than a grand funeral.

In celebrating chieftaincy titles, it's like a right of passage and has significance in most villages. Often, it means you now have a voice in the village. You can use your platform attained from the title obtained for the good of the community.

Our events have great significance. It's not just events for events sake.

Economically, it often carries a trickle down effect. The events in villages will touch lots of lives. There are people who only get the opportunity to eat meat when events are held.

We are not white people or Americans. We as Nigerians, have a clear identity.

White people do not want to be anyone else, why should we want to be white. We are who we are. Naija. In the UK, the past time is going to the theatre. There is an area known as the West End, chockablock with theatre and performances.

In Lagos what forms of entertainment do we have? How many cinema houses do we have in measure to our population. How many theatres do we have in Lagos? Very few.

We love to party. That is who we are. When the lock down ends and social distancing ends, we will party without apologizing to anyone. After the long solitary confinement and house arrest, it will be celebrations all the way, thanking God if we survive Covid 19 and the famous Coro.

19 How have you been able to translate the beauty and artistry of your physical decorations into the virtual space especially concerning flowers?

It's quite simple. We at Newton and David already started offering this service. As a matter of course, everything is controlled so all elements are set long before the event commences on camera.

Space is controlled and limited. Focal points are identified and that is where the camera will focus. The proceedings are controlled and scripted.

Decor is placed and fixed not to be moved.

20 What other ways do you plan to put together virtual events to best capture the essence of the event especially when the participants are in different locations?

This era of technology makes events that are streamed easier to manage. A flow and script have to be agreed on with the client, all participants must be identified and each person must have the cue on point.

Equipment and the network quality must also be able to carry the number of people taking part in the programme. The aim is, as always, to have a tidy and seamless affair. Once the script is agreed on, all parties are mindful of the role to be played. Most messages or tributes will be pre-recorded and edited. It makes it all seamless and easier to manage.

Fat SHAMING!



BY DONU KOGBARA

BATTLE OF THE BULGE - PART 9

Recap and vital statistics:

I am 5 feet and 10 inches tall and 60 years old.

I was super-slim till about 10 years ago, then gradually got fat.

I started this weight loss programme on March 16th when I weighed a whopping 120kg and measured 49-47-51 (chest-waist-hips) inches.

Last week, I weighed 111kg, measured 47-44.5-48.5, listed various diet plans that had been recommended by Healthline, an American website, and told you Style Magazine readers that I would quickly scrutinize the numerous options and let you know which food/drink deprivation system I decided would suit me best.

Sadly, I am still dithering about which diet to choose because, truth be told, I simply couldn't motivate myself to give a damn about dieting at a time when I was going through excruciatingly painful personal problems (fading mum); and when I am in Depressed, Self-Pitying Mode, excessive eating and drinking is how I cheer myself up.

I got away with using food/alcohol as emotional crutches when I was younger and the lucky possessor of a turbo-charged metabolism that ensured I stayed slim, despite eating like a pig and drinking like a fish.

But I've reached an age at which over-indulgence has dire consequences. And I must confess that I GAINED weight last week.

This is the second week in a row in which failure and shame and furious self-flagellations have been my constant companions.

Week before last, I didn't lose an ounce because I didn't minimize food or exercise much. But I did, week before last, at least minimize my booze/sugar intake and stick to low-calorie artificial sweeteners in the many cups of coffee/tea that I get through in an average day.

Last week, however, I got tired of pretending that artificial sweeteners are OK. I've tried 3 different brands. And all are pretty horrid, if you ask me. Meanwhile, attempts at cheerfully tolerating the bitterness of neat, unadulterated coffee/tea proved abortive.

Long story short, I wound up wantonly re-engaging with vast amounts of sugar - in hot beverages and beyond - for the first time since March. And the minute I started to slide down that slippery slope, I let myself go completely and began to also re-engage with every single delicious fattening food item I could lay my hands on.

I scoffed my way through several packets of ginger nut biscuits. I quaffed several glasses of gloriously sweet sprite-laced brandy. I downed several portions of fried chicken, fried fish and ugba - the palm-oil-drenched Igbo delicacy that is also known as African Salad.

I was like a woman possessed - like a desperate easy lay at a gastronomic orgy. And I've paid dearly for this bout of rampant indiscipline. I gained 3kg



last week and have crept back up to 114kg.

Trust me, it wasn't worth it because I hate myself with a burning passion. And the way I feel now is evidence that deferring gratification makes sense.

The moral of the story is this: Do not elevate superficial short-term pleasures above the REAL satisfaction you will gain if you suppress your baser instincts and your weaknesses and achieve something you can be proud of, something substantial that will last a lot longer than the transient thrill of yet another slice of cake or whatever.

Fortunately, other members of the "Weight Watchers Unite!" WhatsApp group I created with girlfriends did much better than I did last week. Monique Ogon has shed 6kg this month (2kg per week 3 weeks in a row) by strictly adhering to the

following diet plan:

Breakfast: a bowl of oats with pure honey And a cup of green tea

Between breakfast and dinner, she eats fruit - apples, mangoes, etc.

Dinner Options:

1. Fish pepper soup with vegetables that are filling but not starchy...ie, no corn, but plenty carrots, lettuce, broccoli, etc.

2. Boil lots of carrots or mixed vegetables and eat with efo cooked as soup with chicken, fish or lean beef.

3. A large bowl of farmers salad made up of lettuce, tomatoes, boiled eggs and grilled mackerel (icefish, very rich in omega 3,6,9). With a dressing comprising extra virgin olive oil or sesame oil or vinaigrette

Plus lots of green tea all day round as if you were drinking water

No rice, yam, eba or porridge, alcohol.

Snack on fruit, garden eggs, etc. Walk every day for an hour.

An interesting debate arose on the Weight Watchers Unite! platform last week. It's about the cultural differences between foreign and Nigerian women when it comes to body image.

What a typical Nigerian female regards as a reasonable weight will not satisfy a typical woman in the Western World.

Here, weight loss targets are modest. There, weight loss targets are stringent. As a result, white women tend to be slimmer and are much more likely to maintain their youthful figures as they age.

Here, fat is no big deal and many Nigerians think that fat females are preferable to slim ones. There, fat is unacceptable.

Because I grew up abroad, I am uncompromisingly wedded to the idea that women look best when they are slim; and my war against my personal indiscipline will continue. Watch this space!

DONU KOGBARA IS A VANGUARD NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST. Please feel free to share your thoughts about her weight loss journey on donznl2002@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Watcher OF TIMES... TONYE COLE

WHOSE HEART ARE YOU BREAKING?

She looked at me inquisitively, her face furrowing as she struggled to place what she believed she knew but her mind as yet unable to connect the dots. "I know you" she said "but I don't know where from" she finally confessed. At first I opted to string her along, allowing her to proffer a series of guesses, then saved her the trouble by telling her my name. "Do you speak to teenagers and young adults?" She enquired? "I believe my daughter mentioned you addressed her school a few years ago and that is probably where I first came across your name. Do you recall this school?" It was possible, I mentor youths, do motivational speaking across various age groups and have sat on numerous panel to recall them all. "So, what exactly do you do?" She finally asked and at this point I handed her my calling card.

The look on her face spoke volumes even before her mouth could voice her thoughts. The words 'Transformational Politician', was enough to cause her to recoil as though suddenly discovering a Cobra appear before her. All the warm thoughts of mentoring her daughter vanished in a split second. Inwardly I smiled for it was the very reaction I had anticipated when debating attaching the title 'politician' to my name. It also opened up the opportunity to discuss Nigeria and why I believed ignoring politics was the gravest injustice any of us could bestow on our children and the generations to come. As she slowly opened up again, I heard in her voice a woman who had been so betrayed by the ideal called Nigeria, so disappointed by the cadre of leaders sworn into office that the last vestiges of hope had all but vanished.

The Almighty God came to see how man was doing after the fall and found a united people determined to build a tower that glorified the Altar of Pride. The same altar had caused Lucifer his place in Heaven so God scattered the people by confusing their language and with that nations were born. Over time, leaders and the governance structures they establish have determined which nations have risen or fallen. What struck me deepest and tore my heart was discovering the lady was not Nigerian but had married one. She had fallen in love with the nation through loving her husband and together had moved to Rivers State determined to make a life for themselves and their children's children. Year after year of disappointment followed until one day, they packed up and left. As we talked, she looked on with a forlorn sadness in her eyes wanting to believe that something would change but not trusting her heart to hope again that a nation with so much promise could ever be great. At that moment I was reminded once again of why I had chosen to enter this race, determining that the day indeed will come when Nigeria's full potential will be realized.

May God help each of us to restore hope in Nigeria again.

For your comments, contributions, connect with me here: @TonyCole1 on Twitter.

2020 STREET STYLE TRENDS

Every year, London and Paris fashion weeks introduce the world to the latest and greatest street style trends, and this year is no exception. We have spotted some of the coolest new looks the ladies wore to Men's fashion week giving us a taste of the trends that will be hitting the streets and stores this year. From '80s voluminous sleeves to split toe mules, neon shades to pastels, 2020 offers a perfect blend of classic and futuristic styles.

BY USIADE ISIOMA

MULTI BELT BAGS

Cinch your waist and keep your things secured with a multi-belt bag. Wrapped around your waist, the humble bum bag has stepped up as a significant trend this year, with multiple bags dripping off the belt. To style this versatile accessory, pair it with a blazer or a dress, jeans or a faux fur coat. This belt bag is an excellent option for those who want to keep their hands free and look stylish at the same time. CHARLOTTE KAMALE

OVERSIZED SHOULDER PADS JACKETS

The '80s staple is coming back into full swing, with the return of oversized shoulder pad blazers. The jacket's broad shoulders create the illusion of a tiny waist, and it is effortless in style. This trend is perfect for any occasion; wear it in the office, out for brunch or just for running errands, and watch heads turn. Style

this trend with a pair of cigarette trousers, boyfriend jeans or as a dress. TITILOLA SOGUNRO

MINT

Cool, fresh and sophisticated, Mint is a colour that has made waves this season. This pastel shade is multi-faceted, allowing you to style it any way you like and look super fashionable. Whether you wear it as a trench coat, a headband or as a monochrome ensemble, don't be afraid to mix things up. With so many options on how to style this trend, it's mint to be! SAI SANKOH

PASTEL LENS SUNGLASSES

With all things retro coming back this season, it's time to start looking at the world with rose-coloured sunglasses. Pastel and pink lenses were all the rage this season, and there's a reason for it. Cute, feminine and edgy, these sunglasses are the perfect, flirty finishing touch to any outfit. The cordial-coloured lenses are ideal fo

any season and are the best way to add a pop of colour to any outfit. ANGEL OBASI

CHUNKY CHAIN NECKLACES

Make a statement and link your outfit together with a chunky chain necklace. Whether it be an iconic Tiffany & Co. chunky chain necklace or a chain that looks like it's from your bike, these timeless pieces are perfect for any outfit. Pair it with a roll neck and pants with blazer for a full edgy look. This accessory completes an outfit, so give it a try and watch the compliments roll in. OLA ADEWALE

FLUORESCENT TURTLENECKS

Neon is the name of the game this year. Make yourself radiate fluorescence with a neon turtleneck. Pair with a dark coloured ensemble, the fluorescent shade will capture the attention of everyone for all the right reasons. Make it yellow, green or pink, this trend gives a classic piece of clothing a zesty, fresh twist. A fluorescent turtleneck is a great way to brighten up your summer wardrobe, it flatters every skin tone and makes a real statement. MARIIPAZZ

ANGEL OBASI

SAI SANKOH

CHARLOTTE KAMALE

TITILOLA SOGUNRO

OLA ADEWALE

7 WAYS

BY CHELSEA KONYE NWABUGOR

A perfectly matte complexion might not be something to aspire to, but there is satisfaction to be found in balance: after all, your skin needs oil, but an excess of the greasy stuff is less than appealing. The thing to remember though, is that you can't 'get rid' of oily skin – and nor should you feel compelled to: after all, the days of drying our faces into oblivion are over, and glow is firmly back on the agenda. But keeping your face on the right side of shiny? That is totally possible. Understanding your oily skin is the key to managing (not eliminating) it, and once harmony is restored, you'll have a happy, healthy complexion that looks glowy, never greasy. To achieve this, inject the following steps into your skin care routine and you are well on your way.

1. MASTER YOUR DAILY CLEANSING ROUTINE

When you have oily skin, the urge to wash your face at every available opportunity can be strong. But your frequent face-washing habit may actually be making things worse. It seems logical that removing the skin's oil would be the best way to clear oily skin, but over-cleansing actually activates further oil production. Simply speaking, when you cleanse so much you remove the skin's natural – and necessary – sebum reserves, it's going to rectify things by producing more. Clearly, the cleanser you choose is crucial – but between milks and gels, foams and water, it can be near-impossible to decide which one is best for an oil-prone complexion. Try using a cream or milky cleanser, as these will dissolve dirt and debris without disturbing the barrier function and natural



MAYOWA NICHOLAS FOR MODEL.COM

moisture levels of the skin. Pic – elizabeth arden

2. BEWARE OF PRODUCTS FORMULATED FOR OILY SKIN

Believe it or not, products specially formulated for minimising oiliness often exacerbates the situation, as so many contain harsh ingredients that sweep away every last drop of sebum from the skin (and we all know what that means). The main culprits are products containing alcohols, astringents and sulphates, so check the back of your bottle before making a purchase. Furthermore, these harsh products can interfere with your acid mantle: the skin's protective barrier. A disrupted skin barrier can lead to sensitivity, breakouts, inflammation and dehydration. So, the verdict is clear: if any products in your



routine are making your skin feel dry and tight, give them the boot. Pic – products for dry skin might contain harsh ingredients

3. DON'T DITCH THE MOISTURISER

A common misconception is that skin can either be oily or dehydrated – but in fact, it can be both. This means there's little sense in ditching the hydrating products which are, in fact, essential in every skin routine – no matter your skin type. Hydrating products are necessary to maintain moisture levels – as we know, if your skin is lacking in hydration, oil production can go into overdrive to compensate. But before you reach for the first face cream within your grasp, consider that your choice of product is an important one. If you're worried about blackheads and blemishes as well as that dreaded shine, it's best to avoid those that are



super-creamy, heavy and occlusive. Your skin probably won't appreciate thick heavy moisturisers, so avoid any creams with rich plant butters as these are likely to be too rich and lead to congestion.

4. GET TO GRIPS WITH SALICYLIC ACIDS ARE AN IMPORTANT STEP IN ANY REGIME,

but leave-on BHAs like salicylic acid, play an especially important role in controlling over-zealous oil production, which in turn minimises the development of blackheads and blemishes. Salicylic acid is a beta-hydroxy acid which is lipophilic, meaning it is attracted to and helps to break down excess oil. As an added bonus, it's anti-inflammatory and can penetrate pores to scoop out any debris, making it a great ingredient for targeting the congestion that often comes hand in hand with oiliness.



5. ADDRESS YOUR DIET

The root of your oily skin issues could actually lie in your gut. If you suffer from oily skin, avoid sugar and dairy, as they feed and increase oil production. What's more, a diet deficient in zinc, magnesium, vitamin B and omega 3 may also contribute to oil production. Zinc helps to regulate the oil-producing glands, so they behave better! Great sources include shellfish, legumes and nuts. Pic – food rich in zinc



6. INDULGE IN A CLAY MASK

Today's beauty shelves might be piled high with increasingly innovative formulas, but sometimes, the oldest treatments like the clay mask remain the best. Thankfully, you don't need to spend a fortune on this, simply look for one containing French green or bentonite clay, as these are generally the most absorbent. Kaolin clay is a great all-rounder, too.



7. CHOOSE YOUR FOUNDATION WISELY

When you've got oily skin, don't restrict yourself to long-wear liquid foundations. Mineral powders come with so many benefits: not only are they largely non-comedogenic (meaning they won't clog your pores), they're unrivalled in the oil-absorbing department, and can easily be layered up as the day goes on. But if you're loyal to a liquid, that's fine too – just invest in a great setting powder to seal the deal.

CHIC WAYS TO ROCK HOUNDSTOOTH PRINTS

BY USIADE ISIOMA

HOUNDSTOOTH AND TARTAN

Feeling adventurous? It may sound out-there, but these two prints are tied together by something irrevocably strong. Both houndstooth and the classic coloured tartan find a kind of harmony. If you do go this path, keep the rest simple. INIDIMA OKOJIE

Timeless is a bit of an overworked word in fashion circles, but when it comes to a print like the houndstooth, few others suffice. It's a print that really does transcend seasons and eras unlike the fleeting trends that breeze in and out on a near-impossible-to-keep-up-with basis. You can easily shine in classic houndstooth by pairing it with nothing but slick, solid black - but in the event that you feel like upping your print game to a higher level of complexity, the more fearless you choose to be, the better. If you're looking for ideas on how to wear houndstooth like an expert, check out these outfits below.

HOUNDSTOOTH AND CHECKS

Houndstooth and classic checks are a match made in print heaven, so you don't have to think twice about working the two together. A black-on-white houndstooth blazer over a check blouse is easy to pull off, and super effective. This is great for adding a chic and sophisticated touch to your look.

HOUNDSTOOTH & HOUNDSTOOTH

If you are brave and bold enough to try sporting houndstooth from head to foot, get in on the suiting trend ala Chanel! It's a fun and fashion-forward way to wear this gorgeous print pattern. One will always look chic and with minimal effort.

HOUNDSTOOTH AND POLKA DOT PRINT

Match your polka dot prints to the size of your houndstooth for maximum cohesion between prints. And while you can safely keep it all

CLASSIC BLACK AND WHITE

Think the houndstooth print is tricky enough on its own? Take the safest route and wear it in black and white and a reversed order. This is a great, refreshing twist on the minimalist trend. It's bold enough to

make a statement yet still has that subtle vibe because of the muted colours that are black and white.

A CLASSIC BLACK BELT with hardware details will give any colourful print dress an edgier side.

If your dress is of the shift variety or on the boxier side, give it some more shape with a BELT CINCHED AT THE WAIST.

If you're wearing a monochrome look, wear A CONTRASTING BELT to break down the look some more.

Wearing a dress with a more vibrant pattern, A SIMPLE BELT will give your ensemble some structure.

When wearing A BELT THAT MATCHES YOUR DRESS, play with accessories in a contrasting colour to keep the look fresh.



INIDIMA OKOJIE



JULIETTE FOX



ZOE MSUTWANA



FANTASIA TAYLOR



YAMIKO



SHARON OOJA



OZINNA ANUMODU



CHIOMA IKOKWU



BONANG MATHEBA



KEFILWE MABOTE

DRESS STYLING TRICK

BELT UP!

A dress may be your go-to garment anytime, but sometimes it needs more. For those moments when you're looking for a better way to style your dress, simply belt it up. Whether you're looking to accentuate your waist, create a fun silhouette, or fix up a piece that's borderline too big, it's almost too easy an answer: With a belt, you'll instantly add an edge to all your dresses. From coordinated belts, belts that change the silhouette of your dress or accentuates your waist, there's a dress-and-belt combination for everyone

BY USIADE ISIOMA

GLO E-TOP UP IT'S SO REWARDING



Up to
10%
bonus
on E Top Up

GLO E-TOP UP

- Recharge and enjoy up to 10% bonus on the recharge amount.
- Dial ***805#** to E-Top Up your Glo line. You can also access E-Top Up through **Bank Codes, Bank Apps, Bank ATMs, POS, Online Payment platforms and the Glo Café App.**
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