STILL STANDING!

...NOT IN THIS DAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

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ODION IGHALO

GLOBAL CHAMPION!
Anywhere you look at nowadays, especially on the global stage, Nigerians are really stepping up their game in the field of Entertainment, Arts & Culture and also Fashion and Sports to mention a few sectors. With Sports for instance, we recently heard of Nigeria’s Basketball team, D’Tigers beating USA in a dazzling form in preparation for Tokyo 2020. On our cover this week, we have the footballer, JUDE IGHALO, the first Nigerian, and seventh African to have played for Manchester United. Today, he is famous for his skills on the field and is a role model for others like him who started back home, from nothing to become something. He is a pride of the nation as are many others like him who are blazing the trail in their chosen fields of endeavors.

In the Fashion Industry now world renowned designer, Kenneth Ize launches another collection at KARL LAGERFELD X. Last year, the Maison Karl Lagerfeld announced him as its first black designer to collaborate with the brand. The collection is now available for purchase. What this simply tells us is that there is so much talent within and the bars are being raised everyday with new innovative ways to master various crafts. Back home, the Adire fabric as we once knew it only consisted of two major colours, indigo blue and white. Now and again we would get a glimpse of bottle green but nothing out of the box. Today, all that has changed! In ADIRE HAVEN, we see a kaleidoscope of colours with tie and dye. Colours so vibrant that no matter how simple the style of the attire is, it remains strikingly beautiful because of its richness. Another area that has shown some changes recently is our head wraps. In IT’S A WRAP, we showcase the various eclectic styles that are the rave of the moment. When made in the same fabric as your outfit, it gives an added twist to the monochrome look.
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Friends, family and close associates of CEO/COO of Nigeria’s leading advertising and media production company, X3M Ideas, Steve Babaeko, gathered to celebrate his 50th birthday recently with an exclusive event held at the Oh La LaCafé in Ikoyi. The event saw guests arrive at the beautifully transformed venue in fashionable attires inspired by the dress code “African Regal in Black and Gold”.

The guests in attendance comprised the who’s who in the entertainment, media and PR industry who came out to honour the celebrant on his special day. Guests were well taken care of with the best of Nigerian and continental cuisine being served alongside fine wines, liquor and more.

The event was hosted by ace compere, Tee-A and featured performances from juju music icon, Chief Commander Ebenezer Obey and celebrity DJ, DJ Spinall.

Scene and Le Seen

Steve Babaeko’s @ 50th
Recently Grace Egbagbe celebrated another year. Not one to reveal her age, Grace has been known to always make this special day with family, friends and loved ones. Traditionally, her event was celebrated at the end of the year in America where she has been living for quite some time which explains her rare appearances in the social circuit these days. But sticking to her age old tradition, Grace still went ahead to mark this day in her usual style, hosting a few friends adhering to the social COVID restrictions. She spent a jolly afternoon with her guests and stayed chirpy all day. Her daughter Zemaye, was also on ground to ensure this day remains memorable for her mother. The day was filled with speeches down memory lane and congratulatory messages from those who could not attend.

We, at Style wish her a very happy birthday!

**Grace Egbagbe Celebrates Another Year!**

Consumer experience in Nigeria’s Hospitality Industry redefined with “AURA” by Transcorp Hotels Plc.

Leading African hospitality brand Transcorp Hotels recently launched “AURA”, a digital platform that connects individuals to unique homes, great food, yoga, and more remarkable and memorable leisure experiences.

The launch event, which took place in Abuja, Nigeria at the Transcorp Hilton, was graced by His excellency, the Vice President of Nigeria Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Chairman Transcorp Group Tony O. Elumelu, Minister of Justice of Nigeria, Abubakar Malami, Speaker, House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, and a few other notable personalities.

According to Prof. Tony Elumelu, the platform is coming at a time when the nation’s hospitality industry was recovering from a downturn occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the platform would provide a significant revenue for small businesses in the industry to grow.
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At what age did you realize you had a passion for football, and you wanted to play professionally?

I think I was about ten years old when I started playing football. I was in primary school then, and I played for the school team. At the time, I was so into the game, and it was all I did. After secondary school, I sat for the JAMB entrance examination, but my results were withheld. I then decided to focus more on football, do more training and take it up as a career.

What was your first team?

I was training back then in Nigeria with a team in Ajegunle. At the time, there was a scout who usually came to watch us play. One day I was picked up for a trial, and that was it. I passed. On August 31st 2007, I signed my first professional contract, and that’s how my football career officially started. From Norway to Italy to Udinese in 2008, then Granada in Spain to England from Watford to China back to England and now Saudi Arabia. It’s been a long journey. It hasn’t been easy, but everything is going on well regardless. I have enjoyed every step of the journey because I love what I do – playing football.

Can you remember your first professional game?

Yes, I do and clearly, too. It was in Norway, and we won 3-1. I scored a goal in the game, and I was so happy since it was my first professional goal outside Nigeria. It was a dream come true for me. At the start, I was a little bit nervous because I wanted to perform well. Remember, this was my first time playing outside the country and with foreigners too. I wanted to kickstart my career outside the country with a bang, and I thank God it went well. Since then, there’s been no looking back.

What was it like being the first Nigerian playing for Manchester United?

Manchester United is a team I had supported right from when I was young, and so it was emotional for me. I was happy since it was my first professional goal outside Nigeria. It was a dream come true for me. At the start, I was a little bit nervous because I wanted to perform well. Remember, this was my first time playing outside the country and with foreigners too. I wanted to kickstart my career outside the country with a bang, and I thank God it went well. Since then, there’s been no looking back.

What would you say has been the high point of your career?

Well, I would say when I signed my deal with China. It was a good contract. And I was pleased with it. I was bought from Watford to Changchun Yatai for £20million and it was the biggest transfer in the history of both clubs. I went there and played for two years. I did so well with the team. I played about 50 or 62 games, with 36 goals. It was one of the best moments in my career life. I would also say the day I got signed to Manchester United. Nothing compares to that feeling.

You are currently with Al-Shabab; how is that going?

It’s going well. I just finished my first six months with them. I have scored 13 goals and made four assists. Not a bad one for a start, even though I know I could have done better. I am looking forward to starting a new season with them, and hopefully, I can score more goals.

For Jude Odion Ighalo, playing for the prestigious Manchester United Club felt like a dream come true. To date, he counts it as one of his most outstanding achievements being the first Nigerian to play for the club he had supported from his younger days playing in open fields in Ajegunle Lagos.

Jude started his football career at Nigerian clubs Prime and Julius Berger where he was discovered by a FIFA Agent who got him his first international contract with the Norwegian club Lyn. In no time, his career picked up, and he got signed on to Italian club Udinese and subsequently the Spanish club Granada.

In 2014, he signed for the championship club Watford and was integral in their promotion to the Premier League in the 2014-15 season. In January 2017, he got a big break when he was bought from Watford to Chinese super league club Changchun Yatai for £20million, the biggest transfer in the history of both clubs at the time. From there, Ighalo returned to the Premier League joining Manchester United on loan. In doing so, he became the first Nigerian player and the seventh African to join the club.

At Jude 32, Jude Ighalo, who is currently with the Saudi Professional League club Al Shabab, has achieved a lot but is still raring to go. ‘‘I want to win more trophies, make more money and become the best in anything I do. I have always aspired to do more than I did before every season, so it’s always a challenge for me to do better,’’ he says.

In this interview with KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR, he reflects on his younger days in Ajegunle, giving back and plans for life after football.
Football is the ultimate unifying sport globally, particularly in Nigeria. How does it feel to be at the centre of it all?

When it comes to football, nothing else matters. On the field, there’s no talk of tribalism, race, culture or religion. Instead, we all come together to celebrate our wins. I am happy to be at the centre of it all.

I am using my God-given talent to bring people together from different tribes, religions and countries to support one goal. It’s a beautiful feeling.

When was the last time you played for the National football team?

My last game for the National team was July 17th 2019, in Egypt, when we played our 3rd place in the Africa Nations Cup. I scored the goal that gave us the 3rd place medal, and after that, I announced my retirement from the National team.

Why did you retire?

It was a bit tough. I got injured. I was playing throughout the tournament with pains and an injury. My club in China wasn’t too happy. Also, there was the issue of the distance from China to Nigeria. Besides, I am not getting any younger, so I decided to allow the younger ones to continue from where I stopped. I am still in contact with everyone in the National team, and they are all doing very well.

At just 32, you have achieved a lot in your chosen career. Is there anything you are looking forward to achieving?

I want to win more trophies, make more money and become the best in anything I do. I have always aspired to do more than I did before every season, so it’s always a challenge for me to do better.

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed?

Not at all. I keep pushing and remain grounded. I don’t want to get carried away with the hype. I want to keep being humble and working without the belief that I have arrived.

How much longer do you see yourself on the field?

Every time I talk to my agent, I say 3-4 years, but he always keeps encouraging me, saying that I still have the energy to play for 5-6 years. So, until my body starts giving me signs, I will keep playing. Anyway, let’s see how it goes because I have played for 16 years professionally, ten different clubs, seven different countries. I am so thankful to God for a fantastic career.

When you eventually decide to stop, what’s the next?

I want to still be involved in football. I am working towards building my football academy. I also want to become a football agent, take players abroad, play, and negotiate deals outside Nigeria.

You constantly refer to Agegunle when talking about your humble beginnings. Do you still visit?

I always visit Agegunle. It would always be home for me. You know, there is a pitch there named after me. I am all about empowerment. I have an association where I grew up, which I do that through.

I always visit Agegunle. It would always be home for me. You know, there is a pitch there named after me. I am all about empowerment. I have an association where I grew up, which I do that through.

Talking about giving back, you also run a foundation? Here’s that going?

I own an orphanage home. The Igahlo orphanage home is strictly for orphans, and disabled/molested kids. It’s been three years now, and we are waking stronger. It’s not easy, though, I have no sponsor. It is 100% financed by me. I am calling on those who can help with orfanages always to do so in order to help the private ones aren’t easy to run. It’s also not so easy getting support from the government for this. The Igahlo orphanage home has an Instagram account with a donation link attached to it. You can support us by donating. You could also visit the kids and take foodstuff to them too.

Let’s talk about your mom. You both share a very special relationship.

For me, after God, is my mother. Everything I have achieved today is all from her sacrifice for me. When I started playing football at a young age, my dad would try to discourage me because he wanted me to focus on my education. But she stood her ground for me without knowing what the future would bring. She just wanted to see me happy. Just last week, we were reminiscing about when I was crying for a pair of football shoes. She took me to every shop possible in search of it. We travelled as far as Asiwaju market, Badagry even as far as Kantapora to look for these football shoes. She gave me her all. For all her sacrifices, whatever I give her today is just peanuts. She deserves so much more than I can ever afford to give. I pray God keeps her in good health, so she enjoys the fruits of her labour.

Are any of your kids interested in football?

Yes, my first and second sons both play football. They are generally into sports. I keep praying for them. Whatever career they choose, I will give them my full support. I can’t force them to do what I do, but I can see they love football, and I will give them the complete training and support they need.

What is your daily routine when you are working?

I wake up in the morning, say my prayers, play my worship songs, go to the gym and when it’s my club time, I get ready for training after my breakfast, but in Nigeria, I always finish training before I take my breakfast.

What is life in Saudi Arabia like?

Life is good. What I love most about them is that they don’t discriminate. You know, when I score goals, I do the sign of the cross, kneel and raise my hands to God, and nobody has ever questioned me as regards that. Even before the game, I kneel and pray in the dressing room. They respect my religion and culture, and I do the same to theirs. They believe we all serve one God even though it is a Muslim country.

What would you say to young footballers on the streets starting as you did?

They need to keep pushing. Some days are going to be tough. It might look like nothing is coming through, or nobody sees them, but they definitely won’t make it. But that’s true. I want to tell them that when you show up in your nutshells, they should keep working hard, put God first, be ready to learn, be humble and don’t give up.

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This is the current trending fashion for ladies now. The Adire Fabric is a tie-and-dye material which comes in different colours and textiles such as cotton and silk material. Over the years, it has moved from its regal indigo foundation to a variety of textures, patterns and designs. Ladies now use it to sew many styles.

**Consider colours and patterns**
Depending on your style, you can either go edgy or traditional. There is a dazzling array of rainbow-inspired hues to pick from.

**Carefully curate your ensemble**
Pair your Adire with your other ensemble in whatever way works best for you. Your Adire could be the top or the bottom or even what you rock from head to toe.

**Accessorize appropriately**
Subtle jewellery works best for Adire as there is already enough going on with the fabric. Think along the lines of hoop earrings, bracelets, single-layered necklaces and rings.

**BY USIADISOIMA**

**MODEL FOR THE LADY MAKER**

YEMI ALADE
BISOLA AIYEOLA
HAFFY DEOLA
CHIOMA IKOWU
ANGEL OBASI
SHARON OOJA
HISTORY BEHIND COMMONLY USED PHRASES

There are literally thousands of expressions across all languages, that are taken for granted and used without a second thought as to their origin. But others, though not, their explanations are truly fascinating and allow us to step back in time to when people’s lives were very different from one era to another. As you scroll through, many phrases stem from such things as social class, historical events, sport, and religion. Here are some of the most interesting:

Turn A Blind Eye
Originally said to be something difficult or unpleasant that one has been putting off or avoiding. In the Middle Ages, people were believed to have time to administer anaesthesia while performing surgery. Because of this, surgeons would often put down on blocks to distract themselves from the pain.

One For the Road
A final drink before hanging a place up. During the Middle Ages, it was common for men to swear to never drink again and then break their vow. During this time, the vow could not be broken with anything other than a lethal dose of poison, leading many to believe that the only way to not break their oath was to have the last drink of poison.

Honeymoon
A building spent together by a married couple. In ancient times, newlyweds were given a wedding banquet, which was considered an act of politeness. If the bride and groom were not seen to have a calm and happy relationship during the wedding, the couple might be viewed as not being properly married.

Crockle Tears
This phrase stems from an ancient ceremony, the “Crockle,” where parents would give their children a drink of wine to remember their love for them. The phrase “crockle tears” is a play on words for how ancient people would express their love for their parents.

Kick The Bucket
A popular expression used to describe someone’s death. The phrase originated from the idea of someone’s bucket of air being kicked out of them, leading to their death. The phrase is still used today to signify someone’s passing.

Bite The Bullet
To do something difficult or unpleasant that one has been putting off or avoiding. The phrase was originally used to describe a person who would bite down on bullets to distract themselves from the pain of surgery.

Give The Cold Shoulder
To be deliberately unfriendly. This phrase is believed to have originated from the practice of serving meals to guests on a cold shoulder, which was considered an act of rudeness.

Riding Shotgun
To be given a ride in a vehicle, usually a stagecoach, who sat next to the driver with a shotgun to protect from attackers and robbers. The phrase is often used to describe someone who is given a ride in a vehicle, usually as a favor or a gesture of goodwill.

Crocodile Tears
This phrase refers to tears of sorrow that are insincere. The term was first used by the ancient Greeks to describe tears of joy, which were considered to be fake and insincere.

Honeymoon
A phase spent together by a married couple. In ancient times, newlyweds were given a wedding banquet, which was considered an act of politeness. If the bride and groom were not seen to have a calm and happy relationship during the wedding, the couple might be viewed as not being properly married.

The Karl Lagerfeld x Kenneth Ize Collection

In June 2020, Maison Karl Lagerfeld announced Kenneth Ize as its first Black designer collaborator, and after pandemic-related delays, the collection is now available for purchase.

“The fashion house’s stylist, Carine Roitfeld, worked with Ize, a finalist of the 2019 LVMH Prize, to create an exclusive well-balanced range of pieces for summer 2021 capsule collection culminating in the best of both brands. The collection raises the brand’s sleek European style with Nigerian-inspired prints made using traditional techniques as a homage to Karl’s West African roots.

Filled with genderless tailoring, colourful handbags, and an assortment of beaded jewellery, the lineup includes a pair of intricately woven platform sandals. The result is a sartorial celebration of culture fused with elevated design.”

*Image courtesy Maison Karl Lagerfeld

FUN FACTS

One Look: Chic Ways

The oversized Dior silhouette complements every shape and size of women. Styling the simple shirt dress can be done in 2 amazing ways.

Casual

If you’re looking for a casual way to wear this piece, you can’t go wrong with a pair of ankle sneakers. This styling choice is all about the accessories. Sometimes wearing the same designer shoes can look like she’s ready to conquer the world!

Party

Her drop earrings, hat, and knee high boots must have raised the voltage! Thumbs up to full voltage sex appeal! Her knee high boots are a statement look right here, like we said...very high voltage! Thumbs up stylish you are. Adorably cute. A complete look is right here.

One For the Road

A holiday spent together by a newly married couple. They would be allowed to have one final drink of wine before being put to bed.

Bite The Bullet

A decision to do something difficult or unpleasant. The phrase originates with naval hero Horatio Nelson, who used to put off or hesitate over surgeries. Because of that, patients were made to put down on blocks to distract themselves from the pain.

Kick The Bucket

An act of putting off or hesitating over. The phrase originates from the idea of someone’s bucket of air being kicked out of them, leading to their death. The phrase is still used today to signify someone’s passing.

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It could keep the dentist away – and help brighten your smile. Apples are particularly effective at whitening teeth as they contain malic acid, a chemical found in whitening products to dissolve stains.

Snack On Celery
For two reasons; it can promote saliva production and therefore also help to dissolve stains, and it also contains fibrous cellulose that acts as a natural exfoliator.

Follow With Water
Chase all your green and red drinks, teas, coffee and colas with water to dilute stains that are instantly forming. Water also helps to restore your mouth to a neutral pH.

Apply Vaseline To Your Teeth
A slick across your gnashers can not only act as a protective layer against staining from what passes your lips, but also can keep lipstick in place and prevent it from transferring onto your teeth. Either way – you’ve got a whiter smile.

Sip Through A Straw
We’re all fans of healthy juices, smoothies and – dare we say – cocktails, but not what they do to our teeth – for surface stains and the enamel. Start drinking them through straws it will help reduce direct contact with the teeth.

Apple Cider Vinegar
Swap your morning mouthwash for some apple cider vinegar that can not only kill bacteria but shift stubborn stains. Just do it before you brush, not after.

While DIY teeth whitening can sound daunting, there are easy steps you can take to help keep your teeth white.

Follow these simple home tricks to get pearly white teeth.

Eat An Apple A Day

Carry Floss On You
Keep mini packets of floss in your handbag, car and on your desk because no matter how white your smile is any food stuck in your teeth can leave a lasting colour on your dentition.

7 WAYS TO A BRIGHER SMILE

Apply Toothpaste
While regular toothpaste is great for cleaning teeth, try switching to one that’s specifically designed to remove stains and will help keep your teeth white.

Snack On Celery

Get Into The Habit Of Flossing
Flossing helps to remove plaque from between your teeth and under your gumline. This can help to prevent stains from forming and keep your teeth looking bright.

Sip Through A Straw

Carry Floss On You

While DIY teeth whitening can sound daunting, there are easy steps you can take to help keep your teeth white.

Follow these simple home tricks to get pearly white teeth.
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