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SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

THIS DAY

Sty

ODION IGHALO

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COVER

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.

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 reflects on his younger days in Ajegunle, giving back and plans for life after football. **KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR** reports



CONTENT

Society

STEVE BABAOKO'S 50TH
PG 8-9

GRACE EGBAGBE CELEBRATES
ANOTHER YEAR PG 10

CONSUMER EXPERIENCE
IN NIGERIA'S HOSPITALITY
INDUSTRY REDEFINED WITH
"AURA" BY TRANSCORP PG 11

Fashion

STREET STYLE: ADIRE PG 18

ONE LOOK 2 CHIC WAYS
PG 20

THE KARL LAGERFELD X -
KENNETH IZE COLLECTION
PG 21

7 WAYS TO A BRIGHTER
SMILE PG 22



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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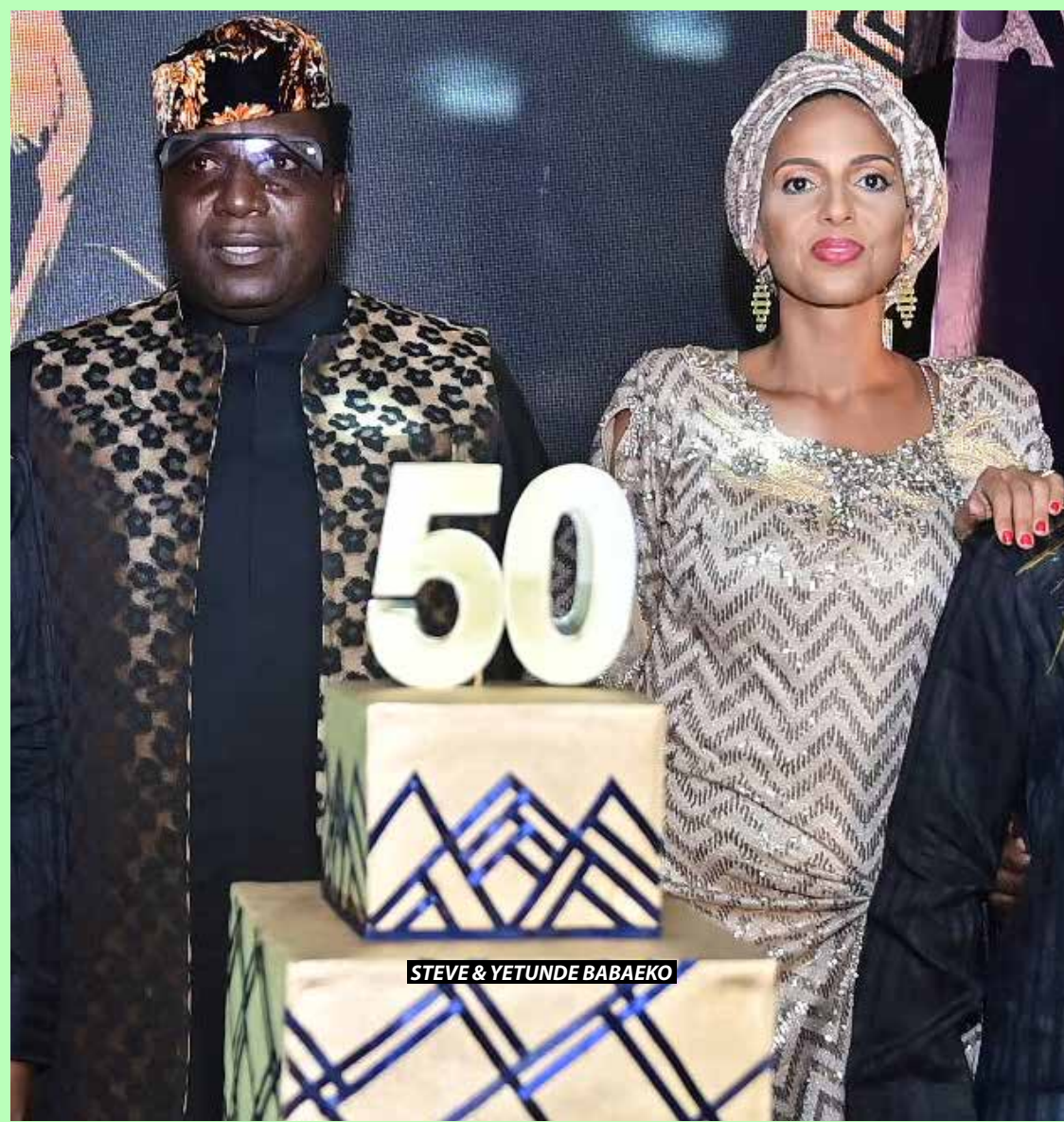
Steve Babaeko's @ 50th

Friends, family and close associates of CEO/CCO 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 of the who-of-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 veeran juju music icon, Chief Commander Ebenezer Obey and celebrity DJ, DJ Spinall.



STEVE & YETUNDE BABAOKO



AYENI ADEKUNLE



OMOTOLA JALADE-EKEINDE



TEE A



TOLU & TUNDE DEMUREN



MICHELLE DEDE



MARTIN MABUTHO



Grace Egbagbe Celebrates Another Year!

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. This time, her event was celebrated all the way 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!



Consumer experience in Nigeria's Hospitality Industry redefined with "AURA" by Transcorp Hotels Plc.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

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. Yemi Osinbajo, 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 avenue for small businesses in the industry to grow.



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ODION IGHALO

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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.*

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 you can only imagine how I felt having the privilege to play for them—and then being the first Nigerian to do so made it even more special.

I had a good time there with loads of beautiful experiences. One that stands out was scoring my

first goal. It felt like a dream come true. It is an experience I would never forget.

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

Well, I will 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 a huge transfer and 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 52 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, and I did well (thirteen games with nine goals and 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.

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 even had a meeting with them yesterday. It's all about creating support and opportunities for whatever they want to do— even the older folks. I want them all to have a better life. Like I earlier mentioned, I am also working towards owning a football academy to get some of these



“
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”

young footballers off the streets. I didn't have this opportunity when I was young, so that's why I am using my platform, money, sweat and time to do this so they can, in return, help their families.

Talking about giving back, you also run a foundation? How's that going?

I own an orphanage home. The Ighalo orphanage home is strictly for orphans, and disabled/molested kids. It's been three years now, and we are waxing 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 orphanages always to do so when they can because the private ones aren't easy to run. It's also not so easy getting support from the government for this. The Ighalo 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 Aswani market, Badagry even as far as Kantagora 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 and they probably won't make it. But that's not true. I want to tell them that that's when the blessings are coming. In a nutshell, they should keep working hard, put God first, be ready to learn, be humble and don't give up.

If you weren't playing football, what would you be doing?

Hmmm....maybe I would have furthered my education and become a lawyer. Who knows?

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THE ICONIC REGINA KING

This week on ARISEPlay, we are featuring American actress and director, Regina Rene King as we announce the addition of the Oscar winning movie "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "Daddy Day Care", which also features Eddie Murphy, to our ever-growing list of blockbuster titles.

Regina is the recipient of several awards, including an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in 'If Beale Street Could Talk' in 2019.



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BY USIADE ISIOMA

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.



ANGEL OBASI



MODEL FOR THE LADY MAKER



YEMI ALADE



HAFFY



BISOLA AIYEOLA



DEOLA



CHIOMA IKOWU



ANGEL OBASI



SHARON OOJA

**STREET
STYLE**

adire heaven

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 from head to toe is not OTT... in fact, quite the opposite. It just depends how skillfully stylish you are. Adorably cute. A statement look right here, right now. TOKE MAKINWA



ONE LOOK 2 Chic Ways

The oversized Dior silhouette complements every shape and size of women. Styling the simple shirt dress can be done in so many ways to achieve your desired look with different layers and accessories. TOKE MAKINWA and TIWA SAVAGE has shown us the versatility of this piece in 2 amazing ways.

STORIES BY USIADE ISIOMA



WHERE THE PARTY AT?

Tiwa has shattered the ceiling when it comes to full voltage sex appeal! Her knee high boots must have raised a few blood pressures from the male species. Her drop earrings, hat and structured bag makes her look like she's ready to conquer the world! Like we said...very high voltage! Thumbs up from us. TIWA SAVAGE

HISTORY BEHIND COMMONLY USED PHRASES

FUN FACTS

There are literally thousands of expressions across all languages, that we take for granted and give no thought as to their origins. More often than not, their explanations are truly fascinating and allow us to step back in time to when people's lives were very different from our own today. As you will discover, 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

Meaning: Pretend not to notice.

Origin: It is believed that this phrase originates with naval hero Horatio Nelson, who used his blind eye to look through his telescope. This way he was able to avoid signals from his superior, who wanted him to withdraw from battle. He attacked, nevertheless, and was victorious.



used by German actors "Hals- und Beinbruch" which translates to "a broken neck and a broken leg." Besides that, it still doesn't make sense why would you wish someone to break a leg? Well, as it turns out, popular folklore down through the ages encouraged people to wish others bad luck since it was believed that wishing someone good luck would tempt evil spirits. So, you guessed it, people started wishing each other to break a leg in order for them not to break one!

Bite The Bullet

Meaning: Decide to do something difficult or unpleasant that one has been putting off or hesitating over.

Origin: During battles there was no time to administer anaesthesia while performing surgeries. Because of that, patients were made to bite down on bullets to distract themselves from the pain.



Give The Cold Shoulder

Meaning: Reject or be deliberately unfriendly to.

Origin: This saying, that is currently considered to describe someone as rude, was actually considered an act of politeness. During medieval times in England, after everyone was done feasting, the host would give his guests a cold piece of meat from the shoulder of beef or pork as a way of showing that it was time for everyone to leave.



One For The Road

Meaning: A final drink before leaving a place.

Origin: During the Middle Ages, the condemned ones were taken through what today is known as Oxford Street to their execution. During this final trip, the cart would stop and they would be allowed to have one final drink before their death.



Honeymoon

Meaning: A holiday spent together by a newly married couple.

Origin: According to tradition, a newlywed couple would have to drink a beverage with honey for an entire month for fertility and good luck.



White Elephant

Meaning: A possession that is useless or troublesome, especially one that is expensive to maintain or difficult to dispose of.

Origin: White elephants were considered to be sacred creatures in Thailand, yet they were also very hard to take care of. It is believed that Siamese kings (now Thailand) would gift white elephants as a subtle form of punishment, since taking care of this animal would drive the recipient into financial ruin.



Break A Leg

Meaning: Good luck!

Origin: It is believed that the phrase dates to World War I Germany and a saying



Riding Shotgun

Meaning: Used to claim the right to sit in the front passenger seat of a vehicle on a particular journey.

Origin: This expression refers to the passenger of an old-fashioned stagecoach, who sat next to the driver with a shotgun to protect from attackers and robbers along the way. There is no evidence to suggest the expression was actually used in times of the 'Wild West', but most likely came about much later on, when media and films began to romanticize the period.



Crocodile Tears

Meaning: Tears or expressions of sorrow that are insincere.

Origin: Written in the 14th century, a book called "The Travels of Sir John Mandeville" recounts a knight's adventures through Asia. In the book it says that crocodiles shed tears while eating a man they captured. Even though it is factually inaccurate, the phrase 'crocodile tears' found its way into Shakespeare's work and became an idiom in the 16th century, symbolizing insincere grief.



Kick The Bucket

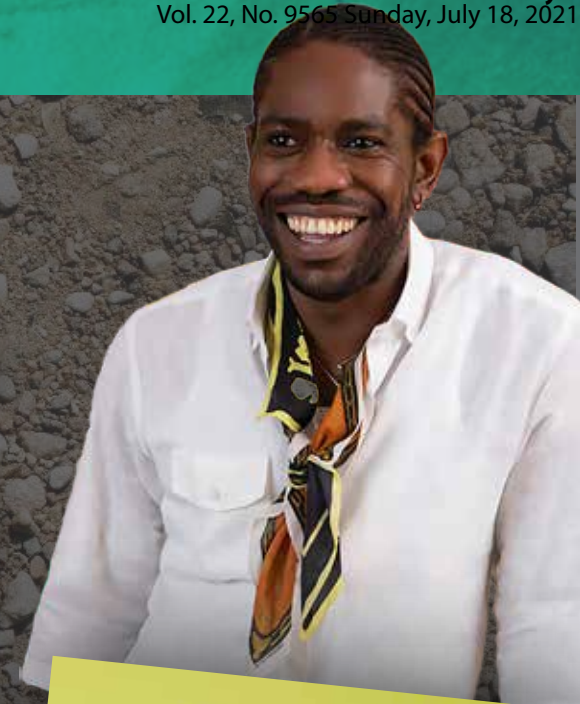
Meaning: To die.

Origin: When killing a cow at slaughterhouses, people would place a bucket under the animal while it was positioned on a pulley. While trying to adjust the animal, the cow would kick out its legs and therefore kick the bucket before being killed.



THE KARL LAGERFELD X KENNETH IZE COLLECTION

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR



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

"It was very important for me to express where I'm from because it was like introducing myself to [Karl]," says Ize of the lineup. "Every single outfit was based on African imagery." But it was a growth experience for the 30-year-old Austrian-Nigerian, too. "I'm coming from a space where I'm not as structured because I'm not as big, you know, so learning how to be structured from such a brand was very important."

The luxury house's style adviser, Carine Roitfeld, worked with Ize, a finalist of the 2019 LVMH Prize, to create an exclusive well-balanced spring/summer 2021 capsule collection culminating in the best of both brands.

The collection marries the brand's sleek European style with Nigerian-inspired prints made using traditional techniques as a homage to Ize's West African roots.

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

*images courtesy Maison Karl Lagerfeld



Eat An Apple A Day

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 it can keep lipply in place and prevent it from transferring onto your teeth. Either way – you've got a whiter smile.



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.



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.

7 WAYS TO A BRIGHTER SMILE

While DIY teeth whitening can sound daunting, there are easy steps you can take to help make your teeth white. Follow these easy home tricks to get pearly white teeth.

BY FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI

SHARON OOJA

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