

'Why we're organising Women of Colour Film Festival in America'

Moji Sonoiki, who is based in the United States of America, is the Chief Executive Office (CEO), Iyalode Productions, a music, arts and culture promoter. She speaks with David Ajiboye in Atlanta, Georgia, on the Women of Colour Film Festival her company has been organising for the past five years. Excerpts:

WHAT is this talk about the Women of Colour Film Festival?

The Women of Colour Film Festival is an event organised by Iyalode Productions based in Atlanta Georgia, United States of America. The film festival is one of the biggest events we produced and it is in its fifth year. The festival started in 2004 and this year's edition, which comes up in March, will mark our fifth edition.

Basically, the festival is for promoting women of colour, visual and format artiste. We started the festival as film festival only where we celebrate women directors, producers, actresses and others.

This platform was deliberately created by Iyalode Productions to celebrate women of colour from Africa, Asia, Middle East, who are not part of the dominating American film culture. When we started the film festival, we discovered that a lot of people want us to expand it to other aspects of the arts, not just films, and this made us to introduce music into it in the 2007 edition.

Apart from the film, we also have music and this year, we are going to be having a visual exhibition to promote the works of women of colour in the music industry.

What other things do you do at Iyalode Productions?

Apart from the film festival, we also curate for film festivals in Nigeria. Last year, I went to Zuma Film Festival in Abuja and I took 12 films along with me to the festival. I also presented a paper on film festivals and film markets. We won seven awards from the 12 films we took there. I also created a programme for the Lagos International Film Festival which was held in December, 2008, and we won two awards there again.

What I'm doing now is to attend many film festivals to create more awareness for our own. We accept films from all over the world but the

criteria is that it must be about, or by women of



•Moji Sonoiki

colour. We have a lot of men who also do movies on women. Look at Tunde Kelani for example, most of his films are on women and for the past three years, we have been showing a lot of his films. Last year, we showed *Narrow Path*. We also have a lot of male directors like Kunle Afolayan who came for the

festival last year.

Sourcing for funds?

What I intended to do is to use the people around me to support what we are doing. This is because I know a lot of people, as I have lived in different places. This year is actually the first year that we are actually applying for grant. We have the African Magazine as sponsor, the Canadian Consulate has come on board and besides, I spend a lot of my money too.

What is the highest prize money for the award categories?

There's no prize money, at least for now, what we have is the

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audience award. We give out a ballot and the audience vote for the films that they like. The platform is like a free marketing for the film maker and at most times, a lot of these film makers show the film for the first time at the festival. It benefits them because they know they get audience response.

What are the challenges you've faced in the course of organising this festival?

The biggest challenge is that most of the job is being done by myself. It's like really a one-woman show but basically, the major challenge is funding and staffing.

G-Xploits shoot multi-million naira video in South Africa

By David Ajiboye

If you think that 2008 witnessed a massive change in Nigeria entertainment industry, then get set for a new army of upwardly mobile hip hop faithful that are screaming to the roof tops that Nigerian music industry would see the challenge moving at the speed of a jet in 2009.

G-Exploits, a group consisting of three young men (Olufemi Amusan, a.k.a phemmy, Okey Uzoeshi, a.k.a okey and Seun Oyedokun a.k.a shay) appears to be 'armed' to the teeth with good looks, the talent and the passion to launch them to the international scene.

Recent information emanating from Yes Media, their record label showed that they just arrived from their trip in South Africa where they went to shoot their multi-million Naira video. In a statement, Yes Media disclosed that nothing is too much as far as quality is concerned. Emphasising that the four videos where shot in some of the most exotic locations in SA. At the moment, Channel O and MTV BASE are rollicking the airwaves with their video entitled 'Bolu Molu Merente

and Tear Rubber'

Meanwhile, STEEL another fast rising artiste has also been signed on YES RECORD. STEEL has done stuffs with 2face, 9ice and others in the past. He told us that he was shocked with the kind of responses that he has been getting

since one of his videos, 'Omoge' started playing on Tv stations across Africa. He said, he would return to South Africa soon to do more video shoot. At the moment, STEEL is more than convinced that he would live up to the expectations of his fans.

Madonna's new man has no interest in Kabbalah

MADONNA is reportedly furious that Alex Rodriguez dropped out of Kabbalah training because he was "bored," according to celebrity news reports.

The 50-year-old singer - whose divorce from Guy Ritchie was granted last week - has so far failed in her attempts to get rumored new boyfriend to share her deep level of interest in Kabbalah, a mystical off-shoot of Judaism.

This report comes in spite of the fact that A-Rod reportedly told a friend earlier this year that Madonna is his "f**king

soulmate, dude." What a loser.

Alex split with wife, Cynthia Rodriguez, a few months ago. Since then, his relationship with the singer has reportedly gotten physical. But for how long?

A source at New York's Kabbalah Center, where the New York Yankees star had been attending private classes with spiritual leader, Eitan Yardeni, said:

"He hasn't even finished Kabbalah 1 (the introduction to Kabbalah) and the majority of the time he spent with Yardeni so far was for counseling, not study."