

POWERFUL AFRICA



Spike Lee
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Forerunner of the
French Pan-African

Women Invest Club
Development by and
for women

Tyler Perry
An inspiring journey



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POWERFUL AFRICA

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Edito

In this second issue of Powerful Africa we focus on the world of the media Spike Lee is one of the most talented people in the world of the big and small screen A source of pride with his latest nomination But did you know that before him there were also pioneers who are rarely talked about We also have our national gems in France that we will honor

Powerful Africa is not only a magazine it's also a book with many references that allow us to see more clearly the talents of those of sub Saharan African heritage Entertainment is part of us as well as big projects breathtaking personalities in every issue

Let's keep track of all these beautiful personalities in our writings

Maïsha Stevens



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Spike Lee, a filmmaker committed to defending the rights of African-Americans

In April 2020, the American director was appointed president of the jury of the Cannes Film Festival, which will make him the first man of the African diaspora to hold this position.

Spike Lee, whose real name is Shelton Jackson Lee, is an American director, screenwriter, and actor born on March 20, 1957, in Atlanta, United States.

Known to be very committed to African-Americans rights, he founded his own production company in 1983, named 40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks, to refer to 40 acres and a mule, a promise of compensation made to African-American slaves after the Civil War. The dramatic events in the United States, such as the September 11, 2001 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, prompted the filmmaker to use his talents as a director for numerous documentaries, including Katrina (When the Levees Broke), which was broadcast on HBO. In 1991, Spike Lee also offered courses at Harvard University on how to make a film, but also at the Tisch School of the Arts of New York University in 1993 where he had studied. He was later appointed artistic director of the school and then a full-time professor at the university.

Before starting his career in film, Spike Lee was a student at Morehouse College and then at the Tisch School of the Arts. In 1982, he made his first film, a short called «We Cut Heads» about the murder of Joe, a barbershop owner and patron of Mr. Lovejoy, for trying to defraud Mr. Lovejoy. Zack, who takes over the business, is offered the same deal by Lovejoy that was offered to his late predecessor. This short film won the Oscar for Best Student Film.

«The Cannes Film Festival had a huge impact on my career as a filmmaker,» says Spike Lee in one of his statements. In 1986, the filmmaker released his first feature film, Nola Darling, which is the story of Nola Darling, a young woman who is a child of the family. It is the story of Nola Darling who has three lovers and a lesbian neighbor, Opal, who wants to seduce her. Nola then invites them all to a dinner party to make her choice. Shot in twelve days, this series won the Youth Prize at the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, making Spike Lee a spokesperson for African-American cinema. In a few years, he presented a dozen films that were presented at the Cannes Festival in the official competition. We can mention his film Do The Right Thing released in 1989, which evokes racial tensions in Brooklyn. Jungle Fever, released in 1991, presents a difficult affair between an African architect and his Italian secretary, victim of the racist prejudices by their social surroundings. But also Summer of Sam in 1999 which mentions the psychosis in New York around the serial murders of David Berkowitz.



« Cannes shaped my trajectory in world
cinema » - Spike Lee

by Charlotte BASSOT



Photographer : Jeff Kravitz/FilmMagic | Getty Images

« When I was called to become president of the jury of Cannes in 2020, I did not come back, I was happy, surprised and proud at the same time » - Spike Lee

Nevertheless, the professional life of the filmmaker was not always at its peak. Indeed, many films have been under the spotlight of critics. *Malcolm X*, a biographical film about an African-American preacher and human rights activist, has good reviews but would not have the success hoped for at the box office. The same goes for *Crooklyn*, a 1994 film about an unemployed young African-American man who is passionate about jazz, and *Clockers* (1995), about a young black drug dealer in Brooklyn who finds himself caught between his mentor, his disreputable brother, and a white policeman determined to have him convicted of murder, which did not have the commercial success of his previous films. It is with his acclaimed 2018 film *Blackkklansman* that Spike Lee would once again achieve huge success. It features an African-American police officer infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan in order to prevent an attack on civil rights activists. This film won several awards such as the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay, and the Oscar for Best Director.

It is in January 2020, that the organizers of the Cannes Film Festival proposed to Spike Lee to be the president of the jury of the 73rd edition of the Cannes Film Festival, in May 2020. Nevertheless, the latter having been canceled because of the health crisis related to Covid-19, the organizers say that the presidency of Spike Lee to the jury of the 74th Cannes festival is still relevant for July 2021. Surrounded by his jury, the filmmaker will have the difficult task of choosing the successor of *Parasite* by Bong Joon-ho.

His awards :

César 2003 : Honorary César

Oscars 2016 : Honorary Oscar

Cannes Film Festival 2018 : Grand Prix for *BlackKkKlansman*

BAFA 2019 : BAFA for Best Adapted Screenplay with David Rabinowitz, Charlie Wachtel and Kevin Willmott for *BlackKkKlansman*

Oscars 2019 : BAFA for Best Adapted Screenplay with David Rabinowitz, Charlie Wachtel and Kevin Willmott for *BlackKkKlansman*

His nominations :

BAFA 2019 :

BAFA for Best Film

BAFA for Best Director

Oscars 2019 :

Best Picture Oscars for *BlackKkKlansman*

Oscars for Best Director for *BlackKkKlansman*

Feature films

1983 : We cut Heads
1986 : Nola Darling n'en fait qu'à sa tête
1988 : School Daze
1989 : Do the Right Thing
1990 : Mo Better Blues
1991 : Jungle Fever
1992 : Maclom X
1994 : Crooklyn
1995 : Clockers
1996 : Girl 6 et Get on the Bus
1998 : He got Game
1999 : Summer of Sam
2000 : The Very Black Show
2002 : La 25ème Heure
2004 : She Hate Me
2006 : Inside Man
2008 : Miracle à Santa Anna
2012 : Red Hook Summer
2013 : Old Boy
2014 : Da Sweet Blood of Jesus
2015 : Chi-Raq
2018 : Blackkklansman
2020 : Da 5 Bloods

Video games

2015 : NBA 2K16

Courts métrages

1977 : Last Hustle in Brooklyn
1980 : The Answer
1981 : Sarah
1995 : Lumière et Compagnie
2002 : Ten Minutes Older
2005 : Les Enfants invisibles

Documentary

- 1997 : 4 Little Girls
- 1998 : Freak
- 1999 : Pavarotti & Friends 99 for Guatemala and Kosovo
- 2000 : The Original Kings of Comedy
- 2001 : A Huey P. Newton Story
- 2001 : The Concert for New York City
- 2002 : Jim Brown : All-American
- 2006 : Katrina
- 2009 : Kobe Doin Work
- 2010 : If God Is Willing and Da Creek Don t Rise
- 2012 : Bad 25
- 2013 : Mike Tyson : Undisputed Truth
- 2014 : Katt Williams : Priceless : Afterlife
- 2016 : Michael Jakson, naissance d'une légende
- 2020 : American Utopia

Video Clip

- 1983 : White Lines
- 1987 : Anita Baker : No One in the World
- 1988 : Experience Unlimited : Da Butt
- 1989 : Public Enemy : Fight the Power
- 1991 : State of Art : Understanding
- 1991 : FFF : Marco
- 1992 : State of Art : Laughing at the years
- 1992 : Money D ont Matter 2 Nigth
- 1992 : Arrested Development : Revolution
- 1993 : Naughty by Nature : Hip Hop Hooray
- 1993 : Eros Ramazzotti : Cose della vita
- 1993 : Bruce Hornsby : Talk Of The Town
- 1994 : Buckshot LeFonque : Breakfast at Deny's
- 1996 : Michael Jackson : They Don't Care About Us
- 2009 : Michael Jakson : This Is It
- 2014 : Eminem feat. Nate Ruess : Headlights
- 2019 : The Killers : Land of the Free

Series

- 2004 : Sucker Free City
- 2005 : Miracle's Boys
- 2006 : Shark
- 2007 : Nola Darling n'en fait qu à sa tête



Oprah Winfrey and Lee Matz

Oprah Winfrey, America's talk show icon

Considered the most influential African-American woman in the world, Oprah Winfrey stands out in the world of public figures for her sincerity and charisma.

She broke audience records in yet another memorable interview on March 7 with Harry and Meghan. Oprah Winfrey has reigned for over thirty years as a host and journalist in the American media landscape. Her omnipresence has made her an unavoidable personality and a model of success.

A personality who climbs the ladder of success

From Nashville radio and television host to the president of a media production company, Oprah Winfrey has come a long way. She owes it all to her undeniable talent and unmistakable presence: while hosting *People are Talking* for eight years, she was spotted by Chicago TV and offered her own morning show, *AM Chicago*.

Recurring motive? In 1986, the famous *Oprah Winfrey Show* was launched, broadcast on 120 channels, with a revenue of \$125 million, of which Oprah only received \$3

million. She then managed to become the main beneficiary of the show by founding the production company Harpo Company with the help of ABC News. The host proved herself and did not let anyone restrict her independence.

A tenacity that never fails

Our American darling does not have an easy history. Sexually molested from the age of nine by family members, Oprah Winfrey lived through a trauma that she shared in the first episode of her T.V program The Oprah Winfrey Show. Her tenacity has allowed her to rise again and she has proven her strength to the world. Between sensitivity and determination, Oprah has established herself in the entertainment world as a major inspirational figure, now propelling herself among the most influential American personalities.

In an environment where television hosts are considered almost mythical figures, Winfrey shines with her sincerity and integrity. The media transition that is shaking up television shows is resulting in the more regular treatment of scandalous subjects. True to form, Oprah refused to engage in such practices. Her integrity earned her the respect of a large number of listeners.

by Maïsha STEVENS

An African-American reference

Oprah's favorite things, Oprah's book club, Oprah's angel network... She is omnipresent and inescapable in American culture and allowed the ascendance of many authors and creators. Its influence can no longer be questioned. That's why her recent interview with Meghan and Harry shook the entire planet. The idea, evoked since 2018



Cicely Tyson

An iconic figure in the combat against racism.

Actress Cicely Tyson has left her mark on the world of film and television by being both an outstanding actress and an anti-racism advocate.

Her story begins with a meeting with the actor George Campbell Scott who, after seeing her play *The Maids* by Jean Genet, offers her a role in the T.V series *East Side / West Side*. Cicely Tyson became the first black actress to play a recurring character on television. Her rise as an African-American woman in the world of Broadway and Hollywood did not stop there since her talent was recognized many times and thus rewarded. The first example is the film *Souther*, released in 1972, which earned her an Oscar nomination. Then came the TV movie *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* released in 1974 which gave her the first Emmy Award for an African-American actress. Then in 2013, during her big return to Broadway, she received a Tony Award for Best Actress for the play *The Trip to Bountiful*. Finally, in 2018, she became the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Oscar.

«Over the course of her extraordinary career, Cicely Tyson was one of the few awardwinning actresses whose work on the screen was exceeded only by what she was able to accomplish with it. She had a heart like no other, and for 96 years she left a mark on the world that few will ever match.» Barack Obama
What struck me every time I spent time with Cicely Tyson wasn't necessarily her star power - although that was pretty obvious - it was her humanity. Just by walking into a room, she had this way of lifting everyone around her.» Michelle Obama
«A force in her industry that has opened the door for so many to follow. There will never be another with the poise, class, and talent of Cicely Tyson.» Netflix
To find out more about this woman who left her mark on more than one generation of African-American actresses, I

invite you to watch her memoir *Just As I Am*.

In addition to her numerous awards, Cicely Tyson is the spokesperson for black artists and a symbol of racial equality. Through her roles always committed, strong and noble she gives voice to a whole community whose history was sometimes scorned. In recent memories, she remains an icon, a former model who succeeded in breaking through in an environment still closed to minorities; a woman who opened the way for so many others. After her death on Thursday, January 28, many world figures have paid tribute to her on social media. These include former U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama, actress Viola Davis, with whom she starred in the TV series *How to Get Away with Murder* (2015-2020), and Netflix.

by Marie Flotha DODARD

Photographer : Stephen Lovekin/Getty





Will Smith, a Hollywood star

Will Smith, whose real name is Willard Carroll Smith Jr, is an American actor, singer, and film producer.

Since his childhood, Will Smith reveals himself as an intelligent and charismatic child. At the age of sixteen he met Jeffrey Townes at a party, they became friends and started a band together. Will Smith (The Fresh Prince) and Jeffrey Townes (DJ Jazzy Jeff) with Clarence Holmes (Ready Rock C) will join the band. In 1987, the group released their first album Rock The House. Continuing on this momentum, they released a double album entitled I'm The Rapper in 1988. This double album is their first big commercial success. Moreover, the single Parents Just Don't Understand from this album received a Grammy Award in the category «Best Rap Performance».

After a few years of success, the group broke up for various reasons, but Will Smith continued to make music on his own. As time goes by, Will Smith looks for new challenges to achieve. He began to attract the attention of Hollywood and the major American networks.



*His fame in the cinema began with the television series *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* in the early 1990s and then by imposing himself with some blockbuster successes such as *Bad Boy* in 1995, *Men in Black* in 1997 or *Enemy of the State* in 1998. In parallel to his acting career, between 1997 and 1999, Will Smith and the American producer James Lassiter founded Overbrook Entertainment, a production company for films, television series, and music. A set of all the combined passions of Smith.*

*It is notably with this production that Will Smith played in the film *Hitch: Expert in Seduction* (2005) but also in the film *In Search of Happiness* (2006) which earned him a nomination for the Oscar for Best Actor. He became then one of the highest-paid actors in Hollywood with 80 million dollars earned between June 1st, 2007, and June 1st, 2008. He is also the only one to have played in 8 films ranked first at the U.S. box office on their first weekend of release.*

*After a decade of unsuccessful film releases, it is in 2019 that he portrays the Genie in *Aladdin*. His performance in this film becomes the biggest success of his career. Finally, in 2020, he stars once again as Detective Mike Lowrey in *Bad Boys For Life*. His next appearance in the world of cinema should be in the film *King Richard*, in which he will play the role of Richard Williams, the father of the famous tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams.*

Martin Lawrence, a promising actor

Martin Lawrence is an American actor, comedian, director, and producer. He was born on April 16, 1965, in Frankfurt, Germany, where his father John Lawrence was serving in the United States Army. At the age of 7, he returned to Maryland since his father had finished his service in Germany. During his teenage years, Martin Lawrence was very strong as a boxer, entering regional competitions, but then he turned to acting. Indeed, as a youngster, Martin Lawrence was considered the class clown, joking with everyone...

It was a teacher who suggested that he use his talents as a comedian on stage at a local club during open mic nights. Martin Lawrence moved to California and participated in the Star Search show. He ended up being among the finalist but did not make it to the finals. However, representatives from Columbia Tristar Television noticed him and offered him a chance to appear in the sitcom *What's Happening now!* This was his first appearance in the film world as an actor.

In 1989, he got two opportunities that would really launch his career. Certainly, Russell Simmons selects him to host the Def Comedy Jam show broadcasted on HBO as well as Spike Lee who offered him a role in his movie *Do The Right Thing*. While hosting Def

Comedy Jam, he appeared in his own sitcom called *Martin* which aired on Fox from 1992 to 1997. His sitcom was a big success.

After the announcement of the end of TV show *Martin*, Martin Lawrence began working on many projects and in particular in the movie *Bad Boys* (1995) where he played the first role but also in *Big Momma's House* (2000) in which he played the FBI agent Malcolm Turner, an expert in concealment who hides behind the features of a grandmother for the good of his investigation. He became more and more famous thanks to these films.

In 2006, he shot the sequel *Big Mamma 2*, in which he again plays Agent Turner. He also appeared in the comedy *Wild Hogs* released in 2007 alongside John Travolta, Tim Allen, and William H. Macy.

Recently, he returned to the forefront alongside Will Smith with the sequel *Bad Boys For Life*, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. This film is the biggest success of his career and becomes the most profitable in 2020 since the budget was \$ 90 million and the film earned over \$ 400 million. The film was well-received by the critics and the acting of Martin Lawrence as well.





Lupita Nyong'o, the new it girl !

The Mexican-Kenyan actress and director Lupita Nyong'o was born in 1983 in Mexico City to Kenyan diplomats. She saw herself returning to Kenya before her first birthday, where she began her schooling. It was at school that she began to take an interest in drama and became passionate about theater. At the age of 14, she decided to audition for a role in the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet at the Kenya National Theatre and got the role of Juliet. Lupita obtained an International Baccalaureate from St Mary's School in Nairobi. This opened the doors to Hampshire College, Massachusetts, USA, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. It is in this way that she trained for the film industry. In 2012, she obtained a Master of Arts degree from the Yale School of Drama. It's thanks to this that she was able to perfect her mastery of acting by participating in many plays at her school. But it is in 2008 that her professional career really begins, at the age of 25.



She made her first steps in front of a camera when she played the lead role in a short film called «East River», shot in Brooklyn. Being completely absorbed by the universe, that she decides to continue as a director. We can indeed find her work in the documentary «In my Genes» released in 2009, which deals with the condition of albinos in Kenya. This one was a huge success, which was also presented in many international festivals and receives the first prize of the African Film Festival in Mexico City.

The year 2013 marks a turning point in the career of Lupita. Indeed, it is at this date that she is chosen among 1,000 candidates to play the role of the slave Patsey in the drama entitled 12 Years A Slave, directed by Steve McQueen.

It is thanks to this interpretation that she reaches notoriety because she realizes an exceptional performance distinguishing her and earning her many awards, such as the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. She is also designated by the famous magazine People, the most beautiful woman in the world for the year 2014.

She continued her career and her performances in 3 parts of the Star Wars saga. We then see her in 2018 playing the character of Nakia in the famous movie Black Panther (Marvel universe). Being a socially engaged actress, she made possible hundreds of children from the Kenyan village where she grew up to see this feature film. You may also have seen her in the horror movie US, or alongside Liam Neeson in Non Stop. And finally, we have not finished seeing Lupita Nyong'o performances on screen. She will be starring in many other films to come.

Akon, a living icon

We know Akon for his music, especially his track Right Now, which was released 11 years ago and which now has more than 500 million views on Youtube. Akon, whose real name is Aliaune Badara Thiam, has succeeded to make a place for himself within the general public. Numerous tracks have made him a pop icon, such as Smack That with which he was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2007.

In the continuity of his musical project, Akon then created his label which is called Kon Live Distribution at Interscope Records. Over the years, Akon has created a legacy, especially with the many collaborations he has done with David Guetta or Michael Jackson. However, Akon

has also turned to the world of cinematography. Indeed, you could surely recognize him in an episode of episode of the series CSI (season 6, episode 20) but also in the series Hit the Floor (season 1, episode 5). More recently, he was seen in the Turkish series E kiya dünyaya hükümdar olmaz presented at the Cannes Film Festival which was a big hit. His world-famous series as a springboard for Akon into the world of cinema. However, these were only appearances of Akon and not major roles. In order to round out his experience in

film, Akon starred in the movie Black November released in 2012 as Opuwei. This film tells the story of a Nigerian community that kidnaps an executive of a multinational oil company, in order to demand an end to the pollution of their territory. This is his first appearance in a film that has been recognized worldwide. Continuing this momentum Akon starred in 2015 in the film Taken where he was able to interpret

his own character: Akon. A remarkable actor during these roles, he was able to show a hint of multi-skills. Indeed, he can play in an action movie like in Black November but also play his own role in other movies. Through these works, the public could see another side of him, other than



music. Finally, he took on the challenge of building 2 futuristic cities located in Senegal and Uganda. The Ugandan project should include a hospital campus, a shopping mall, its school, its waste service, as well as parks. The construction of this city should be completed in 2036 while the city in Senegal should be completed within 3 years.

TYLER PERRY :

The man with a inspirational career

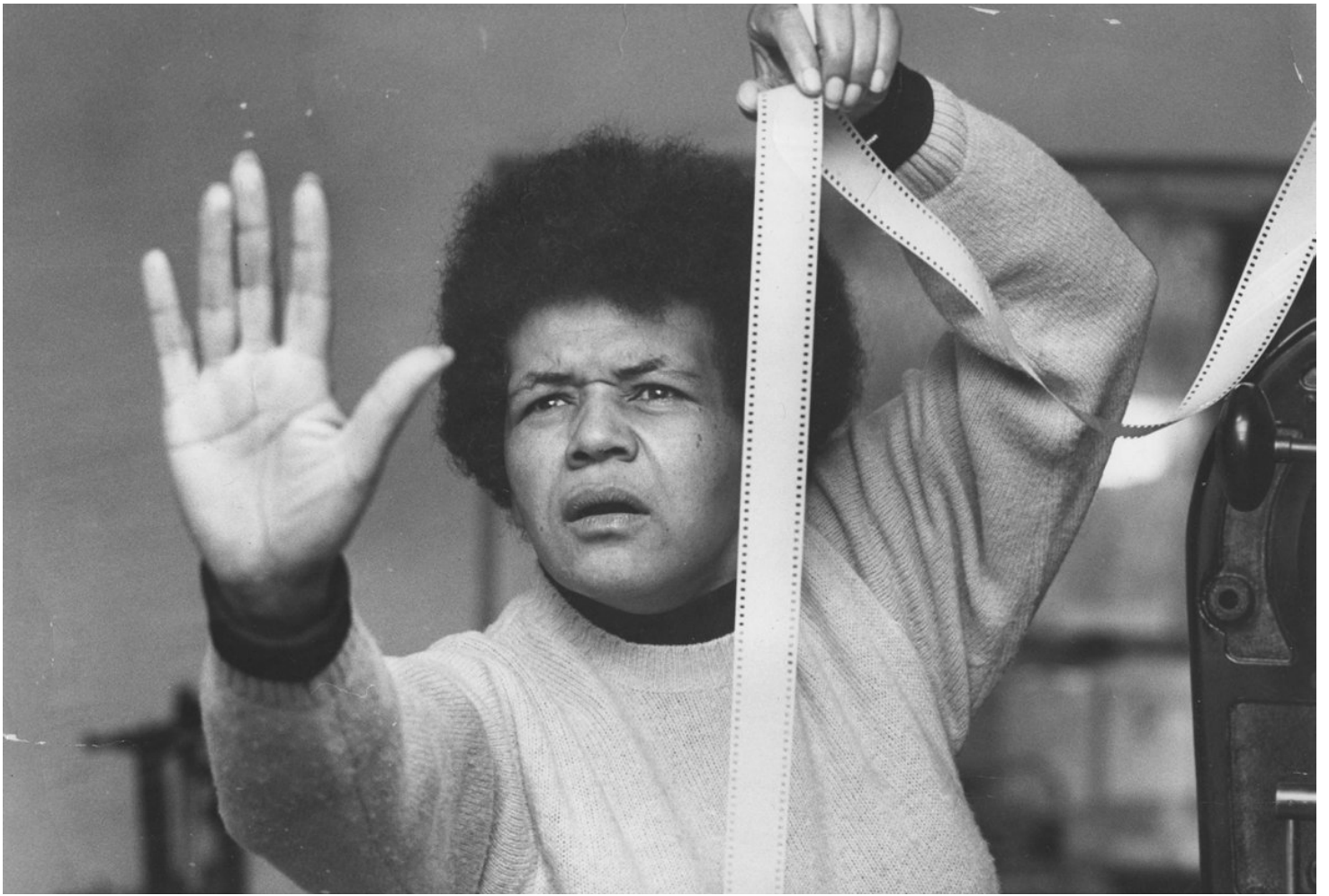
Tyler Perry, the African-American director, actor, comedian, and composer, has left his mark on the film world not only through his work as a filmmaker but above all through his very unique style and his desire to never give up.



Born in New Orleans on September 14, 1969, Tyler Perry had a difficult childhood. He used writing as an escape from his abusive father. Years later, he started acting and created Madea, a grandmother with a frank and unusual character. Unfortunately, it was a great failure, the plays sold too little to be able to live from it. There followed a long period of precariousness during which he found himself homeless. Despite this, Tyler Perry did not lose heart and returned to the stage in 1998. After several presentations, the play finally found its audience. He has since become successful, wealthy, and has a spot in showbusiness. His plays are now known and recognized. In 2002, he signs the return of Madea with Madea's Family

Reunion, at the same time as his entry in Hollywood with the release of the very famous comedy Diary of a Mad Black Woman. Finally, he made his directorial debut in 2006 when he reprised his role in Madea. Since then he most of the time stars in his own films.

Beyond his work as a director and actor, Tyler Perry is known to be a humble and committed person. According to David Rubin, the president of the Academy, if he is nominated for the Humanitarian Award at the 93rd Academy Awards, it is for this reason alone: «Tyler's cultural influence goes far beyond his work as a filmmaker. He has quietly and consistently focused on humanitarian and social justice causes throughout his career, taking care of the people who are most often ignored.»



SARAH MALDOROR, THE ACTIVIST FILMMAKER AND PIONEER OF PAN-AFRICAN CINEMA

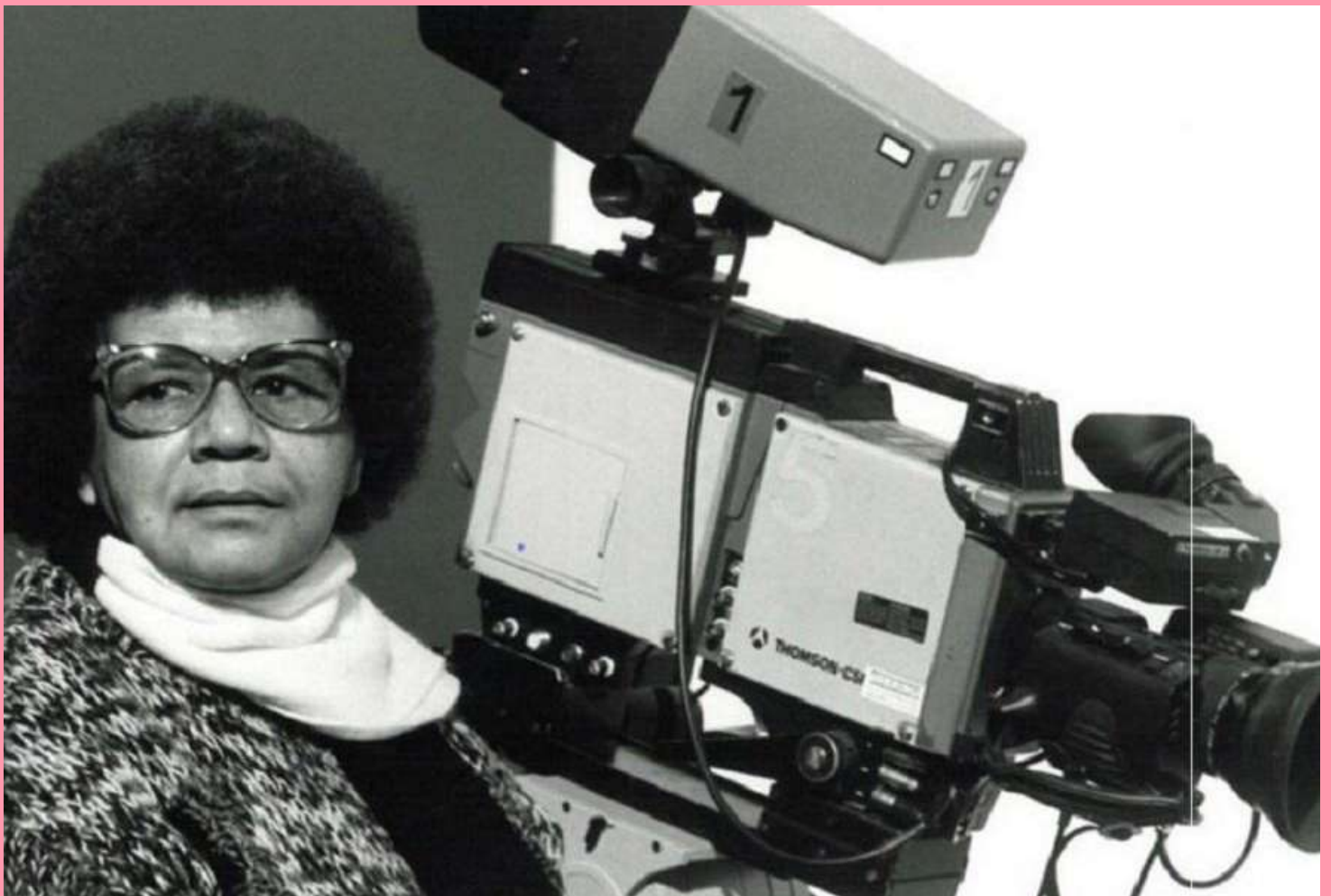
Sarah Maldoror is a woman who through the force of poetic and political thoughts, through her various films and documentaries has accompanied the struggles for independence as well as an entire African culture.

Sarah Maldoror, whose real name was Marguerite Sarah Ducados, was a French filmmaker, born in 1929 and died in 2020. She took as her artist name «Maldoror» which she borrowed from the surrealist poet Lautréamont. Passionate about theater, she entered the École de la rue Blanche in Paris in the 1950s. To denounce this under-representation, she and her friends founded Les Griots in 1956, the first black theater company in France. From then on, the troupe invaded the homes of African students to perform Jean-Paul Sartre, Jean Genet, and Aimé Césaire. Her meeting with companion Mario de Andrade, an Angolan poet and one of the founders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), as well as his first

trip to Guinea-Conakry during the war of independence, gave him the opportunity to forge a cultural, political and cinematographic diversity. It was from this moment on that she felt the need to tell the story of Africa visually, and so she went to Moscow to study the art of film with Usmane Sembène, a Senegalese director. When she finally made her first film *Mona gambe* in 1968, Sarah Maldoror was considered one of the first black women to enter the film industry. The following year, she shot her second work: *Guns for Banta*, a film that was censored before it was even released in theaters. After being expelled from Algeria, she directed *Sambizanga* in 1972, her first feature film with her partner Mario de Andrade. These three films were all part of

the same idea: to portray the horror of colonial domination. Back in Paris, she devoted herself more to documentary films about her closest friends to show the African cultural revolution taking place. In addition to all these portraits, she made nearly twenty films to defend minorities. Throughout her career, Sarah Maldoror has received numerous awards, whether in Europe, America, or Africa. For Frédéric Mitterrand, Minister of Culture and Communication, she is «one of the few filmmakers who has managed with such strength and character to bring to the screen the voices of the persecuted and the unbowed, (...) a rebel with a straightforward voice, a fighter against injustice, a resolute humorist. And who by Aimé Césaire was described as a woman «who, with a camera in her fist, combats oppression, alienation and defies human stupidity.»

by Marie Flotha DODARD



Safi Faye, one of the first women directors in Africa

Safi Faye, born in 1943 in Dakar, is a Senegalese documentary filmmaker, anthropologist, ethnologist, and feminist. Safi Faye obtained a teaching degree at the school of Rufisque in Senegal with which she went to teach in Dakar. In 1966, she met the director Jean Rouch who gave her a role in his film *Petit à Petit* which was released in 1969. Safi Faye plays with humor, the role of a Senegalese courtesan. She then left for Paris, where she began studying ethnology at the Sorbonne. Ethnology consists of making comparative and explanatory studies of all social and cultural



characteristics. She made her first short film in 1972 entitled *La Passante*, followed by a documentary on the economic difficulties in Senegal. From 1979 to 1982, she studied cinema at the Louis-Lumière school. After several documentaries on work and the condition of women, *Selbé* but also *Tesito*, she directed her first feature film in 1996: *Massane*, the story of a teenage girl who refuses an arranged marriage by her parents. In her films, she shows her commitment to the feminist cause. She is a committed and accomplished artist.

The International Women's Film Festival of Créteil dedicated a retrospective to her in 1998. As one of the first black African women to have worked as a director, Safi Faye was able to go beyond stereotypes and do what she wanted to do, which was to work in the film industry and make

documentaries while being committed to her work. Safi Faye and Thérèse Sita-Bella have paved the way for others such as Rose Bekale, Aminata Ouedraogo or Yangba Léonie. These women were able to mark their place in the world of cinema, which is generally dominated by men. They are

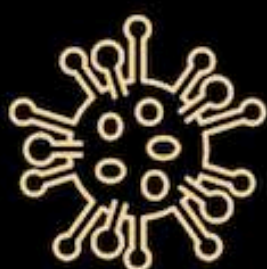
examples for women today, an example of strong and independent women. Safi Faye dedicates her work to culture and the problems of African people. She cultivates an independent approach that makes her a reference for African women directors.

Miel Addict

BIENFAITS MIEL D'EUPHORBE



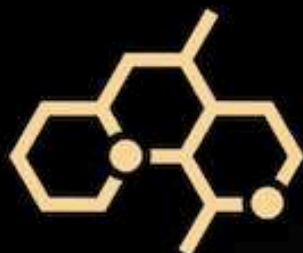
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allergique**



Antiseptique



**Maladie
O.R.L**



**+ Système
immunitaire**



Arthrite



Digestive

 **MIEL ADDICT**



Viola Davis, a very exceptional woman

Viola Davis, a very exceptional woman

Viola Davis is the first African-American woman to win an Oscar, an Emmy Award, and a Tony Award at the same time. By doing so, making her the most nominated African-American woman in the history of the Academy Awards. Such as, in 2017, when she won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in the film *Fences*. But how did she get there?

Viola Davis had a difficult childhood, she and her family didn't necessarily have enough to live on. Despite this, she managed to take refuge in the theater and then managed to enter the prestigious Juilliard School, which is a private conservatory of music and performing arts in New York. Spotted



by Steven Soderbergh, she got a role in *Out of Reach* alongside George Clooney. Gradually, she plays in several series including *Traffic* (2002), *Solaris* (2002), and *Syriana* (2005). It is only in 2011 that Viola Davis manages to impose herself in the world of cinema. Indeed, she got a role in the famous melodrama *The Help*. Her performance in the role of the nanny Aibileen Clark was highly appreciated by the general public. Her role earned her numerous nominations and awards. She followed up with roles in blockbuster films such as *Suicide Squad* and *Sublime Creatures*.

In 2014, she gets her first major role in a series. She is chosen by Shonda Rhimes to play Annalise Keating in the series *How to get away with murder*, a renowned lawyer, head of her own law firm, who finds herself with her students involved in a murder. The

series has 6 seasons and has been a huge success. Thanks to her role in this series, she became the first black woman to win an Emmy Award. In addition to being a world-renowned actress, Viola Davis is also a committed woman. She militates for associations supporting victims of sexual abuse. She also denounces salary inequalities between men and women. Viola Davis is an accomplished woman and we look forward to what she has in store for us in the future.

Omar Sy, the man of many facets.

French actor, producer, director, screenwriter and comedian, Omar Sy is a complete and accomplished artist.

Son of a Senegalese father and a mother of Mauritanian origin, Omar Sy was born in 1978 in a family of 8 children. The family lived in Trappes, in the Yvelines. It is in his childhood neighborhood that he will meet Jamel Debbouze, 3 years older than him.

Omar Sy began his career as a radio host at Radio Nova in 1996. It is in these premises that he would meet Fred Testot with whom he would make his debut on Canal + by linking comedy programs. The two partners entered the world of cinema in 2002 with the film *La Tour Montparnasse Infernale* in which they played small roles. The director's Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakache would then entrust him with his first major role, that of a summer camp instructor in the 2006 blockbuster summer film, «*Nos Jours Heureux*». He went on to play in many projects in movies, sketches, but also in TV shows such as *Fort Boyard*.

It is only in 2011 that Omar Sy is truly recognized by the general public. Indeed, the film *Intouchables* released in French cinemas has recorded more than 19 million viewers. It ranks first at the box office in 2011.

A turning point that he did not imagine and yet this is only the beginning of his success story

The comedy-drama tells the story of Driss (Omar Sy), a thirty-year-old who grew up in the suburbs, who becomes a caregiver for a rich quadriplegic named Philippe (François Cluzet) This film was a real springboard in the career of Omar Sy.

In the continuity of his career, Omar Sy moved to Los Angeles and was given several roles in many American films.



*It is the dream of every actor ...
Reaching Hollywood !*



In March 2013, he landed a role in the large cast of the blockbuster X-men: Days of Future Past as the mutant Bishop.

He also starred in Jurassic World and Inferno.

In Jurassic World, Omar Sy plays Barry Sembène, a guardian of the Velociraptor while in Inferno, he plays Christoph Bouchard, an agent in charge of the SRS division. His career takes an international leap.

Finally, in July 2018, Omar Sy had announced that he would play the role of Arsène Lupin in the Netflix series Lupin. This series will finally be released in early 2021. He plays the role of a contemporary burglar inspired in his actions by Arsène Lupin. Upon its release, the series is a dazzling success. Certainly, it is positioned first in several rankings not only in France but also in Italy, Germany and the United States. A first in the career of Omar Sy.

With its release, sales of Arsène Lupin books have exploded in bookstores. The series currently consists of 5 episodes and will be completed with 5 new episodes this summer. We can't wait to see Omar Sy in the skin of the famous burglar and to follow him in his new adventures.

Omar Sy has conquered France and the United States with his acting. Will he then turn to direct projects?

Credit : @sayuri_1st



FESPACO, a fifty-year-old film festival

The event of FESPACO (Panafrikan Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou), organized in the capital of Burkina Faso has distinguished itself for fifty years in the projection of African audiovisual productions.

It celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2019. The FESPACO or Panafrikan Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou were created in 1969 in Burkina Faso. It highlights African audiovisual production through non-profit screenings held every other year in the capital, Ouagadougou.

The festival was initiated by François Bassolet, Claude Prioux, and Alimata Salembéré in response to a lack of media support structures in Burkina Faso. With the rise of African film productions, this group of film lovers from the Franco-Voltaic cultural center in Ouagadougou decided to allow Africans to see films from all over the continent. In a word, to share «images of Africa, by Africa and for Africa» according to Claude Prioux, at the time director of the center.

During the two weeks of the first edition, the festival screened 24 films and welcomed nearly 10,000 people. It takes the title of Panafrikan Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou only from 1972, when it becomes a state festival, and creates the official prize of the ceremony: the Stallion of Yennenga. This title was notably awarded in 2019 to Rwandan director Joel Karekezi for his film *The Mercy of the Jungle*. To date, it stands out as one of the last state-run film festivals in the world, and its success since the 1970s has earned it funding from UNESCO and UNICEF, among others.

Postponed this year, the festival remains a major international film event. A place to meet, share, and promote exclusively African culture, it is the scene of cultural debates but also of freedom of expression.







Women Invest Club: development by and for women

Under the banner of «empowerment», this Senegalese investment club aims to support women in their entrepreneurial endeavors for inclusive development.

It is on March 8th, 2019, that is launched in Senegal this investment fund program. Its particularity: it is only for women entrepreneurs. Currently composed of 84 members, first in Senegal, but also in Ivory Coast, it aims to transform the landscape of entrepreneurship to make it more inclusive. Enabling women to get involved in the economic development of the continent: this is the challenge taken up by the Women Invest Club (WIC).

Their last session was held on March 4th. On the symbolic date of Women's Day, it resulted in opportunities for women start-ups. Financing, networking, empowerment ... Women Invest Club supports women at all levels in their ambitions. This project is initially motivated by a desire for representation and opportunity for African women. «When you think that in Senegal alone there are many women who live in rural areas and who have difficulty even finding wa-

ter, I think that there is something to do,» confides Penda Ndiaye Thiaw in a promotional clip of the club. The goal is to offer women a certain autonomy and to give them the tools to succeed.

Economic operation through the financing of companies with female leadership, but also educational: the accompaniment plays a big role in the program. A committee is elected every two years to lead the Women Invest Club. The women who make up the club are affiliated with various organizations and share their knowledge and assets to train future women entrepreneurs.

«To be Pan-Africanist is first to focus on Africa, while not closing itself from the rest of the world »»

The president of the International Pan-African Film Festival, Eitel Basile Nguangue Ebelle returns to the importance of pan-Africanism in his project of artistic sharing.

Who are you?

Eitel Basile Nguangue Ebelle, president of the Pan-African Film Festival of Cannes. I am also a professor of management in Cannes and I also manage the company (the radio) Nord Sud Développement created in 97 and whose vocation is to promote fair and equitable development. I was born in Duala, more precisely in Deido, which is a duala district. It is an environment that is dear to me. I had an African education but also a universal one, I have the chance to be in contact with a strong African culture coming from one of the oldest African nobility of the Nile valley. I have this culture of African tradition but also a certain openness to the world: I have traveled a lot. I was brought to live in France in 1983. I went to high school in France and studied at the University of Lille. I am now trained as a business lawyer and an international lawyer. All my background, especially my African education, made me want to invest in becoming what I call a cultural agitator.

What led you to create this festival ?

Being born in Duala means being born in the heart of the cultural entrepreneurial dynamic. It gave me the desire and the know-how to differentiate myself, and for that, pan-Africanism plays an important role: it pushes us to be independent. The Panafrican festival was a logical continuation of my company Nord Sud and its

development. I was able to create a rather strong network and I had already experience in the music through the radio Nord Sud which accompanied many artists and set up events of this type. After all that, from 2003 I had the idea to impulse a project that would allow me to be less tired, namely to draw the maximum of my skills and my know-how in an event that would gather all the art forms that I cherished.

I could have done it from Lille, but it was a bit of a coincidence: I moved to Cannes, to be closer to my son. Cannes is a beautiful place and when you make a project consciously or unconsciously life takes you where you have to realize it and it was realized in Cannes where I met people who had this will. It was





17ÈME
ÉDITION **FESTIVAL**
INTERNATIONAL DU FILM
PANAFRICAIN
DE CANNES

not necessarily African people either: it is a universal project and a project of encounter. We really wanted to create a quality festival, and the location also helps the project of meeting because Cannes is already an international city.

In what spirit did you envisage this festival?

I am still a pan-Africanist ideal. It's a whole and a general way of life. It is, first of all, centered on Africa while not closing itself from the rest of the world, it is my way of living, my way of eating: I eat everything (I am from a people with very important gastronomy, adopted by a country with great gastronomy). A pan-African must project himself in this way of reading the world from Africa and reading the world from the world, I live in Cannes which does not prevent me from being pan-African. When you are the source, you are the mother and a mother must take care of her children and I think that Africa does it well. It also gives a creative spirit that allows each of us to be ourselves. This pan-African dimension is a dimension of a permanent quest for balance, if I take the last ones who left all these people when we look at them and that we rubbed them, these people who gave to life this small sun which brings something strong, because Africa gave to the world since ages but it is even more shouting during these last 150, 200

years since the abolition of slavery we realize an enormous work.

In 2006 the creation of the Dikalo Award (Dikalo means message) and the Pan-African Film Festival became the International Pan-African Film Festival in 2008. We tried to give a human dimension to this project, which is a project of meeting and warmth, also pushed by an environment like Cannes as an international city.

This is the place for me that was made for this festival: we wanted a festival of quality and not necessarily of quantity because we also wanted to privilege our directors and our producers. I consider that we are all in a phase of development, of takeoff, we cannot have the same look, we accompany directors, and their productions to the subtitling for example, we can bring corrections. It is a way of working that is not like all the other festivals, we try to bring our help.

What obstacles have you encountered, if any?

I think that there are always obstacles, but that when you undertake a certain dynamic of independence and you have a close-knit team around you, these are not major obstacles. For any company there will be obstacles, those who like it, those who don't like it, they are small brakes. So, yes, there were certainly some, but my Duala education gave me a lot of keys to overcoming these things, and the France I grew up in too. All of this gave me a certain way of seeing the world.

What has strengthened or helped you ?

The autonomy, the exchange, the effort to propose, the impulse, and the know-how. Apart from the production employees, most of them are volunteers. That surprises many, that we are not financed by the city of Cannes for example but we judge that it is tiring: I belong to a generation of people who saw their elders being mistreated by certain clientelism and my education taught me that when we make something we must especially count on ourselves.

When you give impetus to a dynamic, there are always supporters who are put in place. To be pan-African is to be independent and to follow this impulse.



What do you think was the best edition of the festival? (For what reasons?)

I remember all the festivals there were. The 2020 festival was a beautiful gem. It was an exceptional edition because we had to reorganize it for the curfew, the fact that it was held at a time of health crisis required a lot of willpower.

It is a destination and it normally welcomes many foreigners, a North American, African, European public... All of a sudden, the United States was gone, London was gone, all the strategic points were closed and two days before the festival, we had the announcement of the curfew. We were able to change everything in a few moves, that's the reactive side of a flexible team: we even organized a gala dinner between 4 and 8:30 pm. It was also a change, there were many French people, many Italians, people who wanted to be there to share. It reinforces the emotional dimension, the feeling of 2020 was even stronger because it was necessary to want to be there, to be able to move, we needed all these dynamics to be able to hold. This is also the strength of this company, which is aware of its impact, of its necessity, which needs to convey an image of pan-Africanism, an image of education and weaving of links, of entrepreneurial and cultural dynamics in all its forms.

Do you have other ambitions?

From October 19 to 24 in Cannes will be held the next festival and at the moment we are partnering with the Black History Month in Guadeloupe until February 28. Pan-African cinema has a duty to impul-

se change and must become even more creative and even more independent not to be a pale copy of Nollywood and Hollywood, cinema is like spirituality, it is a culture. We have the advantage of being the source of the world, this impulse.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to federate an international movement ?

Believe in what you want to do and know that you will be the only one to limit yourself insofar as you have all the capacities to succeed in what you want to do. We must know that life is always with us and never against us, we must know how to be sincere towards ourselves.

With willpower, if you believe in your project, there will be no real obstacles. The festival was born when the internet was not developed: I had to tour North America on a bus to talk about it, to attract people. You have to like to work, it requires personal investment, you have to know that you are body and soul with your project, to create a favorable space for its success. Willpower, perseverance, a pan-African mentality... There are many extremely inspiring people in Mandela's Pan-Africanism, if you integrate this into a pan-African enterprise you will not fail because you are in harmony with your ancestors, people you may or may not have met, whose history you know and who are role models.

It is faith in oneself, and in one's ancestry, my grandfather's name is a story of reincarnation, of continuity of life. I do not need to go elsewhere to find what I already have, but elsewhere enriches me. Being oneself is also important and every

human being, regardless of where he or she was born, must incarnate and find his or her dimension. One of the biggest inspirations is the Rastas who changed the world and who are still changing the world: today's urban music was driven by a small group that changed its way of being in a world of violence, which was inspired by Africa. We can be inspired by these people, we can be inspired by the diaspora: success exists, we just have to use them wisely. There are tools, and expertise that is made available if we look and see who speaks to us the most to be inspired, we will know that money is not the sinews of war: the will surpasses everything. You never lose when you want to move forward and realize yourself. A project is completed when you have dreamed of it, all that is missing is the realization. The world needs everyone and it needs human, social, and solidarity projects, to make its contribution to the world getting better and better.

What are you most proud of ?

My greatest pride is to have contributed to the use of the term pan-africanism in France. In the beginning people took it badly, they wondered why we were talking about it, they were afraid, but you can't talk about it in other terms. You can't want change without first changing yourself, the way others look at you doesn't count.

Words are important to be able to change the world and to change the way we see it, what does «underdeveloped» mean for example? Underdeveloped in relation to what? Nothing is innocent.

Real estate consultant Jérémy Ngamoua Oyoubi recounts his career and his work ethic, which has always been focused on people.

Could you quickly introduce yourself ?

I am Jérémy Ngamoua Oyoubi. I am 26 years old, I am an independent real estate consultant in a contractual partnership with Sextant France and International (created in London then returned to Paris) since February 2021. We sell properties and take care of local and international clients.

Professional background ?

I did a vocational baccalaureate in secretarial accounting, and I went to college to study Tour AES (economic and social administration) where I took two three-week courses and didn't like it. I applied to steward schools in Paris in the XIII ILIA academy and I got my CCA (civil aviation certificate). I had a three-month internship in a subsidiary of Air-France specialized in business travel, and I was supposed to extend the contract but there were all the terrorist acts and I told myself that I was going to put it aside. I took a fixed-term contract in the clothing industry, I evolved, and then I wanted to continue in customer relations but I changed sectors. As I was interested in jewelry, I was recruited by Guérin and I went to another jewelry company and ended up at Tissot for two years. There was a friendly departure and since I had been thinking of going into real estate for a while, I applied after doing some research: I ended up at Sextant. They gave me an internal training course, which is still going on, and I have a distance learning course every week.

« The goal is
what you love
give up on
attached
culture

s to work in
love, not to
and to be
d to your
re. »

Why did you decide to go into real estate?

As in other sectors, I am attracted by the relationship, being a good advisor, accompanying people because already in my personal life I am a good advisor, and my customer feedback has always been positive. In jewelry, I accompany people for crucial life choices, wedding rings, for example, we don't think about them but they are objects that we keep for life and that we pass on. Now in real estate, I also ended up accompanying people as well. The heritage in which we invest in, is the same idea, the same type of important choices in life.

What were the potential obstacles?

my origins, in my professional career, I
red this «glass ceiling»: when positions be-
and incompetent people are employed, for
has not only happened to me, but I have
colleagues. This is the global mentality in
ral. I felt this obstacle, linked to my origins,
a block, rather as a training. I have been
bullied, and because I am pan-African,
I am very alert about my history and my
identity as well as about the history of Africa
in general. I've been doing research for years,
since about 2011. I started working in 2014-
2015 so I was already armed culturally and
mentally. I'm a reactive person, I don't always
give my opinion but when there are injustices I
know how to express myself. It's not necessary to
get feedback but to point it out to the hierarchy, but
when I meet someone who is hostile to my origins, I
don't take it personally because I know it's someone
who lacks culture. When I get up in the morning I am
aware of my skin color and when I was working at the Place
Vendôme, or at the Champs Élysée, I knew that I was not
necessarily going to meet typical people, but I attached myself
to the strength that Africans have always had, I said to myself «go
ahead».

How does your pan-Africanism influence your work ethic?

I think I've always been pan-African even before I knew the term, but now it's like that, people like it when there are defined statuses or boxes. I am pan-African and it shows in my work when I feature people from my community for example on ads.

As a pan-African I have an «African» approach. Even if I have done training in eloquence and sales, I look at European and Western training, but also African training, and I mix the two a bit. In Africa, we have storytellers for example, and we know how to speak. I also remember that I have to be humble, I know that African men are good, those who know their Africanness are good or even too good. That's why no matter who the customer is, Asian, Russian, Arab, I remain African, in the smile we have at home as we see it on vacation, for example, there is a very warm welcome. This closeness is created with the customer and also puts him at ease, it is lived and it is seen.







I remember one thing that really struck me was a man who was desperate to buy a piece of jewelry for his wife. She wanted a drop but he couldn't tell her it was too expensive. He had come back several times and I could feel it in his facial expression, in his hesitation. I asked him if it was the value that bothered him and I told him that it was possible to pay in installments and his smile came suddenly. My colleague didn't feel that way and thought he wouldn't buy it, but it was something I managed to feel. An African who knows his culture doesn't judge people by their looks, for example, we are not here for that, we are here to welcome people no matter what is in their wallet. Humility and wisdom are things that we don't learn at school but which are important.



Any advice you could give on moving forward independently ?

I wouldn't say to be natural, because nature is raw and violent. The man who steals because he is hungry is natural. You have to be yourself and use your qualities as a force to move forward and you have to be self-sacrificing. You have to think of a plan B or a plan C or even a plan D. In view of my life, the way I evolved, I listened to testimonies of businessmen and women, you must not take it for granted when you have a failure. People don't hesitate to stab each other in the back, so you have to be strong culturally and intellectually. There is always the possibility of doing what you please, you have to do what you want to do when you feel like doing it. Apart from the salary you earn, the emotional factor is very important. You should not put pressure on yourself to satisfy the company or your family for example.

This state of mind I quickly understood by myself, not necessarily in relation to my culture, in Africa there is a lot of importance of respect for the elders but not all elders are respectable.



It's not for them to tell me what to do, they can advise me but not direct me. Being pan-African has helped me because it is very centered on the human being, there is certain solidarity that is missing today. There is a solidarity in the poor social strata but with the middle class and the rich this solidarity is lost it has become pure capitalism and it is not possible compared to the African ancestral values.

To be useful to society, you have to do something you like to do because if you drag your feet, you won't be useful to society. The objective is to work in what you like, not to give up, and to be attached to your culture.



Folorunsho Alakija

From secretary to richest businesswoman

Born in 1951 in Lagos State, in Nigeria, she moved to Wales for four years of her childhood. Back in her native town, she continues her education in a Muslim school. She first started working as a secretary at the International Merchant Bank of Nigeria in the early 1970s. Unfortunately, the bank failed, so she returned to the United Kingdom, to London, where she studied fashion and launched her own clothing brand on her return to Nigeria in 1986. Her brand « Supreme Stitches » quickly gained popularity in the country. Folorunsho Alakija won the prize for best designer in Nigeria. The year 1993 is an important date in the life of the forty-year-old woman: she turns from textiles to oil. In fact, she acquired an oil exploration licence.

The exploitation covers more than 250,000 hectares and is one of the largest oil reserves in the country. She decided to exploit it herself, while the other acquirers sold their oil blocks to foreign groups. This led her to join Star Deep Water Petroleum Limited, a subsidiary of Texaco. Her beginnings were promising as she immediately became the richest black woman in the world, with a personal fortune worth billions of dollars. In 2011, she published her biography «Growing with the hand that gives the rose». Now in her 70s, Folorunsho Alakija maintains her career as a Nigerian businesswoman and continues to make her fortune in the oil industry. Furthermore, she created and is president of her

foundation «The Rose of Sharon» which helps women and children.

Aliko Dangote

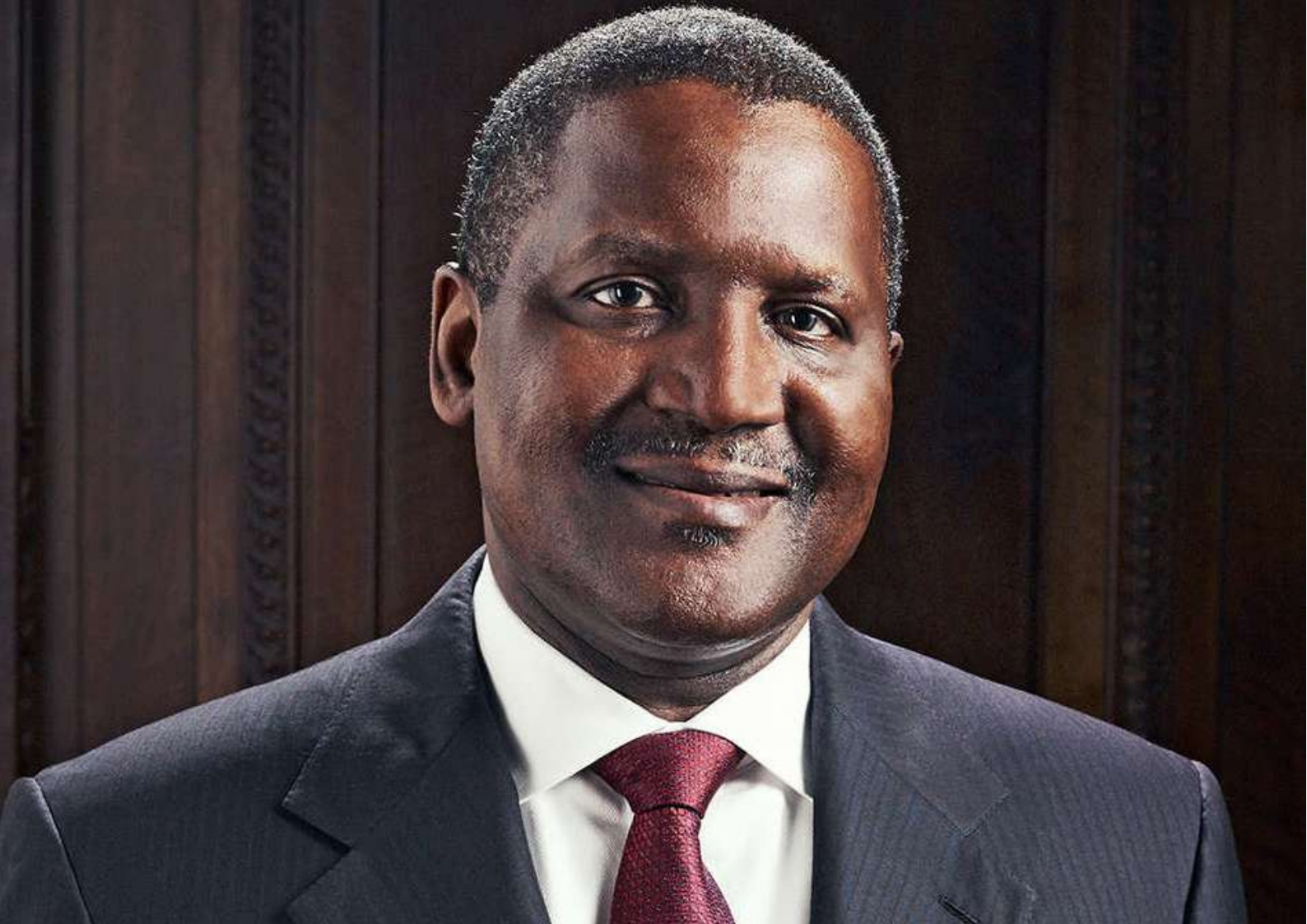
Aliko Dangote, the man who has gradually carved out a place for himself in the business world to become the richest the and most powerful and probably the most powerful person in Africa.

Aliko Dangote is a businessman born in 1957 in Kano, Northern Nigeria. Self-taught, he is now considered the richest man in Africa.

He started his business career with a loan from one of his uncles, a well-known businessman in the area. From then on, he started selling truckloads of cement. In 1981, he decided to move to the capital to create his own company, the Dangote Group in Lagos. In parallel, he invested in different businesses such as food with basic products as well as in road transport. It was in 1999 that Aliko Dangote's career took a major turn. He became a billionaire thanks to the purchase of a government-owned cement plant which he floated on the stock exchange in the 2010s.

Aliko Dangote is a businessman at the head of 7 companies, all subsidiaries of Dangote Group Ltd of which he is the founder. He manages his companies with an iron fist and is always looking to explore different markets. That is why it is not that he has become the richest man in Africa for the tenth consecutive year and according to Forbes magazine, he is the 23rd richest man in the world.

Despite his wealth, businessman Aliko Dangote is described as a complex character. At the same time ruthless when it comes to business, respectful towards his employees, and humble in everyday life. His wealth gives him a certain power, whether economic or political. This makes him probably one of the most powerful person in Africa.



RICHEST MAN IN AFRICA



Photographe : @herman_alain
Model : @sara_rouihem
MakeUp : @campusdesmaquilleurs
Hair : Ruth Bemba



Photographe : Ernest collins
Model : Khadi B.
MakeUp : @flona_paucod
Hair : @franckanon

« Good-night moon »

Tulle et organza de soie

Thérèse Sita-Bella, an example to black African women

Thérèse Sita-Bella, born in 1933 in Yaoundé, is a Cameroonian director who has exercised many professions as an airplane pilot, writer, guitarist, model, and also a journalist. A symbol of independence and achievement among women let's trace her career. In the 1950s, after graduating from high school in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, she went to Paris to continue her studies. It is there that her interest in journalism and cinema will strongly develop. In 1955, Thérèse began her career as a journalist. In 1963, she became the first woman filmmaker in Cameroon and in all of Africa. The following year, she started working for the French newspaper *La vie Africaine* which she co-created. Back in Cameroon in 1967, Thérèse worked alongside the Minister of Information and became deputy head of information. After retirement, she created the newspaper *Newstar* as well as the documentary *Tam Tam* in Paris, a film about the Cameroonian dance company on tour in Paris. In 1969, *Tam Tam à Paris* was presented at the first French Film Week, a festival that would later become *Fespaco*. In addition to her commitment to her craft, Thérèse is a feminist activist. She paved the

way for many other Cameroonian and African women of her generation to pursue their dreams. She was considered a phenomenon in a world dominated by men. Therese Sita-Bella once said, «Cameraman in the 1970s? At that time, there were very few of us, a woman from Senegal called Safi Faye and me. But you know that cinema is not a women's business.» Despite the stereotypes at the time, she always fought to do what she really wanted to do, to pursue her dreams. This is how she became the first female director in the world. Thérèse Sita-Bella died on February 27, 2006, following complications during an operation against her colon cancer. She remains a symbol in the world of cinema as well as in her combat for the recognition of women.





«Cabo Verde» Crédit : @sayuri

Koffi Ndri Paulin Grue CIV

The « Ivorian mini-crane » present on many building sites

After having noticed numerous accidents on building sites, Koffi Ndri Paulin invented a revolutionary machine for the workers, a Mechanical Crane. This mechanical crane avoids physical fatigue for the workers and reduces their exhausting work. This mechanical crane also leads to a gain in time in the execution of their tasks, such as loading and unloading materials, digging up the ground, mounting loads, supplying the site...



This is not his first attempt, as his very first crane consisted of several parts collected from the junkyard. Koffi Ndri Paulin is increasingly improving his mechanical crane. Indeed, the most recent version is presented in the form of a tricycle with a base to move the machine. The machine also has a mechanism for lifting loads, such as bricks, cement, sand and other materials, for construction at height. Koffi Ndri Paulin hopes to receive funds to produce more to serve all the communes of Ivory Coast and to expand his small business. A company to watch closely, which could revolutionize the African building and public works sector.

by Hana CUCOVIC

Amobé Mévégué

The African pioneer in the international audiovisual world

He was born in Cameroon, grew up and studied in France, and has been a major influence on the international scene for over twenty years... Amobé Mévégué, African leader of the world media landscape.

He is the founder of the international television channel UBIZNEWS, which currently broadcasts in forty African countries. Radio and television producer, director, journalist, actor... Amobé Mévégué has been a major figure in the audiovisual world for more than twenty years, notably at the origin of RFI's Plein Sud program, which attracts more than 50 million listeners. More than a simple multi-media actor, he considers himself as a representative of the international African diaspora.



profession as being (...) a profession. I took this passion as a chance in life to be able to travel, to meet. «. Through his work at RFI, Amobé Mévégué wishes to maintain a «window on Africa», allowing for information with a more realistic vision than the one generally portrayed in the media, which he describes as more «contrasted». He highlights this richness through his programs but also through all of his Africa-focused businesses, such as the UBIZNEWS channel, which is available as a news and entertainment platform on the Internet.

A prolific career focused on Africa

This radio producer born in Cameroon arrived in France at the age of five. Involved in African representation in the media world since the 1980s, he works in the first French African radio station, Tabala FM: «My professional career has allowed me to get to know all the Afro and international media that impact African people. «The most widely broadcast African journalist-producer in the world, Mévégué has hosted programs for RFI, TV5MONDE, Canal France International, MCM Africa, France24... His job as a «traveling showman», as he calls it, allows him to create international links by and for the African diaspora. It is in this spirit that he organizes the WAN (Worldwide Afro Network) event, a television show aimed at bringing together international artists from the diaspora, particularly from Africa and the Caribbean, supported by UNESCO and broadcast on its large network of television channels.

This motivation is driven by this pan-African vision, by this idea of links and encounters which, according to him, constitutes the beauty of his profession: «I never took this



« I am a content producer and I claim to have a fiber of commitment for causes that are dear to my heart. » -Amobé Mévégué



Femi Otedola

The journey of an African entrepreneur

Femi Otedola is a leading Nigerian businessman and philanthropist known throughout the African continent for building his empire in various fields: oil (founder of Zenon Petroleum and Gas Ltd), shipping, finance, and electricity.

The billionaire Femi Otedola was born on November 4, 1962, in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, but spent his entire childhood in Lagos. He is said to have been inclined to venture into the priesthood at the time. Unable to give up his passion for business, he entered Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State. Shortly after his graduation in 1985, he became a marketing officer for his family's printing company, which gave him a solid foundation in business management. Following this, Femi Otedola entered the oil and gas industry by founding his own company in 2003: Zenor Petroleum Oil and Gas Limited. Very quickly, his empire diversified and became more and more substantial. He became the supplier of the largest Nigerian oil companies. Everything seemed to be going well for Femi Otedola until 2008. That year,

the oil world went through a period of price depreciation. In order to compensate for this drop in oil prices, Femi Otedola made the bold choice to enter the electricity business. In 2019, the story of the Forte Oil company came to an end to escape the total closure of the company. It was sold to its competitor Prudent Energy. The end of his oil business does not mean the end of his business career, as he has decided to focus on electricity.

Femi Otedola is an emblematic figure who represents a certain kind of success. He has been able to deploy various strategies to put his country at the heart of various transactions and has also been able to leave a positive and symbolic mark on the population.

by Marie Flotha DODARD

Abam Mambo-Doh

The prolific Abam Mambo-Doh combines multiple careers. She is a legal director for Microsoft in Singapore, an author, a speaker, and also the mother of an 11-year-old boy. She defines herself as much by her journey from Cameroon to the United States as by her identity as an African woman. Concentrated on debates concerning diversity in leadership professions, she presents herself as an inspiring figure in the women's empowerment movement. «Being raised in Cameroon really helped shape my worldview,» Abam Mambo-Doh says she knew early on what her life goals were when she was being raised by her aunt until she was 16. Unsure of how she would get there, she knew she was destined to be a lawyer: «Nelson Mandela was a lawyer, Gandhi was a lawyer, Martin Luther King was a lawyer. All of these were men, but I saw that lawyers have a special place in history. As a scholarship student, she attended law school at the University of Michigan. Abam Mambo-Doh is now a lawyer, but she's also an author. Mariama Bâ, Flora Nwapa, Tsitsi Dangarembga... She is hooked on literature, which awakens her reflection on the world and particularly on the place that women occupy in this world. At the age of eight, she already

world. Her strength is her ability to adapt. Open-minded, she embraces all cultures: American first, following by Asian. She changes according to the people she meets, takes an interest in everyone, and is grateful for everything. In addition to her work with Microsoft and her writing, she launched a podcast, «Mama Tok Tok's a Different Take» which invites individuals from around the world to share their experiences. «Mama» is her: «In pidgin, mama means a girl or woman who talks too much. For adults, it was a way to shut me up. Now I love the word.» She asks questions, she seeks to know, and rather than being categorized, she reclaims the labels she was once given. «If you're an angry black woman, claim your anger. If it's constructive, you can change history through anger. «Abam Mambo-Doh fights every day to improve the status of all women. She has decided that her voice has an influence and that she needs to use it, whether it's at conferences, in her writing, or on her podcast, but she also wants to make the voices of others heard. In Mama Tok Tok, experts and celebrities leave their usual guest spots to everyday people from around the world. As an African woman, she seeks to bring together and listen to people from around the world.



A woman in the spotlight at the WTO being the first African representative



She is the first woman representative of the African continent at the head of the WTO (World Trade Organization). Her name: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. After serving twice as Minister of Finance and a career at the World Bank, this Nigerian woman was appointed Director-General of the WTO on February 15, 2021. Tenacious and convinced, she intends to reform the management of the global economy, which has been undermined by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since her candidacy to the WTO in 2020, former US President Donald Trump has opposed to her nomination. But it was only temporarily postponed for Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: while the U.S. veto slowed her down, Joe Biden's nomination and support has thrown consensus among the 164 member states. She was appointed Director-General of the WTO without, like her predecessors, having any experience within the organization. For her, it is an asset: «Trade is part of development, and I have worked on development all my life.

(...) I'm not new to the WTO, but that's a good thing. We need someone who knows about trade but who brings a fresh perspective. »

A CONVINCED VETERAN ON NEGOTIATION

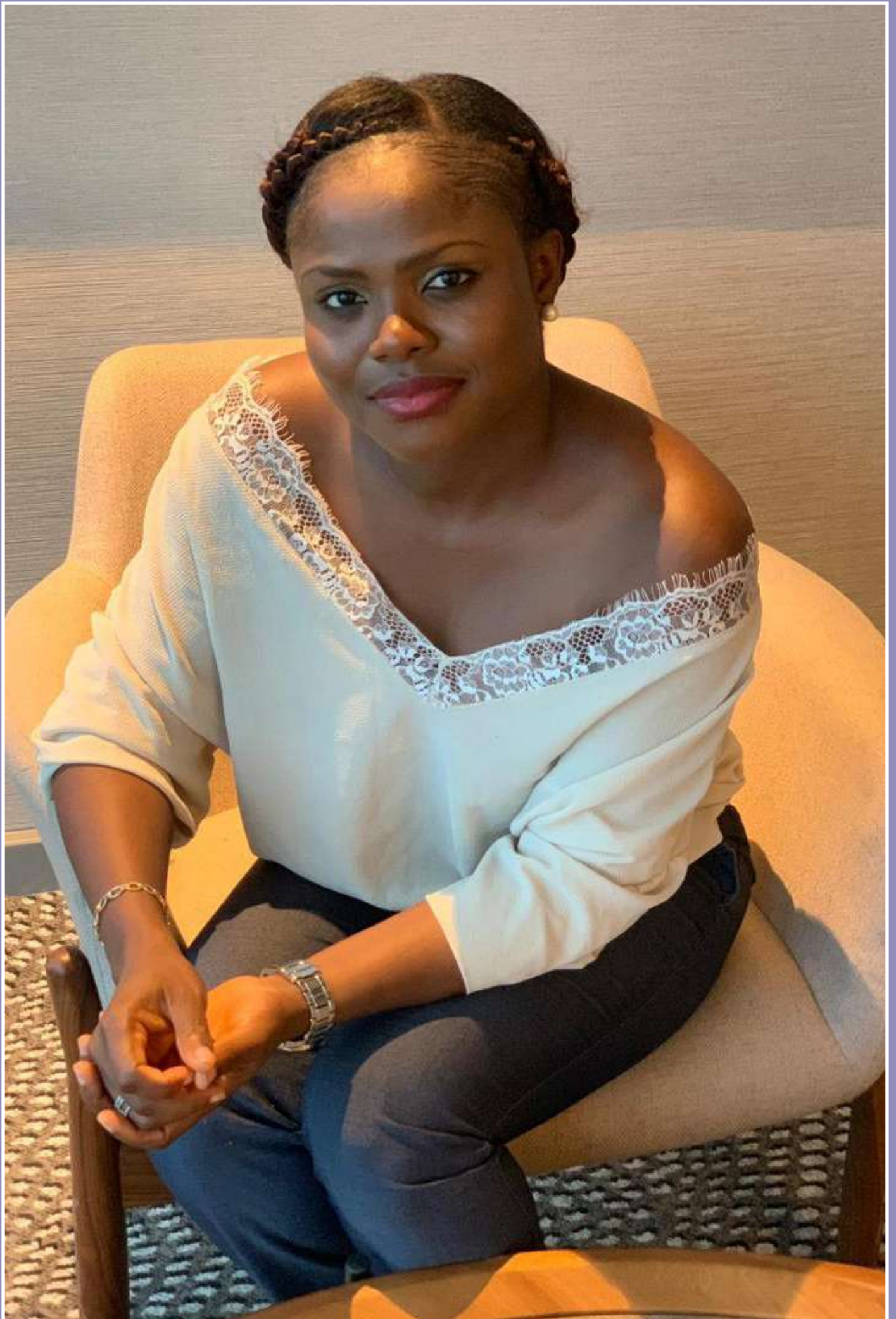
And she has already proven many times that she is more than capable. She left Nigeria at 19 to study in the United States. Harvard graduate, she had a career at the World Bank before being called back to Nigeria, where she served twice as finance minister. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is competent, but also very determined: she managed to negotiate the cancellation of Nigeria public debt and launched a fight against corruption. Despite attempts to pressure her into resigning, the minister does not allow herself to be intimidated: «After a while, someone has to stand up (against oppression) ».

« Business as usual is no longer an option. You don't make a change by replacing it with the same thing »

- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



She is, however, aware of the work ahead of her. In her view, the crisis that is shaking the WTO is due to the lack of trust and cohesion within the organization: she is taking charge of a troubled organization. As the first woman, but also the first African representative at the head of the WTO, the eyes of the world are on her, and she knows it: «Women have all the necessary qualifications and experience, but they remain a rare species within the circles of power (...). They are on a tightrope: they are only given orders when things are going excessively wrong. »





AHOMÉ CARE
Aide et soins à domicile

INTERVIEW AHOME CARE

My name is Prisca Bruce, a registered nurse in Belgium. I am a young woman of 30 years old, mother of two children. Today, I am the general manager of Ahomé Care, a home care and hospitalization company.

My initial goal is to meet the objectives of the National Development Program 2018-2022 (NDP) Togolese government and to provide a quality care service to the Togolese population.

This is how AHOMÉ CARE was born.

The difficulties encountered were to integrate this notion of home care in the customs of the Togolese population who are used to going directly to the clinic, hospital, CMS... The ease is that people quickly realized the quality of our care and our professional rigor.

My husband helped me a lot to set up this company, without him, the project would not be finished. I also have several friends as well as the association of the order of nurses of Togo have given me unfailing help. I have been well surrounded by the grace of God. The advice I could give to someone who would like to develop his or her business is perseverance, to be rigorous, demanding towards oneself and towards one's collaborators, especially to love

won battle.

I am proud of myself, I discover myself every day as a young company director. It's a lot of work but it's fun. My patients make me proud, I am proud of my young and very dynamic team.

We thank the magazine POWERFUL AFRICA magazine which highlights the stars of the continent!

by Maïsha STEVENS



Kary



Kary

Kay

Kay's World is a universe that gathers my passions for drawing and interior design. I create illustrations that I propose in the form of posters as well as personalized illustrations. I also create notebooks.

The choice of colors and minimalist style are the signature of Le Monde de Kay. Whatever the creations, my origins, my history and my heritage are omnipresent.

Through my work, I want to sublimate Africa and its slide show! The COURONNES series (with the illustrations ROSALIE, AIMEE and SUZANNE) deals with the symbolism of the scarf through the ages as a precious heritage. The illustration BROWN SKIN is a celebration of the black woman, with her shape, her hair, her skin color.

A car wash on the move: Howash's ecological innovation

In order to allow people to wash their vehicles from anywhere while minimizing water use, the Cameroonian company Howash, headed by Sylvain Honnang, invents his own mobile car wash.

Every drop matters», the effective slogan of the Howash company, which announces the color from the outset: ecology. A revolutionary project developed in Cameroon in 2017, it is a portable car wash station imagined by entrepreneur Sylvain Honnang. The innovative project takes the form of a small compact vehicle equipped with a tank and cleaning product but also a vacuum cleaner allowing you to clean your car from anywhere.

Initially a sports agent in the field of football, Sylvain Honnang became aware of the problem of car wash infrastructures in Cameroon and abroad. Endless queues and poor service for one, and the other an impressive result, for an astronomical sum. He, therefore, imagined a device that would ensure a quality wash while minimizing the cost in time, money but also in the amount of water used. The ecological aspect of his project is focusing on: minimizing water consumption, using a biodegradable cleaning product... Howash started in Cameroon, where the car wash service was initially unreliable. At the end of a long queue, it is indeed common to suffer a power failure: Howash proposes





to solve this problem by designing a 12-volt battery system, allowing an average of 12 washes before needing a recharge. This saves time in every sense of the word, as the wash lasts about 15 minutes and uses only 5 liters of water per car for an 80-liter tank. Sylvain Honnang's project is a revolution in the sector and has extended its impact by creating a branch in Nigeria as well. While the components of the mobile car wash are manufactured in Mexico, the device itself is assembled directly in Cameroon.

The price is 3 million CFA francs (about 4,550 euros), and the device is a major attraction: many stations are expect-

ted to be set up throughout the country. Howash is a solution to the current problem while ensuring that it does not leave an environmental footprint for the future.

Bobi Wine, a new Ugandan hope

Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, real name, is a Ugandan politician, singer-musician, actor and businessman.

Let's have a look at his outstanding career :

As a child, he grew up in a slum in the north-east of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. He later studied law and graduated from the International University of East Africa. He began his career with music in the early 2000s. He became famous for his first reggae singles, which dealt with social messages such as poverty and social injustice, and became a hit in East Africa. He chose Bobi Wine as his stage name to honor his two idols, Bob Marley and Bobby Brown. He pursued his career in the film industry, acting in local Ugandan films from 2010–2015. Bobi Wine joined politics in 2017, when he campaigned for the Kyadondo constituency (Wakiso district, Uganda). He won the elections with 78% of the votes, thanks in particular to his door-to-door campaigning technique which attracted the attention of Ugandans. He proudly calls himself «President of the Ghettos» and becomes a youth icon with his political movement called «People Power, Our Power ». He is currently the member of parliament for the Kyadondo constituency and heads the National Unity Platform (NUP), a political party in opposition to the president's policies. He decided to run for president in 2021, but failed. Yoweri Museveni (president of the country for 35 years) won the election in the first round for the sixth time in a row. Bobi Wine did lose this presidential election, but he still represents the voice of the youth who represent more than half of the Ugandan population. His political party NUP could even become the largest opposition party in Parliament. He could easily become a Ugandan legend.



Photographer : Nicholas Bamulanzeki/AP/File photo

by Hana CUCOVIC

Photographer : JOEL SAGET / AFP



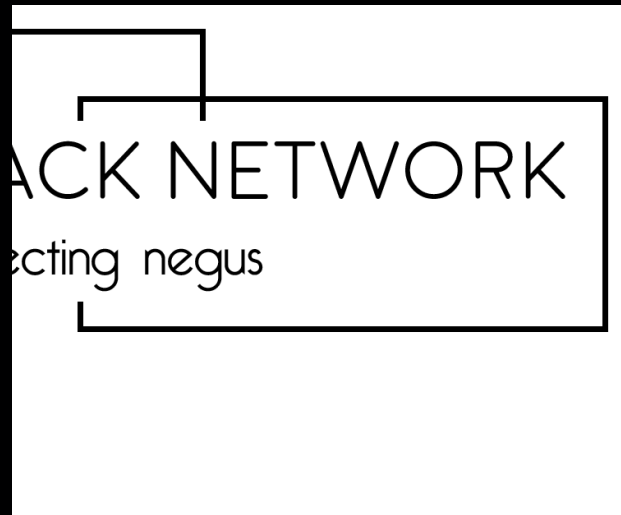
Tanguy Ngafaounain-Tabissi

Tanguy Ngafaounain-Tabissi is a lawyer and entrepreneur. He was born in Bangui, the Central African Republic. He and his parents moved to France when he was a child. After obtaining a literary baccalauréat, he decided to enroll in the law school in Versailles. He succeeded in obtaining a master's degree in the field of health law. He currently works as a lawyer for an organization, France Assos Santé, which lobbies for the improvement of patients' rights. In 2012, he decided to create Black Network, a solidarity and business network working for the economic development of Africa through its diaspora. The idea for this project came from several reasons. First of all, this project aims to help others, a value that Tanguy has always cherished. Indeed, he has always been in the associative field, working for several associations. Then, according to him, money is the sinews of war. This is why it is fundamental to contribute to the economic development of Africans and Afro-descendants who are often disadvantaged in this respect. And finally for a networking question. According to him, there are not enough connections between all Africans and Afro-descendants. The main missions of this project are: to connect and contribute. Their association consists of creating links between all members through a directory and by organizing networking

events. They meet with successful people in their fields to get their testimonies and advice. They have received entrepreneurs, lawyers, and doctors... Beyond that, Black-network aims to support the entrepreneurs in their network process and to help their members in their efforts to obtain the best possible integration within the workforce. This project is there to help them, to support them in their ideas without being afraid of

not having the necessary budget. In the beginning, it was not easy because in France the «for us by us» mentality is not yet very present. That's why Tanguy and his team spent time, years explaining their approach and trying to convince people that love of one's own, is not hate of others. On

their Instagram page [blacknetwork_official](#), they are very committed and active, this is shown by their number of publications which amounts to 120 posts today, and with more than 4300 followers who follow them every day. Tanguy has plans for the future that are currently confidential, but we can't wait to see what he has in store for us next.





Founder of Black Network



THROUGH MY
MOTHER'S
EYES

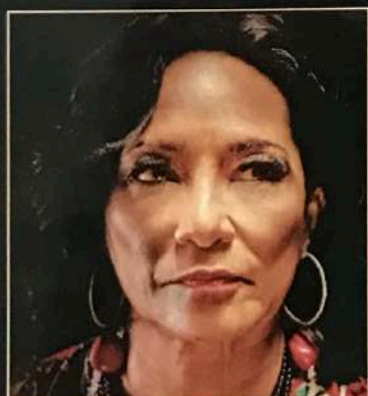
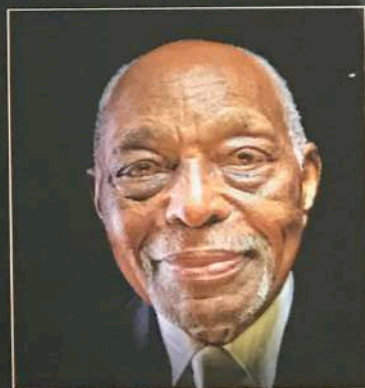
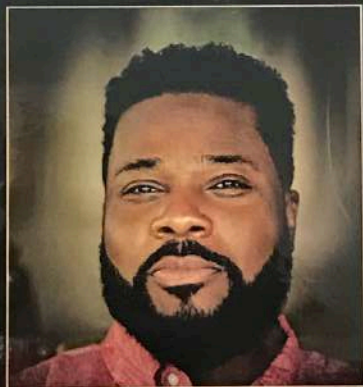
Melba T. Binion
Sanders
Johnson

Photography By Moses Mitchell

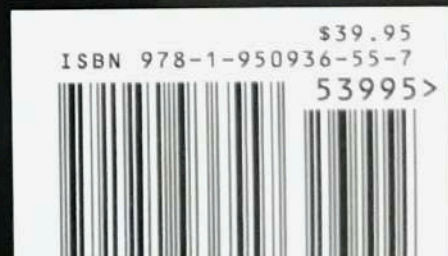
THROUGH MY MOTHER'S EYES

This MILESTONE COLLECTION is a legacy of those inspired by their mothers and treasured by everyone who loves and honors their mothers.

THROUGH MY MOTHER'S EYES features more than 70 photographs of individuals sharing tributes to their mothers, such as Senator Diane Watson, Malcolm Jamal Warner, Rev. Cecil Murray, Eloise Laws, Skyler Grey, Don B. Welch, and many more.



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“Through My Mother’s Eyes”

“It’s wonderful to have children who look in your eyes, and understand what you were saying through the eyes, you didn’t have to say a word. Just look at them”

Melba F. Binion

“Through My Mother’s Eyes”, from creator Melba T. Johnson, filmmaker Chadwick L. Williams and Brownstone Entertainment, explores the relationship(s) between a mother and her child.

The docu-series examines the unique circumstances and relationships that makes each an every one of us who were are through our relationships. The show asks the questions, “What do you see when you looked into your Mother’s Eyes?”, “If your mother were to look into your eyes, what would she see?”, “What influence did your mother have on your life?”, “Tell me about the last time you looked into your Mother’s Eyes?” and “Tell me about your Mother!”

Through my Mother’s Eye’s gives us the platform to talk about who we are and why we have become who we are. It takes a look at the core values that shapes our individual lives and opens up the conversation of what life can bring through countless possibilities.

The show will connect our audience with what they see in the eyes and stories behind the eyes they see everyday when they look in the mirror. Our audience will realize that through different sets of eyes, you can learn about different angles of history and untold stories that need to be unfolded.

Both young and old, we all face everyday issues of finding the right inspiration to push us through the very life experiences that we rarely discuss and keep locked away deep inside.

Everyone has or will face crises in there lives that will need adequate advice and inspiration. Theses pivotal times are part of everyone’s individual growth.

Through My Mother’s Eyes, we will explore the resources that highlight our unique struggles and offer honest life-altering reminders to keep the faith in our journey.

Mots Mêlés : CINEMA

L G J N X X U K D Z U W Y S N C X Z L M
F H A B R N A O F U K B W Q G A R F H C
Z N W I U W I I K U F B W V Q P H L M C
S F K B A T I D S Q S R F N R O G L O R
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S O D N F B G O M N U E T A J J Y E O B
H S A C U E H X N I E I N Z R M H A N I
Z W C C B P X N S R D C A B E E T C S M
A M T Q P I G V Y E Q T S R U C Q S Y O
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G L R M R B O J K T X T W L U B K U C I
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X I N X W Z H N L L I Q P U N M H D V Q

ACTOR - MOVIE - SCENE - SUBTITLES - THRILLER -
EDITOR - AWARDS



Mama Africa Innovation est une association de Loi 1901

Qui a pour but de Développer une véritable culture entrepreneuriale chez les jeunes de toutes les régions du monde pour que le "mieux vivre ensemble" ait un sens au quotidien.

Le réseau International **Mama Africa Innovation** souhaite fédérer des entrepreneurs sociaux africains, européens et du monde pour travailler ensemble et développer l'intelligence collective.

Elle a pour objectif de :

- **DÉTECTER**

Les entreprises, startup, porteur des projet et associations a impact sur les territoire et continent africains et du monde ayant un potentiel de croissance sur un marché.

- **ACCOMPAGNER**

Le développement des entreprises et associations grâce à son réseau d'experts, mentors, et des partenaires financière

- **CONNECTER**

Les différentes parties prenantes, experts, grands comptes, entrepreneurs, institutions afin de faire émerger des nouveaux modes de coopération mama africa innovation porte la voix des entrepreneurs sociaux auprès des politiques publiques, philanthropie pour bouger les ligne et améliorer leur condition d'exercices

- **SENSIBILISATION**

Le grand public défavorise et favorise aux initiatives entrepreneuriales et encourage les jeunes et les femmes à se lancer

POWERFUL AFRICA

