

Taiwo Ajai-Lycett OON

ACTOR, journalist, television presenter, and cosmetologist, Dame Taiwo Ajai-Lycett is a matriarch of the Nigeria actors' family. Her career on stage and screen has spanned over six decades, and is only one of very few in her class and age to remain evergreen and active on stage and on screen. She is also a foremost art advocate and a leading voice for cultural renaissance. She founded the TAL Institute, dedicated to training and mentoring younger creative talents in various disciplines of the arts.

Kayode Victor Aderinokun

BUSINESSMAN, Culture activist, poet, author of the collection, *Inferno in the Rain*, Chief Aderinokun served as chairman of the Association of Nigerian Authors, ANA Lagos Chapter. Also, a columnist, he was a regular contributor to national newspapers in Nigeria in the 80s through the 90s. Educated both in Nigeria and the United States, he is a successful businessman with interest in banking, mining and commerce. Chairman of First Marina Trust Limited, he currently serves as a co-founder, leading shareholder of Tropical Mines Limited and Segilola Resources Operating Limited, as well as Chairman of FMT Prime Ltd.

Iyabo Aboaba

ASTUTE professional arts manager and culture advocate, Iyabo Aboaba's career has spanned over 40 years in varied

industries. She was Production manager with the leading film production of the 70s, Francis Oladele-led Calpenny Film, during which she worked on the set of *Kongi's Harvest*, among other productions. She was, for 17 years the Admin and Human Resources Manager for Roxburg and Partners, a firm of Quantity Surveyors and for Design Group Nigeria, a firm of Architects. She later served for over a decade as a manager at the Musical society of Nigeria (MUSON) Centre, Onikan. She has been Chief Operation Officer of the prime art production and expression centre, Lagos Freedom Park, for over a decade.

Ben Tomoloju

DRAMATIST, theatre producer and director, music composer and Culture Communicator, Ben Tomoloju, popularly known as Ben T, is revered as doyen of arts and culture journalism in Nigeria. Former Leader Writer with Punch newspaper, and later, Literary Editor of ` , he was the pioneer Arts & Literary Editor of *The Guardian* from 1984; and retired as Deputy Editor of the medium in 1992. Founder of the famous Kakaaki Arts Kompany, his plays have been widely produced at home and abroad, and they include *Jankariwo*, *Mujemuje*, *Askari*, *Amona*, *Iphigenia finds Aiyelala* and others, while his secular and spiritual songs are frequently played on radio and in churches.

Chinwe Uwatse

PAINTER from the abstract Uli style of the Nsukka School, Chinwe is also an astute culture administrator, who spent years as a curator with the National Council for Arts and Culture, NCAC, in the 90s. Her works have been featured in many exhibitions worldwide including at the Brunei Gallery in London, the LeRoy Neiman Art Center in New York, the Windspiel Gallery in Vienna and Arthouse Contemporary in Lagos. She is also an executive manager of corporate institutions.

Toyin Akinosho

EARTH Scientist and passionate art and culture promoter, Akinosho worked as Petroleum Geologist with Chevron Nigeria Limited between July 1988 and February 2008. He started his working life as a reporter with *The Guardian* newspaper, where he once served as State House correspondent. He later worked with *Thisweek* magazine before joining the Chevron. An avid arts writer and critic with popular columns in various major newspapers, in 1991 he led the group of five activists, to initiate the idea of the Committee for Relevant Art, CORA, which is now the leading culture advocacy body in the country. He is the publisher/editor-in-chief of the *Africa Oil+Gas Report*, AOGR as well as the *BookArtville.com*.

Jahman Oladejo Anikulapo

TRAINED theatre artiste, journalist and culture activist, he began his art journalism career at *The Guardian*, rising to become the arts and media

editor in 1993, and in 2003, he was redeployed to edit the Sunday title, from where he retired from formal newsroom operation in 2013. Side by side his journalism career, he also had a full career as an actor and director on stage and screen and traveled widely in the country and in Europe. He founded the Culture Advocates Caucus, through which he has curated and produced various programmes and projects locally and internationally. He was Chairman of Arterial Network Nigeria as well as West Africa Representative of continental Arterial Network 2015-2017. He serves on boards of various cultural and artistic institutions.

Ayodele Arigbabu

WRITER, architect and creative technologist with close to two decades of experience in delivering projects at the intersection of architecture, design, film, digital media, publishing, event production and curation, as well as in the development of digital and interactive arts and applications. He is the creative head of the Dream And Designs Agency, DADA, and currently into animation, digital art and speculative fiction. He is author of such futuristic publications as *Lagos 2060* and, the forthcoming *Lagos 2070*.

Pascal Ott

FAMOUSLY revered as the most active 'Cultural Diplomat' in Lagos creative sphere because of his passion for, and contribution to the local culture production scene, Pascal Ott, fondly called 'Uncle Pascal', arrived in Ilorin Kwara State Nigeria in 1982 as a teacher; and arrived Lagos in 1993 and worked as Programme Director with the French

Cultural Centre. He is renowned for his contribution to the take-off and/or development of the careers of many musical, theatrical and visual artists who are today international stars and accomplished professionals in their various fields.

Chris Ihidero

FILMMAKER, journalist, broadcaster trained as a theatre artiste at the Lagos State University. He became a part of the CORA family even while still in school as a member of the Optimum Consult, CORA's partner production company. He was deployed in 2005 to help produce the Best of Broadcast TV (BoBTv) with the Amaka Igwe Studio. He later became an executive of the Studio, during which he directed many episodes of *Fuji House of Commotion*, and also served as Executive of Top Radio founded by the late Amaka Igwe. He has since gone on to become a major TV and movie producer.

Deji Toyé

ENTERPRISE lawyer with expertise and engagements in finance, energy, TME (technology, media and entertainment) as well as corporate governance/sustainability, Deji is also a playwright, gifted cartoonist and public intellectual with regular contribution to public discourse. He is also a literary critic with interest in Ecocriticism and African Literature. He earned a Master's degree in Corporate Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge, and does research in Corporate

Law, Corporate Governance, Law of Contract as well as Law and Economics.

Olu Amoda

SCULPTOR, muralist, furniture designer, and multimedia artist, Olu is best known for using relics of discarded materials such as rusty nails, metal plates, bolts, pipes, spoons and rods to create sculptural figures, flora and animals to highlight Nigerians socio-political and cultural issues from sex, politics, race and conflict to economic distribution. He was for decades lecturer and workshop leader at the School of Arts & Design, Yaba College of Technology. He has been well exhibited in galleries and cultural centres around the world.

Ndidi Dike

PAINTER, sculptor and now installation artist, Ndidi Dike is revered as one of the leading female artists in Nigeria. Also an art activist and culture advocate, she is known as a mentor to many young artists. She has exhibited widely around the world and held workshops in various centres of culture production.

Nkechi Nwosu-Igbo

Poet, installation artist, and painter, her works explore themes of faith, power, and unsung acts of kindness. A devoted studio artist and art advocate, her poetry has also been published in various anthologies. She has been widely exhibited in various galleries around the world and was for many years the curator of the annual experimental exhibition projects of the *Lagos Book & Art Festival, LABAF*.

Bolanle Austen-Peters

LAWYER turned theatre and movie director and producer as well as creative entrepreneur, Bolanle is the founder and artistic director of BAP Productions and the CEO of the foremost arts and culture center, Terra Kulture in Lagos. She worked for years as a lawyer with the United Nations' High Commission for Refugees, and left to found the Terra Kulture, which soon became the foremost arts and culture centre in Nigeria. Executive Producer and artistic director of BAP Productions, among her film credits are: *93 Days, Bling Lagosians, Collision Course Man of God* etc. Her theatre credits

include *Saro, Wakaa, Fela and the Kalakuta Queens, Man Enough* among others

Teju Kareem fta

MULTIMEDIA stage designer and sceneographer, Teju is a consummate theatre professional and creative entrepreneur, who lifted technical theatre to enviable level. Fellow of the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Practitioners, NANTAP (fta), he is the founder and CEO of ZMirage Multimedia Comany. Among his initiative in the cultural sphere is as visioner and executive producer of such major projects as *Miss Malaika, Wole Soyinka International Cultural Exchange, WSICE*; and *African Drums Festival*.

Jumoke Verissimo

POET and writer, Jumoke recently earned her doctorate degree in English Literature from Carleton University, Canada. She earlier earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from the Lagos State University, and Master's in African Studies (Performance) from the University of Ibadan. She has worked as an editor, sub-editor, copywriter and a freelance journalist for major newspapers such as *The Guardian* and *Next234*. Jumoke currently lives and teaches in Canada.

Sola Alamutu

PASSIONATE environmentalist and child development expert, Sola is the executive director of Children And The Environment (CATE). She studied Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management. She is a member of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), the World Parrot Trust (WPF), Kids for Saving Earth (KSE), Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) and the Association of Women Writers of Nigeria (WRITA). She is the Advocacy Manager of the leading freedom of artistic expressions organisation, Unchained Vibes Africa, UVA.

Wole Oguntokun

PLAYWRIGHT, dramaturge and director, Wole, a trained lawyer, is the artistic director of Theatre Planet Studios and Renegade Theatre as well as a member of the board of Theaturtle, a Canadian theatre company. He is also a theatre administrator and newspaper columnist. His plays are widely performed in the theatre circles of Nigeria.

Rópò Ewéńlá,

ACTOR, voice-over artiste, writer, director, producer, media entrepreneur and administrator, Ropo Ewenla earned both first and second degree in Literature in English. He has produced

and staged cultural events in Nigeria, Ghana, Benin Republic and South Africa. He was a one-time president of the National Association of Nigerian Students and former PRO of Wesley University of Science and Technology, Òndó. He is currently the Deputy Director of the University of Ìbàdàn Media Centre.

Femi Odugbemi

STORYTELLER and content creator for television and the film, and media entrepreneur, Femi is the founder/executive producer of Zuri24 Media, a content production company in Lagos. After graduating in film and television production at Montana State University USA (1979-1984), he worked briefly at the Nigerian Television Authority and later as a film and radio producer at Lintas Advertising and McCann-Erickson. His production credits on TV include *Tinsel, Battleground, Brethren* and *Covenant*; and on film, *Bar Beach Blues, Maroko, Gidi Blues* among others. Alos a photo-artist, his credit in documentary film is vast, including *Bariga Boys, Ibadan, Oriki* etc.

Theo Abiodun Lawson

ARCHITECT, designer and artist, Theo is renowned for his unusual interventionist role in architectural culture of Nigeria as manifested in his choice of projects, popular among which is the Lagos Freedom Park, which he repurposed from the old Her Majesty Colonial Prison located on Broad Street Lagos Island. He first major work in Lagos for the arts community was Motherlan', a creative hub that was famous for the shows of the afro-centric music sensation, Lagbaja. He had earlier designed the tomb of Fela at his former residence with a touch of mosaic appeal.

Wale Adeduro (PhD),

WRITER and creative entrepreneur, Pastor Wale Adeduro, an ex-banker is an expert in Productivity and economic development. Once the Business Manager and later acting Manager of Musical Society of Nigeria, MUSON, he is also a pastor of the Redeemed Church of Christ. A seasoned newspaper columnist with regular features in reputable mediums, the clergy is a passionate campaigner for sustainable economic model for the arts, always preaching about the nexus of arts and business to members of the creative community. Author of five books on diverse subjects, he is the Group CEO of Thrones and Tones Consulting.

BabaJide Ajibola

An astute Culture administrator, Jide worked for decades in the Federal Department of Culture, rising to become Director in charge of Creative enterprises from which he retired in 2021. He has served on many international assignments for Nigeria dealing with issues of cultural

policies, bilateral relationships, and on the UNESCO body of experts on intangible heritage. He was a board member of the National Theatre and National Troupe of Nigeria as well as on the International Centre for Black Heritage, Osogbo

Wale Omotoye

Trained artist turned banker, Wale Omotoye studied at the Lagos State University, LASU, where he was a member of the popular Optimum Konsult led by the playwright, director Tunji Azeez, He is currently Business Development Manager with the First City Merchant Bank, FCMB