

IN THIS ISSUE OF POSITION AWR 2

WHAT HAVE WE THIS MONTH?

Some of the main features:

NIGERIA'S PREMIER PLAYHOUSE

Numerous grand colonial structures arose in towns and cities across Nigeria, some as civic reception venues for the colonial elite, others as general community hubs. Most could and actually hosted productions of plays and musicals. None however was built as a full performance theatre until the University College, Ibadan included a proscenium theatre among its inaugural buildings. Our lead review digs into the early days of the English language theatre on Ibadan Varsity's Arts Theatre stage, recalling great drama icons and landmark productions in the birthplace of today's Nollywood industry.



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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BLACK FILM?

A major film production in 1973 initiated by one of the largest and most powerful civil organisations in the world, an African American women's sorority, raised hopes of a revival in black film culture. The initiative promised to redress some of Hollywood's excesses in the portrayal of Africa and African American life. However, one of Hollywood's landmark institutions was chosen to distribute the film, a case of using Hollywood to clip the wings of Hollywood. Naturally, the plan fell through and the promising project became an archival relic. As the film, *Countdown At Kusini*, reappears at film festivals, many questions are raised than there are answers.



GREAT POMP BY AFRICAN ROYALS

African kingdoms were once nations. Today they are subsumed under modern nation states. Monarchic institutions however continue to speak about the splendour and power that once belonged to them and their people through expressive vestments and palace decors.

Photographer George Osodi presents a stunning documentary of kings and queens in contemporary royal estates. Our review observes that many royal stools are still very influential even now.



ALL THAT MUSIC IN FRANCE

Global music, unrestrained and colour-blind, seems headquartered in France. At Saint Denis, towards bucolic Paris, over the Seine, thrives the Banlieue Bleues music festival, a fully evolved congress of musical sound. Our visit to this cultural landmark results in a succinct but telling dairy.



ART X LAGOS

Art thrives on newness and innovation, two qualities which visual art fair, Art X Lagos, brings to the table. A duality of exposition of art accommodating of new forms, and interaction, produces an atmosphere that is carnivalesque.

And much more, including reports on Black History Month celebrated in the UK in October; the late Kole Omotosho treasured as a scholar, prominent African author and media/film icon; Zuma International Film Festival and Niyi Osundare in Seoul.

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