



The World Premiere of A Past Came Calling

Date: 5th September, 2004
Venue: Agip Recital Hall, Muson
Centre, Onikan, Lagos

An

ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN (AWC)

FUND RAISING INITIATIVE



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

1. Arrivals
2. National Anthem
3. Opening speech by the Special Guest of Honor, Her excellency, First lady of Lagos State, Chief Mrs. Oluremi Tinubu
4. Recital
5. Dramatic Poetry
6. A Past Came Calling
7. A pleasant surprise!

A NOTE TO WELCOME YOU

The Muson centre has no doubt, played host to numerous theatrical performances. However, this is the first time a play starring only two female characters will be showcased.

A Past Came Calling will entertain and set you thinking. Seat back, shed your mind of all thoughts and enjoy one of the best evenings in recent times, in the annals of theatre in Nigeria.

Welcome to the world premiere of Uche Ama-Abriel's, A Past Came Calling.

IN THE BEGINNING...

Were tales. Tales so incredible, they were almost difficult to believe. The first one that came my way was that of Grace whose late husband's relatives tied hands & legs and shaved off her pubic hair. Then there was Akpan's. The 10 year-old house boy whose face was redesigned by his oga with a very hot iron because he stole a piece of meat from the soup pot. And many many more heart breaking stories. Words can barely describe the depth of my fury and helplessness at many of the things I have seen and heard.

The resolve to do something helped calm that feeling. I had to speak out.

Which way to go?





**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR
HER EXCELLENCY, THE FIRST LADY OF LAGOS STATE,
Chief Mrs. Oluremi Tinubu**

WHO WE ARE:



Uche Ama - Abriel
Founder/National Coordinator



Gerald Mobuogwu
Trustee



Joke Silva
Trustee



Agatha Amata
Trustee



Solomon Oguname
Project Director



Maureen Mobuogwu
Solicitor

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FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE AFRICAN WOMAN AND CHILD

All I had was a burning passion to help right some wrongs, my ability to write and nothing more. For me, it must have been like it was at the creation of the world, when the spirit of God was brooding over the earth before he spoke out. For weeks on end, I brooded over what I had to do and how best to put my thoughts across. I needed a piece that would not only entertain, and educate, but one that must provoke. Just as the registration of the NGO started, I put pen to paper and A Past Came Calling was born. And for the dignity of the African woman and child, ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN came into being.

MISSION STATEMENT TO PUT THE AFRICAN WOMAN AND CHILD IN A PLACE OF PRIDE AND DIGNITY

THE HOW

Putting the scope of this project into consideration, we intend to use, documentaries, short and feature films, talk shows, radio and Television drama, print and electronic media, and literature to address issues affecting the women and children of our continent. More so, our media products will be dubbed into different languages and be taken via mobile cinema to affected communities. Local & uneducated women in particular communities will also be trained to use the camera to document the challenges they face as women. Our media products are intended to affect attitudes and re-orientate.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

It was sometime last year. I'd stayed up late the previous night, woken up and set out for the office quite late. None of the events of the previous day or anything I've experienced or heard of in my life prepared me for the horror I was about to encounter. As I took the bend that would lead me to the junction where I was to catch a cab, a group of about twenty people scattered all over the place, brought me to a halt. They had all manner of expressions on their faces. Expressions that spelt one word, "HORROR!" And in various languages and gestures, they expressed what they felt. I thought there'd been a road accident, death in a family, any thing, but what I eventually saw.

Parked to the left of the road in front of a hospital was a bus. All eyes were fixed on it. Of their own accord, my legs moved towards it. Lying in the bus was Uche (real name), a young boy of about 14, shirtless, with blood soaked shorts covering his private part. His pupils were rolled back. Apparently, he had lost a lot of blood, was loosing more and no one would lift a finger to help. For the life of me, I couldn't fathom where the blood was coming from. What is wrong with him? I screamed at the nearest person. And in between exclamations, I got this unbelievable response; "den bite off him penis". Was that a line from a movie script or what? I wasn't going to buy that. I moved away and asked a group of women and I got the same reply. By now, I was beside myself with rage and panic. Something had to be done or the boy would bleed to death. I looked around and saw a colleague of mine. She was practically in tears. Then standing right at the entrance of the hospital were two nurses, talking, and not in a hurry to act. Reason; the hospital admission fees hadn't been paid for and no money was forth coming for the much needed blood. Well, to cut a long story short, my colleague and I contributed what we had on us and Uche was wheeled into the hospital while someone dashed off buy some blood. His shorts were taken off and I saw what sent cold shivers down my spine. Indeed what I was told was true. Half of his penis had actually been bitten off. My own exclamations came in languages I never knew I could speak. Seconds later, a Peugeot 504 pulled up with a screech and a woman dashed out of the car with something wrapped in tissue paper. That something was the other half of Uche's Penis. it was collected from the woman's shaking hands and taken away for preservation and the battle to save Uche's life began.

Who did that to him? His elder sister. They were in a fight over God knows what, and the best punishment she thought to give to the young boy was to reduce his manhood.

Did he survive it? I have no idea. I left. I went back in the evening to check on him, and was told he had been transferred to LUTH where he stood a better chance.

Has the one responsible for Uche's severed penis been brought to book? Again I say, I do not know. My guess is, she went scot free.

A VOICE FROM A HOME

'Miss nose'". That is what they call me. Mummy has tried to stop the children at the home from calling me that. But they just wouldn't. Who would blame them? I am ugly. Yes, very ugly. I don't need to look in the mirror to know that. God created me in a hurry, I am usually told. That isn't too difficult to believe. I have big eyes, big nose, big teeth and very big lips. I think there's something wrong with me too. Unlike the other children in the home, I do not wish to meet the woman who gave birth to me and left me at the door step of the orphanage. She sure had her reason. I'm too ugly to keep.

Other kids make up stories about why their mummies abandoned them and how happy they will be when they find each other.

I do not want to find my mother. I know she will never want to find me too.

(The above was told to me in Ibo by 11 year old Chidiebere)

A PAST CAME CALLING... A synopsis

It tells the story of a very famous multiple-award winning actress with an impeccable character and a love affair with the press. An affair that remained untarnished until a visitor from her ...past came calling, threatening to send her Pandora's box to the press.

This thought-provoking piece, delves into many of the topical issues that Advocacy for Women and Children (AWC) is geared to address.

It portrays explicitly issues that no doubt, affect all and sundry. These issues are intricately woven into the story with a view to entertain, inform and provoke.

SPREAD IT ON!
OCTOBER 1ST, 2004



A Past Came Calling

Will be
showcased at the

UNILAG
AUDITORIUM

STARRING
JOKE SEVA
LEHE AMAGHED

Directed by
Salomon Aguirre



MAKE IT A
MEMORABLE
INDEPENDENCE
DAY.

THE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

When the people we love are hurt by our action, tradition, culture or way of life, can it be right? Is our life determined by our action or our action determined by our way of life?

Today, as you sit down to experience this dramaturgy, I will implore you to please place particular attention to the content of the play, because tonight, we do not only hope to entertain and educate you, but more so, to jolt you from your comfort zone to face the reality that the play presents. Do not fold your hands thinking it cannot happen, or that we are exaggerating the issues. Please think again...

A Past Came Calling as written by Uche Ama-Abriel, I have described as a night of sadistic retribution. A night where we see the iniquitous reasons of neglecting our women and our children, or making them suffer all kinds of cultural and social ills.

In most situations, women and children are the most likely victims. **THEY NEED US. THEY NEED OUR LOVE, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE**. As human beings we seem to forget that freedom comes with responsibilities. The freedom to be a mother, father, daughter, son, parent, leader, etc, comes with responsibilities. We cannot bury our heads in the sand like the ostrich and pretend that there is nothing wrong. We have a problem in this country, a huge problem, and that is in the way we treat our women and children, like second-class citizens. A problem of not allowing our women and children to attain their place of dignity, all because of some reason one cannot truly phantom. **WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE THE SPIRIT AND SOUL OF ANY NATION. THEY MOVE US FORWARD!**

Let me say this very nicely, if you are in this hall tonight and you are not born of a woman, we are not here to put up this play, A Past Came Calling, for you. You can kindly leave. The rest of you beautiful people, please sit down tightly and enjoy the play and act quickly. God bless you.



Solomon Oguname

AS DIRECTED BY

Solomon Oguname is best described as a creator of possibilities. He is an Actor Director trained by an African American, and a student of the late directing guru, Ola Rotimi. A graduate of Dramatic Arts from the university of Ife; majoring in directing. Solomon has been directing for the stage for over three years now. He has directed plays like Ola Rotimi's Hopes Of The Living Dead, Zakes Mofokeng's A New Song, Rhythm Of The Black Man's Going Back To My Roots, Dawn Of A New Day and Kikelele, Tyrone Terrence's A Husband's Wife and A Pound Of Flesh and a host of others. For Solomon directing is a great passion. He draws his inspiration from what he sees around him and waits for a conformation from the creative Heavens where all great ideas come from. Solomon is a great delight to work with. His philosophy to life is that no one can take away from him, his freedom to choose how he reacts to what happens to him.

A PAST CAME CALLING, BROUGHT ALIVE

Joke has a successful career as an actress on stage, film, television and radio primarily in Nigeria and stints in England (BBC,) British Film Institute, Royal Court Theatre Sloan sq and the South of France. Her acting credits include Mirror in the Sun ('84 TV), Second Chance ('84TV), Jero's Metamorphosis ('81 Stage), Owuro Lojo ('93 Video), Mind Bending ('92TV), Sisters (2002 Stage), The King Must Dance Naked ('93 Stage), Tight Rope (2000 - 2002 TV), Twins of the Rainforest ('98 Film), Secret Laughter of Women ('97 Film), The Kingmaker (2002 Video) and A Husband's Wife (2003 Stage)

Joke has written and directed to critical acclaim: Digging for Gold, Jonah, and The Drummer Boy. She also directed Footprints. She is an alumnus of Holy Child College, Obalende, Weber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Arts, London, University of Lagos Akoka and Fate Foundation, Ijora.

A member of the National Association of Theatre Arts practitioners (NANTAP), Independent Television Producers Association of Nigeria (ITPAN), conference of Motion Pictures Practitioners (CMPP), and Film Makers Cooperatives. Joke teaches elocution and speech dynamics at Greenwood House School and she was the public speaking and speech facilitator for Vic Lawrence and Associates

She is a recipient of several awards, recent ones being the EMOTAN Award by AIT and the SOLIDRA Award.

As Managing director of Lufodo Productions, she develops and packages projects and obtains financing.

Joke is glad to be working on "A past came calling" as she finds the character of Temisan challenging.



Joke Silva



Uche Ama-Abriel

Uche, a seasoned and versatile actress with over ten years experience on stage & television, plays Rosemary. Some of her memorable performances were as Nkemji on the soap Opera, Checkmate, Onome, To live Again, Broken Chord, Footprints, Sinners e.t.c. And to her credit as a producer, are Sinners, Broken Chord and the stage play Idia. Also a writer, Uche has 7 Awards in her Kitty. She is the producer of A Past Came Calling.



BEHIND THE SCENE:

She has a bachelor of Arts (specializing in Directing from Obafemi Awolowo university, Ile-Ife. Her debut was the lead & only female role in the command performance of Tororo Toro-Roro. Other credits are lead roles in plays such as wedlock of the Gods, who is Afraid of Solarin, Caucasian Chalk Circle, one Hundred amongst many Emena as her directing debut (2001)

Adebunmi Adewale
(Stage Manager)



A graduate of the Creative Arts department, University of Lagos, Jibade veered into the lights department from acting and has since not looked back.

some of the plays he has handled as lighting designer include,

A Husband's wife, The Devil is a Woman, A Pound Of flesh, A Little Sin, Private Lies, Lion and the Jewel, Swift Stab, Mama, Lamine, Gods Are Not to Blame, Gbanja Roulette, Eyes of a Stranger, What the steward saw. To mention a few.

Ajibade Oyemade



Emmanuel Iyekpabor
(Production Manager)

Another refreshing time in the fountain of theatrical pleasure Emmanuel Iyekpabor is a theatre art graduate from the University of Benin, Benin city.

A marketer turned practitioner in both the Stage and Home video. Since 1992 has been involved in Stage Plays, like OBASEKI Ajagidi, by Don Pedro Obeseki, Tatuffe by Felix Okolo and many more. In the Home Video Industry, He has been involved both as a manager and as a technical personnel. Films like "Keeping Faith; produced by ego Boyo, "Kingmaker by the legendary duo of Olu and Joke Jacobs and a lot more are to his credit.



Dele Omogbai
(Props)

Dele Omogbai holds a Bachelor of Art Degree in Theatre-Art. He lives and works in Lagos

MANY RIVERS TO CROSS

Our Journey of a thousand miles has this day began. It is a beginning, not a destination. The road ahead is strewn with challenges. Challenges that must be overcome. On our own, this would be but a Herculean task, a dream that may never come to fruition.

We will have to lean on you , for TOGETHER, with God on our side, we will successfully scale through the obstacles, cross the oceans, climb the mountains, get to the hill top and touch the rainbow someday soon.

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- (7) Publication of play text
- (8) Translation of play text into French and other languages
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WORDS ON MARBLE

"IF ALL I AM IS A STITCH IN A SWEATER, I KNOW THAT WITHOUT ME, THAT SWEATER WILL UNRAVEL.
AND ALL I AM IS A STITCH".

GRACE & GLORY

"AS A STITCH, I AM HANGING ON TO THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE AND HOLDING OUT MY HAND
TO THOSE WHO ARE COMING"

GRACE & GLORY

"WE ARE CO-CREATORS WITH GOD. EVERYTHING AROUND US IS THE CLAY WE MUST USE TO SHAPE
THE LIVES WE WANT. WITH OUR MIND AND OUR MUSCLE, WE CREATE OUR WORLD"

"HOLD FAST TO DREAMS, FOR IF DREAMS DIE, LIFE IS A BROKEN WINGED BIRD THAT CANNOT FLY"

LOUISA MAY ALCOT

"IT WASN'T RAINING WHEN NOAH BUILT THE ARK"

ANONYMOUS

"CHILDREN HAVE MORE NEED OF MODELS THAN OF CRITICS"

"YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE. BUT IF YOU WORK IT RIGHT, ONCE IS ENOUGH"

JOE E. LEWIS

"SHOW ME THE UNCOMMON CHILD- CONFIDENT, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND ZEALOUS FOR HIS DREAMS
AND GOALS. SOMEONE HAS SOWN THE SEED CALLED "TIME"

MIKE MURDOCK

"IF I HAVE DONE ANY DEED WORTHY OF REMEMBRANCE, THAT DEED WILL BE MY MONUMENT. IF
NOT, NO MONUMENT CAN PRESERVE MY MEMORY"

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THE STAR FISH

It happened once that there was a storm in the sea and thousands of star fish were washed ashore. A man came along, saw them and quickly started to pick them one after the other and throw them back in to save as many of them as possible. And then came along another man, who said to the first man, "There're too many of them, you can't save them all. What difference does saving a few make?" And the first man responded by first picking up yet another fish and throwing it back into the sea. Then he said "For that one, it makes a whole lot of difference.

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