



CORA-NPL BOOK PARTY 2023

Presenting

The Longlist of 11 for the Nigeria Prize for Literature

Genre in Focus: **Drama**

Prize: **USD 100,000**



Featuring: . Readings . Reviews . Conversations

Date: **Sunday, August 6th, 2023** | Time: **2pm** (Prompt)

Venue: Shell Hall, **MUSON Centre**, Onikan, Lagos

Promoted by:



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NLNG COMPANY

PROFILE

Nigeria LNG Limited was incorporated as a limited liability company on May 17th, 1989 to harness Nigeria's vast natural gas resources and produce Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) for export. The establishment of NLNG is backed by the NLNG Act.

The company is owned by four shareholders, namely, the Federal Government of Nigeria, represented by Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation NNPC Limited (49%); Shell (25.6%); Total Gaz Electricite Holdings France(15%) and Eni (10.4%). It also has two wholly-owned subsidiaries: Bonny Gas Transport (BGT) Limited and NLNG Ship Management Limited (NSML).

With six trains currently operational, NLNG's plant, on Bonny Island in Rivers State, is capable of producing 22 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG, and 5 MTPA of NGLs (LPG and condensate) from 3.5 billion (standard) cubic feet per day (bcf/d) of natural gas intake. NLNG's expansion plans include construction of a seventh train to complement the existing six train structure, which when in operation will increase the company's total production capacity to 30 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG.

As the arrowhead of Nigeria's efforts to eliminate gas flaring, NLNG's operations have reduced Nigeria's flaring profile from about 65% to below 20% by converting over 5.96 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas to over USD\$108Bn in revenue. The company has also paid over USD\$35Bn in dividends to Shareholders of which over USD\$15Bn was paid to the Federal Government of Nigeria

through the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC); now NNPC Limited. NLNG has also safely delivered over 5000 cargoes of LNG to various destinations in Europe, America, and Asia. NLNG also supplies a huge part of the annual domestic LPG (cooking gas) consumption in Nigeria.

In all its business, NLNG's driving force remains its vision of being a globally competitive company helping to building a better Nigeria. NLNG has undertaken many iconic CSR initiatives in the Niger-Delta and Nigeria as a whole. Its recent commitment to funding 50% of the NGN120Bn Bonny-Bodo Road project has become one of the largest CSR initiatives by any entity in Nigeria. In addition, NLNG has invested over USD\$4.7mn in scholarships at post-primary, undergraduate and overseas postgraduate levels. NLNG has also supported six Nigerian universities to build and equip engineering laboratories at a cost of USD\$12million. In its host community Bonny, NLNG in collaboration with its Joint Industry Partners (Shell & Mobil) has provided 99% power availability, 100% portable water availability, roads, health care support and other critical infrastructure which has continued to guarantee very cordial relationship with its host communities.

NLNG is the largest exporter of LNG in Africa and one of the largest globally, with a dedicated fleet of 23 LNG carriers. The company is run by 100% Nigerian management and has a workforce of 95% Nigerians. Nigeria LNG Limited is truly the pride of Nigeria and Africa.

CORA-NPL BOOK PARTY 2023

The 14th *CORA-Nigeria Prize for Literature Book Party* for writers longlisted for the 2023 edition of the \$100,000 Nigeria Prize for Literature (NLP), endowed and promoted by the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas, NLNG holds as follows:

Date: **Sunday August 6, 2023**

Venue: Shell Hall, MUSON Centre, Onikan, Lagos

Time: 2pm (prompt).

NB: *The event will accommodate virtual guests via Zoom; and will be broadcast live on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.*

The genre in focus is Drama. The 11 longlist drawn from 143 plays submitted for the 2023 edition of the prize are below -- NOT in alphabetical order.

- *Dance of The Sacred Feet* by Ade Adeniji
- *Gidan Juju* by Victor S. Dugga
- *Grit* by Obari Gomba
- *Homecoming* by Cheta Igbokwe
- *The Boat People* by Christopher Anyokwu
- *The Brigadiers of a Mad Tribe* by Abuchi Modilim
- *The Ojuelegba Crossroads* by Abideen Abolaji Ojomu
- *The Spellbinder* by Bode Sowande
- *When Big Masquerades Dance Naked* by Olubunmi Familoni
- *Where Is Patient Zero* by Olatunbosun Taofeek
- *Yamtarawala - The Warrior King* by Henry Akubuiro

The party, a literary feast of ideas and life, celebrates the authors and their works for emerging as some of the very best in the country. It promises to be an afternoon of literary feasting, featuring performances, wining and dining.

About the NPL:

The Nigeria Prize for Literature was inaugurated in 2004 and sponsored by Nigerian LNG Limited with the prize money was later raised to \$50,000 and now, it is a \$100,000 prize - the biggest of its kind in Africa.

About the Book Party:

The CORA-The Nigeria Prize for Literature Book party, a special iteration of the CORA Book Party launched in 1996 -- was initiated after a review of the first five years of the esteemed Prize project. The idea is to create a platform through which the public gets to engage with the works considered the best of the usually, over 200 entries per edition of the NPL.

About CORA:

CORA is a group consisting of artistes, art enthusiasts, art promoters and art writers committed to the flowering of all the contemporary arts of the Nigerian people. It has organised, every year since 1999, the Lagos Book & Art Festival, (LABAF), critically described as 'the biggest Culture picnic on the African continent.' The 25th edition holds November 13-19 with theme: *The Reset: History On A Darkling Plain*

About CORA

The **Committee for Relevant Art** is a group of artistes, art enthusiasts, art promoters and art writers committed to the development of the Arts of Nigeria and their enabling environment.

MISSION:

To Create An Enabling Environment for the Flourishing of the Contemporary Arts of Nigeria and the Continent.

VISION:

To Make Art & Culture the Prime Destination for Investment in Nigeria and Africa by 2018.

DEFINITION:

We Are 'Cultural Landscapists'

The CORA is the Winner of the **Prince Claus Award**, 2006.

Its projects include the quarterly *ART STAMPEDE*, the annual *LAGOS BOOK & ART FESTIVAL (LABAF)*, the quarterly *LAGOS THE CITY ARTS GUIDE*, and the annual Lagos Open Air *CINEMA CARNIVAL*.

In the past, it collaborated with other artistes, activists and enthusiasts to organise the annual *LAGOS COMICS CARNIVAL* and the *GREAT HIGHLIFE (Revival) PARTY (ELDERS' FORUM)*.

Its collaborates with the iREP Documentary film Forum on the annual *IREP Documentary Film Festival* among other ongoing concerns.

It continues to seek out, tend, groom and harvest the best of the old and emerging arts of Nigeria.

The CORA enjoys the contribution and support of a Board of eminent Nigerians in the divergent disciplines of the Arts.

www.corarartfoundation.org

www.lagosbookartfestival.org

The Nigeria Prize for Science, The Nigeria Prize for Literature & The Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism

The Nigeria Prize for Science, The Nigeria Prize for Literature and The Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism are sponsored by Nigeria LNG Limited, and have been described as the biggest and most prestigious prizes on the African continent. The Nigeria Prize for Literature is one of the ten most affluent and most prestigious literary prizes globally. The Nigeria Prize for Science and The Nigeria Prize for Literature, are each worth one hundred thousand dollars (USD100,000) in award money, while The Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism is now \$10,000 cash reward.

The Nigeria Prize for Literature and The Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism aim to bring Nigerian authors and literary critics to public attention and celebrate literary craftsmanship in the nation. The Nigeria Prize for Science aims at celebrating excellence in scientific breakthroughs and honours scientists from anywhere in the world that help find solutions to a local or 'Nigerian' problem as defined and advertised by the Advisory Board for the prize. The Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism complements The Nigeria Prize for Literature by rewarding excellent literary critics of Nigerian literature.

NLNG believes that The Nigeria Prize for Science will provide leaders with answers to crucial issues in development; improve living standards, and re-energise the scientific community to seek solutions to national problems. It is expected that the quest for The Nigeria Prize for Literature and The Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism will improve the quality of writing, editing, proof-reading, and publishing in the country, with far-reaching positive effect on print and broadcast journalism. Further, The Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism is meant to stimulate interest in the reading and appreciation of Nigerian literature and promote critical thinking.

The Prizes are awarded purely on merit and are administered by Advisory Boards made up of reputable and distinguished Nigerians. In years where the entries are adjudged as not meeting excellent standards, the Boards have been bold to announce a no-winner verdict. Winners are announced in October to commemorate the export of the first LNG cargo by Nigeria LNG on October 9, 1999 from its Bonny Terminal.

The Nigeria Prize for Literature

- o Value: USD100,000 in award money
- o Open to Nigerian authors around the world
- o Prize cycle starts in February with call for entries
- o Close out date for receipt of entries is March 31st of the same year
- o Adjudication process runs till September of the same year
- o Prize winner is announced in October of same year

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Synopsis & Profile

Olubunmi Familoni

WHEN BIG MASQUERADES DANCE NAKED

WHEN BIG MASQUERADES DANCE NAKED

As the town of Ilekoru prepares for elections, the Honourable representing the constituency the town is part of, Jagun, is preparing to rig the elections in his favour, in collusion with the king of the town whom he had been conspiring with for years to siphon funds meant for developmental projects for the town from government coffers. But they do not envisage the emergence of a fierce opponent, Ijoba, the leader of the town's Youth Union, who has taken it upon himself to bring about Hon. Jagun's loss at the polls, so as to bring proper development to Ilekoru; but this move is being regarded by the king and Jagun as vengeance against the king for taking his lover, Badero, from him and making her his wife. Badero is eventually drawn into a plot to stop Ijoba, which includes bribery, threats, and murder. Things take an unexpected turn when Badero seizes the reins of their plans and begins to execute an intricate plot of her own, which would see her gain more power and influence in Ilekoru and beyond.

He has written plays for stage and for radio, screenplays, short fiction, and essays on music and pop culture. He wrote the screenplay for the short film, *My Brother's Keeper*, for the Afrinolly/Ford Foundation 'Cinema4Change' Project in 2014; his debut play, *Every Single Day*, was selected by the British Council for production as part of the Lagos Theatre Festival in 2016; his debut collection of stories, *Smithereens of Death*, won the ANA Prize for Short Stories in 2015; his poetry chapbook, *Love is a Profusion of Roses Growing From the Barrel of a Gun*, was second runner-up for the Libretto Chapbook Prize in 2020; his children's book, *I'll Call My Brother For You*, won the ANA Prize for Children's Literature in 2020; his novel manuscript, *The Becoming-Nothing of Bodies*, was longlisted for the Island Prize in 2023. His works have appeared in various literary journals, magazines, and anthologies from different parts of the world. He lives and works in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Tw: @Ofamiloni | FB: Olubunmi Familoni



Olubunmi Familoni -

When Big Masquerades Dance Naked - The play has an insightful and social realistic subject matter representing the dimension of systemic corruption and criminal alliance in traditional and contemporary political space.



Synopsis & Profile

Cheta Igbokwe

HomeComing

HOME COMING

The play chronicles the lives of the couple Nwakibe and Adannaya Echeruo, who desperately searches for their missing son, Nebeolisa. It also follows Johnson, a writer, in search of a story for his new book. The play shuttles between Nwakibe's sitting room and Ahumaraeze's shrine where the duo rethink their past and negotiate their future. At the end of every meeting, Nwakibe returns home to share his experiences with Johnson. It is a story of quest, love, discovery, and how what one finds in life is capable of slipping through one's hands.



**Cheta Igbokwe -
Home Coming -**

It gives a profound insight into tragic experiences and the psychological life of the people. It is philosophical and gravely entertaining.

A Master of Fine Arts, MFA candidate at the Iowa Playwrights' Workshop and a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Department of Theatre Arts, University of Iowa. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Literary Studies from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he also edited *The Muse*, Number 48; a journal of creative and critical writing, the oldest-surviving students' journal in West Africa, founded by Chinua Achebe in 1963. He is a 2019 alumnus of the Purple Hibiscus Trust Creative Writing Workshop, facilitated by the Nigerian writer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. He wrote the screenplay of *Island of Happiness*—a film which was described by the Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka, as a “magnificent work of art.” His works have appeared in *The Hopkins Review*, *Oyster River Pages*, *Selfies and Signatures Anthology*, *The Muse*, and elsewhere. He is the winner of The Association of Nigerian Authors' (ANA) Prize for Drama 2021, for his debut drama, *Homecoming*. His other plays which include *Brother-Brother*, *The Survivors*, *The Old Man Who Lives in a Fable*, *A Friend of His Father*, and *Awele*, have either been workshopped or performed in Nigeria and the United States. He is also a recipient of the David and Jean Schaal Professional Enhancement Fellowship Award in Playwriting (2022-2023) and The University of Iowa MFA Summer Fellowship, 2023.

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Synopsis & Profile

Abideen Ojomu

The Ojuelegba Crossroads

THE OJUELEGBA CROSSROAD

THE African plane is a place of many existential issues - war, poverty, drought, desertification, pollution, and other socio-economic concerns. This is partly due to our trust and belief in foreignness more than we do in our ancestral ways. This leads to the loss of our most valuable asset; the ways of our forefathers - our culture. And now we Africans that hold the key to the world, are at the mercy of others. The Ojuelegba Crossroads; Ogúlútú, that sacred clod of the elders, that single rock that hits a thousand different targets at once. This is a play of plays; It is an exploratory artifact that seeks to shift the narrative around diverse social discussions like the importance of Africa and the need for Africans to take their position as leaders in global events. It seeks to return the truths the colonials have effaced from our collective consciousness - the greatness of our skin, the purity of our mind, the braveness of our fathers, and a strength that defies all obstacles. The work is themed around a famous crossroad in Lagos, and extends itself to the diversity of people across cultures and races.



**Abideen Abolaji Ojomu -
The Ojuelegba Crossroads -**

The play takes us into a townhall to discuss us in an engaging manner. It is presented as a metaphor of a society in dire need of purging.

Playwright, poet, actor, and dancer with multiple performance experiences, Abideen studied Chemical Engineering at the Lagos State University. As an artist he has successfully staged many of his plays with different playhouses and has done book readings at various events. He uses art as a mould for building satires about social and existential issues in an attempt to decompose the logic behind the issues into the underlying sentiments. This decomposition is often not attainable by science but by art and its finicky touches. He has written many plays like *Oils wheels*, *Woes of Warriors*, and more recently *The Ojuelegba Crossroads*, all addressing issues that plague Africa's largest country. He is a member of the Black Panthers- Toronto Canada - a team of distinguished black writers put together by Cahoots Playhouse in an effort to project the relevance of black culture and art.

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Synopsis & Profile

Abuchi Modilim

The Brigadiers of a Mad Tribe

A storyteller and playwright, he won the 2021 Arojah Students Playwriting Prize and was first runner-up in the inaugural IKODASS Playwriting Prize 2022. He was longlisted for the 2022 James Ene Henshaw Foundation Playwriting Competition, and was a semi-finalist for the 2021 Jack Grape Poetry Prize; also nominated for the 2022 Best Small Fictions, and curator of *Enyo: An Anthology of Contemporary African Plays*. His works have appeared in No Tokens Journal, Jellyfish Review, Abandon Journal, Samjoko Magazine, Native Skin, Goatshed, the State University of New York Praxis: Journal of Gender and Cultural Critiques, and elsewhere. An Alumnus of Lolwe Playwriting Class, he studied English and Literary Studies with a minor in Theatre and Film Studies, at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

IG: @abuchimodilim | FB: Abuchi Modilim | Tw: @abuchi_modilim. | LinkedIn: Abuchi Modilim

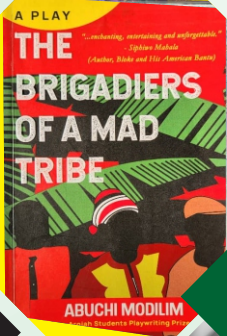
claiming he needs the witches to work in the vineyard of the Lord. Chief Dikeorah, a politician, Lady Adaeze, a gubernatorial aspirant, and Black, a youth leader organising a protest against police brutality, also want access to the witches and wizard, declaring how they would help them succeed in their endeavors.

The progress of the group is destroyed when Jideofor and Ekemma decide to follow Prophet Daniel, while Osondu left with Obichikalu to work for Chief Dikeorah. Chikelumma, Echeuwa, and some old women must find Jideofor and Osondu to pay for making them suffer. A deep secret regarding who Echeuwa was is revealed in the final climax.



Abuchi Modilim -

*The Brigadiers of a Mad Tribe -
It is a discourse on the politics of the
marriage between Science and Voodoo.*



THE BRIGADIERS OF A MAD TRIBE

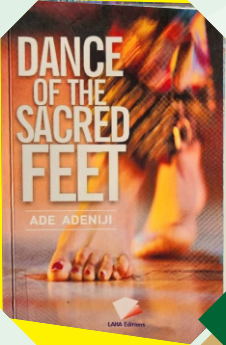
The Phoenix Black Science Organisation in Britain, announces a prize (a hundred thousand pounds) for witches and wizards in Africa to use their powers to build a technology (Brain Cloud Facility) that would operate on African mysticism. The technology, Brain Cloud, would bring humans closer to their dead family members. They would be able to know what their dead is thinking.

The young men or women in a given African country are to find the witches and wizards in their locals and explain the mission of the Phoenix Black Science to them. If after the witches and wizards decide to participate in the competition, they would carry out the duties required of them under the supervision of the young men or women. Because the old witches and wizards may not be literate.

Three friends and secondary school teachers: Jideofor, Ifenna, and Osondu read the news and were excited. The government has been owing them months' salaries. This is the only opportunity that would make them wealthy for life. They get three old women, Chikelumma, Ekemma, and Echeuwa. And a man, Obichikalu, the custodian of the iyi shrine, to participate in the competition for the Phoenix Prize. They call their group "The Brigadiers Order." Echeuwa boasts of her power as a strong which. She claims to have flown around the world. Chikelumma and Ekemma belong to secret societies that protect them and their families. They don't identify as witches.

The group, have their meetings at the house of Professor Ojukwu, who is a strong opponent of the competition. Professor Ojukwu advises the teachers to leave the competition and bring the women and the old man to his research institute for an interview but they refused. Professor Amanda, Professor Ojukwu's fiancée, finds the competition interesting and volunteers to be used for the practical demonstration by The Brigadiers Order. Subsequently, the group made the shortlist after their entrance video is submitted.

Things begin to go haywire after they made the shortlist. The Minister of the Economy, Chief Nduka, visits the teachers demanding access to the women and the man. According to him, he would need their powers to build the economy of the country. A man of God, prophet Daniel, visits the teachers,



Synopsis & Profile

Ade Adeniji

Dance of the Sacred Feet

DANCE OF THE SACRED FEET

AN immersive story that skillfully unravels the interplay between tradition and power, while accentuating the significance of unity and courage amidst adversity, the play draws the audience into a world that is enriched with cultural depth and mystical undertones, creating a thought-provoking and captivating experience. It unfolds with the demise of the ruler and weaves around a tapestry of intriguing narratives which interlaces various themes, such as tradition, power, leadership, oppression, and unity. Central to the narrative are the intricate characters and subplots that unfold throughout the play, inviting the audience to explore the depth of human complexities. At its core, *Dance of the Sacred Feet* embodies the clash between tradition and modernity and the complexities of preserving customs in a rapidly evolving world.



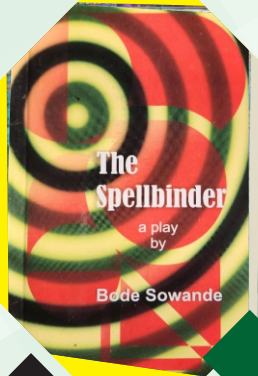
Ade Adeniji -

Dance of The Sacred Feet -

A fascinating play well structured. A play about upholding the sanctity of cultural tradition and yet making space to accommodate change and diversity for peace and progress.

An Immersive Storyteller and Stage and Screenwriter, Adeniji holds a B.A Theatre Arts from the graduate of University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and M.A Film (Screenwriting from University of South Wales, UK). As a multidisciplinary creative, his expertise lies in writing for both stage and screen, with a deep-rooted passion for showcasing the beauty and diversity of African culture. His screenplays, which showcase his storytelling prowess and a kaleidoscope of African culture, include *Eji Owuro* (Dudu Heritage - Nigeria), *Abeni 2* (Laha Productions – Benin Republic), *Arugba and Ayinla* (Mainframe Productions – Nigeria), *The Apprentice* (BBC World Service Trust), *Palace* (TV drama Series by Rockview Production for African Independent Television) and others. His Stage plays enact tales that reflect the multifaceted beauty of African life and leave audiences spellbound. His two published plays are *The Devil's Song* (2006) and *Dance of the Sacred Feet* (2022). His contribution to the literary world is etched in the hearts of those whose lives have been touched by the magic of his storytelling. Through his masterful works, he blurs the lines between fiction and reality, evoking emotions that linger after the curtains have fallen.

Tw: @hadeadeniji | IG: @hadeadeniji



Synopsis & Profile

Bode Sowande

The Spellbinder

Playwright, theatre director and teacher, Sowande published his first short story *Police Break Up Hepcats Booze Party* while he was at Government College in the Sunday Times and he was awarded the Tm Aluko Prize for Creative Writing in 1966. He won the University of Ife Prize for Creative Writing with his play *Paint Me Blacker* In 1968. He obtained his B.A. French Hons in 1971. In 1972, he established the Repertory theatre company ODU THEMES, and this continues its practice to date. In 1978, he earned his Ph.D in Dramatic Literature. He joined University of Ibadan as Lecturer in 1978 and withdrew in 1991 to begin an 18-year period of professional and academic career engagements with theatres, creative arts organisations and universities in Europe and America. In 2008, he returned to Nigerian University employment at Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye where he taught till 2018. In 2019, he was employed by Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo. He wrote *The Spellbinder* as a Convocation play. He has to his credit several plays on stage, television, radio and film as writer, dramatist, director producer. His most recent film role is a Netflix film *Shadow Parties* produced by Yemi Amodu.

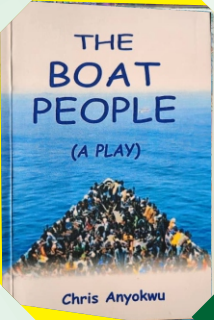
SPELLBINDER

Love, be it of Filia, Eros, or Agape, always bonds magnetically.

In *Spellbinder*, friends in their youth with true nature of Eros will individually create the embers of slow creeping mental health challenges. As adults, two of the friends are billionaires whose fates will lock with a third billionaire. They each now have minor or major mental health challenges. Two of the billionaires had in their youth formed a triangle of sex with same female who is the firepoint in a crucible of mental health challenge.. Her filial carer is not spared and her son is on a slippery slope of desperation. It takes thirty years before EGO crumbles to allow healing through the genesis of another leap into love.



Bode Sowande - *The Spellbinder* -
It is a psychological play about cleansing of our general mental instability. It has forgiveness at the root of the resolution of mental instability.



Synopsis & Profile

Chris Anyokwu, PhD,
The Boat People

THE BOAT PEOPLE

It dramatises the extant global subject of mass migration from the so-called peripheries and margins, especially African countries, to the metropolitan centres in western Europe and North America. In the face of insufferably harsh socio-economic hardships and political upheavals, pauperised human flotsam and jetsam sell off their worldly possessions to raise money to fund their emigration overseas. Due to inability to secure valid travel visas, most Africans risk danger and death as they seek to enter Europe via the Sahara Desert and traveling aboard rickety overburdened boats across the Mediterranean sea enroute Europe. As a result, there are always cases of boats capsizing resulting in mass death by drowning. The lucky ones who manage to get to Europe and America end up eking out a miserable living as menial workers and migrants and refugees. On the whole, the African Diaspora is a little better than second slavery, all things considered. The play places on the front burner the extremely urgent need for governments in Africa to make and implement people-oriented policies and programmes with a view to catering to the needs of their citizenry

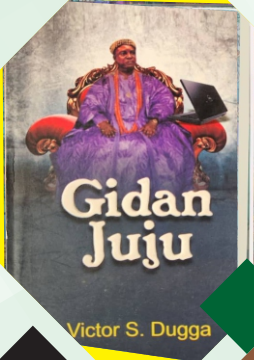
Author of at least 16 books, including plays, short fiction, and poetry, Chris is a professor of English, at the University of Lagos. As an academic, he has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters both in Nigeria and on five continents. A public intellectual and newspaper columnist, he has been writing for the popular press for years. He has also travelled overseas to attend learned conferences
Media Handles:



Christopher Anyokwu -
The Boat People -

A socio-culturally relevant subject matter rich in techniques. An out-of-the-box crafting of the experiences referred to as "Japa".

Synopsis & Profile



GIDAN JUJU

AKING was deposed and taken away long ago in the heydays of colonial rule. He died in exile. Many years later, repatriation, restitution and return of cultural property have become a popular concept and his bones are to be returned. The lone traditionalist left to handle the burial rites dies just before the arrival of the bones. This happens just as the kingdom was recovering from years of social dislocation. The new king has his own ideas of how to move the kingdom forward. In the absence of any traditionalists, modern processes are put in place to preserve the vibrant cultural heritage of the community.



**Victor S. Dugga -
Gidan Juju -**

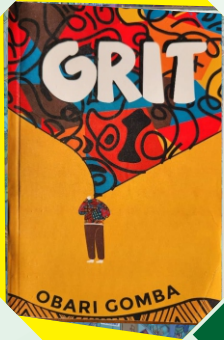
*It is about Kingship and Succession.
It revolutionizes tradition and invites
post-modernity.*

Dugga S. Victor

Gidan Juju

He writes creative and critical works in the fields of theatre, literary theory and cultural studies. His first published play was *A Bridge of Strings* (1996). He won the *Swiss Society for African Studies & FIFA Literary Competition 2001* for his original short story, 'Over the Bar'; and the Association of Nigerian Authors' (ANA) Prize for Drama in 2009 for his play, *Hope Harvesters*. He is a 2013 Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Fellow; Fellow of the Society of Nigeria Theatre Artists (SONTA), a member of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) and a member of the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL). He is an ordained minister of the Gospel. He currently serves as Dean, of the School of Postgraduate Studies, Federal University of Lafia, Nigeria. He obtained BA and MA degrees in Theatre Arts from the University of Jos, (1990, 1993), another MA from the University of Essex, United Kingdom (1996); a PhD from the University of Bayreuth, Germany, (2001) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa (2008).

Tw: @Duggav | **FB:** Dugga Victor | **IG:** duggavictor | **Threads:** @duggavictor | **Linkedin:** Victor S. Dugga



Synopsis & Profile

Obari Gomba (PhD),
Grit

GRIT

The play is set in a fictional community called Sonofa. It begins in an open place in Pa Nyimenu's compound, at night. The atmosphere is charged because there is a riot in the community. Pa Nyimenu's sons, Oyesllo and Okote, are at the centre of the crisis and they are in danger like their community. A history of social engagement and family tension, a political murder, and a contest for office put a wedge between Oyesllo and his brother. Blinded by anger and rivalry, the brothers are unable to note that there are powerful figures that are orchestrating the conflict to destroy their family.

Pa Nyimenu's effort to stabilize his family and save his sons fails. Oyesllo and Okote walk into a trap, but the tragedies are too widespread. The forces of violence choose an occasion that will cause multiple tragedies. In the unrest that follows, the society is threatened.



**Obari Gomba –
Grit -**

A deeper insight into the destructive impact of soul-less politics which brings out the beast in man. The play is filled with conflicts that create the mood of the inevitability of tragedy and the language is full of twist that entertain in the midst of pain.

An Honorary Fellow in Writing of the University of Iowa (USA) and the Associate Dean of Humanities at the University of Port Harcourt, Obari has been the TORCH Global South Visiting Professor and Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, University of Oxford (UK). He is a recipient of Rivers ANA Distinguished Writer Award, Kangaroo Poetry Festival Poet of 2018, and a two-time winner of both the Best Literary Artiste Award and the First Prize for Drama of the English Association of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. His works include *The Lilt of the Rebel* (Winner of PAWA Prize for African Poetry 2022/Listed for the Nigeria Prize for Literature 2022), *Length of Eyes* (shortlisted for ANA Poetry Prize in 2013 /Listed for the Nigeria Prize for Literature 2013), and *Pearls of the Mangrove* (adopted as a 'Book of the Festival' for the 2011 Garden City Literary Festival and the 2019 Festival Poetry Calabar). His poetry has been featured in *Re-Markings: A World Assembly of Poets* and *The Second Genesis: An Anthology of Contemporary World Poetry*. He curated an anthology featuring 35 writers from 33 countries, entitled *A Piece of Daily Life*, for the International Writing Program of the University of Iowa (USA) in 2016.

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Synopsis & Profile

Henry Akubuiro

Yamtarawala (The Warrior King)

YAMTARAWALA THE WARRIOR KING

AS the name implies, Yamtarawala the Warrior King, is a story of conquest by the great Yamta of Ngazargamu who leaves his village upset with a defeated aspiration of not being crowned king and goes on a war campaign defeating many kingdoms and ruling over them until he meets his doom in the hands of his own son. Amongst subject matters captured in the play are love, deception, women exploitation, family, war, pride, etc. The predominant theme that drives the entire play is "The Tussle of an Exorbitant Ambition". It is a historical drama that revisits the socio-political convulsions in 16th century Kanem-Bornu Empire, where leadership tussle by two princes led to the breaking away of the elder son, Yamtarawala, with 72 loyalists, in search of a new empire in Nigeria to dominate. The play centralises around the idea of ambition, power and the tale of Yamta's quest for rulership.

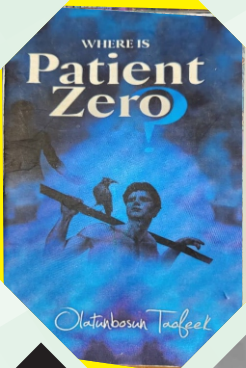


Henry Akubuiro -

*Yamtarawala - The Warrior King -
A historical play rendered full of tale,
drama, and ritual.*

An award-winning journalist, playwright, novelist, children's literature author and an unpublished poet, Henry studied English and Literary Studies at the Imo State University, Owerri, where he excelled as a campus journalist, becoming the pioneer editor of the creative writing magazine, *The Elite*, and the university's newspaper, *The Imo Star*. He showed early promise as a writer from his undergraduate days when he won all the available literary prizes (Best Novelist, Best Playwright and Best Poet) at the inaugural ELSA Awards (1998) of Imo State University, Owerri. Currently the Assistant Editor of *Saturday Sun*, he has spent most of his journalism career covering the literary/arts and culture beats, and is widely known for editing '*The Sun Literary Review*', dedicated to promoting literature, writers and writings. His book of interviews, *Conversations with 50 African Writers: From Ngugi wa Thiong'o to Chimamanda Adichie*, is in the works. He is the Jury Chair for the 2023 James Currey Prize for African Literature organised in Oxford, United Kingdom.

FB: Henry Akubuiro | IG: Henry Akubuiro



Synopsis & Profile

WHERE IS PATIENT ZERO?

The play captures the attempt to cover the initial carrier of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) known as Patient Zero. With Dr Damsi parading himself as the messiah of the period, he skits and rolls with the rogue scientists covering their iniquitous in ASTRONAUT 666: a lethal potent network prepared to be inserted into humans as a form of vaccine to have access to human brains as a motor neuron control to the billions of people inhabiting the world. The aim is to connect every human brain in a single interface at the speed of billisecond. In their scientific exploration is the intrusion of Thanatos, the spirit of death and his brother, Hypnos in escalating the negative part of their experiment and the eventual emergence of an uncontrollable virus. The virus quickly spread down to Africa where we have Babanka the sitting President of a populous country in Africa.

Olatunbosun Taofeek.

Patient Zero

He writes plays, novels, poetry, essays, biographies and political papers, and has also been a member of literary boards, publishing houses and organizations. He wrote his first play, *Mr Grammar*, in an episodic series which premiered in April 2013, and was later published in 2015 by Book Station West Africa. He satirical comedy *Merchants of Trouble*, which depicts the influence of terrorism on the military architecture of Nigeria, was translated into French in 2021. He tragic play *1930: The Life and Times of Ayo Babalola* was performed as a convocation play of Mountain Top University in 2020. Subsequently, he wrote a historical play on the Ilaro people entitled *Oronna and His Amotekun*. His latest plays are *Oluronbi* and *Dear Mother* (2023). He is currently a university lecturer who doubles as a principal researcher with Grecian Limited, a research company he founded in 2018 as a private researcher.



**Olatunbosun Taofeek -
Where Is Patient Zero -**

A topical play full of drama and humour. It is an engagement on international politics of disease and economy.

...helping to build a better **NIGERIA**



38KM

BONNY-BODO ROAD
One of the biggest CSR infrastructure project in Nigeria, initiated by NLNG to link Bonny Island to the mainland

12

Tertiary Health Institutions: Construction and equipping of specialised centres (6 to be delivered in 2022 and another 6 in 2023)

6

Engineering and Research Laboratories: Construction and equipping of the labs in top Nigerian universities

4,000+

Beneficiaries from post-primary, undergraduate and overseas postgraduate scholarship schemes

1,400+

Youths empowered in the Youth Empowerment scheme (YES)

8,997+

Enrollees in the Bonny Community Health Insurance programme (BCHIP)

18

primary and post primary institutions to be renovated and furnished in host communities

10

GMoU with host communities

3

Prestigious prizes in Science, Literature and Literary Criticism worth thousands of dollars

1

Malaria elimination project to rid Bonny Island of Malaria for good



...a globally competitive LNG company helping to build a better Nigeria