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Maxivive

Lagos

STAR

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M V X  
ISSUE IV







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# HOME

In a world full of constant change and uncertainty, the concept of home holds a special place in our hearts. It is more than just a physical space; it represents a sanctuary where we find solace, connect with loved ones, and embrace our true selves.

This edition of Maxivive Star Magazine celebrates the essence of home, delving into the intertwining aspects of comfort zones, family—both biological and chosen—and the freedom to be oneself.

Our homes serve as the ultimate comfort zones, where we can retreat from the pressures of the outside world. Within these familiar walls, we find respite and rejuvenation. Whether it's curling up with a good book in a cozy corner or sinking into a plush sofa, our comfort zones provide the space to unwind and reconnect with ourselves.

Home is where we can truly be at ease, free from judgment, and embrace the little things that bring us joy.

As we navigate the intricate tapestry of life, the concept of a home remains a constant anchor—a sanctuary of comfort zones, family bonds, and the freedom to be oneself. It is where we find solace, where our hearts are nourished, and where our true selves can thrive. In celebrating the essence of home, we honour the sanctity of these interconnected elements that make our lives whole.

Remember, home is not just a place—it is a feeling, a state of being, and an expression of our deepest desires. May you find solace, love, and self-discovery within the walls that embrace you, and may your journey in search of home be filled with joy, authenticity, and boundless

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A M E V I X







*“People in a hallway so brightly lit, it hurts... They speak of sexuality, politics, religion, and the place of God in the lives of contemporary people...”*

*They prattle on in excited voices, as people do in a crowded airport, moving in and out of an alternative reality composed of their consumerist desires and dreams of a better life.*

*In the midst of the melee, one face stands out – that of Judgy Stella – whose eyes reflect a studied sophistication and swim in pools of exotic fantasy.”*















*Twinnny Twanny Accesories*



PHOTOGRAPH Adedeji Olowu  
MODELS Igwe James & John













# AMERICAN TIKTOKER

Kyreem Stephens, the American TikTok and influencer, took the fashion month as he embarked on a whirlwind journey across four major fashion capitals—New York, London, Milan and Paris. Documenting his experiences through engaging videos, Stephens showcased the best of street style and attended prestigious fashion shows throughout the month

Stephens' fashion adventure kicked off in New York where he captured the essence of the city's fashion scene, from the bustling streets to the glamorous runway shows. His series of videos on what people wore to various events became an instant hit, resonating with young fashion enthusiasts on digital platforms like TikTok and Instagram. With an eye for style, Stephens highlighted the diversity and creativity displayed by street-style savvies, solidifying his existing fanbase's trust with broad content.

Continuing his journey, Stephens made his way to London Fashion Week, where he immersed himself in the vibrant British fashion culture. With his camera in hand, he documented the street styles and random personal moments, offering his unique perspective to his thousands of followers. His heavy looks and avant-garde fashion choices turned heads and garnered attention from some industry insiders and fashion lovers alike.

However, it was during Milan Fashion Week that Kyreem Stephens truly made his most lasting mark. Attending the Maxivive fashion presentation, he had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with the creative director, Papa Oyeyemi. The resulting partnership led to an exclusive photo shoot for a Maxivive Star Magazine's fourth issue, with the cover shot by the Nigerian visual artist and photographer, Musa Ganiyy.

Capturing the essence of Milan's vibrant streets and the essence of Kyreem's unique style, the cover shoot showcased a fusion of art, fashion, and architecture. The rented flat served as a backdrop for the visually striking images, reflecting the dynamism and creativity that both Stephens and Maxivive are known for.

This collaboration between Kyreem Stephens, Papa Oyeyemi, and Musa Ganiyy illustrates the increasing influence of social media influencers in the fashion industry. It demonstrates the power of collaborations between fashion houses and digital stars, creating a symbiotic relationship that pushes the boundaries of creativity and captures the attention of a global audience.

As Kyreem Stephens continues to make waves in the fashion world, his journey from Paris to Milan stands as a testament to his ability to connect with followers, showcase unique style choices, and collaborate with industry professionals. With each fashion week appearance, he cements his status as a trendsetter and tastemaker, inspiring others to embrace their individuality and explore the limitless possibilities of fashion.











As we move into the future of queer culture, it's important to take a moment to reflect on the work that has been done before our time. The pursuit of love, acceptance and forming safe spaces with found family is not a new concept, but one that has been passed down through generations of queer individuals. The Pink Lounge world and film project acts as a bridge between pre-Generation Z queer culture and the present day activism that exists today.

For many African queer children, navigating their truth and lived experiences can be a tumultuous journey. It often involves the two-fold struggle of finding acceptance within oneself, and within their home. Discrimination and an absence of tangible representation in the media for the LGBTQIA+ community can lead to feelings of brokenness, combined with the belief that the wider world is simply not equipped to love them as they are. However, despite these challenges, the journey of queerness is one that extends beyond any label or societal perception.

Pink Lounge seeks to tell the untold stories of Nigeria's queer community, highlighting the real-life events, people and memories that have existed for decades. It is an opportunity to showcase the formation of house cultures and safe spaces that existed prior to even the 14-year jail term for same-sex marriage. As we move forward into the future, it's important to remember those who have laid the foundation for the work that we continue to do today. Pink Lounge acts as a reminder of the rich and diverse lived experiences of queer Africans, and serves as a message of hope to those who feel alone or marginalized ..... Sheifunmi Nomia Yusuf - Writer & Director





Aryelle Freeman



David Paula



Olamide Alao



Keysha Riley

# 101212

The concept that underpins the Artisanal Wet/Dry 2023 collection is illustrated by the character Judy Stella. 101212 is one of the oldest Lagos postcodes in existence, and it holds essential clues to the essential nature of this character. Various design elements drawn from Maxivive's past sixteen years are pinned to the mood board. Highly emotive colours and shapes that are sewn or glued to a plain canvas seem like the wild mood swings of an otherwise sedate personality. A wide variety of design techniques are employed in weaving new inspiration into these garment creations, bringing chromatic contrast, formal repetition and varying textures into a harmonious union in each intricate piece.

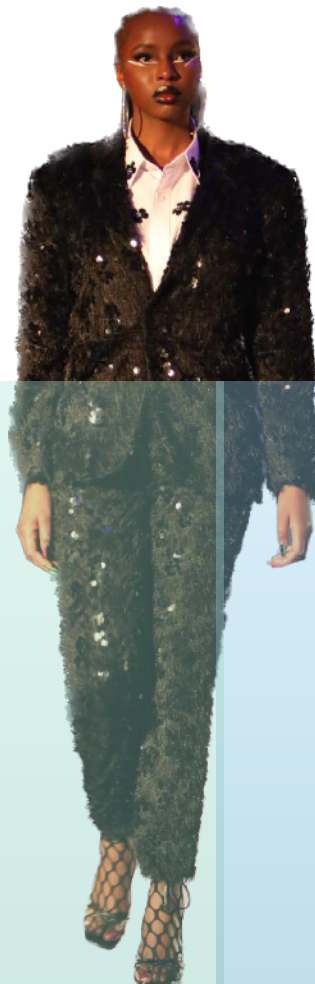
This collection is the result of extensive research into traditional artisanal methods from Africa and beyond, yet the aesthetic futurism that cult followers of Maxivive expect is evident throughout the range of ensembles. For Maxivive's Sophomore show in Amsterdam, creative director Papa Oyeyemi partners with SHEBANG and CBK Zuidoost to stage yet another artisanal collection that continues the aesthetic narrative of last year's historic runway show at the Amstelschutsluis Bridge House of the SWEETS Hotel.



Jean-Paul Paula



Hameedah Asikuna



Paul Marie



Cedrenir Du Mure-Versailles



Fernando Van Der Kraats



PHOTOGRAPHs Staks Vokman



Ishjah Thompson





# FAMILY.

Family—our anchor in the stormy seas of life. It extends beyond biological ties, encompassing the bonds we forge with those who choose to be a part of our lives. Home becomes a sanctuary of love, support, and understanding when surrounded by the warmth of family. It is within these walls that we experience the joy of shared laughter, the comfort of a shoulder to lean on, and the strength to face life's challenges. Family provides a sense of belonging and reminds us that we are never alone.













**A**      **E**      **I**  
**M**      **V**      **X**

- A** - Artisanal
- I** - Ready to Wear
- E** - Collection of Accessory
- V** - Collection of Shoe
- X** - Object and Publication
- AI** - Up-Cycled Garment/Accessory
- AM** - Formal Suit and Wedding
- IM** - A Coy Wardrobe
- ME** - Collection of Underwear









# Rene & Ahmed



# Ahmed



# Rene



# A NEW HOME

The Freedom to Be Oneself: home is where we can shed societal expectations and embrace our true identities. It is a place where we can explore our passions, nurture our talents, and cultivate personal growth. Whether it's pursuing creative endeavours, exploring new interests, or expressing ourselves through art, home provides the canvas for our self-discovery. Within these walls, we are encouraged to be bold, to take risks, and to forge our unique paths. It is a haven that empowers us to become the best versions of ourselves.

Micka











Micka



Micka





art direction\_ **PAPA OYEYEMI** and **KOLADE OSENI**  
designer and editor\_ **KOLADE OSENI**



Photography: Olowu Adedeji  
Styling: Papa Oyeyemi  
Model: Okafor Betty  
Makeup/Hair: Halid Razak  
Nails: Bolu Oyeyemi



Photography: Olowu Adedeji  
Styling: Papa Oyeyemi  
Model: Andrew Beneabi  
Makeup/Hair: Halid Razak  
Nails: Bolu Oyeyemi



Photography: Olowu Adedeji  
Styling: Papa Oyeyemi  
Model: Marvelous Adegbite  
Nails: Bolu Oyeyemi



issue 04 \_ d/w\_ 23

Photography: Olowu Adedeji  
Styling: Papa Oyeyemi  
Model: Abasi Benjamin  
Makeup/Hair: Halid Razak  
Nails: Bolu Oyeyemi



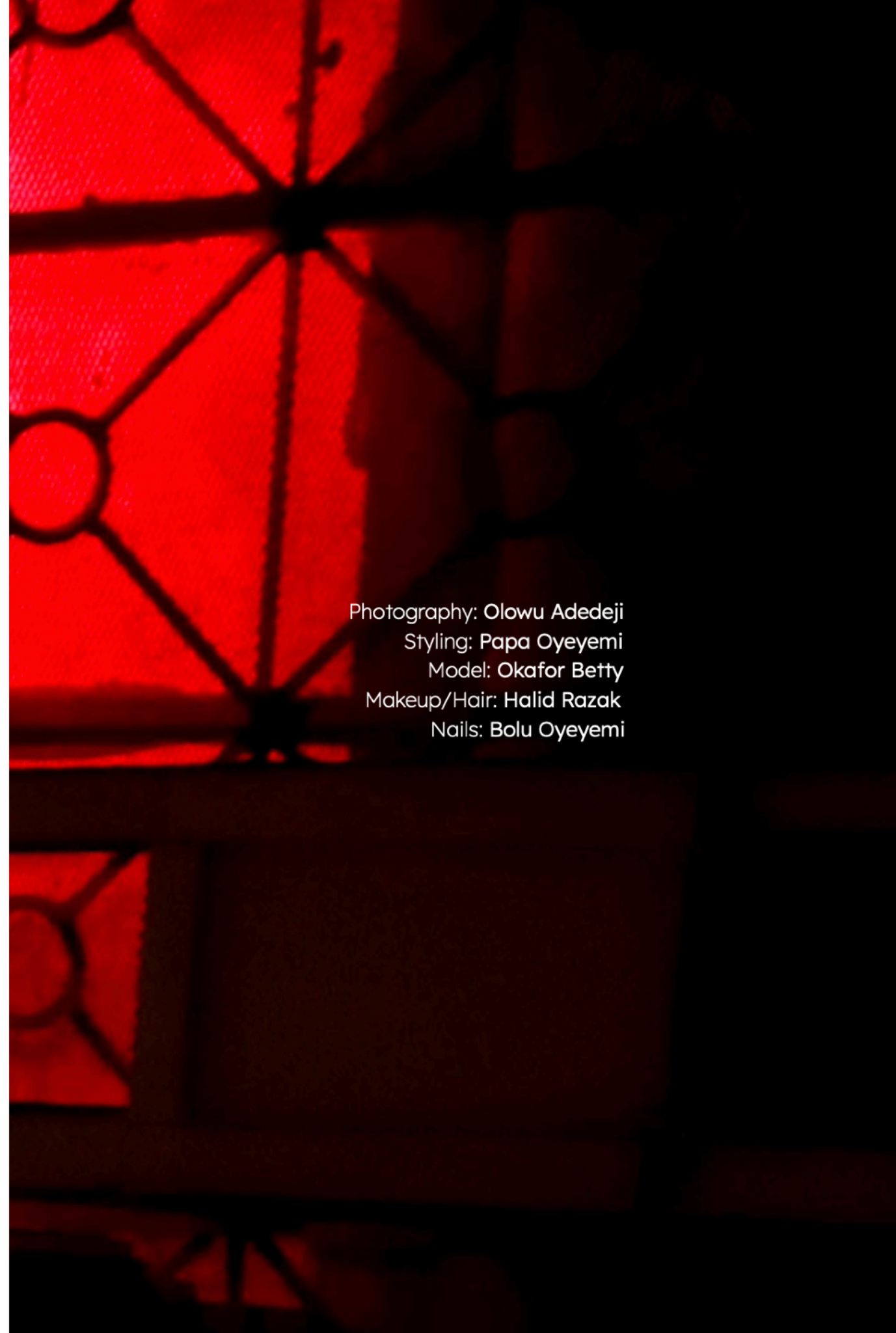




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Photography: Olowu Adedeji  
Styling: Papa Oyeyemi  
Model: Okafor Betty  
Makeup/Hair: Halid Razak  
Nails: Bolu Oyeyemi



























***Abominable Acts***, is an adaptation of the tragic characters of Gabriel (the painter) and Ava (his model) to an entirely new political context. Transforming the audience into voyeurs, this performance placed Gabriel in the role of a non-binary pornographic artist who films, paints and makes love to the moving body of their model and lover Ava, a pole dancer. This piece was a meditation on the violence of censorship and an expansion of its conceptual application, from artworks to human bodies. In costumes by Nigerian fashion designer Papa Oyeyemi (of the acclaimed label Maxivive) inspired by those from the film, Gabriel "films" Ava as she undresses and then paints her body in primary colours and fluorescent pigments reminiscent of the film. They perform a slow, highly sensual duet to a soundtrack assembled by Cabo Verdean beat-maker Ângelo Mendes, writhing around on a floor littered with actual pages taken from Uganda's recently passed Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2023. A live feed from Gabriel's prop camera was projected onto the auditorium's backdrop throughout the performance, mimicking the effect of the "frame within a frame" in the movie *Ava & Gabriel* where Gabriel's canvas continuously plays the role of a second screen. The climax of the performance came when Ava mounted a pole installed in the auditorium and performed a dazzling pole dance awash in a frenzy of coloured lights. The piece calls urgent attention to the role played by the Evangelical Christian movement - and the European and North American governments that actively sponsor it by providing millions of dollars in aid - in the wave of violent anti-queer legislation that has swept through Africa and other parts of its diaspora, criminalizing same-sex acts and marriage, queer ally ships and advocates of LGBTQ+ rights, and by the same token, queer art and queer artists.

By Edward Akintola Hubbard









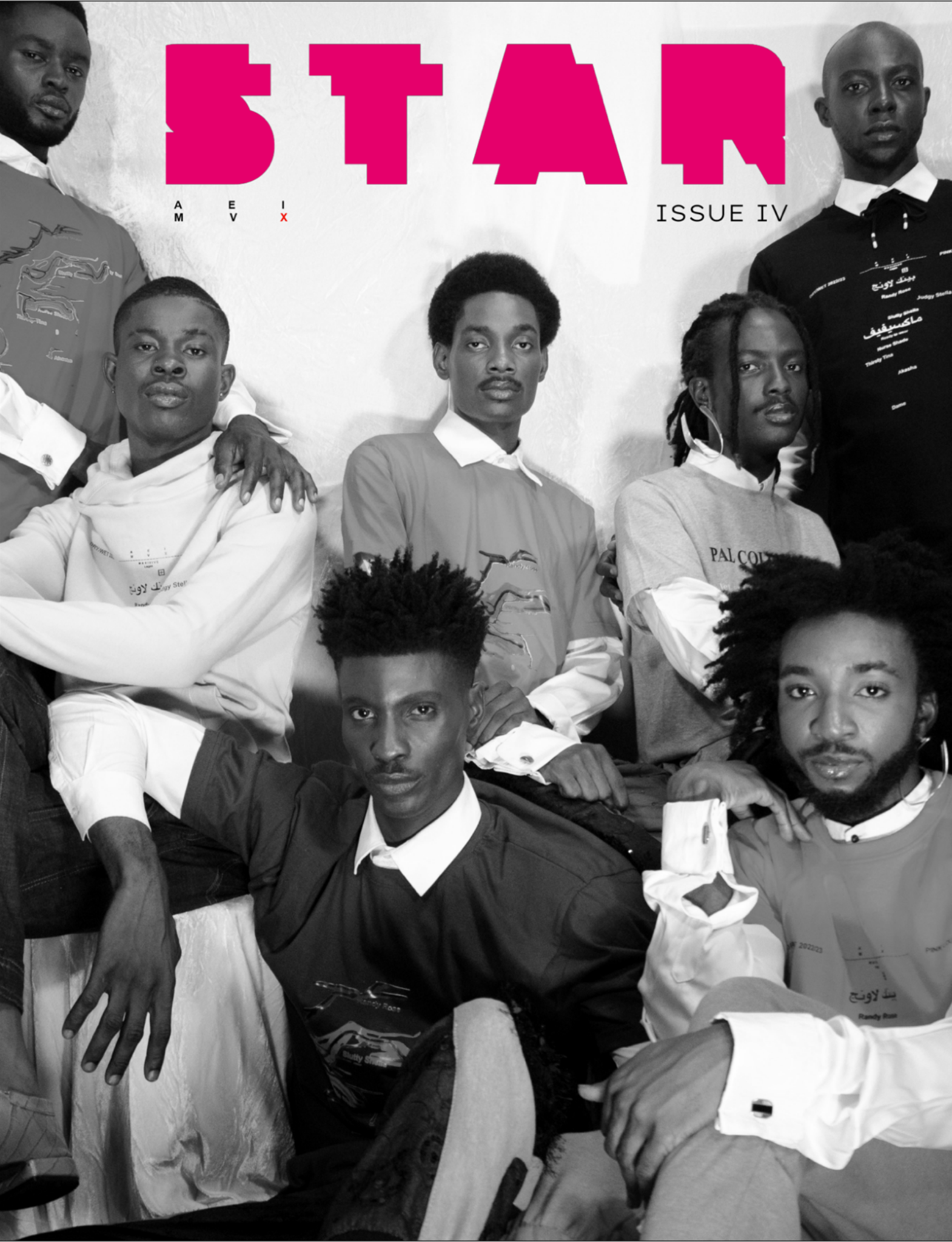












# STAR

A M E V I X

ISSUE IV



**SW  
IFF.**

SCREENWAVE INTERNATIONAL 20 APRIL – 5 MAY 2023  
FILM FESTIVAL COFFS HARBOUR · BELLINGEN







# THE DOLLS OF AKOKA

Chosen Family: A Tapestry of Love: sometimes, the family we choose becomes our truest source of love and support. Chosen family members are individuals who embrace us for who we are, celebrating our quirks and eccentricities. These relationships transcend bloodlines, creating a tapestry of diverse experiences and backgrounds. In our chosen families, we find the freedom to express ourselves authentically, knowing that we are accepted and cherished. They are the pillars of our emotional well-being, offering a safe space where we can be unapologetically ourselves.

words Papa Oyeyemi

PHOTOGRAPHS - Adedeji Olowu

MODELS: Gozie||Leonard||  
Yeelar ||Saint ||Lola ||Victor ||Liber

INTERVIEW - Ordia Micheal

Despite the increase in LGBT+ society, the increase of people coming out of the closet globally and some things are yet to change. In Africa we have very few countries that are ready to embrace this global change. According to the Nigerian constitution, a same-sex relationship is punishable by fourteen years imprisonment. This creates a hostile environment for queer individuals in Nigeria. The idea of homosexuality has been criticized by African morals, African beliefs and African religion. Through the lens of these nuances, the LGBT community has been ostracized from society. An interview was conducted with a number of queer individuals in Lagos, Nigeria to share their story on their queer journey and it influenced them.

**Question: How is queer life in Lagos?**

Answer: It is not hard being queer in Lagos. Lagos is the queer-est place in Nigeria.

Answer: It has good sides. We don't have to deal with things as much as other states, but we still deal with the general things like hiding our outfits or changing them because of the police.

Answer: We are like children of darkness. We find a safe space at night so we can dress the way we want. We have to wear hoodies to hide our crop tops. It is stressful, but it is what we have to do to avoid prison. If anything happens to you, Nigeria will be against you.

**Question: How do you cope with social media?**

Answer: You get the usual question "shey this one na man abi woman?" It is the iconic question.

Answer: You feel good posting but you're always hunted by the thought of being recognized by someone who knows you and your parents.

Answer: We have to be meticulous about who has access to our social media page, block who needs to be blocked.

Answer: Every time I post, I block someone new.

**Question: How do you see the future of queer life in Nigeria?**

Answer: I don't think anything is changing in the near future.

Answer: There will be a lot of changes in about ten years. These new generation are not here to play.

Answer: Social media make it easy. If you're homophobic you will suffer.

**Question: What does the employment sector do to queer people?**

Answer: No one wants to hire a "faggot".

Answer: You most likely have to depend on GoFundMe to study, then you get mocked by people who won't help you.

It is important to remember that queer people are humans and their lives matter. No one has the right to judge or rule out anyone in the name of religious, tribal or personal beliefs. As queer people struggle to survive in the day-to-day activities of the ever busy Lagos. They long for a day where they are treated with dignity and respect, a day when they are regarded as humans too.

Interview Ordia Micheal

























Joseph Chinonso

# When Bailey Burns



PHOTOGRAPHS Adedeji Olowu

Onuche Smith Adams

When Bailey Burns





Kaïma Abraham





# Cast of PINK LOUNGE



**Welcome to the Pink Lounge** – home to a vivacious and fierce group of ‘delinquents’ who risk their lives, their freedom and their personal safety while eking out a brash, bold technicolour existence in Nigeria’s sprawling metropolis of Lagos.

inspired by true events, Pink Lounge is set a few months before the highly controversial Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA) was passed into law in Nigeria, criminalizing same-sex unions and homosexual sex in Africa’s most populous nation.

Following in the tradition of classics such as Paris is Burning, Pose and Legendary, this film tells the triumphant story of a band of queer outcasts who invent an alternative world to shelter themselves from the brutality of mainstream society, however, the characters of Pink Lounge face the additional challenge of legally-sanctioned ostracism and violence.

Pink Lounge is both a celebration and documentation of the rise of “houses” in West Africa – i.e., alternative families and support systems for queer folk of all ages – years before that term was borrowed from Western gay pop culture.

The Pink Lounge blends cutting-edge fashion design, innovative digital culture and a study of a struggle for human rights enmeshed in the African landscape and interior architecture.

The design aspect of the Pink Lounge is central, creating a brash, bold technicolour display of garments that combines various elements from Maxivive’s past 16 years of work. The design will continue Maxivive’s polarizing design, which pushes an idea of minimalism and androgyny that shakes up gender norms and turns traditional menswear tropes upside down and inside out.

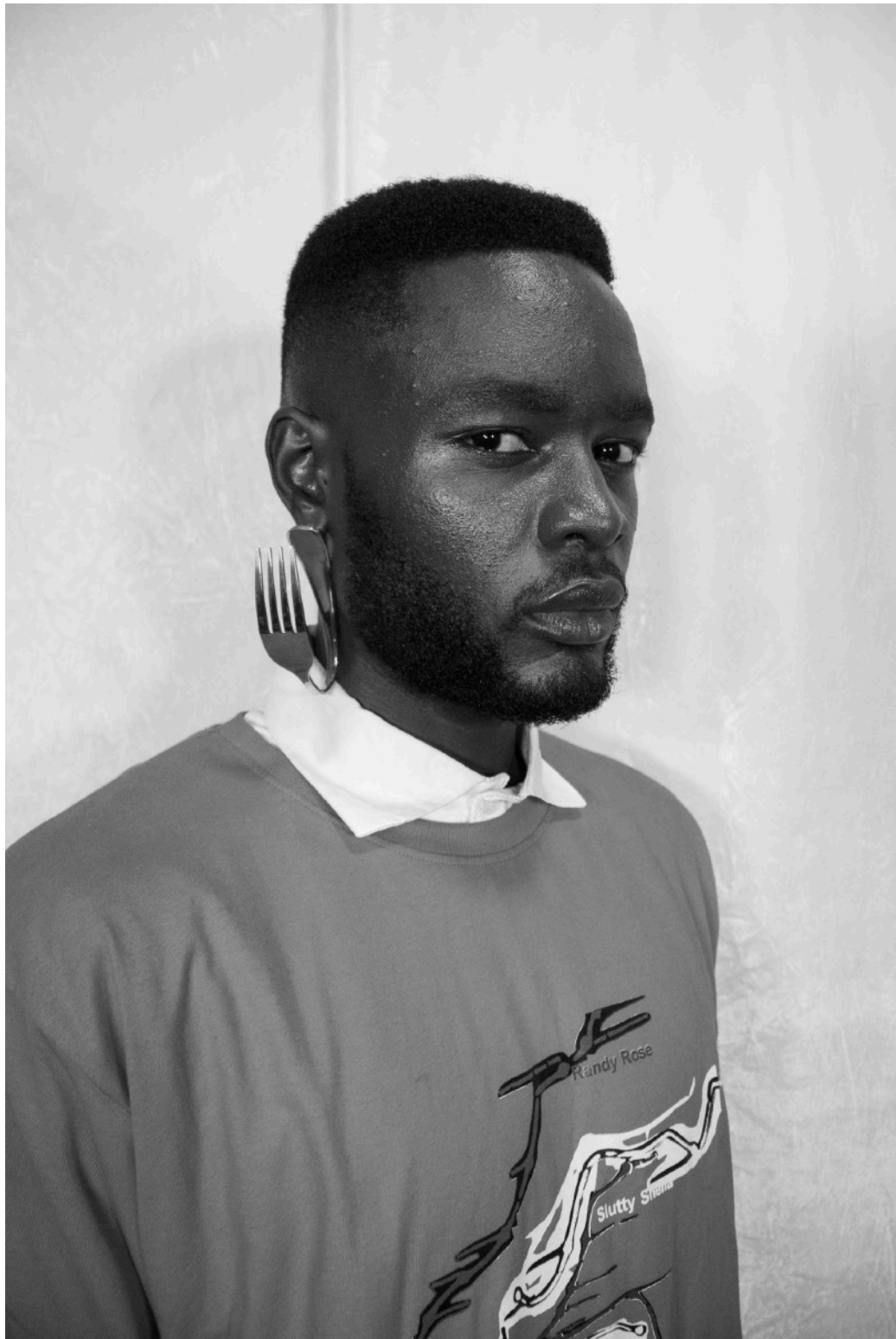
Architecture too plays an important role in the project. The Pink Lounge was filmed in Lagos, Nigeria in different locations. The architecture, landscapes and building facades become characters unto themselves in this media experiment. For example, a mid-20th-century building branded Ebenezer, in the commercial hub of Lagos, serves as the main focal location of these stories. The Ebenezer is built in the style of a British meets Brazilian housing structure and given the historical significance that those two nations have played in Nigeria’s history (colonial occupation by the former, and the latter as a chief destination for enslaved people of Nigeria at the hands of Portuguese colonial forces) this building tells a rich and compelling story itself before becoming complicated, entwined and enmeshed in the more contemporary social injustices of the criminalizing of same-sex unions and homosexual sex in Nigeria.

Finally, the filmmakers of The Pink Lounge ask us to imagine living in a country like Nigeria where it is a crime to be Gay or even perceived as Gay, not to mention that of a Union, Marriage or any such affiliation. It is thus impossible to show anything in solidarity with his own LGBTQ+ community on any form of news publication, national or local broadcasting stations, or online local media. The only possible alternative to share these kinds of histories, stories and dreams has to be done digitally, online and outside of Nigeria. This project did just that, bringing a unique, diverse, inclusive and important story to the world.

Beyond the aforementioned goals tied to these areas of expertise, this project is unique in its raw and passionate pursuit of social justice amongst a severely ostracized, brutalized and oppressed community of queer folk in Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country. It tells an urgent and important story of joy and celebration in the face of the worst of violent prejudice, homophobia most pressingly.

By Edward Akintola Hubbard



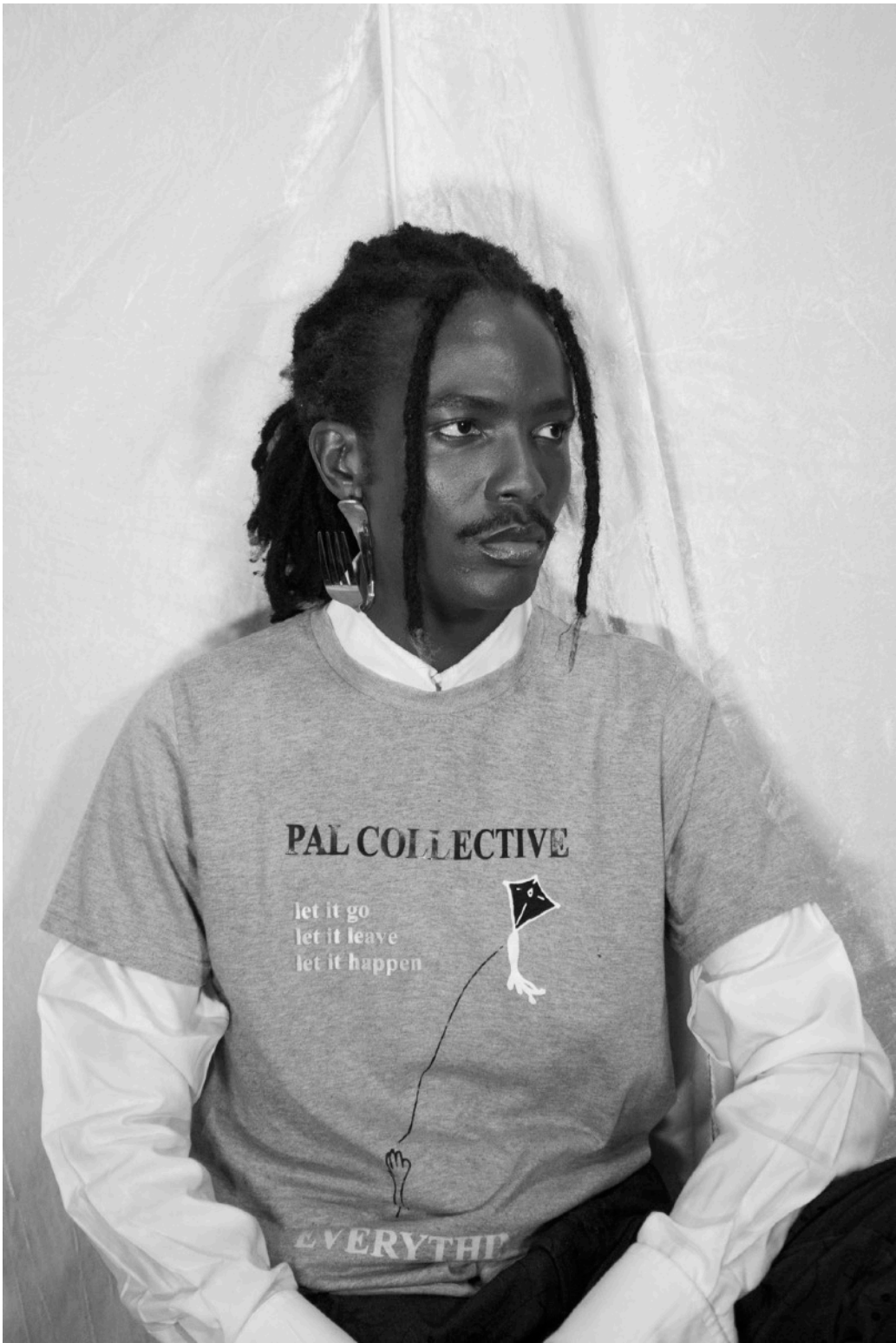


Francis Emmanuel as DAME



Tofunmi Shittu as NURSE SHADE



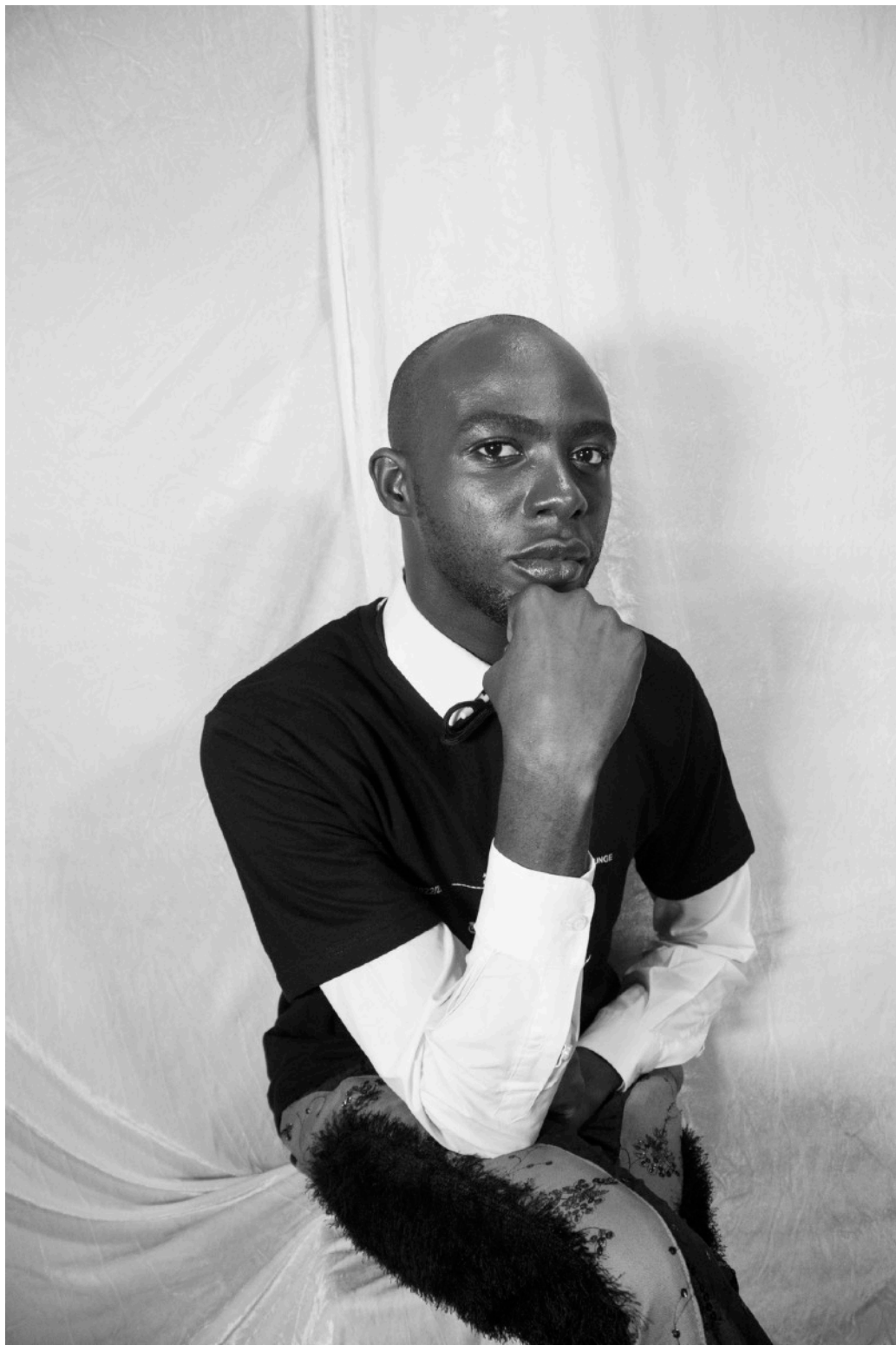


Babatunde Trybe as AKASHA

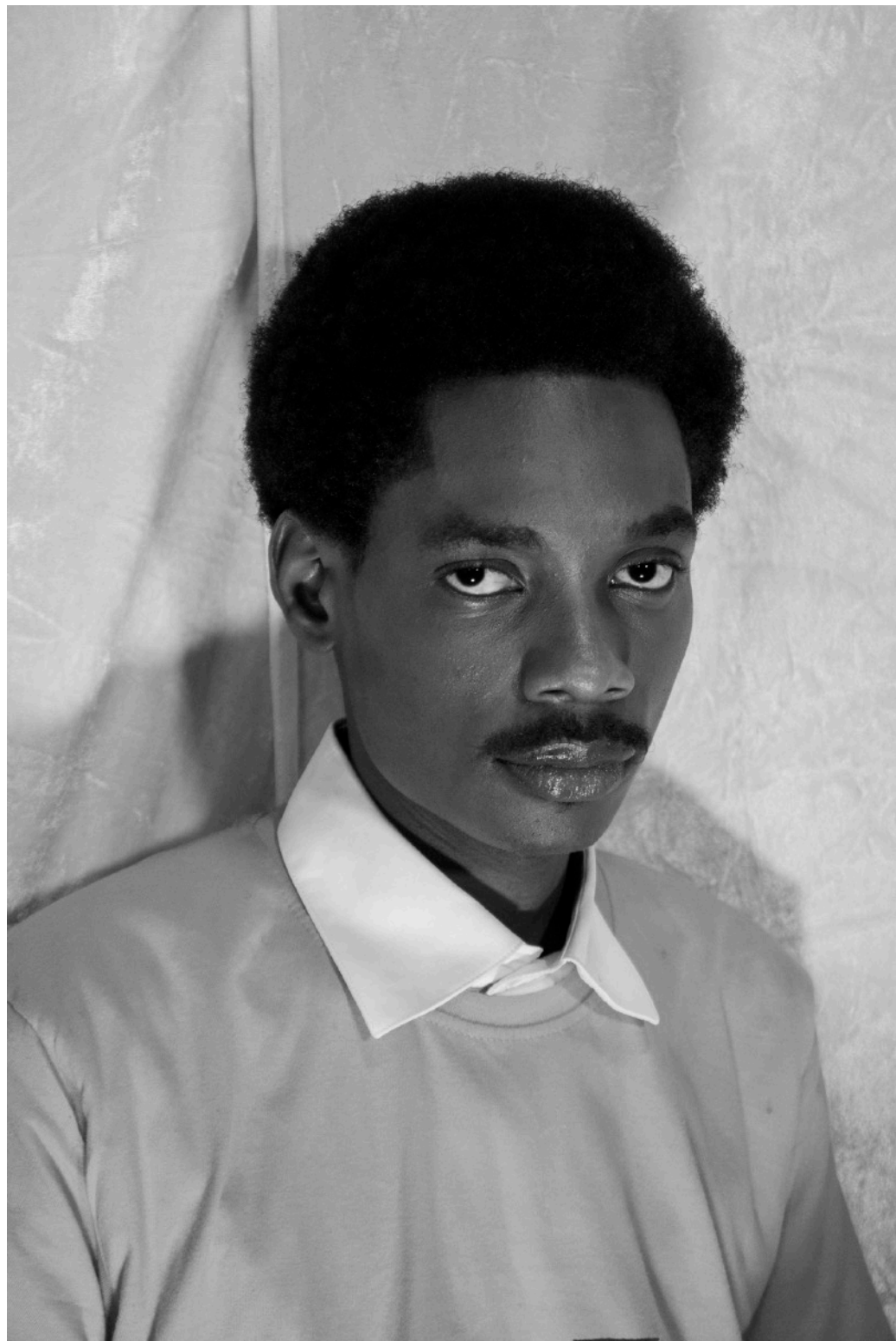


Tammy Horsfall as THIRSTY TINA



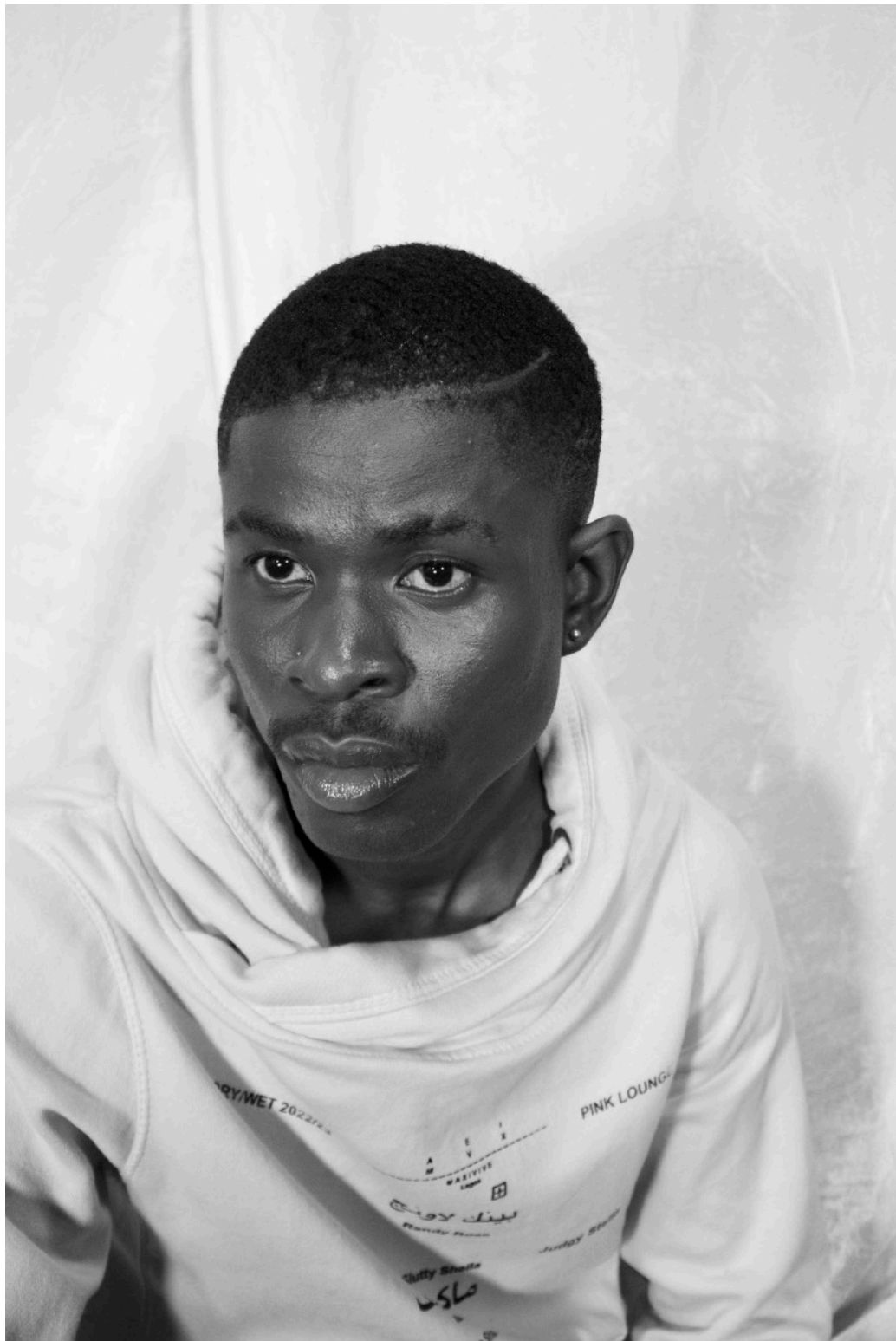


Bola Yahaya as CENT PARIS



Ayomiku Sanusi as JUDGY STELLA



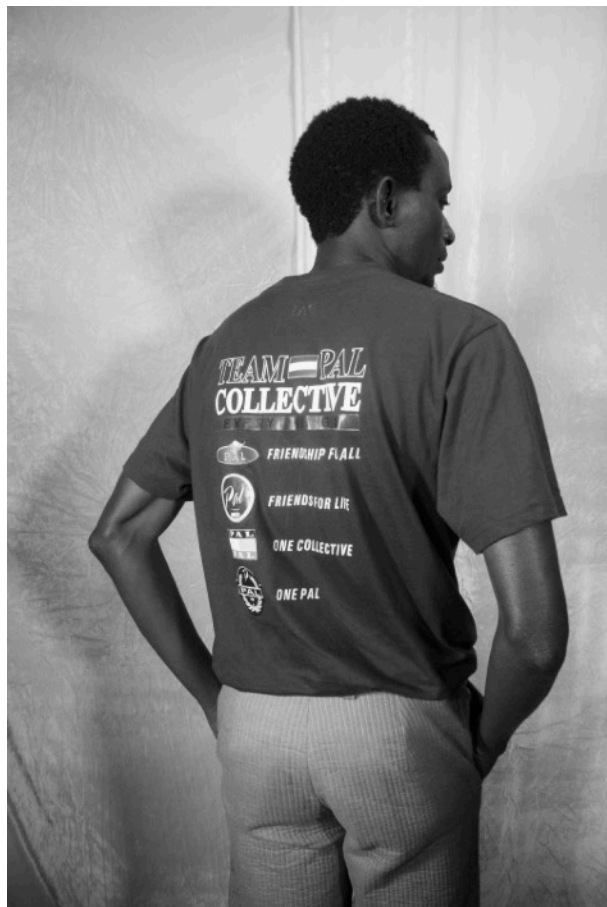


Aye Daniel as RANDY ROSE



Papa Oyeyemi & Sheifunmi Yusuf as Producer & Director





PAL

Maker of the pink tees, official pink lounge souvenir





AT THE OFFICIAL CAST SCREENING, THE HOUSE SLAYED



Judgy Stella



Thirsty Tina



Randy Rose



Akasha



Slutty Sheila



Cent Paris



AT THE OFFICIAL CAST SCREENING, THE HOUSE SLAYED



PINK LOUNGE Cast & Crew



PINK LOUNGE Cast & Crew



Sheifunmi Yusuf - Writer, Director









# HOTWATER HQ





# Samuel Home Away













# BEN & CYLYDE





















Oghenekwe Nelson

Hotwater.bq\_X\_Issue\_01



Oghenekwe Nelson

Ben\_Cyldc\_Editorial





















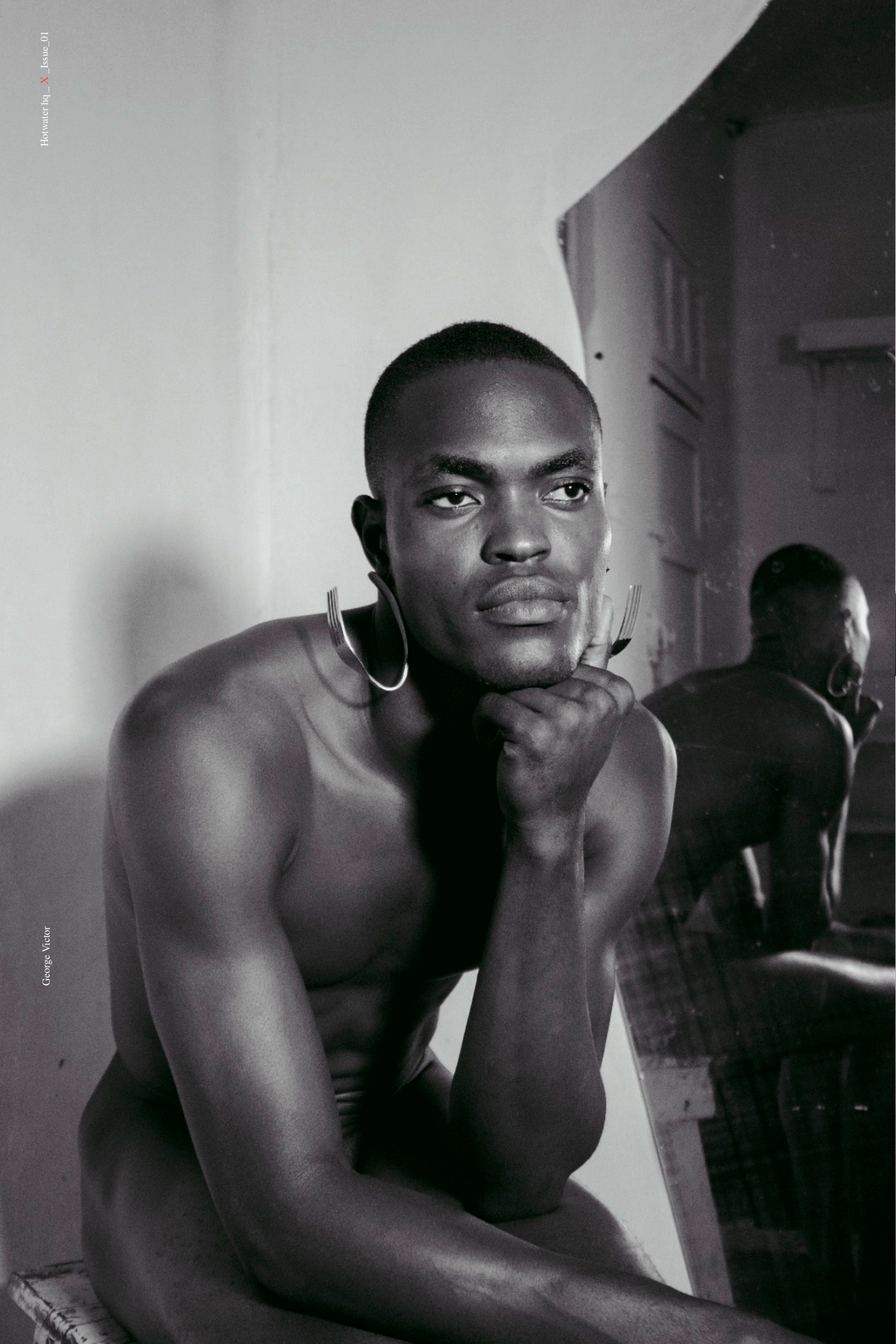






















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Hotwater\_lq

Samuel Etere



Tofunmi Shittu

Best\_of\_Hotwater\_lq

PHOTOGRAPHS Femi Fowler





Yunis Gaspar

PHOTOGRAPH Jean Paul Paula



Kene Nwatu

PHOTOGRAPH Kosol Onwudinjor





Francis Emmanuel









