

# Edana Magazine is inspired by Edana **Photography**

#### Who we are

Edana Photography is Liberia's premiere digital imaging Enterprise. We provide excellence in the art and science of Photography. We deliver unimaginable quality services beyond the expectations of our valuable customers. With our welltrained management, we focus on improving photography services in Liberia

#### **Our Inspiration**

We at Edana believe that Liberia deserves better in the field of Digital Photography and Imaging. It is our aspiration that Liberia gets better through

### **Key offerings**

- · Portrait Photography
- · Event Photography
- · Corporate Photography
- · Artists and public figures
- Architectural and commercial photography
- · Beauty and fashion photography
- Landscape
- · Video recording
- Photo Manipulation
- · Graphic Designs



Our Mission at Edana Photography is to help you celebrate those special moments in your life, from the quiet ones to the big emotional and exceptional moments that change your life forever.

Location

Fanti Town, New Matadi,

Airfield, Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia

Web: www.edanaphotos.com

Email: edanaphotos@gmail.com, ekppllovd@gmail.com

Telephone: +231886435678 +231777264406

## **Meet Team Edana**













# The Beauty of Mama Liberia

#### Come to Liberia!

The culture of Liberia begins with a group of youngsters playing soccer and yelling in local English, 'Da penalty!' or a group of young girls playing a leg sport dubbed 'Na foot' velling almost simultaneously, 'Da my time to play!' It stretches to a child holding a pot of water on his head walking from the creek and looking aimlessly at the stretch of shrubs along his path. You take a walk in the neighborhood and the air is choked with aroma of hot palm butter hovering over the town and young baby mothers nursing their defiant babies, adding their crying voices to the chorus of market women yelling, selling, cooking and babysitting, all at once, on the shores of the wall street of Africa-the marketplace. Liberian culture is almost completely unique- no brand of Africans on the continent speaks with such distinctive pidgin like Liberians. The tiny West African nation is a mixture of 16 local tribes that settled from across the corners of the continent along with repatriated freed American slaves that settled in the 1800s. This is the melting pot of civilization, western life, Afro American culture, Afro Caribbean lifestyle and was once a home for almost every man of color. Liberia, meaning 'land of the free', is the place to go for every man wanting total freedom, from the scars of racism to the bondage of cultural cage, Liberia with its liberal tendencies accommodates every culture from every planet. With a small population of less than 5 million, it's a home to mangrove swamps, beautiful beaches, exotic landscapes and a very hospitable people. Its second largest city, Buchanan, named after former US President Thomas Buchanan is locally referred to as the 'home of the nation's hospitality' Liberia has been a home for everyone from every corner of Africa, the Caribbean, America and Europe.

Liberian cuisine is one of the most exotic dishes across the continent, from her dense Torborgee from northern Lofa County, to pounded cassava known as Gehba (GB) from Nimba Country or pounded softer cassava known as dumboy from Grand Bassa and Rivecess Counties or red palm oil soup with rice and okra known as Kpelleh soup from Bong County. Jolofrice is a Monrovia based dish that has sustained an intense rivalry between Nigerians and Ghanaians. But, a festival with Liberian Jollofrice would put the rivalry to bed. The Liberian jollofrice is mixed with just everything from the market, pigfeet, chicken, spareribs, meat, mixed vegetables, and an aroma that seals the deal. Liberia is a mixture of Cosmopolitan and Provisional lifestyles with lappa-tying women with babies on their backs walking to a local market or to attend to farming chores or a woman dressed in a Gucci jeans and blazer, sun glasses, top hats hopping from an elevator. Next time you're lost on the continent and need a place to keep your sanity in check, drop in the bosom of the land of the free. Enjoy your stay and thank me later!

Lekpele M. Nyamalon is a poet and writer from Monrovia. He can be reached at

## Sianeh Amanda Dogba-Yassa







## Tomah Greenfield Johnson



#### Patmol Cole



## Jewel Edith Turner





## Faith Muahnjay Karnga



#### Samwuel TalwaDuo



Elvire Rose Bukani,



Elvire Rose Bukani, a model from the

Edmond K.P.P. Lloyd is a multi
-dimensional scholar, an
Architectural Engineer, Urban
Planner and Entrepreneur. He is
the founder and CEO of Edana
Photography, a Monrovia-based
digital imaging enterprise created to help
Liberians document
while celebrate their special happy
moments. He has a Master of Edmond K.P.P. Lloyd moments. He has a Master of Engineering degree in Town and Country Planning from the Sarjavinik College of Engineering and Technology, Gujarat Technological University in India. Edmond is a built Edmond is a built
environment professional and
with 6 years of experience
working as an architect, engineer and
planner working on variety
of projects in Liberia. He currently
occupies the post of Project
Officer within the Project
Coordination Unit (PCU) at the
Ministry of Public Works (MPW)
responsible for monitoring
and reporting on Water Sanitation
and Hygiene Projects across
Liberia. Edmond Lloyd is an all-round scholar who has acquired knowledge across the architecture, engineering, creative visual discipline. He is married to a beautiful and loving wife Vermon and they are blessed with an amazing daughter Edana. As a built environment professional, he envisions creating cities that are self-sufficient and sustainable in Liberia. In the long term, he hopes to make Edana Photography an international brand expanding its horizon from photo imaging to creating documentaries of the undocumented rich culture, landmarks and life in Liberia while maintaining positive impact on the visual art industry of Liberia.

# Liberia's Rich Cultural Heritage



Liberia, Africa's oldest republic is situated in West Africa bordering guinea in the north, Sierra Leone in the west, Ivory Coast in the east and south by the Atlantic Ocean. About half of the country is covered by tropical rain forest which boasts one of the most valuable bardwoods in Africa.

Liberia is endowed by vast natural resources, the plateaus and mountain ranges in the north of Liberia is rich with iron ore, gold and diamond putting the country on the pedestal of future growth and successes.

The culture of Liberia has two distinct roots namely:

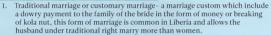
a. The freed Americo-Liberians - came with the embroidery (needlecraft) skill that is firmly embedded in the national culture of Liberia.

b. The ancient Africa descendants of the indigenous people

The diversity of tribal ethnicity that makes up the Liberian population has embellished and added value to the culture and the cultural life of the country. There are 16 tribes in Liberia each representing a unique set of custom and tradition, the congruent blending of different tribes as well as religion and culture is fetchingly interwoven in the framework and fabric of the way of life in Liberia.

Whilst many young Liberians today are not deeply rooted in their culture and tradition that represent their various tribes, yet, the country has a rich cultural tradition that has been uphold for generation. Today our culture has been characterized by the syllogism which injected influx of external influences that affected our cultural tradition yet the continuity and vitality of our culture must be imperative because a country with no cultural heritage is like a book without pages.

Liberia is beatified with a distinct culture and has enjoyed a wide range cultural heritage including marriage, dance and cuisine.



2. Dance- every tribe in Liberia has a unique style of cultural dance, some of the most popular dances are the Vai dance, Kpelle dance and Bassa dance. Each dances have a symbolic meaning that is a perfect representation of each tribe cultural heritage and tells a story of an event and the cause for celebration, some of these dances includes:

3.

The moonlight dance this dance is perform to signal the idea that every Liberian has something in common and thus should be treated with respect and love for each other, this dance is also perform during the celebration of a great and successful harvest

The harvest dance—this dance is perform at different farming site when there is clearing of trees, burning of bushes and planting of crops, this is a method of motivation for the farm workers.

Leopard dance - this dance signifies a greedy and brutal chief or a bad leader who do not listen to the plight of the people.

4. Cuisine- rice has always been the staple food in Liberia, every tribe has different dishes that they prefer but rice is general and staple to Liberians. Dishes most often in Liberia adumbrate the tribe for instance: cassava leaf (vai) Palm butter (Kru and Grebo) Groundnut soup (Mandingo) GB (Gio and Mano) Torborgee (Lorma) ETC.

Written: Abdul R. Kiawu

# **Inspirational Musicians**



Danta Saryee Gondea is a Liberian



#### Sharlene Cole



Miss Sharlene Miatta Cole is an inspirational musical artist that uses her voice to inspire people in and out of Liberia. She started singing since 2004 in choirs and programs and had the dream of becoming a recognize artist around the world.

Sharlene is currently a signed artist at DJ Beatz Record and managed by DJ Beatz who has been a great help in pursuing her dreams. She has the gift and the passion for music. Sharlene got inspired by her mom to study Biology and Chemistry at the Cuttington University, and she is one of the incoming doctors in Liberia. Her dream is to improve the healthcare system in Liberia by providing sustainable healthcare system for the ordinary Liberians who have been affected by the 14 years civil crises and the outbreak of the Fbola virus

# A Lappa Lover Journey of Discovery and Identity

Growing up, it was always exciting to play dress up in my mother's clothing or make new outfits for my dolls. Fashion is a lot of things to me, an expression of temperament, mood, a statement, and part of my identity. Fashion is more than clothes, shoes and accessories. It is a literal diary of personal growth and exploration of identities. A rebranded "Lallapolian" or as we say. A proud "Ankara" Lover. This is part of my identity and often expressed in clothing or with head ties (head wraps".

As a Liberian, African lappa or its western coined name "Ankara" has always been in my life.

From the early years when you tagged along to Waterside market for ready to wear skirt suits, tie dyes pant suits, Leather bags and dyed leather sandals. I can still recall the bells, the hawking of walking clothing racks and pushing and shoving as we made our way to the stalls. Christmas was the most crowded - bells, radio blasting from wheelbarrows, always seem like each year you could figure out if the Christmas was going to be "dry" (meaning hard economic times) or not by number of people in waterside. Bigger crowd meant Christmas was good for all. However, by Teenage years, my first wave of rebellion against the lappa ensued. Watching music videos and TV series promoted the cool American look. From Tupac and bandanas, Aaliyah and sagging pants, to TLC and big shirts. I abandoned African prints for the cool look of jeans, jumpsuits, Timberlands, and hot pants to the horror of my father, and plaid shirts all in a desperate attempt to imitate Aaliyah and TLC. I'd follow my friends and we'd rummage through their older sisters' closets, pull out their jeans and shirts and head out to high school events confident that we would not run into them. After High school, textiles stores in waterside were our favorites - cotton prints, linen and polyester as we desperately tried to get our tailors to make copies of styles we saw in western fashion magazines. I moved to the US in 2002. I found my first few months strange. I'd get comments randomly about how "American" I dressed or how come I knew the latest Khia song. Don't judge me on Khia. I had thought I was hip and all caught to American pop culture yet it seems that folks still saw the arrival of Africans should have meant coming with spears and cheetah skin. Now for my mother, America was just a post mail away. So every few months she'd make a couple of African suits and send along with spoons. beaded jewelry, and even toothpaste. So, I would wear them in my dorm room and take pictures and send them back to her. I also started wearing them to international student activities or at school occasions and get complimented on my "costumes". Felt a bit theatric and overdressed. However, I was a broke college student so I started wearing them at weddings outside of school events. Wearing my lappa suits at Liberian weddings felt comforting. I was home away from home. As the years went by, the style changed... instead of traditional lappa suits, my mother was now sending me dresses, hip and modern. A style evolution was taking place in Liberia as the tailors attempted modern versions of lappa styles. The resurgence of African prints continued in the diaspora – weddings, street styles and catwalks. By 2010, I had made my first trip back home and came back with a suitcase full of new African clothing. By the time I had Moved back home in 2013, I was wearing lappa styles consistently. I then made a conscious decision to wear more African Clothing. Wearing lappa has become a creative outlet. For me, this entails finding new ways to show off lappa in a modern style and or mixing prints with other Liberian materials such as country cloth and tie dyes; matching prints or mixing them. I try to justify the cost aspects of this "creativity" by focusing on how it supports small business. Leave it to me to find a way to make it rights. Yet, it makes sense. Since the interest in Lappa and wearing African styles increased, the local market has grown. Rom made to order to ready to wear, Monrovia streets are line up with new shops selling readymade clothing and or lappa prints. So the way, I see it, I'm supporting the local economy. However, Lappa or "Ankara" has become not just a fixture in my closet but an expression of my identity. In 2017, at feminist convening, women activists and leaders recounted being discriminated against when they attended meetings. The "Lappalolians" they laughed when recalling some of the experiences of being treated as illiterate or a low level staff of the organization they either managed or was representing simply because they were in lappa suits. So they deliberately and consciously chose and continued to wear their lappa suits to events (national and international) as a challenge to the stereotypes and discrimination. So it gave a whole new symbolic meaning to lappa suits. Hence, as a measure of resistance and reaffirmation of identity as Liberian I've come full circle

Interesting, Lappa or Ankara prints are not originally West Africa of we look at production and history. What we call Lappa or Ankara are actually "Dutch wax prints" or Holland wax. When Europeans discovered, what is now Indonesia they also discovered Java prints, Indonesian textiles that are handmade. European merchants then decided they could find a way to remake these prints cheaper and in mass production and sell them. They then created the wax design. However, story goes that when European brought these prints back, Indonesia rejected them. Unlike the Indonesia print, the colors bled through the print and it was hard to tell which side was the "rights side". But for West African women, they loved this. Stories differ in terms of how exactly West African got a hold of lappa. One version is that Soldiers who fought for the Dutch started bringing it back home as presents for their wives and families. Eventually, these prints became synonymous with African fashion that till today's European companies will receive backlash if seen appropriating African clothing. Many of these prints are still being printed in Holland and or UK. Asia has become a growing producer, flooding the market with inexpensive versions of original Dutch prints.

edsHead wraps in particular, are also deliberate in expressing my affirmation as a Liberian and African woman. I love a good head wrap. First I used to wear it as a cover up for bad hair days. A wrap here, a few tucks here and a not and I was ready to go. Then it became cooler to wear them as they became trendy. Africa to the US. head ties are every wear. However, the more I learned about the origins, the more it make perfect sense to why as a Liberian and African woman, head ties are symbolically important. Women have always worn head ties in Africa, From church to community events such as weddings and or funerals, all across West Africa, women wrapped their heads in print, lace or imported scarves. Head ties also could convey a woman's socio-economic status in some West African communities. Depending on the type of head tie, the color or the print being used, a woman position in society could be determined. An interesting tidbit of history around Lappa is how West African women slaves in the US continued to wear head ties (head wraps) in an affirmation of their identity. Practically, it helped with the heat but eventually, it supported a symbolic community for the women who had to slave plantations from any walks of life. For these women, a head tie affirmed their identity but also was a symbol of their survival and as a community of women. a small but intentional effort to hold their heads up, crowed in a small wrap and ready to meet each day's work but comforted by their stories of survival.

About the author: Lakshmi Moore is a Liberia Feminist, mother, wife and lover of all things about lappa and fashion. Professionally serving as Interim Country Director of ActionAid Liberia, an international development organization working to end poverty in Liberia.

Our Edana story



We named her Edana, after my oldest sister who has also been our inspiration. From that day until now the blessing of Edana has been overflowing. We have not only overnowing. We have not only enjoyed Edana's mystery but the rest of Liberia has benefited from her inspiration.



# Fruits and vegetable for Healthy Living



#### Health Benefits for Cucumber

- Keeps you Hydrated
   Fights heat, both inside and out of ti
  body

- 3. Flushes out toxins
  4. Nourishes you with Vitamins
  5. Supplies skip-friendly minerals,
- magnesium, potassium, silicon 6. Aids in weight loss

Reason why you should eat more fruits and vegetable: · Fruits and veggies provide fiber that helps fill you

- up and keep your digestion happy.
- · Fruits and vegetables are low in calories
- · Eating plenty of fruits and vegetables may help reduce the risk of many diseases, including heart disease, high blood pressure and many types of
- · Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins and minerals that help you feel healthy and energized.



- · Health Benefits of Pineapple
- · Treats Arthritis
- · Boosts Immunity
- · Speeds-up Wound Healing
- Prevents Cancer
- · Aids Digestion
- · Treats Cough and Cold · Improves Bone Health
- · Improve Oral Health
- Improves Vision
- · Regulates Blood Pressure
- · Improves Blood Circulation

#### Health Benefits of Avocado

- · 1. Avocado is incredibly Nutrious.
- 2. They contain more Potassium than Bananas.
- · 3. Avocado is loaded with heart-Healthy Monounsaturated Fatty Acids.

  • 4. It is loaded with Fiber.
- · 5. Eating Avocados can lower cholesterol and Triglyceride levels.

#### Health Benefits Tomatoes

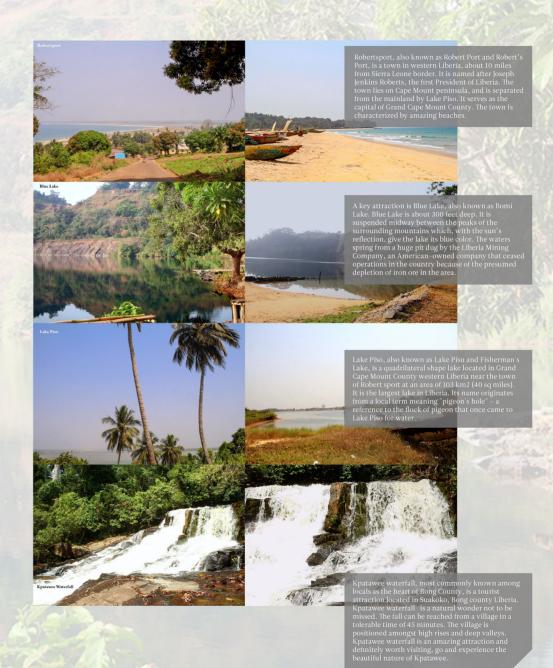
- 1. Antioxidant Agent
- 2. Rich source of Vitamins and Minerals
- 3. Protect the Heart
- 4. Counter the effect of smoking Cigarette
- 5. Aid in Digestion
- 6. Lower Hypertension
- 7. Skin Care
- 8. Manage Diabetes
- 9. Prevent Urinary Tract Infections
- 10. Improves Vision



# **Sharing our Liberian Smiles**



## Places of Tourist Attraction in Liberia



**Fashion for every Figure** 



Myeonway Designs







#### The Hidden Treasure

... That Became A Life Touching Story, George M. Weah, 24th President Of Liberia. By Edwin G. Wandah

This article, looks at the touching story of a child, least expected to make these wonderful strives, born and grew up in a slum, was a reflection of the life of Jesus Christ, the Messiah promised in the Bible.

Little George Weah, like any other children, didn't benefit the glory of having the opportunity of an elite education, a well classed environment, a furnished home, but grew up in a slum community.

George Weah took football as a way of life, playing from one community to another, he gradually struggles his way out.

The 51-year-old was gracefully named world's best footballer in 1995, giving praises to French tactician for facilitating the achievement. President George Weah's honor was also predicated on Arsene Wenger for helping him to flourish in Europe. The Frenchman brought the former Liberia international to Europe when he signed him for Monaco from Tonnerre Yaounde in 1988.

The Liberian, who later became one of the prollife strikers in Europe, and subsequently one of the all-time strikers, later left his mark playing for Paris Saint-Germaine and AC Milan before a spell in the English Premier League with Chelsea and Manchester City and later returned to France with Olympique Marseille. President Weah won the Ballon d'Or as the only African to win the prize, UEFA Champions League Top Scorer award, Coupe de France, Liguel, Coupe de la Ligue, Serie A title, English FA Cup among others.

"When I started playing football, I never thought I would ever win the Ballon d'Or and emerge as the best player in the world," Weah stated.

"I just had a passion for the game and I worked hard. Every day, I would rather train than eat or sleep", "When I moved to Monte Carlo [to play for Monaco from the Cameroonian club Tonnerre Yaoundé in 1988] I didn't Jay for the first six months. But I was determined to showcase my talent, to prove to those back home, who thought that my coming to Europe was a waste of time, that I was a good player," he averred.

"He (Wenger) was a father figure and regarded me as his son. This was a man, when racism was at its peak, who showed me love. He wanted me to be on the pitch for him every day.

From the football field, George Weah persevere to the highest office, and now Liberia's president, being officially sworn in on Monday, January 22nd, 2018, in what appears to be the first peaceful transfer of power the African nation has seen in more than 70 years after being ruled by a succession of warfords.

Weah, 51, is succeeding Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who took over in the wake of a civil war in 2006. He had campaigned for office twice, and won on the third occasion. Weah is best-known internationally for his soccer career in the 1990s, where he played for clubs like Manchester City, Chelsea FC and Paris Saint-Germain. George Weah grew up in Clara Town, a slum in the Liberian capital of Monrovia. It was this impoverished upbringing that attracted many of his followers. He started playing soccer as a teenager and became so good that he dropped out of his final year of school to go professional.

"When I started playing football, I never thought I would ever win the Ballon d'Or and emerge as the best player in the world. I just had a passion for the game and I worked hard every day. I would rather train than eat or sleep," He stated.

In 1988, while playing for the Cameroonian club Tonnerre Yaoundé, he was spotted and taken to Europe by then-AS Monaco manager Arsene Wenger, who now runs Arsenal FC. Weah said of Wenger: "This was a man, when racism was at its peak, who showed me love."

Weah's football career skyrocketed in Europe. After leaving Monaco, he went on to play for Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan, Manchester City, and Marseille. While at AC Milan, he also played for Chelsea FC on loan. In 1995, he was named FIFA World Player of the Year, and also won the prestigious Ballon d'Or. He was the first non-European to win the Ballon d'Or and is still the only African to have won both awards.

During this time, Liberia was engaged in a bloody civil war, which saw 250,000 people killed between 1989 and 2003. During this time, Weah used his own money to pay for the national team's kit, to give the players spending money, and he also chartered a flight for the squad so they could trayel to matches.

chartered a flight for the squad so they could travel to matches.

Weah eventually retired from football in 2002, and started his first bid for the Liberian presidency three years later. He lost to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Harvard-educated economist who became Africa's first elected female head of state.

Nelson Mandela was the reason Weah went into politics, he said. The ex-footballer told The Guardian: "When I had a conversation with Nelson Mandela many years ago, he told me that if I was called on to serve my country I must do the right thing. I am acting on that advice."

After retiring from football, Weah also went back to school, and obtained his high school diploma in 2006 at the age 40. He went on to study at DeVry University in Florida, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's in public administration.

In 2011, Weah tried again to run for office in Liberia, as vice-presidential candidate alongside Winston Tubman but lost again to Sirleaf and her deputy, Joseph Boakai. In 2015 Weah ran for a seat in Liberia's senate instead, which he won. Weah beat President Sirleaf's son Robert to represent Montserrado County, which includes the capital Monrovia.

When Liberia was gripped with Ebola from 2014 to 2015, Weah recorded a song calling on people to help fight the disease.

In December 2017, Weah ran for president again and won. He beat his opponent, Sirleaf's vice-president Joseph Bokai, with 61.5% of the vote. His story has inspired many people from all over the world. Regardless of a person's background as long as he/she is persistent in achieving a goal, no matter how long it takes, it will be achieved

