



EVENT REPORT

JUST LIKE US

17TH - 26TH MAY
NUBUKE FOUNDATION

PREPARED BY

**JAMES SELASI
QUARSHIE**





OVERVIEW

The theatre production, *"Just Like Us"* was inspired by Ghanaian photographer Eric Gyamfi's photo exhibition of the same name. The play consisted of a series of monologues adapted from the true life experiences of actual LGBTQ+ people from Africa. Each piece explored various themes from the pressure of labeling and owning sexual pleasure to the trauma of living in a homophobic society. The play's main focus was to tell the everyday stories of human lives; lives that a violent society seeks to erase.

The play employed various artistic elements such as dance, dramatic voice overs, live music and various forms of contemporary art such as sculptures and paintings. The play was staged at the Art Gallery of The Nubuke Foundation.



CAST & CREW

The play was directed by Nana Akosua Hanson who also oversaw the creation of the script and the compilation of the monologues. The production starred some budding talents all of whom are products of the University of Ghana School of Performing Arts such as Gamel Apalayine, Esinam Batali, Nenesenor Abloso, Atsu Gadri, Joshua Marfo, Ms. Valarie Angelica Kankam and Sena Atsugah. The production team was also very delighted to have the singing sensation, Ria Boss as a part of the cast.

Nii Quaye Aryee was in charge of sound and Henry Osei Bonsu both installed and managed the lighting system for the production. The make-up for all cast members was done by Selorm. James Selasi Quarshie and Angela Otoo were in charge of Props and Stage Management. Angela Otoo also doubled as the Welfare manager from the start of rehearsals until the closing night.



ATTENDANCE

The production run for two consecutive weeks, that is, from the 17th of May to the 18th, and then again from the 25th to the 26th of May. There were two showings on each night and attendance was restricted to those who had made prior reservations as advised.

Seating was pegged at 20 people per show but we still had large numbers of people coming in for the second showing on the 18th and then again on the 25th and 26th. As the play was staged in the Art Gallery of the Nubuke Foundation, extra seating had to be provided to accommodate all who were present.



REACTIONS

The response from the audience after all 8 showings were generally good. Many were moved to tears during some of the scenes as they emotionally engaging.

Many were also thrilled to see Ms. Ria Boss singing live in one of the scenes. As the first production of it's kind on the subject of LGBTQ+ Africans and the truth of their lives, many were impressed by the various artistic elements that the production team employed to bring the play to life.

REVIEWS

"Saw #JustLikeUs by @dramaqueensgh tonight. I haven't been this inspired in a very long time. Awesome production." @TaleebOmari 

"Congratulations y'all! Seen so many inspired tweets from the event and I'm so happy you pulled it off" @animaadjepong 

"It'd take a while to process the complexity and reality of all that you've put together beautifully. Great work Drama Queens!"

@_hauwa_ 

REVIEWS

"Thank you @GamelApalayine for executing this poem beautifully. @dramaqueensgh thank you for this wonderful production #JustLikeUs."

@EleazerObeng 

"Saw this last night. This was amazing. What a well done production on a topic that is so important to share and discuss in a Pan-African perspective #IDAHOBT" @lol_laurab 

"...It was overall an amazing experience..." - Fatima Derby

Please visit www.fatimaderby.com for the full review.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the theatre production of "*Just Like Us*" was an absolute success. From the packed showings to the to the online buzz, it is safe to say that the Drama Queens Team once again executed the task masterfully in spite of all the challenges faced. We look forward to outdoing ourselves in the next production.

The Drama Queens team would like to say a huge thank you to the Curator, Ms. Bianca Manu and all other staff members of The Nubuke Foundation for hosting us and assisting with our pre-production preparations and to The African Women's Development Fund & Frida: The Young Feminist Fund for their continued support.





Drama Queens



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