

spark

magazine

Edition 13

-  Chat with African Superstar CKay
-  **6** music careers you never knew about
-  **10** instagram worthy locations you must eat from in Accra

15 MINS
SCROLL



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I STOPPED STAND UP COMEDY AFTER ONE BAD SHOW

It was in a dark campus cafeteria with lots of drunk students and uninterested teens. After telling three jokes and hearing no laughter, I badly wished I could disappear from the stage but the awkward moment got even worse and more embarrassing until one guy in the crowd asked “Are you telling a joke or are you the joke?” That joke worked because everyone in the crowd laughed.

So I stopped after that never to return to the stage but instead focus on finding other mediums which didn’t have an audience staring at your face directly. That’s why curating a magazine like this is very important to me; I can put together cool ideas worth sharing with people you care about.

There is also the opportunity to collaborate with other curators in amplifying what is cool and different from the continent

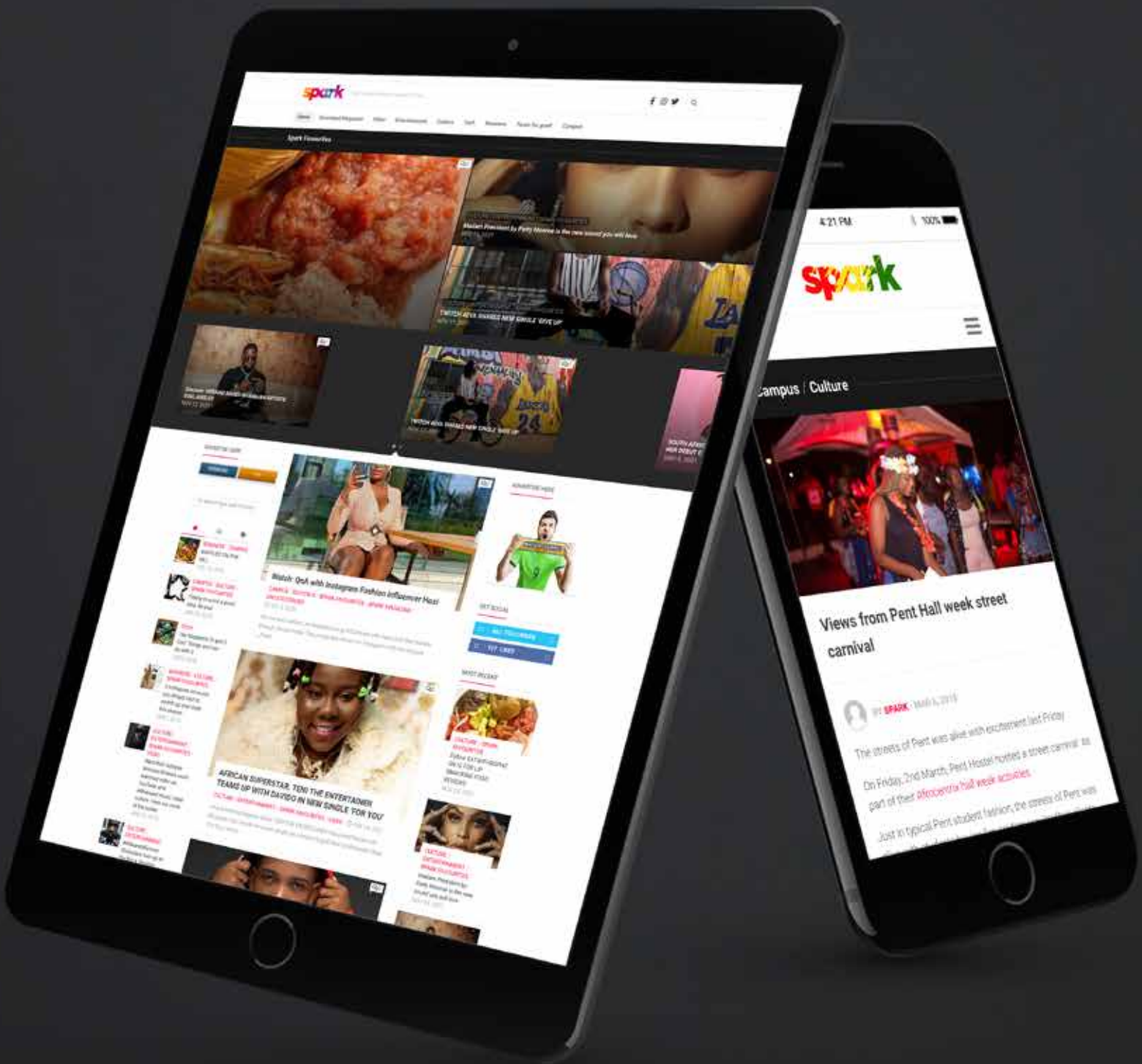
Unlike other magazines, Spark emphasizes on sharing “byte sized” content by putting together the many information from social media and blogs into one simple place you can easily scroll, discover new information and share.

In this edition, you will discover what makes Ghana unique and the many adventures you can explore if you are visiting Ghana. There is also an interview with one of Africa’s biggest Artistes taking on the globe and a surprise feature for students.

Spark is still far from being a perfect product so kindly get in touch with us on social media and let’s hear from you when you are done checking it out.

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BYTE SIZED CONTENT CURATED FOR YOU



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CKay

ON CREATING ONE OF THE BIGGEST SONGS ON THE GLOBE, BEING THE NEW DAWN OF AFROBEATS AND A LIFELONG MISSION TO SHIFT CULTURE.





No words express the personality of CKay better than cool, calm and collected, but these will be the simplest words for a rather sophisticated and complex personality and curious mind of Chukwuka Ekwenu.

A 30-minute chat with him could cover anything from UFO sightings, to poetry, to food. CKay believes his breed of human beings is very rare in the Universe; It's the sort of statement you will laugh over and assume it's coming from a narcissist, but any music fan who has followed CKay's musical journey


will know it's a very true and honest self-assessment.

Unlike other artistes who have had doubts if music was for them, CKay has always been sure. "I entered music because I knew I was great it" was the simple answer he gave when asked about why he decided to go into music.

Multi-talented instrumentalist, singer, writer and composer CKay is no new entry into the African music scene. Most music fans got introduced to him through his smash hit "Container" which was

released in 2018 under Chocolate City. It was the kind of hit that got the whole club on their feet singing along and dancing, the kind of upbeat tune and raw energy which represented the Afrobeat sound then.

In CKay's words, Container best described the Igbo culture he belongs to, whose people are known to be entrepreneurial and business-minded by nature. But making a smash hit isn't all that matters to CKay.



To him, this song wasn't a true description of the kind of artiste he really is. In the beginning of his music journey, his team had to simplify his brand and art to make him more accessible and relatable to most Nigerians.

This he respects, as a business strategy to make money for the record label he was signed to. In his opinion, his talent is wrapped in a mission to shift culture; say what other people will never say in music and unlock new sound for his listeners.

Looking for a deeper meaning to everything seems to be a lifelong interest to CKay, who had an epiphany in his music career at a very early stage in his journey. He started off as part of a band with two friends of his, and they made music they loved and performed.

But, after one concert they had organized in Kaduna, they were met with a huge turnout for the show and impressed by how the fans sang every song word for word.



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10 INSTAGRAM WORTHY LOCATIONS YOU MUST EAT FROM IN ACCRA



What's a better way to experience a country than its food? In this post I am going to share with you ten locations you must visit if you're in Ghana. I am an unapologetic foodie so you are definitely sure the food served in the different locations will have you fall in love with Ghana.

Curated by [@eatwithsophz](#)



BUKA RESTAURANT

Established in 2003, Buka has nourished palettes with not only Ghanaian, but west African delicacies for almost two decades. Their meals generally range from GHC18 to GHC60, however they have chef specials that may cost more.

NO. X RESTAURANT

No. X Restaurant is located in the heart of Labone in Accra. They offer a contemporary cuisine with a beautiful restaurant aesthetic to match. Whether you're looking to have an intimate dinner, or dinner with friends, or grab some great cocktails or have a wonderfully pleasant Sunday Brunch, NO. X is no doubt the best place to go.



KEMPINSKI HOTEL

If you're thinking of having a calm, relaxing day by the pool with good food, then you must head straight to the Kempinski Hotel located right next to the Ridge Church School. Their infinity pool is great for a good swimming session. Swimming costs 150 cedis for adults, and 100 cedis for kids - however limited slots are available on weekends and public holidays.





MAMA'S CUISINE

Mama's cuisine is an open-air restaurant located within the Alliance-Francais premises at Airport. They sell authentic West African meals that range from GHC22 to GHC250. The food and service are absolutely excellent and worth going back to!

BELLA AFRIK

This is the perfect spot if you're craving some authentic Italian meals in Accra. Located within the Afrikiko premises on the Liberation Road, this restaurant promises to give your palette a trip to Italy with their excellent Italian cuisine. Their prices range from GHC65 to GHC450.



ALLEY BAR NIGHT CLUB

A night out at Alley Bar is one you will not forget. This tiny outdoor bar, as the name suggests was originally a little alley that was transformed into one of Accra's most loved outdoor bars. With drinks starting from as low as GHC15, and meals as low as GHC35; Alley Bar promises you a good time that will not break your bank.

SKYBAR

The Villaggio Alto rooftop is home to Accra's premier rooftop venue. Skybar offers a contemporary cuisine paired with great cocktails with an amazing rooftop view of the beautiful city of Accra.



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KOZO

Kozo boasts of offering a “hip, modern take on the Asian dining experience,” and is without doubt one of the favourite places for a night out in Accra. Kozo has a stylish but minimalistic aesthetic, and they offer great service, amazing cocktails and good food that ranges from GHC90 to GHC250.



SANDBOX BEACH CLUB

Along the Labadi road, you’ll find the Sandbox Beach Club. They serve Mediterranean food accompanied with a breath taking view of the ocean. Their food ranges from GHC77 TO GHC214.



HILLBURI

Although the next spot is not technically in Accra, it is definitely worth mentioning. Hillburi is a little resort tucked away in the Akwapim mountains just on the outskirts of Accra. Hillburi is a picture-perfect location with a beautiful infinity pool that overlooks the mountains. Their food ranges from GHC50 to GHC80.



Follow [@eatwithsophz](#) on Instagram for more food recommendations



10 MUSIC CAREERS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT



Anytime we think about music, we only think about musicians and Producers but the music industry can be just as formal and lucrative like banking or Advertising. If you are passionate enough about music, it won't be a bad idea to consider a career in it too. These are 7 roles in the music industry you can get into.



ARTISTE MANAGEMENT

Think about music as a product and the Artist as a brand. All of these need someone who manages the day to day activities and makes sure every plan or strategy is followed through to the end from getting the music out of the studio to the listening ears of the market. Artiste Managers get paid from a percentage of revenue the Artistes make.



DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST

Digital Marketing skills is important in almost every industry now and definitely just as important in the music industry. Working as a digital Marketing specialist in the music industry means managing all digital assets of an Artiste, music band, record label or streaming service. Your responsibility will be to get the music to listeners through effective digital strategies and plan.

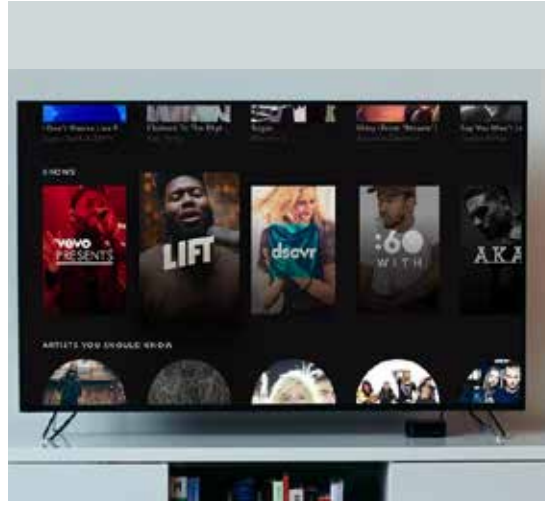
MUSIC CURATOR

When you listen to a playlist on a streaming platform, radio or TV it was put together by a music curator. Curators sieve through lots of music to decide which ones an audience will love most. They put this together in one place for you to discover new music or listen to your favourite. This job involves a deep passion for music and good music taste. Music curators are needed in radio stations, TV stations, streaming platforms labels.



MUSIC PUBLISHER

When music is used commercially (whether sold, licensed, or publicly performed), the songwriter and copyright owner is owed royalties. A music publisher's job is to protect the use of songs as well as collecting royalties owed from use. Some music publishers focus on the use of the copyrights they administer by securing opportunities in the form of 'sync licenses' for film, TV, ads, video games, etc for the copyright owners they work for.



MUSIC LAWYER

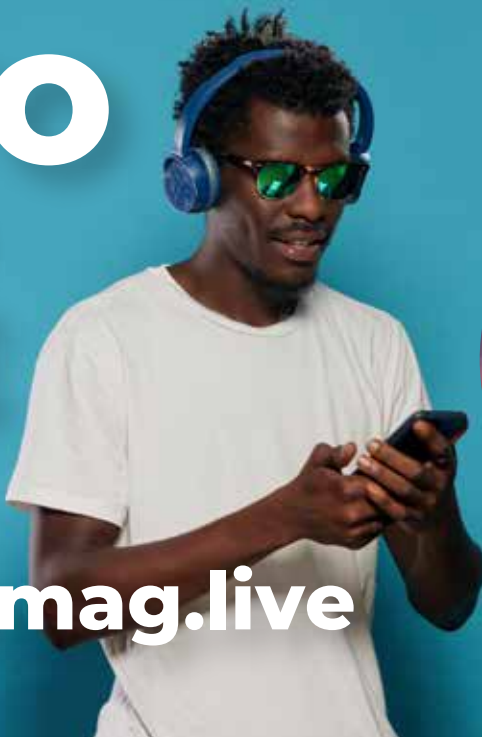
Professional musicians and music industry companies need the advice of legal experts who are knowledgeable about the music business. That's where the practice of law intersects with careers in music. Entertainment attorneys who focus on the music industry primarily deal with legal matters associated with contracts, copyrights, royalty payments, and intellectual property rights



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SPARK TUNES PLAYLIST



If you are all about the bass and treble, then you are going to love this. We are taking your ears globetrotting in this episode of Update your Playlist. We've curated 10 musicians from all over Africa that you can check out. Stream our curated playlist on Boomplay, Spotify and Apple Music



01



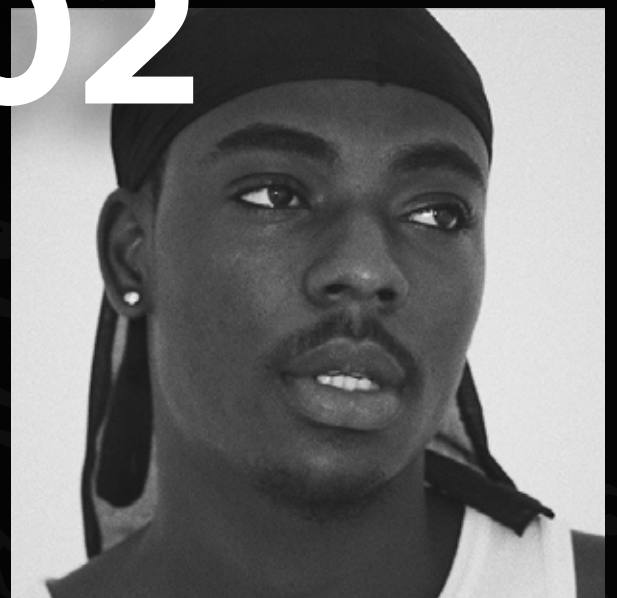
ASA
MAYANA

With a myriad of wide ranging musical and creative influences, the internationally celebrated Nigerian music star Asa, has always forged her own path with her trailblazing sounds and song-writing. She returns with the release of her dreamy, brand-new single 'Mayana' and its breath-taking visuals produced by the exciting Nigerian producer Priime and taking cues from Pop, Afrobeat, R&B and Soul sounds, 'Mayana' is a mesmerising marriage of rhythmic, hip-shaking percussion and Asa's sultry, laid back-back vocals

TWITCH 4EVA
GIVE UP

Ghanaian singer and songwriter Twitch 4EVA takes us on a personal journey which reflects his state, at the time of recording, the internal struggle of who he is perceived to be and who he truly is. 'Give Up' is a real, raw and open take on his thoughts but also a reminder to never give up.

02



SPINALL CLOUD 9

Bringing one of the most explosive and infectious collaborations of the year just in time for the upcoming December party season, the award winning

DJ, producer and songwriter Spinall has teamed up with the Afropop sensation Adekunle Gold for the brand new single 'CLOUD9' Produced and co-written by Spinall – making use of his own signature fusion of energetic Afropop sounds mixed with elements of Hi-Life, Hip-Hop and R&B.

03



04



BRYAN THE MENSAH UNTIL I SEE YOU

Over the years, Ghanaian rapper Bryan The Mensah has been winning the hearts of many with his remarkable rap flow and style of making music. Last year he finally released his long awaited debut album "Road to Has-tafari" to very positive reviews and remarks. 'See You' featuring female vocalist Titi Owusu has become a fan favourite and one of our favourites tunes that you should check out too.

FIREBOY DML PERU REMIX

After releasing a smashing hit few months ago, Fireboy is following up with a remix with global superstar Ed Sheeran. Released on 24th December, this is set to be a club banger on the continent and globally. We should all be on San Francisco jamming to this one .

05



KWESI ARTHUR CELEBRATE

Ghanaian rap maverick Kwesi Arthur serves up another captivating, up-beat statement of intent featuring Nigerian hotshot Teni. A track worthy of its title, "Celebrate" showcases Kwesi's innate skill of capturing varying moods within his catalogue, this time offering an addictive afro-induced beat produced by Mogbeatz alongside ever-smooth lyricism from Nigerian Teni.

06



07



AZANA HIGHER

"Higher" speaks of a love that is nostalgic - the writer is reminded of the times in their life when they were the happiest and desires to feel the same happiness in the now through love. The writer mentions how easy it is to love their lover and therefore how hard it would be to let go. The expression of love is bold and unapologetic, showing how unafraid she is to love.

CKAY BY YOUR SIDE

Features South African rapper Blxckie and produced by Tumisho, whose current single 'Sax Dance' has gained popularity on TikTok. This banger has strong Amapiano influences that CKay seamlessly bodies and stamps with his emo-afro beats signature. Blxckie contributes his effortless flow on the track in both Zulu and English, providing the song with an additional take on the romantic situation.

08



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NIKITA KERING

Ex

Kenyan musician, actress and media personality releases this soulful music which will definitely get you in your feelings this season. This single which is off her 7 track EP titled A Side of Me shows her as one of the most talented female Artistes from the continent that you should be looking out for.

09



10



MR RIGHT

KI DEJAVU

Meet Kenya's hottest drill group with rappers Ajay and Mr Right as the face. The group has managed to carve a niche for themselves in the drill scene in Kenya with their unique style and exceptional style. Check out this song and more from them on streaming platforms.

TAP TO STREAM PLAYLIST





VIEWS FROM AFROCHELLA 2021

Accra came alive on 28th December last year as thousands of Ghanaians and tourists visited the El Wak Sports Stadium to be part of what is arguably the biggest festival in West Africa.

On the bill for the night were African and International superstars like Wizkid, Ari Lennox, Gyakie, Ayra Starr, King Promise, Black Sherif and a lot more. Relive the events through the lens of photographer **MarcuskPobee** on Instagram.





WATCHLIST FOR THE NEW YEAR

Between the hours of going out, jamming and family time, you might want to catch up with some great cinema. Check out this list of films you should keep your eyes on and watch this season.



01



NEW MATERIAL

SOUTH AFRICA

Cassim Caif (Riaad Moosa) is a young Joburg stand-up comedian living in Johannesburg. While Cassim's is a hit with Johannesburg's audiences, he yearns to spread his wings, expand and his repertoire. His best friend and agent Yusuf (Joey Rasdien) plans a national tour for Cassim which he keeps as a secret from his disapproving father. Available on Netflix

CHRISTMAS IS CANCELLED

USA

When 29-year-old Emma (Orrantia) finds out that her widowed, 52-year-old hunk of a dad (Mulrone) has been dating her high school nemesis (Parrish), she freaks out and embarks on a hilarious, no-holds-barred mission to break them up during their annual family Christmas festivities. Available in Cinemas

02



03



WEST SIDE STORY

USA

An adaptation of the 1957 musical, West Side Story explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Available in Cinemas

SING 2

USA

The first installment for this animation was a fan favorite and this one is definitely set to be even more exciting. Buster Moon and his friends must persuade reclusive rock star Clay Calloway to join them for the opening of a new show. Available in Cinemas

04



05



SPIDERMAN NO WAY HOME

USA

For the first time in the cinematic history of Spider-Man, our friendly neighborhood hero is unmasked and no longer able to separate his normal life from the high-stakes of being a Super Hero. When he asks for help from Doctor Strange, the stakes become even more dangerous, forcing him to discover what it truly means to be Spider-Man. Available in Cinemas

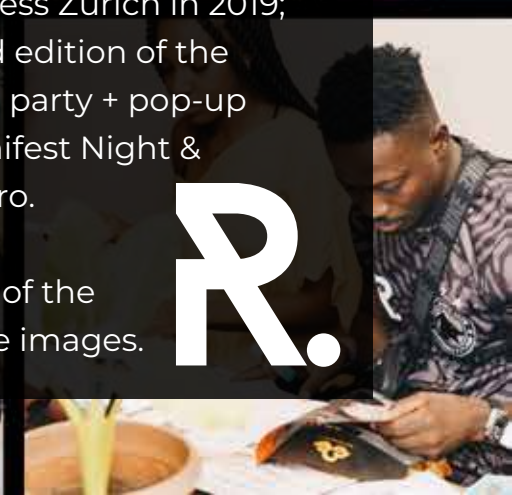
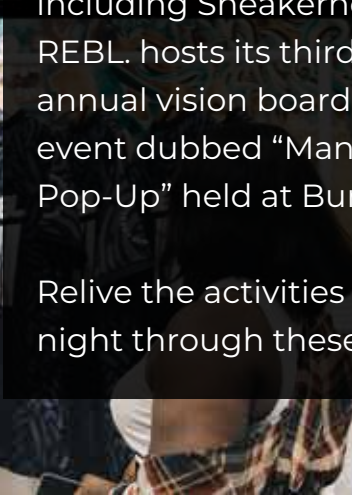


HIGHLIGHTS FROM REBL. MANIFEST NIGHT & POP-UP 21

Following up with their first pop-up at Afrochella festival in 2018, and their first exclusive event after a series of tours and pop-ups in Europe including Sneakerness Zurich in 2019; REBL. hosts its third edition of the annual vision board party + pop-up event dubbed "Manifest Night & Pop-Up" held at Buro.

Relive the activities of the night through these images.

R.





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