

# spark

magazine

Edition XV

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

⚡ **Oxlade:**  
A hustler with  
a melody and  
a big stage

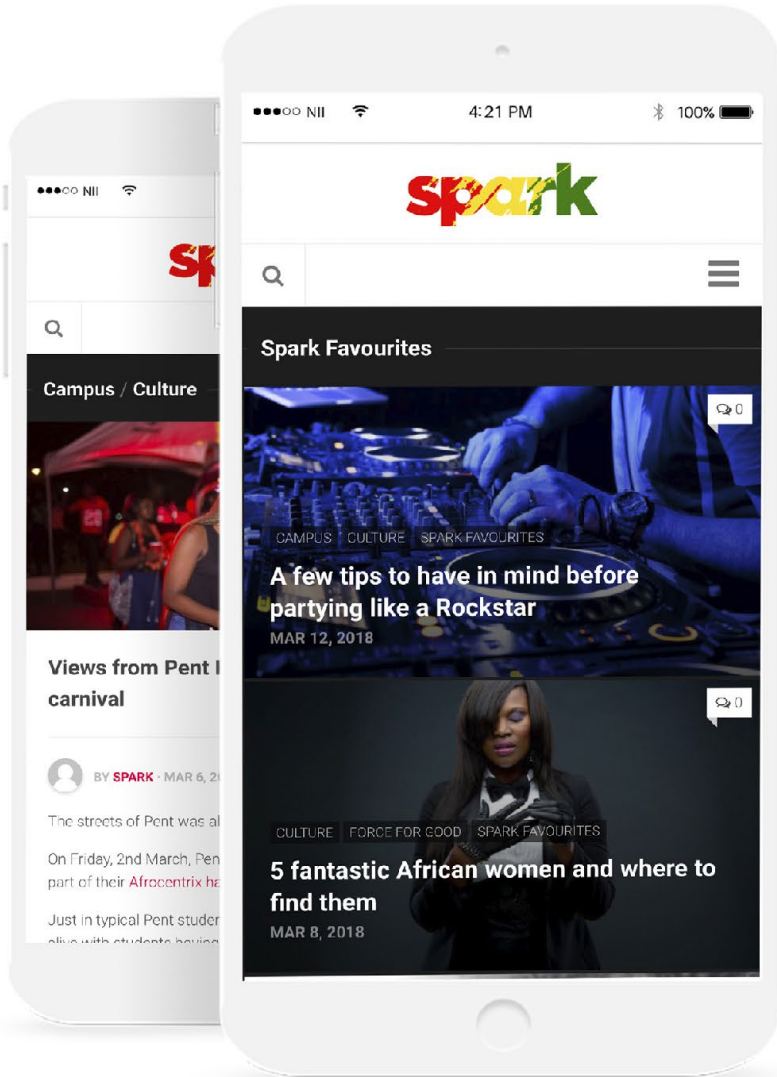
⚡ What's the craziest  
thing you've done  
for love?



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## From Madam President

Working on this magazine with my friends has been amazing! Like most exciting tasks, it involved making sacrifices but at the end of it all, seeing our ideas come to life made the sacrifice all worth it. It all started when I had to bring my friends together to brainstorm ideas for this edition. Honestly convincing your peers to help you do something is not an easy task but luckily for me, my friends were even glad to be part of it and I really love them for that.

The process started with us meeting to brainstorm some ideas that we thought our mates would love to read or watch. but as we worked on creating something exciting for you, we also had amazing experiences too like interviewing Oxlade and music executive Gracey Mae. We knew that the magazine had to be interesting, entertaining, educating and amazing for you all and I am elated that we achieved just that.

In this edition, you will be inspired by how Oxlade started his music career, shocked by the crazy things people do for love and informed about some really cool places you can hang out in the city. I will leave the rest for you to discover yourself.

Special thanks to the whole community and the contributors who helped create this magic.



# YOU ALL ROCK!

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## MEET OUR COMMUNITY

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Atta Kofi Danquah  
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# OXLADE

A HUSTLER WITH THE  
MELODY AND A BIG STAGE



We often hear successful people allude to the age-old popular narrative about 'hustling' or being the 'underdog' earlier in life even when the truth is the opposite but the same cannot be said about Oxlade. The story of this Nigerian Afrobeats superstar is not one of those made-up hustle narratives to get his audience inspired but rather a real hustle story fuelled by his passion for music and determination to be heard no matter what stood in his way.

Oxlade's path to the big stage has been filled with moments of defiance, sticking to his guns even when it meant going against his family's wishes and expectations. As a young man growing up in Nigeria, Oxlade took on odd jobs like being a street conductor, serving food at parties, selling tickets, and even selling mobile phone recharge cards to take care of himself; a life one only lives with a bigger goal in mind and all that determination paid off, getting him closer to the one thing he is known all over the world for now, Music.



Even as a child, the calling of music on his life was obvious to his family and loved ones. From a young Oxlade, called Olaitan Abdulrahman Ikuforiji at birth, showed signs of talent and the ability to leave others spellbound with his gifts.

Growing up with his grandma, who gave him a sound education from primary to Lagos state University where he studied History and International Relations, he fondly recalls one instance as a 10-year-old when his grandma, who owned a shop at the time, had to leave him in charge whilst she went to the market but she was quick to leave a warning message that he should not step out.

According to Oxlade, the house next door was having a party and needed someone to sing praise and worship songs, so he went to the party and was singing

for the audience there. Whilst performing, he saw his grandma coming back from the market with a cane to punish him for disobeying her but upon getting closer, she realized that little Oxlade had everyone's attention, and everyone was singing. "I was no longer a small boy in that scenario. She just dropped the cane and joined in the praise and worship herself. After that incident she told me, I am not going to stop you from anything you want to do but please make sure you have an education. It's obvious music is your calling".

The moment of real independence and self-discovery for Oxlade would come later, as a young man when his grandma decided to relocate from Lagos to Ibadan and he refused to go along with her. Oxlade instead decided to live

with some friends for a while which meant that he had to fend for himself by trying out different jobs or just about anything that could bring him some money. But in his own words, "I tried a lot of things, nothing really made me happy like music" From then on he chose to stick to what he was passionate about dismissing everyone's expectations of him.

“**I DIDN'T  
CHOOSE  
MUSIC,  
MUSIC  
CHOSE  
ME.**”



It all started with a passion to create for Oxlade, whose first stint with professional music started in his days as a member of an acapella group in church. The group had recorded a demo with a Producer and after the recording, Oxlade waited behind and asked that the producer send him a beat to "just vibe on".

After pestering the Producer for a while, the Producer did just that and he performed on the beat much to the admiration of the Producer who would later put him on his own song. Coincidentally, this specific producer was friends with a Nigerian rapper called Blaqbonez who heard the song the two had made and was so impressed that he reached out to Oxlade. The two, Oxlade and Blaqbonez later went on to record a song called 'Mami Water' which was later released by Blaqbonez.

As easy as this origin story sounds, Oxlade admits that it wasn't all rosy. To him, being super focused and not giving up has always been his way of dealing with set backs. "There were a lot of times, I got no's and there were a lot of times I got turned away; there was even a show I was supposed to perform at that Davido was a guest and I was tussled and thrown of the stage. I am strong willed; I am Taurus by the way so I have a very strong character"

This strong personality and character paid off in the long-term making Oxlade the person he is today; a major player in the Afrobeats revolution; The sound from Africa, which is taking the world by storm.



Tap to read the full article on [www.sparkmag.live](http://www.sparkmag.live)

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# WHAT IS THE CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE DONE FOR LOVE?

One of our favourite pals on Snapchat,



[girl.like.royalty](#)

asked her followers

**“What’s the craziest thing you’ve done for love?”**

Her followers quickly shared their personal experiences of heartbreak and sorrow.

We have put together some of the most interesting responses of people being a fool for love. Maybe you can relate to them too.





The money I used to send him self he was like how could I be that stupid mhern



- Scrubbing his bathroom hmm only for other girls to bath in it. Bought shower curtains and bathroom mat all



I caught this guy kissing this girl and he told me not to worry she's just my best friend



Football players and cheating die3. He takes money from me and spend it on his other gf, Charlie we mumu before

i allowed him to beat me up and convinced myself he just had anger issues



Bought dresses for him only for him to wear one, take a picture with his head on a girl's lap and used it as his dp. I thought my thighs were missing after seeing the dp



El me I used to write his name in my bottle, on my hand and left thighs and when there is no teacher in class and I find a marker and I write his name on the board.



used to go to ashes almost every weekend to see him and this went on for 5 months and he told me he didn't like me and he never will



I was soo in love with this guy to the extent that I found out he had an incurable STI but I still stayed but he was the most disrespectful human being ever



I was dating this guy and I decided to end things cause I met someone better only for him to tell me "did I think I was the only one he was dating" "herh men"



- I used a different # to text him told him I wanted to be friends and I asked him if he was taken he said no meanwhile we've been together for 2 years



I liked this guy so much that I did everything and anything he asked for I was always there for him finding out later he's in other girls dm begging to eat them



know a guy who deferred a whole year to stay with his babe but this babe was shagging another person the whole fun time



I had this boy I used to do everything for. I found out he was cheating and he told me that it didn't mean anything and that it was the girl's time to shine herh



Forced me to have a threesome with her friend and later found out she was dating her and that I was the side piece (queer p/s)



Ok not me but my boyfriend left school (Mfianstipim) at 3am and arrived in Accra around 11 to see me because I told him I missed him. He had a paper (WASSCE) the next day



Gave him permission to cheat on me cause I didn't want to lose him



Gave this boy at school a chance o sis I fell for this boy o long story short Sarah na they have bet on me ngle enter me herh!



Well he did - He gave me head when I was in my period



- I had this girl I did everything for but
- still this girl cheated
- and me with a another
- guy and when I caught
- with the guy in her
- house she told me the
- guy is her cousin



so this boy was dating the whole accra and even when i found out i was willing to stay w him. #supportivewife



Took him out for brunch (I paid for everything) thought we had something special then I realized he had a gf



Used to carry chair for my crush so he would sit by me in class



- I used to momo my chop money to him when
- I was in S.H.S. I went to a private school so the
- dining food was good
- and we had a tuck shop.







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# 10 Jobs

In Media and Entertainment



## you should know about

The Glitz and The Glamour of the spotlight is blinding! To be in the limelight means to be lavished with praises and admiration or to suffer brutal scrutiny. Being in the media and Entertainment is dare-I-say, a career for the brave.

Regardless of your reason for walking this career path, there are a lot of options for you if you love the spotlight or are just intrigued with the process of handling tasks behind the scenes, there is always an option that encourages creative individuality.

These are some career options that are available for you if you are passionate about Media and Entertainment and would like to work in the industry! Written by Brianna Awo Ayittah.



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## Journalists

Journalists are responsible for researching, writing and reporting on news and current events for newspapers, magazines, websites, and television and radio programs. They may also be responsible for conducting interviews, taking photographs, and editing their own work. Journalism is an important career all over the world and is an ever-evolving career with opportunities for everyone. If you love to inform or entertain or keep people updated on trends, then this is the ideal career for you.

## Film and Television Producer

Producers are responsible for the overall production of a film or television show. They oversee the budget, schedule, and hiring of cast and crew. They also work closely with the director to ensure the final product meets the desired vision. This career path is a perfect blend of project management, creativity and human management skills to get the job done. If you love to stay in the background and enable creatives work, then this is for you.

## Directing

You love to be in charge and bring your vision to reality. As a creative, you assume good leadership roles and can work well under pressure. If you can mobilize people to ensure your vision becomes an awesome reality, then this is the profession for you! Directors are needed in films, theatre and even Television show Production.

## Writing

To be a writer means to let your creative juices flow by putting pen to paper. If you have an unusually broad and beautiful imagination and you desire the freedom of penning down your creative ideas which in turn will be shown on the big screen or featured in a book, newspaper or website, this is an option for you!

## Public Relations Specialist

Public Relations (PR) specialists help organizations and individuals to build and maintain a positive image through the media. They may be responsible for writing press releases, arranging interviews, and organizing events. This is a career with many parts and potential. For the bold and confident, this is both challenging and rewarding.

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Entertainment Journalist

# Gracey Mae

and her relentless effort to take African music to the world

**From Lagos to Accra, London to Los Angeles, people from all over the world and all walks of life are singing songs from A-list African superstars like Fireboy DML, Stonebwoy, Davido, Camidoh, Arya Starr and Tems.**

Afrobeats has attacked the globe with its infectious rhythm and undeniable vibe making it one of the fastest-growing music genres globally. African musicians and performers are key drivers of Afrobeats' increasing popularity, but little is said about passionate industry experts such as DJs, managers, and music executives who also work behind the scenes to showcase their rich heritage and show the world what's new and buzzing from Africa.

One such person is Gracey Mae, a London-born Nigerian Music Executive who has worked with superstars like Bob Marley, Bella Shmurda, and Oxlade to manage their music publicity campaigns.

As an award-nominated entertainment journalist with over 8 years experience, Gracey has interviewed over 250 artists from Africa and all over the world. Not many people can say that they are a Voting Academy member of the Grammy Awards, BRIT Awards, MOBO Awards, and BET Awards!

**We caught up with her to talk about her journey as the UK's leading female Afrobeats Host and her mission to cover the length and breadth of the earth with this great sound from Africa.**



Tap to read the full article on [www.sparkmag.live](http://www.sparkmag.live)

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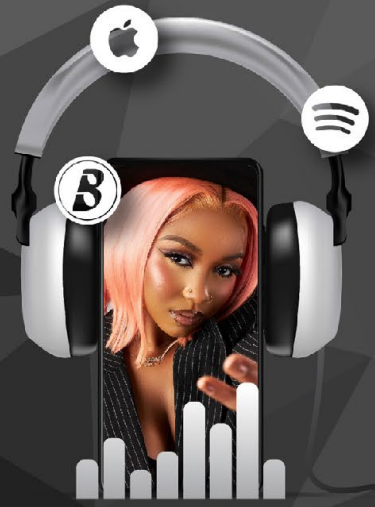
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# SPARK TUNES PLAYLIST

You know you need to discover some new music when the jams on your playlist sound the same. In this edition's playlist, our curator based in Nairobi Zed Mukoya who runs his own PR firm is taking charge by putting us on some of the dopest emerging Artists based in Kenya and Ghana. These Artists embody everything we love about the continent. Young, vibrant people making dope stuff without boundaries. Check their songs out on our playlist on streaming platforms and put your friends on their music.



# 01



## ESSILFIE FAKE LOVE

---

One of Ghana's favourite Indie songwriter and singer is out with a rap song and we are loving it. On 'Fake Love' Essilfie & Rie Osei express some frustrations within personal relationships and within their craft. The lyrics discuss the idea that people claim to love and appreciate them, but often fail to support and be there for them. The song also suggests that not all expressions of love are genuine. This tune should definitely be on your playlist. Follow Essilfie on Instagram here [@essilfiemusic](#)

## PHYL THE KANGOGO KOT NEBO

---

Kot Nebo means "The house that belongs". The name was derived from an old Kalenjin proverb that says "When a rat rots in a home it is only them that know the magnitude of the stench". In this tune, Phyl The Kangogo situates the proverb in romantic relationships urging couples to keep their issues and secrets only between themselves. This is a love tune you will have on replay. Follow him on Instagram [@phyl\\_\\_](#)

# 02



## VEANA NEGASI

### HOL ME

---

Over the past couple of years, this Ghanaian singer has been slowly carving a niche for herself from performing cover songs to singing her own compositions. On her newest song 'Hol Me, Veana sings in English and patois about her love interest and her craving for affection and intimate touch. It's the right jam to set the mood for that special session with the love of your life. Put it on replay and follow her on IG [@Veananegasi](#)

# 03



# 04



## JOY WANJIRU

### NIKO NA SIMBA

---

Joy Musiq is a 23 yr old singer, song writer and part time voice coach from Nairobi, Kenya. This time, the multi talented Singer comes our way with a gospel song titled "Niko na Simba". It basically means that despite everything God is still on the throne and He is the Lion of Judah. Coming from a religious family, making gospel was a personal experience for her, something she describes as "felt like coming home" Stream this song on streaming platforms and add it to your gospel playlist. Follow [@Joy\\_ Musiq](#) on Instagram

## JOMONOTICS

### LAST WORDS

---

Jomonotics is a Kenyan based Hip-hop artist who infuses melody into rap to make memorable music for his audience. That's not all, this MC also incorporates fashion in his music giving him a unique brand and look that we love. In his latest single 'Last Words', he talks about breakup and expresses how he'd appreciate falling in love with someone who's from a family that will be open to love him too. This is definitely the tune to include in your playlist and deep dive into the dynamic world of Jomonotics. Follow him on Instagram [@jomonotics](#)

# 05





# 06



## DENVER COCKEY

### JA-SEME

---

Denver has the swagger and the attitude and he brings it all on this drill song titled Ja-Seme which means "Someone from Seme" in his native language. On this drill tune, the rapper is making a bold statement and showing his dexterity as one of the emerging MCs we should all be looking out for. Stream this song and don't forget to add to your playlist. Follow Denver on IG [@denver\\_cockey](#)

## LOVERRAYZ CELEBRATION

---

Celebration is a feel good music by Nairobi based Artist named Loverrayz. Celebration is all about good vibes and celebrating after making it in life despite the challenges you have undergone. Add this tune to your playlist and follow him on Instagram [@lovrerrayzofficial254](#)

# 07



## SYNTAXX145

### RONG TURN

---

Syntaxx145 is a Kenyan-based music group with a unique blend of style and flow relating to the ever-growing audience of rap music on the African Continent. Syntaxx145's music is characterized by its catchy beats, powerful lyrics, and infectious energy which leaves their fans spellbound. On their latest single "RONG TURN, the group captures the essence of the drill and hiphop culture. This tune will have rap heads bumping their head hard. Listen to this song on streaming platforms now.

# 08



# JACQUELYN OFORIWAA

## DON'T WORRY

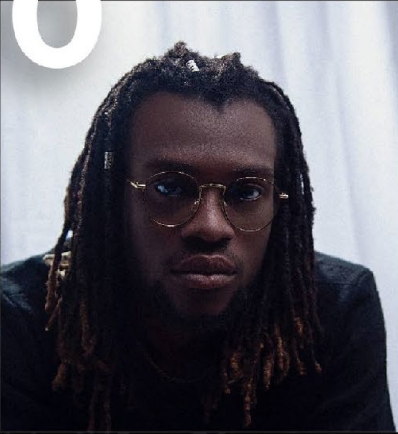
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# 09

Emerging Afrocentric Contemporary Gospel Artist comes our way with a new single titled "Don't Worry". "Don't Worry" is an upbeat Afrobeat song that encourages the listener not to allow overthinking to deny them the joy of the Holy Spirit once their needs and wants have been placed before the throne in prayer and supplication. Listen to this song for inspiration and follow her on IG [@original\\_joa](#)



# 10



# KOFI BRUCE

## YELLOW

---

Yellow is the newest song from Ghanaian palm wine music Artist Kofi Bruce. Palmwine music is an indigenous Ghanaian sound which uses storytelling and highlife rhythms. On Yellow, Kofi is singing about a pretty lady he wants to get to know and how striking her beauty is. This is a unique sound you should have in your playlist. Follow Kofi Bruce on Instagram [@iamkofibruce](#)



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# 8 RESTAURANTS YOU CAN VISIT IN ACCRA ON A BUDGET

It's that time of the year again and we know you will be searching for all the new spots to eat, drink and vibe with friends. Accra is filled with so many beautiful restaurants that deliver excellent customer service, definitely great tasting food and most importantly, aesthetically good looking for all your holiday photos. One of our favourite pals Maame Fosua Pianim has put together 8 of her favourite restaurants in Accra which are budget friendly and match your taste in cool and instagram worthy experiences. Check them out and visit them too.



## MAMA CUISINE

Aesthetic Ghanaian restaurant located inside Alliance Francaise in Accra. You will be welcome with a variety of Ghanaian cuisine that match up to your expectation of Ghanaian hospitality. Mama's Cuisine has great tasting food with excellent customer service.



## CHIMNEY CONE

The perfect location for a sweet tooth! A bakery that has a variety of tasty desserts worth the price and memory. Be open minded and taste the different ice creams they have.



## CAFÉ BAR NOIR

Ideal location for your group gatherings, dates, night hangouts & breakfast. They offer very affordable packages for events and group dining as well. If you want a place with calm vibes to catch up with old friends and laugh, this is the spot.





## JUICE TANKS AND WRAPS

The perfect spot for a group hangout in an outdoor space. They offer a variety of finger foods & tasty wraps & sharwamas.



## TED'S PLACE

Kenkey lovers will looove this spot. Beautiful location, great ambiance and definitely good food. We highly recommend for your group hangout and weekend get together.



## THE GOOD BAKER

Located in the heart of one of Accra's bustling suburbs, The Good Baker is an affordable desert & breakfast shop perfect for hangouts with friends, brunch dates and lunch breaks.



## KATA LOUNGE

You will definitely love Kata Lounge. The Restaurant has an aesthetically pleasing space and sells affordable food fit for two people in one serving.



## ORIENTAL DRAGON

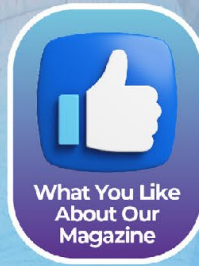
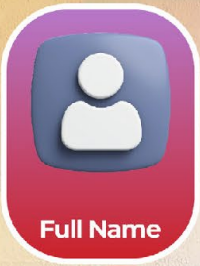
Located in East Legon close to Oasis Apartment, this eatery serves a variety of freshly made Chinese food at affordable prices. Be sure to try their Chow Mein with seafood or Singapore noodles





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