

MARCH 2024

spark
people & art



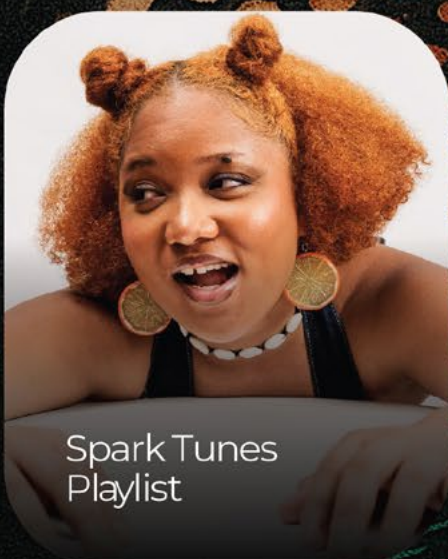
Most read
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FROM TALENT SHOW TO TRENDSETTER

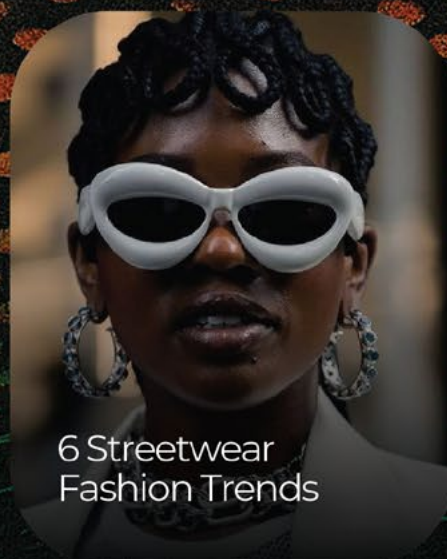
MR. DREW

How Mr. Drew leveraged TikTok to build his brand
and set the stage for global dominance.

— — —



Spark Tunes
Playlist



6 Streetwear
Fashion Trends



7 African
Illustrators

EDITION 16

www.sparkmaglive.com



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HELLO.

When we started this in 2017, Tiktok wasn't popular, no one had seen Avengers Endgame yet and X was still Twitter.

@Twumtweets on X

It's all been 7 years since we started Spark and every time i look back at our progress, i am grateful to our community and the sheer will of our team and collaborators. You keep us going!

This edition is a special one, because we have a new fresh logo, we will be rolling out our magazine website for the first time and making some huge changes in the content you will be seeing in this edition as well.

Unlike previous editions, this very edition features the most read content on our website over the last 6 months. Hopefully, you love them but please leave your comments on the website or by email on how we can improve it. We have included links at the end of every page which will lead directly to our website to complete the article you are reading and most importantly, engage with the content the way we want you to. For this edition, we have also launched our podcast series as well as some entertaining content on YouTube. Don't miss out on any of these. Subscribe to your Youtube channel and follow our pages on social media to get updated.

This edition was the combined effort of our community of students and many content collaborators and writers from all over the world who have contributed in their own way to the content you will be reading. Have fun and remember to always #betheSpark wherever you are.



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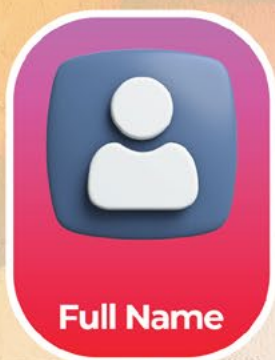
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MR DREW

EVOLVING FROM A TIKTOK STAR
TO BECOMING AFROBEATS' BEST
REPRESENTATION OF A GLOBAL ARTIST

In an industry like the Ghanaian music industry, where artists struggle to break out, artists who actually do have exceptional skills in their craft to earn themselves a spot. One such superstar who, over the years, has crafted a niche for himself-solely through selling memorable experiences to music fans - is Mr. Drew. But that's not all; the entertainer has a huge social following, with over a million followers on TikTok, as well as his constant ability to engage his fans through exciting social content and good music.

Entertainment enthusiasts often opine about the different stages of artistry an artist should have. Some believe that, even though the main goal of every artist's work is to entertain, there are a few whose stagecraft, and even sheer aura, leave people with unforgettable memories and experiences. Such entertainers embody skills that their contemporaries don't have—skills like dance, humour and attitude, or the exceptional combination of all of these.



At first glance, this Gen Z Artist comes off as an unassuming young man, full of life, with a deep gait and mystery. But, on stage, he shows a different personality, fit for some of the best performers globally. Gracing us with his presence on the cover of the 16th edition of our magazine, we met with Mr. Drew to fully understand his journey in the music industry, how he has managed to remain visible to fans, and how he has survived a slew of industry controversies that would have brought other artists down.

Born Andrew Nii Commey Otoo, Mr. Drew grew up mostly in Mallam, a peri-urban town in the Weija-Gbawe Municipality of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. In his early childhood, he recounts living with different family members in different communities in Accra, Dansoman, and Kaneshie, before, finally, Mallam.

In Dansoman, I was staying with my father's family and then Kaneshie, where I lived with my father's other family, before moving in with my mum, to Mallam.

Mr. Drew's relocations to different communities, in the formative years of his young life, seem to have been the building blocks of his later life as an entertainer. In Ghana, the saying "it takes a village to raise a child" is very evident in society, and even more so in the communities he grew up in. Growing up in communities like that means early exposure to different personalities, lifestyles, and deep life lessons from people who may not be from one's own nuclear family. For Mr. Drew, it was exposure to the entertainment world.

During my childhood, I was exposed to a whole lot of entertainment, whether it was gaming, movies, or music, and these things have stuck with me, till now. I love playing games, I love dancing, and all those things have still stuck with me.

While staying in Dansoman, the young Mr. Drew lived next door to a successful musician at the time, called Nana King. Nana King happened to be one of the eccentric artists in Ghana at the time, during the highlife/hiplife era in Ghanaian music. Nana King, going against the norms of that time, championed a hip-life sound with heavy hip-hop influences, and even dressed like an American rapper straight outta the hood. Soon enough, he became a godfather figure in the music industry. This status would benefit Mr. Drew, who recollects seeing a lot of artists at the time coming to visit Nana King—artists like Samini, Obour, and other great Ghanaian artists who would visit Nana King—for several parties and cookout events, which he often organised. Their status, lifestyle, and the attention they received when they appeared in the community, at the time, inspired a young Mr. Drew to pursue a career in entertainment.

My grandmother used to sell kenkey, so they would come pick up the kids and take us to the artist's house, and we would be exposed to their music and lifestyle. So, I think that's where my love for music grew. Also, anytime there was a show in the neighbourhood, they would call us to sing; you know people love to see kids perform.

TAP TO
READ THE
FULL
ARTICLE



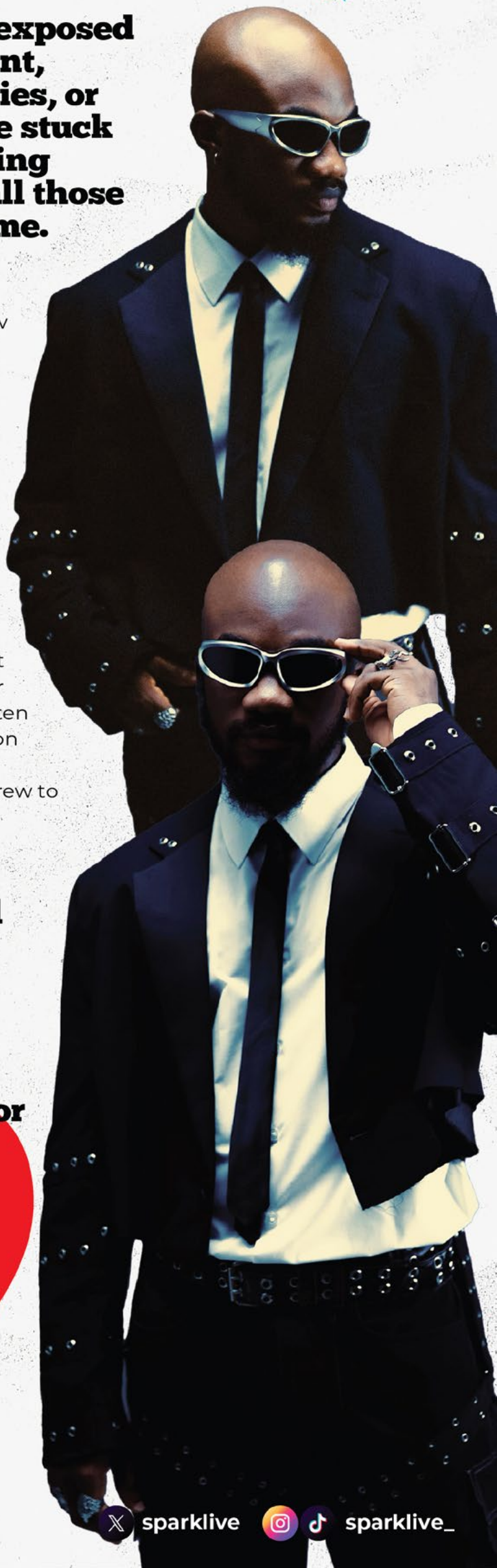
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SNAPCHAT CONFESSIONS!

WHAT'S YOUR WORST ROOMMATE EXPERIENCE?



One of our favourite pals on Snapchat,



icydebaby

asked her followers

“What’s your worst roommate Experience”

Read the hilarious responses on the next page and remember to share yours on our website.



I woke up in the middle of the night to see my male straight roommate over me, jerking off.



My roommate brought in a married man and he slept in our room that night, I had to wear trousers to bed she was so lazy too



She's been fighting me since we became roommates. Proper Daabi gets angry unnecessarily and one day we both got drunk and fucked. since then some wierd vibes between us



There's this one witch err she doesn't know the time she'll learn unless I am. Then she'll turn on the light in your face knowing fully well she doesn't have morning class



I got a new roommate recently and on the day she came she used my spoon and bowl without asking ei



They took my phone and read my messages with my guy and even took pictures of it on their phones herh



This girl reported me for playing loud music and after reporting me she told me she wanted to see how it felt when someone was reported. her Mawuenam



She brought her boyfriend to my room, they fucked on my bed® and the guy used my towel to bath



My roommate went through my phone 3 months after we met just because she likes my cousin and wanted to know what we mostly talk about hmmm



she sent us money to buy her indomie after eating it she called vodafone to reverse the transaction



She made hot oil spill on my thigh just because she was feeling big to say excuse me. ill have that scar forever to



My roommate drank my bottled water and replaced it with tap water my own fridge too o hmmm

I went home came back to a blood stain on my sheets® since then I don't remember the last time sleeping there



Stole my AirPods. Dirtied my bedsheets. Placed a bathroom bucket on my bed. Dirtied my microwave and fridge. Stared at me when I'm asleep. Nearly took a video of me undress



My roommate went behind my back to propose to my bf but unfortunately for her the guy insulted her and came to report to me that this is what she tried doing



Had a roommate who was always brings boys and men to the room without prior notice at midnight. Decided one night to make them uncomfortable till she stopped that.



This roommate eer her uncle can give 3000+ gh just chop money excluding school fees, spend the money with her boyfriend two weeks after reopening when it's finished



In level 300, my level 200 roommate's boyfriend came to bath in our room in my presence and my roommate was sitting at the bathroom watching him while he took his bath.



After reading all these stories from anonymous users, we hope you don't relate to any of these terrible experiences and you find some of the greatest people as roommates.

If you want to read more anonymous Snapchat confessions, check out this one on

WHAT ANNOYS YOU ABOUT YOUR ROOMMATE?



Influencer Profile

Pearl Batista



Pearl Batista is a successful and all-rounded social media influencer and content creator from Ghana. With such tenacity and an authentic style of influencing, she has managed to build a large online presence and worked with some notable brands like Coca Cola, Gordon's Boomplay, Burger king, Jumia, Uber and more.

Pearl's likeable personality and beautiful smile brings a spark to her content and the brands she represents.

Check out Pearl's content and follow her on all socials.

-  [pearl_batista](#)
-  [pearlbatista](#)
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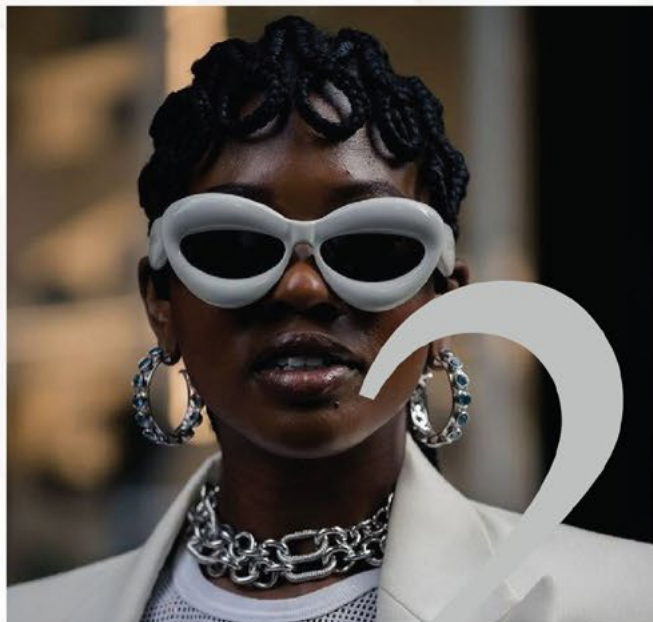
STREETWEAR
TRENDY
FASHION
PIECES YOU
SHOULD
ROCK

Fellow trendsetters are you looking to upgrade your wardrobe with the trendiest streetwear fashion? Don't worry we dey for you? We wouldn't want you to be caught slipping in the trendsetting department as a fashion flyboy and a fashion-it girl.

Streetwear fashion has taken the world by storm and is quite popular among young people because it combines comfort, style, and individuality. It also allows most young people to express their creativity and make artistic and fashionable statements through what they wear, this has helped new trends to emerge either from the streets or even the fashion runway. This clearly makes it hard and a little overwhelming for most people to keep up not to mention update their wardrobe to catch up with the flyboys and girls, I guess that's why you find yourself here.

Statement Making Sun-glasses

Sunglasses are no longer just associated with the functionality of protecting our eyes from harmful UV rays but now they also elevate outfits. Elevate your outfit with unique sunglasses, from exaggerated shapes to colorful ones. Step out feeling like the king or queen of the fashion runway



Chunky Loafers

Chunky loafers deserve a permanent place in your closet, they practically match with everything from jeans to skirts and even dresses to add edge to your outfit. You can wear them to the lectures, for an outing, to run errands, or simply snap cute Instagram pics. They can be paired with white socks to make the look a little less history teacher and a little more fashion week.

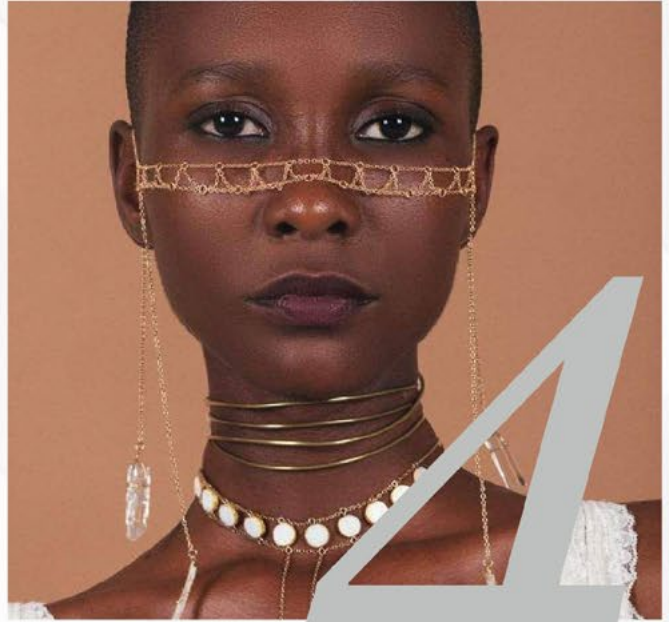
Neck Tie

The small but mighty accessory is no longer limited to formal settings but now spans its territory and rests on the necks of both genders. Styling it from an oversized shirt dress to shirts paired with jorts. The necktie can be worn in different color tones, patterns, and textures. Always remember wide ties for the gentlemen and slim ties for the ladies.



Unique Jewellery

Accessories especially jewelry play an essential role in streetwear fashion, they allow individuals to personalize their style and make a statement. From weird-looking rings, bold earrings, and necklaces complement streetwear outfits, adding an extra layer of individuality and character to your look. Don't be afraid to go all out when accessorizing.



Utility Vibes

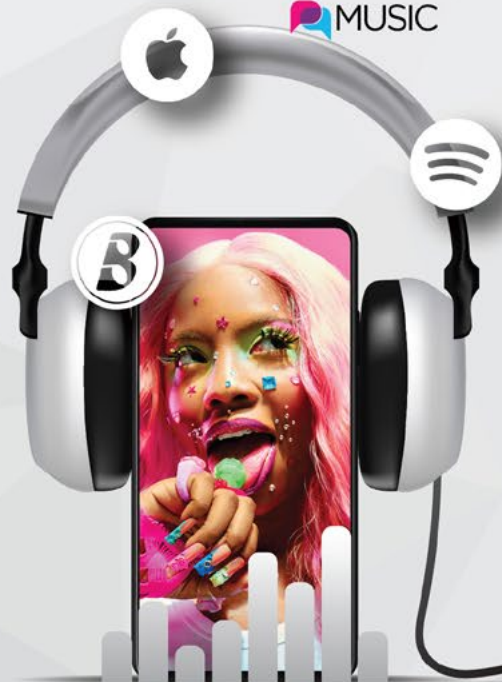
Utility style is the fusion of fashion and functionality. Think cargo pants, vests, denim jackets, jumpsuits, and boots that come with functional fashion details like pockets, drawstrings, and belts. Pull off a fashionable look yet practical and versatile with any of the utility items.

Style Crocheted Pieces

One of the coolest fashion trends to make a comeback in pre-2020 is knitted or crocheted apparel. They are no longer limited to sweaters but can be made into all the cute stuff you can think of, from knitted trousers to the cutest crop tops or shirts and even cool headphone covers. Add an airy touch to your look and feel like the true trendsetter that you are



SPARK TUNES PLAYLIST



Update Your Playlist with these Artists from all around the world



This list was curated by AnRs, music fans and tastemakers from all over the world. Get to know these Artists and listen to our curated playlist titled Spark Tunes with their music on Spotify.



Lusanda

Echoes

Country: South Africa Mood: In my feelings



Jay Bizzy

Next Up?

Country: UK Mood: Deep in Thought



MAZANI

Fixer

Country: Malawi Mood: In my feelings



Country Wizzy

Current Situation

Country: Tanzania Mood: Rap Attack





Annabel Rose

DND

Country: Ghana Mood: Turn dis party up



SHODAY

Silver Spoon

Country: Nigeria Mood: High on vibes



Meja Kunta

Bado Hajusema

Country: Tanzania Mood: Turn dis party up



Nandi

Love Like This

Country: Malawi Mood: In my feelings



Kohdee

Go Well

Country: Nigeria Mood: Road Trip



TYINE

Ndakhuyananza

Country: Kenya Mood: Boy in love





Ellis Evason

LAUNDRY DAY

Country: UK

Mood: Feeling Myself

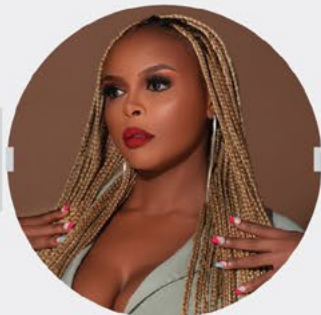


BermudaCal

GOD

Country: Bermuda

Mood: Cruise Control



TheMumbua

I Do

Country: Kenya

Mood: Deep in love



Twiddle Freeman

Need Your Love

Country: Ghana

Mood: Boy in Love



CHLEY

Champions League

Country: South Africa

Mood: Turn dis party up



Jaivah

Buruda

Country: Tanzania

Mood: High on vibes





Romeo Swag
Amenle
Country: Ghana Mood: Rap Attack



Teddy Music
Happier
Country: Malawi Mood: In my feelings




Tyson Sybateli
So Disrespectful
Country: South Africa Mood: Rap Attack




Kweku Pee
Super Woman
Country: Ghana Mood: Boy in Love



Solis
Abeg
Country: Nigeria Mood: In my feelings



**TAP TO LISTEN TO THIS
PLAYLIST ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.SPARKMAG.LIVE**





16

**AFRICAN
ILLUSTRATORS
YOU SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT**

HANSON AKATI

Hanson Akatti became a household name as the official BBNZ senior graphic designer, creating album covers for E.L., Efya, DJ Juls', and Fokn Bois. As his art matured, he collaborated with well-known events like Detty Rave and Afrochella now AfroFuture, to create unique illustrations for marketing purposes. His work is a combination of all his passions: music, graffiti, film, hip-hop culture, and comic books. You can find Hanson Akatti on X @hansonakatti



STEVE FRENCH

This fashion illustrator has spent his entire life celebrating the black woman's form and accentuating the patterns that make her beautiful. Steve French started out drawing at the tender age of eight. He noticed that when he sketched the characters of his favorite cartoon shows, he always paid extra attention to their outfits. Therefore, he started paying attention to fashion in general. Thus began his journey to global success. You will find Steve on Instagram [steviefrenchie](#)

YOBIBINGS

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HASHIM

One word – imaginative! Uber-talented illustrator Hashim has done everything to prove that he is deserving of the title “key illustrator” in Ghana. He created the official Davido A.W.A.Y. Festival flyer. He has worked on track cover art for Black Sherif, Kwesi Arthur, Yung D3mz, DJ Juls, Kidi, and many others. Following Irish writer Oscar Wilde’s advice to either be a work of art or wear a lot of art, Hashim has invited his massive online fan base to wear his art.



VIOLA THEE ARTIST

Newcomer visual artist and self-taught illustrator, Viola Doodoo stepped into the limelight this year. Starting as an experimental makeup artist and somewhat of a social media celebrity, she has garnered high praise for her murals and illustrations. This year alone, Viola Thee Artist has showcased in three group exhibitions highlighting women artists. She continues to share playful caricatures of herself and her friends on X.

XANE ASIAMAH

Xane Asiamah’s surreal enigmatic art has captivated many online who attend his solo shows as loyal fans of his incredible detail, vibrant storytelling, and futurism. The modern and traditional layers of his references set him apart from his peers. Meanwhile, his journey as a digital artist and illustrator has been stimulated by the beauty of women, African symbols, and culture. This “surrealist shifting through worlds” was born in 1996.



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10 RESTAURANTS YOU CAN VISIT ON A BUDGET IN ACCRA



Did your alarms go off when you read the word budget, in Accra? Well, here are 10 real and actual restaurants in Accra, where you won't pay 300gh for seafood noodles which are well-plated Indomie. From a place of silence to a hotel with a restaurant, whether it's hanging around with your friends, and family, maybe on a date, or you are just seeking to find a new area to discover, here are the top 10 budget-friendly restaurants you can check out.

MY WEKU GARDENS

Located in Adjiringanor, East Legon, this serene environment has a large surrounding, a beautiful garden, and free wi-fi service for customers to enjoy their time while enjoying their affordable menu. The restaurant also provides breakfast, lunch and supper and even cocktails. Find them on Instagram @mywekugardens



CACHE CACHE

If you're looking for a fantastic breakfast, lunch, or dinner that won't break the budget, go no further than this source of local and continental meals. From customer service to meal flavor, they provide excellent service. Find them on instagram @cachie&cachie.



MR. SHINE FOODS

Mr. Shine Foods is a relatively new location that appeals to a wide range of people and has a lovely space that makes it ideal for peaceful daytime focus work sessions. They include all of your favorite sweets, drinks, and delectable delicious food items like Bissap, Fries, American breakfast & a lot of other meals. Follow them on Instagram @mr.shinefoods



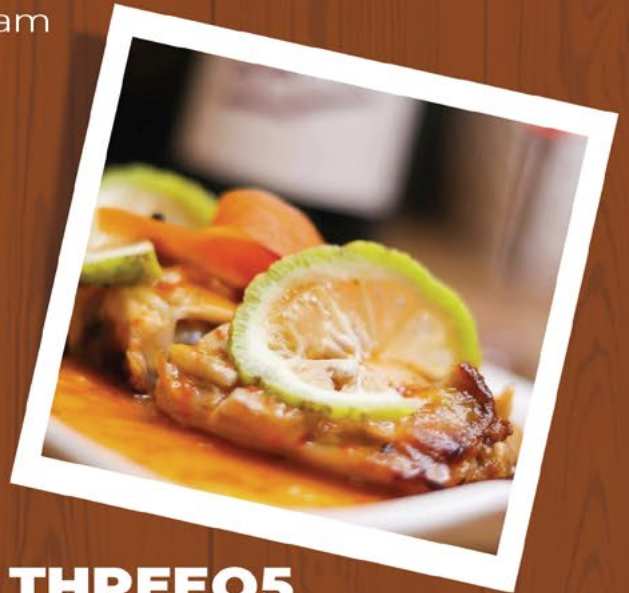


OOPS SPORTS BAR

How amazing is it to acquire food and drinks for as little as 100 cedis? Giving Oops to the economy. This recently opened bar offers cuisine and the perfect atmosphere for watching live sports matches, making it a treat for all types of people. With a budget of 80 to 150 cedis per person, you can enjoy Noodles with vegetables, grilled chicken, and other meals. You can reach them on Instagram

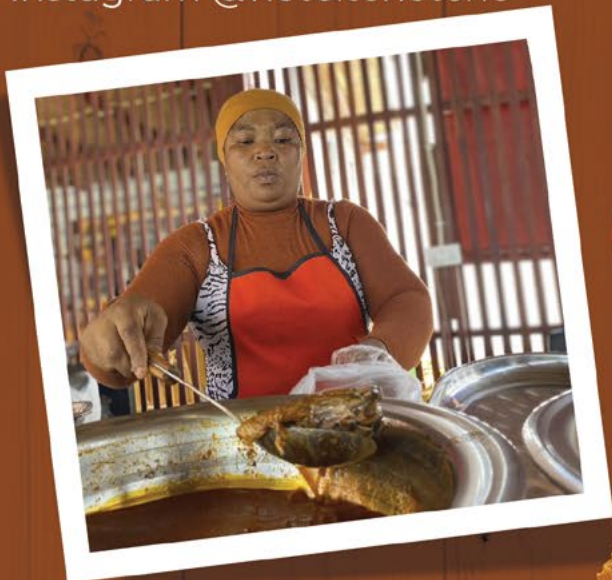
TCHETCHE HOTEL/ RESTAURANT

A restaurant that not only provides an exquisite living experience but also specializes in tasty meals prepared with fresh ingredients and skill by their amazing culinary crew. They also have their all-round buffet available on Sundays for all those who enjoy local Ghanaian dishes. Find them on Instagram @hoteltchetche



THREE05 RESTAURANT

If you are looking for the best place to experience the famous fufu, you have come to the right place! You can't go wrong with Three05 Restaurant's fufu. This restaurant located in East Legon is a welcoming environment that serves local and continental dishes. Reach them on Instagram @three05restaurant_



WOK BOYZ

This is for my Korean-obsessed friends who appreciate the beauty of Korean food and culture. The establishment delivers a 'hip' and 'cool' ambiance to its customers with everything from an 'Instagrammable' graffiti painting to thumping beats playing out on the venue's terrace. Follow their Instagram @wokboyzghana



AZMERA RESTAURANT

A restaurant that combines our exquisite culinary heritage with an excellent dining experience to give consumers a genuine taste of Ghana. Azmera serves a variety of dishes including local dishes such as Fufu, Banku, Omo-tuo & a lot more. They also have buffet options available, however with an average budget per head of 150 cedis.

KAZIN'S BITE

Kazin's bite has a pleasant atmosphere accessible to everyone, but most especially, students. With just your student ID, you instantly get a whopping discount to enjoy more meals from their menu! All you need is an average budget of 50 to 150 cedis per person. You can also reach them directly on Instagram @kazins_bite

MARI-NATE RESTAURANT

This restaurant is located on the Airport Residential area stretch in Accra. Well, with an average budget of 100 to 200 cedis per person, you can enjoy the premium luxury service and meals at this restaurant. Hit them up on Instagram and visit @marinaterestaurant

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