

ABOUT THE COCOA FESTIVAL

The main objective of The Cocoa Festival is to create a renaissance in the cocoa industry in a manner that will first appreciate the farmers, return dignity and self-worth to the farmers so that the coming generation can embrace cocoa farming with pride. Our approach is through creating a cocoa culture and building platforms for cultural exchange, networking, exchange of ideas and opportunities for networking that will lead to establishing collaborations and partnerships that will bridge the gap between production and consumption and ultimately achieve mutual and beneficial shared value to create wealth that can transform the communities.

This celebration of the cultural heritage of Eti-Oni now in its 8th edition is also celebrating 125 years of continued production of cocoa in Eti-Oni. Over the years, it saw in attendance agriculturalists (new and established), agro-tourists as well as local and international travel enthusiasts who came to participate in somewhat divine and significant royal cocoa traditions of Eti-Oni showcased through music, dance, drama and poetry amongst other events through the entire week of celebration.

Due to Covid, the 2020 edition was partially celebrated in a unique style. The Festival Conference themed: Transforming the Cocoa Industry for Impact with Focus on African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA was held as a Virtual Event. This made it possible for several speakers who are stakeholders from across the continent to participate and they shared their thoughts on the Continent's Free Trade Area which was launched on 1st of January 2021 creating the world's largest single market with 1.4 Billion people. There were also speakers from the Caribbean region, Europe, Asia, North and South America who joined the discussion on how the cocoa industry can benefit from collaborations and how to achieve it.

The physical side of the 7th edition was for 1 day and held as an empowerment program sponsored by Ajike People Support Center founded by Her Excellency, Ambassador Dr Olufolake Abdulrazaq, the First Lady of Kwara State who holds the honourary chieftaincy title of Labinjo of Eti-Oni and is a Global Ambassador of the International Cocoa Diplomacy, UK. Some of the cocoa farmers were granted a number of equipment and tools to help diversify and boost earning capacity with other income streams.

THE COCOA FESTIVAL 2021

Every year, the organization continues to evolve by seeking new and building on existing relationships to form partnerships with relevant organizations that share similar ethics and standards in pursuit of the overall vision. This has led to several events and activities introduced resulting in growth of the festival over the years. In 2021, the festival is geared to take a new dimension as the newly founded Royal Cocoa International Film Festivals, the first of its kind will be launched.

The Cocoa Festival 2021 edition is themed: 'THE ROYAL ORIGIN AND TRADITIONS OF COCOA – REDEFINING AFRICA'S COCOA INDUSTRY and will begin on Sunday 21st November 2021 with the Cocoa Harvest Service at All Saints Anglican Church, Eti-Oni followed by the Cocoa Pod Breaking Ceremony to declare the festival open and we pray it will open up to a beautiful, healthy, peaceful and bountiful 2021/22 Season.

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd November 2021 will have the farmers in training with through the Farmers Business School and the Farmers Field School. The business school is for the farmers to begin to see themselves as entrepreneurs and understand the basics of owning and managing a business profitably while the field school is to help them improve on their traditional farming practices to have better quality and increased production output.

A Health Campaign for education on simple issues that are often over looked but can easily become major health challenges with basic health checks for the farmers and families will be carried out on Wednesday 24th November 2021.

The Grand Finale will be held on Saturday 27th November 2021. The celebration starts with installation of chiefs at the Palace to deserving and selfless individuals who have over the years contributed to the growth and development of Eti-Oni and have lifetime commitment to actualization of the overall vision of Eti-Oni Development Group.

THE ROYAL COCOA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS

This is a series of film festivals that will be held in Nigeria, St Lucia, Monaco, UK and US in partnership with New Generation In Action (NGIA) Artisan Festival International (AFI) World Peace Initiative, an award winning US based NGO, recognized with Special Consultative Status by the United Nations through ECOSOC alongside our cocoa and chocolate events as we continue to work towards developing the cocoa culture and building bridges between production and consumption.

NGIA has been utilizing the diversity of media platforms to promote RESPECT and DIGNITY across the broad spectrum of global society regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or religion. With its AFI World Peace Initiative, the NGIA has chosen film as an impactful means to educate, enlighten and inform audiences of all ages around the world, with a better understanding of the existential issues facing us all today.

RCIFF was founded July 13, 2021 by Their Royal Majesties of Eti-Oni as an initiative of Eti-Oni Development Group in an effort to utilize arts and cultural events to raise awareness to transform the cocoa industry while celebrating cocoa farmers worldwide and those of the Kingdom of Eti-Oni, the oldest cocoa plantation in Nigeria.

RCIFF 2021 LAUNCH - EVENT & ACTIVITIES

The Launch of RCIFF in Nigeria will be a hybrid of virtual and physical events to give opportunity to several global stakeholders and decision makers who had been providing advice and support to make the festival, a truly international one but due to covid, most people who had shown keen interest to be part of the festival and the historic launch of the film festivals are still limited in international travels.

Details of the Virtual Launch:

Friday 19 November 2021, 7pm – 9pm: Virtual Launch of Royal Cocoa International Film Festivals via zoom.

Details of the Physical Launch:

Thursday 25 November 2021, 6pm – 10pm: Physical Launch of Royal Cocoa International Film Festivals at the Film House, Osun Mall, Osogbo

The Royal Cocoa International Film Festivals will be formally launched and the Film Festivals will be declared open by His Excellency Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, the Executive Governor of the State of Osun.

The launch will screen one feature.film and 4 short films:

- Premiere and Screening of two time Oscar Nominee Barry Alexander Brown's **"Son of the South"** Executive Produced by Oscar winner, Spike Lee starring: Lucas Till, Lex Scott Davis, Lucy Hale, Cedric the Entertainer, Shamier Anderson and Dexter Darden.
- Premiere and Screening of **"5150"** Directed by Denzel Whitaker, written and produced by John Trefry and Denzel Whitaker Executive Produced by David Oyelowo starring Jovan Adepo
- Premiere and Screening of **"Legend of the Cocoa King"** 2D Animation Movie by HRM Oba Dokun Thompson
- Smartphone Cinema Block - Screening of **"Come Back to Me"** (India) by Vineesha Arora-Sarin
- Screening Trailer: A feature film shot entirely on smartphone **"Between Mountains"** (USA) by Vineesha Arora-Sarin starring Amit Sarin

Friday 26 November 2021: 4pm – 6pm: Virtual Session of Learning and Discussion in the New World & New Generation of Entertainment.

Topics will include:

- The New World of Casting - Casting in the New World of COVID-19, tips and trends
- Breaking into the global Film Industry - Micro-budget to Blockbuster, is there a formula? Experts will advise based on The New World of entertainment since the pandemic
- New World of Smartphone Content - Success stories of filmmakers who make content on their smartphones for main stream audiences

THE LAUNCH COMMITTEE

The Honorary RCIFF Launch Committee is a group of individuals who are stakeholders and decision makers in the global film industry that have provided support specific to "films of purpose," and the launch of RCIFF within the arts sectors: In alphabetical order, they include:

Bruno Chatelin - Co-Founder of FilmFestivals.com, Film Executive (France)

Chief Ginew Benton – Award Winning Filmmaker, Native American Story Teller & Musician /Ojibwa Native American (USA)

Ed Umoja Herman – Producer and Filmmaker (USA)

Eve Pomerance - Casting Director, Film and Television Producer (USA)

Gregory and Ernie Schimizzi – Broadcast Television Pioneers (USA)

Jagrit Bajwa – Punjabi hip-hop Artist, 2030 SDG Youth Advocate (CANADA)

John Mathurin - Tourism, Arts & Culture Expert (St Lucia)

Lawrence David Foldes - Critically Acclaimed Filmmaker, Student Academy Awards (USA)

Michela Scolari – Award Winning Filmmaker (Italy)

Mike Doughty – Business and Entertainment Developer, Strategist, Publicist (USA)

Niquole Esters – Environmental Sustainability Advisor, Connector, Mentor and Traveler (USA)

Orlando Satchel - Culinary Arts & Film Enthusiast (St Lucia)

Otunba Dotun Olakunri – Award Winning Film Producer (Nigeria)

Peter Ferris – Award Winning Film Producer, Actor, Top 50 Global Teacher Prize 2021 (UK)

Princess Lamide Thompson-Odeneye – Cyber Security Professional (Nigeria)

Princess Moradeun Adedoyin-Solarin – Award Winning UK Nollywood Actress and Producer & TV Presenter (UK)

Professor Karl Bardosh - Award winning filmmaker, Pioneer in smartphone cinema, Professor (USA)

Ron Carter – Public Relations Strategist and Entertainment Media Practitioner (USA)

Sandeep Marwah - Founder of Noida Film City, President of Marwah Studios, Chancellor of AAFT University of Media and Arts (India)

Tina Tandon – Fashion Designer and Consultant (USA/India)

VIRTUAL LAUNCH

Friday 19 November 2021

Time: 6PM - 8PM (GMT)



HONOURARY LAUNCH COMMITTEE



Bruno Chatelin



Chief Ginew Benton



Ed Umoja Herman



Eve Pomerance



Ernie & Gregory Schimizzi



Jagrit Bajwa



John Mathurin



Lawrence David Foldes



Michela Scolari



Mike Doughty



Niquole Esters



Orlando Satchell



Otunba Dotun Olakunri



Peter Ferris



Princess Olamide
Thompson-Odeleye



Princess Moradeun
Adedoyin-Solarin



Professor
Karl Bardesh



Ron Carter



Sandeep Marwah

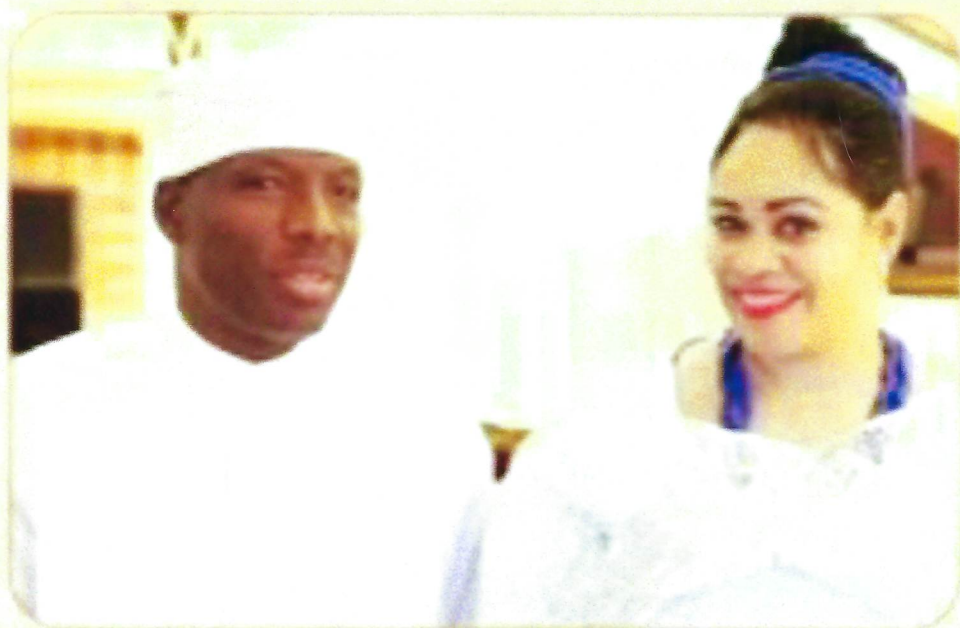
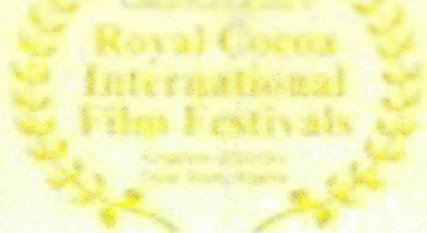


Tina Tandon

VIRTUAL LAUNCH

Friday 19 November 2021

Time: 6PM - 8PM (GMT)



FOUNDERS

Their Royal Majesties of Eti-Oni

**OBA DOKUN THOMPSON GUREJE IV &
QUEEN ANGELIQUE-MONET GUREJE-THOMPSON**



Son of the South
BABY ALEXANDER BROWN
Two Time Oscar Nominee
Film Maker



5150
DENZEL WHITAKER
Notable Films include
Training Day and Black Panther



Between Mountains
VINEESHA ABOISA-SARIN
Award Winning Filmmaker (USA),



Come Back to Me
AMIT SARIN
Award Winning Actor, Producer,
and Bollywood Star (USA, India)

