

UNKNOWN

MAGAZINE

Edition 1

Sports
& Talent

A KENYAN YOU SHOULD KNOW

RAYTON OKWIRI

MIKE OMONDI MULINYA

STEPHENE KALEKYE NZIVO



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RI **UNKNOWN**

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Introduction

unKnown

Overall **unKnown** an extension of **RI puts** the African sports and talent industry at the center of every story. RI discovers, shares, creates and celebrates the African continent through storytelling.

RI stories range from the biggest to the smallest, A dash of will-ingness

unKnown a quarterly digital magazine, and a magazine brand of Rafiki International limited (RI), that reflects RI in all its diversity, providing content on Talent, the Arts, Sports, and Culture.

unKnown has a sort of storytelling-esque feel to it. Taking you through a journey that allows you to **experience African talent, its expression, emotions, and opinions.**

unKnown will highlight conversations with our future **U18 Hangout,**

unKnown will use photography, illustrations, original films and animations to illustrate **A few Seconds Before Happiness.**

unKnown will shine a light through its signature interviews with an array of fascinating Athletes in **The Journey The Victory,**

unKnown will inspire with messages from **A Kenyan You Should Know.**

unKnown will motivate with A Stick and Stone Moment. and we highlight the current situation within African Sports and Talent Industry.

We are friends for life and we keep it

100%

From the unKnown desk

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sports in Kenya

By Wairimu Nyathira

After the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in March 2020, the Ministry of Sports, Culture, and Heritage called for a cessation of sports competitions and group sports activities in the country.

With more than 480 cases reported worldwide at the time and over 300 deaths, the WHO classified the coronavirus as an international public health emergency.

During the large-scale travel disruptions due to the outbreak, many major sports tournaments (including the Olympics) were put on hold or completely canceled.

Tokyo Olympic games and other major tournaments canceled.

All global events were suspended at that time, including the world's greatest sporting showcase: the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

At the national level, three major global sports events were postponed in Kenya in 2020: FIA/WRC Safari Rally Kenya, the World Athletics Under-20 Championships, and Magical Kenya Open Golf Championship.

Covid's effects have cost Kenyan athletes Sh5 billion.

Kenya's athletics has always been rich in talent. athletes have earned a significant amount of prize money, enabling them to live in luxury and enjoy their earnings.

But all that changed when Covid-19 descended on the country, disrupting the athletics schedule.

The state of Sporting Activities During the Covid-19 Pandemic

On June 30, 2020, Sports secretary-Amina Mohammed announced the formation of the Resumption of Sports Advisory Committee. Putting a focus on developing strategies for resuming sporting events in the country following the outbreak of Covid-19.

From June 24 to 27 2021, Kenyans were filled with nostalgia as the World Rally Championship (WRC) Safari Rally returned to Kenya-Africa after a 19-year break becoming the country's first major international sports competition since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

August 17 to 22 2021, Kenya hosted the World Athletics U20 Championships after a successful bid, the Moi International Sports Center -Kasarani was set with great excitement, as the championship provided opportunities to develop athletes.

What covid- 19 has taught the sporting industry is that the financial impact on the organizers is only profitable as the athletes who participate.



A Kenyan You Should Know

Art

Name: Mike Omondi Mulinya

Artist name : Olympus arts.

Fb- mike Omondi Olympus

Instagram-olympus_art_mike

Talent: Artist

Artist point of view on the whole exhibition.

Inspiration: Nature, Late Vicent van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso and Salvado da Ali.

Exhibition: Walking on Eggshells -Emotional Abuse.

During the early times of Covid-19 a lot of school going kids suffered from adaptation of homeschool. Parent went to long mid-term combined with never ending school holiday.

The frustration and desperation to be a parent, teacher and provider let to some parents discovering each other and their children.

Walking on Eggshells highlights how words, lack of understanding and patience can develop into unwanted abuse.

Question: How has your art developed over the years?

Answer: My art has grown and developed over the years due to more techniques and styles that I have done and used, this has made me improve my art and make incredible pieces. Through my development, I have managed to also get new clients and execute new ideas.

Question: What have you learned about Emotional abuse since you were commissioned to work on this piece?

Answer: Emotional abuse according to the commissioned art pieces I made, I came to realize that art can convey the message through pictures and illustrations, thus I realized emotional abuse is something in our societies that children and even parents go through, though children pass through when parents are not able to sit down with them and ask them the troubles of their mind and heart that makes them think of doing terrible things like suicide or such related.

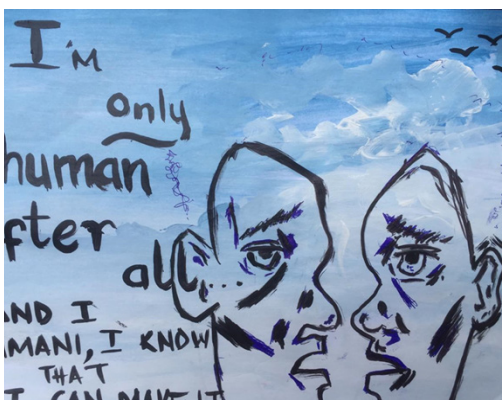
Question: What does it mean for you as an artist to work on such a piece?

Answer: Personally, as an artist, making emotional pieces has meant a lot since it brings me out to a focal point to help create illustrations and also make me have the urge of making new pieces that are related to the topic, brings an opportunity for me because I'm sure I might also get more contracts from other people who are interested in illustrations art not necessarily emotional ones but any other related to illustrations.

ART EXHIBITION-WALKING ON EGG SHELLS



Before Covid 19



THE JOURNEY

THE VICTORY

THE PUNCH THAT WE SHALL NOT SEE COMING

BY WAIRIMU NYATHIRA

For Kenyan boxer, Rayton Okwiri, nicknamed Boom Boom for his revered combination of punches delivered with machine-like efficiency, aging is gracious while experience has no barrier.

At 35, Okwiri who turned pro four years ago has a lot punch to star at the highest level of competition as he told our writer Wairimu Nyathira in a one-on-one candid interview.



Okwiri thank you for talking to Unknown

Q: Tell us how you plan and prepare yourself for a fight?

Answer: I have a routine, I wake every day at nine and exercise for one hour mostly it is strength and conditioning sessions, have breakfast and then take a nap.

Before the fight, I train twice a day

The morning session is normal training, pad work, punching bag drills, jump rope, shadowed boxing, and physical training which is abdominal exercises, leg work, and many more.

To sharpen his skills and condition my body.

Fight preparation workouts

Work out plan - I lift weights for eight weeks. This helps balance my body and muscles
Spurring twice per week.

What is your meal plan like?

Answer: I must have a meal plan;
I watch my weight and concentrate on high energy foods.
I work with my nutritionist where we focus on natural carbohydrates to get those quality carbs. We also focus on good sources of natural proteins.

My morning breakfast for example is rich in proteins including things like eggs, meats, and hams, natural carbohydrates like wholegrain bread, oats, rice fruits, etc.

I try to eat within the golden hour after training, never train on an empty stomach and always have my water intake on check. I sweat it out during training and it's vitally important for me to replace the fluids lost.

Q: Therefore, it is not easy for one to get up and enter the boxing ring?

Answer: The cringe in Boxing you must be mentally prepared. They are always unique pressure that comes with boxing, however, for me, it's also the skill, the most important thing is to be physically fit before you can enter the boxing arena. When I feel I am fit, I feel ready and confident for a fight.

Q: Tell us more about yourself and how you got into boxing?

Answer: I grew up in Majengo Mvita Mombasa and lived with my grandfather who at the time was working with the KDA. Within the area we had a lot of places to lift weights and train. I would see a lot of sportsmen visited these places, I mostly liked to go and watch Kenyan hero Ashura Oure practice. I would watch and learn from them. When I finished primary school and joined high school my desire to become a boxer had grown in me, and that is when I started training.

When I am not in the boxing ring, I am a police officer with the Kenya Prisons Service.

Any Regrets?

Answer: When I was young, I was a very strong, I grew up like a fighter, bullying and been in trouble people would telling me to pick up weights, So I did when my uncle saw my potential and introduced me to the same gym where gold medalist Wangila used to train. So, I have no regrets been a boxer.

Q: Did Ashira Oure, inspire and motivate you to become a boxer

Answer: He gave me inspiration, because every time I watched him practicing, I wanted to be like him. At that time Ashira Oure was a boxer for the Kenya National team, and also had won various titles, plus had participated in the Olympics, I wanted to be like him a Boxing Champion.

Q: Is it true that a childhood fight was your personal motivation towards boxing?

Answer: Yes it is true, I schooled at Serani Secondary School, when, I got into trouble, I got into a fight and I got hurt The incident hurt me so much that it made me want revenge. So, I dared my self to lift weights, get my strength to accomplish my revenge.

Q: Have you ever met the guy who started the war with you?

Answer: Yes, and we are best friends now. One of them joined the Police Department in Nairobi.

Q: Had you tried any others sports apart from boxing?

Answer: I had started specialized in athletics especially in the 400 meters, I also tried to play sports like tae kwondo as well. However, when I tried boxing, my talent shinned and boxing choose me.

Any Parents scare?

When I told my mama that I wanted to be a boxer, she at first refused my uncles who were also boxers persuaded her. It was a difficult time for me but my parents held my hand.

Q: Coming to the City Nairobi

I never knew about Nairobi; it was a place I passed by on transit to up-country.

Q: Just tell us briefly, Amateur to Pro how has the journey been?

Answer: It's has been a journey, my life has always been about training, developing my techniques and managing my weight so I can make weight within my category. I started training young, went to amateur level and now Pro. It's not easy, it's difficult especially if have a bad manager, who doesn't negotiate or find suitable opponents. As I look to the future, I am confident even with my years, I belong here, I feel like a win because of what I have achieved so far, now I can only charge head on.

The Victory

Rayton Okwiri wins gold medal in the 2016 African Boxing Olympic Qualification Tournament

Rayton Okwiri qualified for the 2016 Olympics as a Welterweight (69kg).



Body Transformation

I used to say to myself that if I could find a good sponsor, a good manager and promoter my boxing career would be on track. I work on myself a lot, keep fit, stay ready all the time. My word to any boxer is choose your management/ sponsors well, some can misuse you and ruin your career, it has been a big challenge for me as a boxer and for many boxers in Kenya.



From left is Giovanni barraza from Colombia, Jayson minda from equado, and Tracy Johnson from America, Rayton Okwiri from Kenya @ Raye's Training Camp

Q: Back in 2016 what would have a win at Rio meant for you?

Answer: I always told my mum that one day I will go to the Olympics because of my hands. My dream came true, however It would have been a complete accomplishment for me, when I started boxing my mind was set at winning at the Olympics. I motivate and immersed myself into having a good fighting always so I just waited on another chance.

And then came Olympic qualifiers Dakar?

My moral was high, I gave up my Africa Boxing Union middleweight belt to represent my country that how important my Olympics dream was to me and is still is. My loss to David Ssemujji felt like a robbery, disbelieve as his hand went to the air. After all it is boxing you win by knock out, decision or you draw. The dream was mine, the warning of them wanting to stripe me of my title if I participated at the qualifiers would have stopped me.

Word of motivation

I used to say to myself that if I could find a good sponsor, a good manager and promoter my boxing career would be on track. I work on myself a lot, keep fit, stay ready all the time. My word to any boxer is choose your management/ sponsors well, some can misuse you and ruin your career, it has been a big challenge for me



A stick and a stone moment



Boxing champion Rayton Okwiri gives up his African Boxing Union Middleweight belt and is stripped off his title. As an effort for him to qualify for the Olympics. The decision came after he was included in the National team (Hit Squad).



Robert Napunyi Wangila Kenyan Boxer Seoul 1988 Summer Olympic Games.

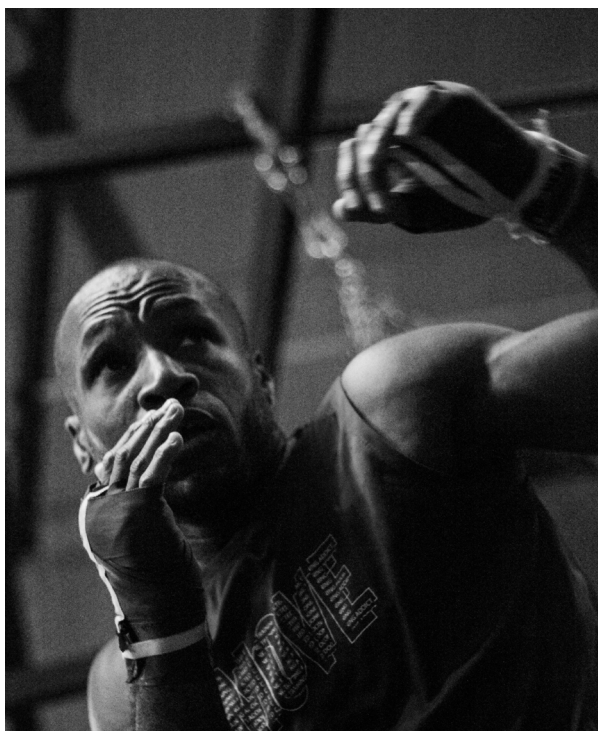
A few seconds before happiness

Robert Napunyi Wangila born on 3rd September 1966 was the first Kenyan boxer to win a welterweight gold medal at the Seoul 1988 Summer Olympic Games-South Korea.

The 1994 fight with David Gonzales in Las Vegas would be his last fight. As the fight progressed Wangila had taken in much punishment and the referee stop the match in favour of Gonzales despite Wangila's fierce protests

Wangila had a deadly right hand that had delivered knockout which was equally matched by his opponent Gonzales who was also a hard pounder and focusing on the arms, chest, and head.

Wangila would later lapse into a coma in his dressing room and passed on thirty-six hours later.



UNDER18 HANGOUT

We asked a group of teens what they knew about boxing

Do you know much about Kenyan boxing?

Most of them said No

Some of the boxers you admire?

Mohammed Ali.

A boxer you hear people talk about?

Mike Tyson

Boxers you have watched in the ring?

Floyd Mayweather, Manny Pacquiao

Story by Young Reporter Sokka.

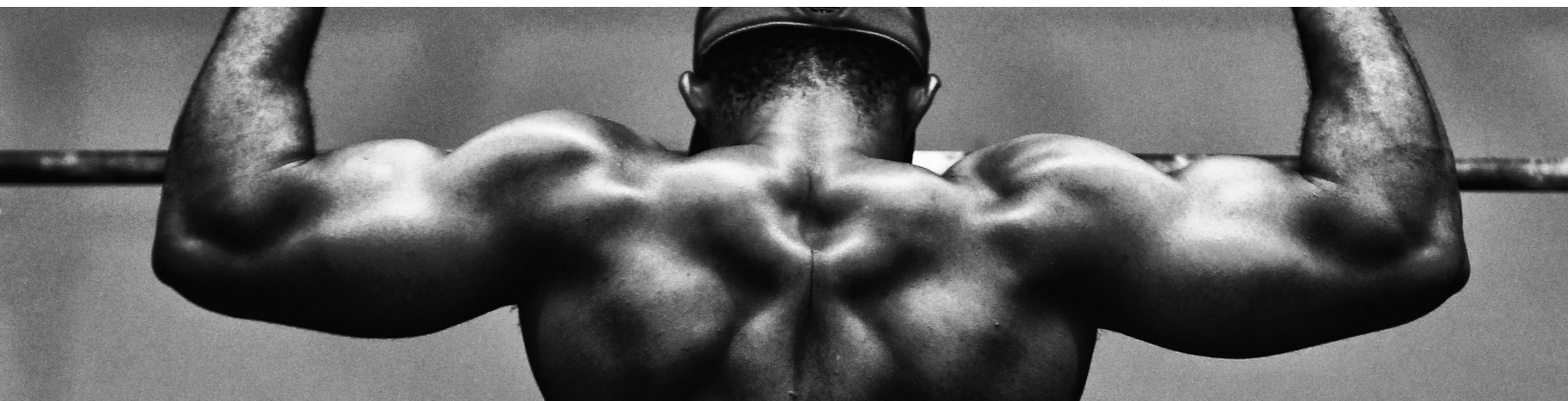


AFRIBOX PROMOTIONS

Afribox Promotions is founded by Thomas Mutua Kiswili who started as a boxing promoter in 2004. Mutua started with small matches and now is a well-respected name in the boxing circles for staging world-class professional boxing matches for the elites across the world.

He is best remember for fight of the decade in 2019 in partnership with gaming company Sportpesa the dubbed "The Nairobi Fight Night" between Kenyan Zarika, a WBC champion and Zambian Catherine Phiri at the KICC which brought Nairobi to a standstill. Fans were treated to boxing entertainment when Zarika held on to her WBC women super Bantamweight title

"This November 2021, Afribox is organizing an international boxing show dubbed "Champions Fight Night". This fight night will bring international boxers from Europe and African continents where the main bout of the evening, peaking with a World Boxing Federation (WBF) title bout. The event will be broadcast live in Kenya and across the African continent courtesy of our local and international broadcasting partners". Mutua told Unknown



Evans Oure Ashira

born and raised in Kenya is a retired Kenyan boxer now living in Denmark, where he has set up his own Boxing and fitness club Ashira Oure Boxing Club AOBC in Hellerup a small city five kilometers from downtown Copenhagen.



Started boxing at the age of eight and still boxing at the age of 42 yrs.

Ashira's ring name (The African Warrior) which resonated with his relentless and flamboyant boxing style is the nephew of legendary Owiso Oure a sturdy boxer, who was well known for his neck and neck encounter with the late Idi Amin when still in Ugandan military.

On a day-to-day basis Ashira can be found in his boxing club AOBC which he formed in Florida USA West palm beach and now stationed in Denmark. Where he offers training to top name in Europe and promoting fitness, healthy living amongst a diverse clientele of sports personalities. He is also grooming the next generation of boxing champions, and his three sons are all boxing at amateur level.



Memorable moments in his career

Boxing in the biggest arenas like Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, the famous Madison Square Garden in New York and Cardiff Whales UK.

Great boxers and good friends

Evander Holyfield

5X Heavyweight Champion of the World Evander Holyfield, aka (the Real deal) trained at AOBC gym home of champions when he was getting ready to box Brian Nielsen Danish heavyweight.



Others

3X Supermiddle weight Champion of the world Mikkell Kessler

2X heavyweight Champion of the World Tim Weatherspoon

Sparring

sparring sessions with pound-for-pound boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr at Palm Beach, Florida in his days at Don King's stable.

Most memorable quote

"You can only live full life if you are healthy and fit" My dad

Fredrick Ashira Oure Jr, Esonga Ashira Oure and Owiso Oure. COURTESY

Facts about Ashira

Born: Kenyan
 Residence: Hellerup, Denmark
 Stance: Orthodox
 Height- 5' 10 / 178cm
 Pro career-1998-2008
 Born: December 28, 1969
 Weight Division-Middleweight

Amateur Boxing Background

Six time Kenyan champion in three weight-divisions.
 African champion 1995.
 Commonwealth champion 1996.
 1996 Olympian in Atlanta, USA.
 130 fights, 115 victories.



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Two Times World title contender (WBA World Middle Title & WBO World Super Middle Title)
- IBF Inter-Continental Super Welterweight champion on stopping Argentine Silvio Luis Peppino in 1999
- WBA Inter-Continental Middle Title (defended multiple times)
- Vacant Commonwealth (British Empire) Middle Title contender 2007
- Universal Boxing Organization (UBO) Inter Continental Super Welter Title 2008
- Started boxing at the age of 8yrs and is still boxing at 42 yrs.



From (L) Esonga Ashira Oure, Lil Debra, Fredrick Ashira Oure Jr, Owiso Oure, Evans Ashira Oure on a recent gym summer holiday in Messina Sicily Italy.

COURTESY



Reworking breathes life into vintage

Stephanie Kalekye Nzivo is a fashion design student at the Kenyatta University. unknown talks with her to find out her inspiration to be a fashion designer. Kalekye is looking forward to graduate in 2023, as an upcoming fashion enthusiast, her has dedication at the moment is reworking.



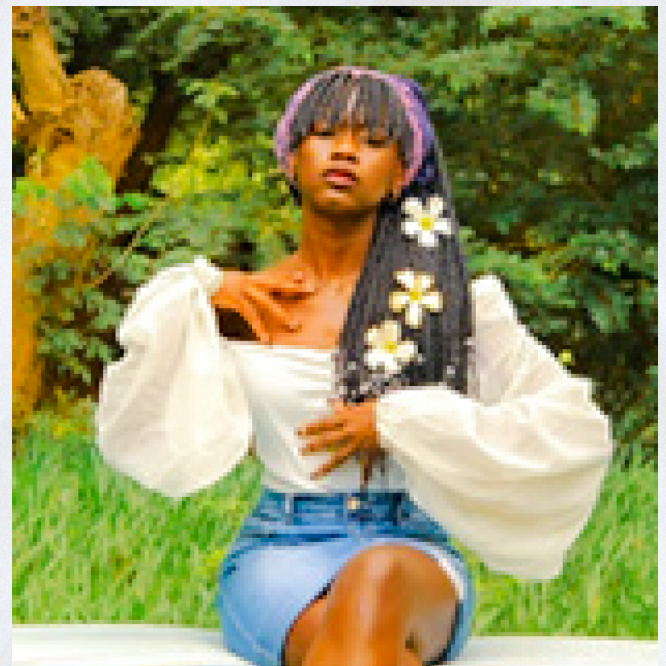
Timeless Fashion With Kalekye

I personally think that individuality is important in fashion. Kalekye work is all about re-working where she takes an idea that was old and successfully make it become new again.

Kalekye thinks fashion is very interesting. She love's and crave seeing people use different pieces of clothing to suit their different tastes of style, and in their own uniqueness. Fashion is just an exquisite piece of art.

Like seen in the opposite image Kalekye stylish one of her clients Nichole Agenta with a classy look.

Kalekye is known for her modest vintage style, fashion trends tend to repeat themselves over time, but with different styles. She likes to take old vintage fabric and clothing, that were trends back them and do a rework of them, that is change some little aspects. This allows her to incorporate a new sense of fashion to them.



blouse with bishop sleeves and denim shirt. The same electric and modest feel is experienced with Nichole's second look where Kalekye uses nature and natural beauty to bring out Nichole's beauty and pose.

As she works on her brand Aria Reworked, she has found that good things take time, one of the major challenges is time, the balance between studies and creativity. she enjoys her work for she spends time shopping a lot, with clients or for her clients. On normal days it would be friends, looking for inspiration on social media



Steal this Sporty Look



Inspired by the functions of certain outfits, applying the idea of less is more she pairing baggy mommy jeans, with a body-hugging crop top and bucket hat. A pair of sneakers (Air Jordans) add the cozy sporty vibe, while a pair of tiny sunglasses, small loop earrings and just a touch of makeup will turn you into a style guru.

Steal this look or hola @aria.reworked

Her perspective
on clothing reflects
her personality

New Song

RELEASE

BY EDITH WAIRIMU & SHEDDY SHADRACK
AUDIO BY SHEDDY SHADRACK
VIDEO BY JOE MORRIS



EDITH WAIRIMU KENYA | SHEDDY SHADRACK

Wi MUNENE

15TH SEPT 2021

Wednesday

Motto: A Kelani Till The End

Washindi Hadi Mwisho

KELANI SPORT ACADEMY

Location: St. Peter's Field

Off Nairobi- Namanga Rd behind Royal Finesse Acacia
Estate Kitengela.

