

Folorunso Oladeji Ladapo

Department of Languages and Literary Studies,
Adeleke University, Ede,
Osun State, Nigeria

Introduction

This paper is an unusual one in that it is not common to have research outputs being rendered in verse form. It is in the unusual nature that this paper finds its motivation: describing the Nollywood industry and its headquarters in poetry. The verses that constitute this poem therefore constitute a miniature paradigm shift from the usual paragraph-based research report to a poetry-based one.



1.
Nollywood, Nollywood
Lagos Nollywood;
A larger than life nomenclature;
A positive household name
All over the globe;
Indeed Lagos Nollywood,
Which is never in the wood
But in the open world
Of film and cinematography;
Never in its periphery,
But in the main front
And the fore front
Of films and cinemas
Since time immemorial,
And has grown in leaps and bounds,
Boasting of hundreds of actors
Crew members and cinematographers,
Off book auditionists and directors,
Sharp camera shooters and helmers,
All navigating the world of cinemas
To make Nollywood
More than good
In its growth and development,
Exploring the great natural endowment
Of the Lagos city and vicinity
To entertain and educate humanity
Through didacticism located in comedy,
Satire located in tragi-comedy
And sobriety located in tragedy

2.
More often than not,
There exist academic papers
Flooding journals and books
On the theory and practice of films,
Celebrating cinematographers and actors
As well as directors
In the Nollywood industry,
Little or no attention
Exists on the city
That houses the Nollywood industry;
Perforce then the Nollywood Lagos
Be in the focus
In poetic verses
For global scholars
To further know
That Lagos is the window
Of the Nollywood industry;
The fertile city that owns the fertility
That produces and nourishes Nollywood;
The nutrients that turn the wood
In Nollywood
Into the pillar of steel.

3.
The lines that follow,
Are therefore to show
A bit of the features
That partly qualify the city of Lagos
As the home of Nollywood;
The base of its actors,
Such as Femi Adebayo and Olu Jacobs,
An abode of actresses
Such as Rita Dominic and Regina Daniels¹.

4.
Nollywood Lagos
Is the home of Nollywood.
The base of Nollywood,
The headquarters of Nollywood;
Indeed, the factory of Nollywood
Where epic films
And landmark cinemas
Are regularly produced,
Minted, birthed
And released to the world,
A better place of abode
Courtesy varied motifs

¹"Top 6 Veteran Nollywood Actors" <<https://www.afriff.com>> accessed on 8th May, 2024

Of cinemas and films
From the Nollywood stable
Through professional activities
Of doyens of film studies
Such as Tunde Kilani,
Tade Ogidan and Jeta Amata²
And a host of others,
Jointly producing honey
For extensive humanity
Through Nollywood films
Such as *A Simple Lie*, *King of Thieves*,
Emergency Throne, *Gangs of Lagos*,
October 1 and *The Glamour Girls*³,
Savoured by the majority
Through Netflix, YouTube and similar services.

5.
An apt city for motion pictures
Is Lagos with a myriad of pictures;
The most populous city
In the most populous country
Of black Africa;
A border city
Which is the gateway by air
To anywhere in the world;
The gateway by sea
Through the coast of Gulf of Guinea⁴;
The gateway by land
Through Benin Republic.

6.
It is a city of most companies
And most businesses,
The city of many tribes
Where live various ethnics;
Little wonder in every film
Diverse tribes are members of the cast,
As in the *Wedding Party*
Where actors of various tribes
Such as Anita Chuma, Mo Abudu,
Chris Jayibo, Ali Baba
Akpobome, Beyerly Naya,
Sambasa Nzeribe, Kate Esubok⁵

2"Top 6 Veteran Nollywood Actors"<<https://www.afriff.com>> accessed on 8th May, 2024

3"Best Nollywood Movies of all Times"<<https://imdb.com>>accessed on 14th May, 2024.

4"Gulf of Guinea"<<https://en.wikipedia.org>>accessed on 14th May, 2024

5 Kemi Adetiba (2016)The wedding party<<https://en.wikipedia.org>> accessed on 14th May, 2024

And a host of others
Featured in a film
Scripted and directed
By a Yoruba, Kemi Adetiba;
A great demonstration
Of absence of discrimination
And total abhorrence
Of tribal segregation
In the Nollywood industry.

7.
As Jerusalem is to the Christians,
Mecca to the Muslims,
So Surulere in particular,
Remained the opulent headquarters
Of Nollywood movies in the world;
It is the hub of Nigerian movies
For in Surulere,
Most of the studios of major players,
Residences of the artistes,
Hotels where they do shootings,
Consequent upon successful auditions;
It is indeed a one-stop shop
Where experts in the movie industry
Start and finish their movies
And market their movies.

8.
As there exist Hollywood in America
And Bollywood in India,
So there is Nollywood in Nigeria;
A nation of diversities
Optimally in use for the best
Of the nationalities.
Thirty-Six states has Nigeria
With Lagos as one.
It is the former capital city
Of the country
And the fastest growing city
In the country,
Adjudged to have 10%
Of the population of the country⁶.
Though not the nation's capital,
It stands as undisputed nation's capital
In diverse ways:

⁶ "About Lagos- Land Bureau (LagosStateGovernment)". <<https://landsbureau.lagosstate.gov.ng>> accessed on 15th May, 2024.

The capital for exports,
The capital for imports,
The capital for stock exchange,
The capital for sporting activities,
The capital for media organisations,
And the capital of the film industry
Symbolised by Nollywood;
Lagos is indeed the city of opportunities
Including where Nollywood stars
Obtain their stars;
Boundless opportunities,
Boundless returns
From huge talent investments.

9.
Centring activities of Nollywood
In Surulere, Lagos,
Is justifiably correct
Because it has
All it takes
To house Nollywood;
A suitable film city
Geographically, economically, socially,
Politically, culturally, religiously,
Technically, institutionally and logistically;
For indeed nothing in film acting
That Lagos does not have in surplus

10.
Nollywood actors and directors
Have in huge surplus
Every form of geographical location
In Lagos:
Island, sand bars and lagoons
Are divinely provided,
Not to talk of the sea, ocean
And rivers for which Lagos is known.

11.
If Don Omope needs a lagoon
As a location,
He has the Lekki lagoon,
The Lagos lagoon,
The Yewa lagoon,
The Badagry lagoon,
The Kuramo lagoon,
The Epe lagoon,
And Mahin lagoon⁷
To choose from.

⁷"Lagos Lagoon, Nigeria".<<https://lagoonnetwork.org>>accessed on 14th May, 2024

12.
If Desmond Elliott and Saheed Balogun
Are shooting a movie
Satirizing environmental pollution,
They have a suitable location
In any of the several canals
Scattered all over Lagos
With their health hazards.

13.
A film on trade and commerce
By Nancy Isime and Funke Akindele
Will not be short of locations
Since great markets,
Such as Oshodi Market
Alaba Market, Mile 12 Market,
Jankara Market, Oyingbo Market
And similar ones fill Lagos
And make Lagos
The capital of commerce
And the city of commerce
In the country.

14.
As Lagos is blessed with highbrow places
So also it has slums.
In realistic films
Both are great assets
To skilful producers of films.
If Hafis Oyetoro (Saka) and Enyinina Nwigwe
Are shooting a film
Depicting the poor and wealthy,
They will have in superfluity
Locations to use:
Slums in Bariga, Ijesatedo, Itire,
Mushin, Iwaja, Somolu and Ajegunle
As sufficient locations
Without having to choose locations
From Bangladesh or Pakistan.
The twin producers without stress
Will pick suitable locations
For wealthy characters
From high brow expensive places:
Park View Estate, Banana Island,
Lekki, Ikeja, Victoria Island,
Eko Atlantic and Maryland
Without having to choose locations
From European nations.

15.
One of the star Nollywood films
Is the *Wedding Party*;
A rich-taste epic
Made of high-class citizens
With good taste,
Classifiable as connoisseurs
Of good things.

16.
Every street is a location
In a nation
Where weird things
Daily happen;
So is every street of Lagos
With most owning android phones;
Becoming camera men
Recording bizarre things
At high angles,
Occasional low angles,
Incidental eye shot level angles
And streaming dutch angles⁸
Sandwiched by pan camera movements,
Track movements
And zoom movements;
Indeed our Lagos
Where no weird occurrence escapes
The amateur phone camera operators
Capturing free films
On hourly basis
With capsule review
Uploaded on social media
For majority to view;
Amateur directors filming everywhere
And everytime,
Making film locations
In all locations;
Releasing profound catharsis
To myriad masses
In neck deep tension
Pervading the nation,

17.
In Lagos
And from Lagos,
Come freely shoot films
In diverse open locations.

⁸14 Basic Cinematography Film Techniques for Better
Cinematic<<https://www.adorama.com>>accessed on 14thMay, 2024

Innumerable amateurs,
On the roads
And on the streets,
Free of charge shoot films;
Diverse kinds
With divers motifs
Some chick flicks
Some cliff hangers⁸
Some creating stress,
Some creating fascinating comedies
From tense atmospheres;
A glowing testimony
That the Nollywood headquarters
Is not only at Surulere

But at many areas outside Surulere;
For everywhere a judge is
A court exists;
Everywhere film is shot
Nollywood centre exists,
Operated by a one-man crew
Without any sense of cue
Determined to screw
Lasting memory
In human brain's thalamus
Located in the limbic system
Of the brain's cerebrum
And its occipital lobe⁹ column.

18.
Everywhere in Lagos
Is a suitable location
For diverse film action.
If Omotola Jalade Ekeinde
And Ramsay Novethneed clubs,
There are excess clubs
To shoot films requiring location of clubs;
Exist alone in Ikeja
Are myriad clubs
Such as Rumours Night Club¹⁰
With no place for rumours,
Club Oxygen, with no place for carbon dioxide,
Unique Gentlemen's Club
Where no rogue abides,

⁸14 Basic Cinematography Film Techniques for Better
Cinematic<<https://www.adorama.com>>accessed on 14th May, 2024

⁹Johns Hopkins Medicine "Brain Anatomy and How the
BrainWorks"<<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org>>accessed on 14th May, 2024

¹⁰"The Best Lagos Dance Clubs and Discos"<<https://www.tripadvisor.com>>accessed on
14th May, 2024

The Ocean Blue Club
Which exists on land
As well as the Cave
Which conveniently accommodates
Large customers at a time
Together with Club 007
That is not owned by James Bond.

19.
Featuring lovers of golf
By any Nollywood director
Has ready-made golf courses
To choose from:
Ikeja Golf Club
Global Golf Club
Lakowe Lake Estate Golf Course
Ikoyi Golf Course
And other similar courses
All over the city of cities.

20.
As busy as Lagos is
It has several worship centres:
Cathedral Church of Christ
Holy Cross Cathedral
And CCC Ikeja Cathedral
To satisfy the religious tastes
Of the Christian faith.
Numerous are the mosques
Suitable as locations
For films of Islamic faith:
Ikeja Central Mosque,
Shomolu Central Mosque,
Agbelekale Central Mosque,
Shangisha Central Mosque,
Anifowose Central Mosque
And numerous others
Located all over Lagos.

21.
The Eyo devotees
In various locations
Of the city
Provide locations
For films having Eyo Festival,
Unique to Lagos.

22.
What else can one say
Other than that Nollywood is a way
For everything film.

For Lagos is the city of film
In diverse ways;
Naturally cinematic
By divine endowment,
Profound traditional alignment,
And governmental arrangement;
The home of the best
For all and the rest
Of all that is needed
In a contemporary city
Suitable as the film industry;
Indeed, the cherished Nollywood industry
Housed in the Nollywood Lagos,
A city of great attraction
To a huge population
Of men and women
Across diverse cultures,
Religions and tribes;
The Lagos Nollywood,
The slice of the world.

Conclusion

The foregoing verses constitute a bird's eye view of Lagos in relation to its being the headquarters of Nollywood in a fascinating poetic manner that readers are prone to enjoy its smooth flow of carefully woven descriptive diction. The poem, which is a product of research, dwells artistically on some Nollywood actors, techniques and procedures of film shooting, star films in Nollywood stable as well as salient features, peculiarities and characteristics that make Lagos the suitable headquarters of a film industry of Nollywood standing. Such positive peculiarities include the diverse people and their cultures, religions, social lives and idiosyncrasies. The hotels, clubs, commercial centres, golf courses and good roads are of value to film shooting. The natural film habitat status of Lagos is evident in the various lagoons, canals and the Atlantic ocean that cannot be created artificially as well as the existence of high taste beautiful areas, on the one hand, and slums on the other hand. The paper brings into the fore that Lagos is the gate way to Nigeria in significant ways and has almost everything that is required for film shooting in contemporary Nigeria. Finally, this poetic paper is a demonstration that research can be reported also in versification.