

After a run in Luanda, the *Luanda é Bonita* team – which includes Miguel Hurst, the director of Luanda International Film Festival, and celebrated local stage and screen actors Orlando Sérgio and Raul do Rosário – hope to take their production around the country and then to festivals in Brazil and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

Also using Luanda for its theme is the *Mabaxa Festival de Cultura Urbana*, which is putting on a string of exhibitions and shows in venues across the city's dusty downtown.

The show began in late January with a photographic and video exhibition at the *União Nacional dos Artistas Plásticos* gallery. It features representations of the city from three up-and-coming Angolan artists, Edson Chagas, Ndilo Mutima and Binelde Hyrcan and continues to 21 March.

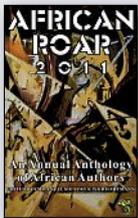
Angolan artist Fernando Alvim is the brains behind Mabaxa and Luanda's Triennial events. "We want to create something new for the city, using shop windows to show photographs for example. We want to have things happening downtown, to create normality here."

Fifty artists, performers, writers, historians and architects are collaborating on the project and events will run throughout the year. ●

Louise Redvers in Luanda

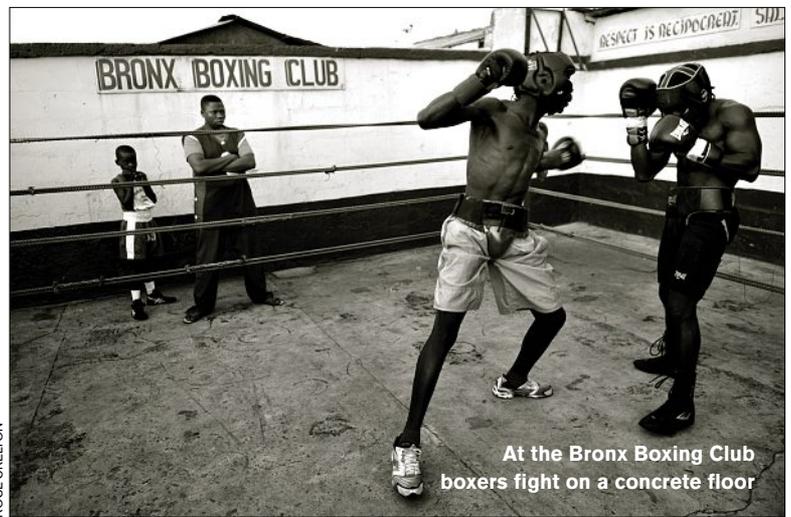
African Roar 2011

Edited by **Ivor Hartmann** and **Emmanuel Sigauke**
StoryTime (Kindle edition)



The second anthology of African short stories from *StoryTime* magazine has been published exclusively for Kindle.

Showcasing the continent's new talent, it is dedicated to the memory of Ruzvidzo Stanley Mupfudza, whose delightful *Witch's Brew* opens the collection. The prevailing tone is less than optimistic, but there is humour from Ghanaian Isaac Neequaye, whose *Water Wahala* is the tale of a couple whose relationship hinges on water – or the lack of it. ●



ROSE SKELTON

At the Bronx Boxing Club boxers fight on a concrete floor

SPORT

Boxing Home of champions in inner-city Accra

Jamestown's boxing clubs have a long history of producing champs, but poor facilities are holding them back

The Bronx Boxing Club stands on a square of derelict land in Accra's seaside neighbourhood of Jamestown. With a simple blue clapboard front and a sign displaying the club's motto, 'Discipline Plus Dedication Equals Success', the club is surrounded by the patched-together tin roofs and television aerials of the neighbouring houses. Inside, a boxing ring stands in the middle of a bare concrete space where some of Ghana's toughest fighters are warming up for a gruelling training session.

Jamestown is an inner-city Accra neighbourhood, an overcrowded collection of low-rise houses and small businesses on ramshackle streets strung out along the city's coastline. It is largely populated by the Ga people, traditionally fishermen, and education rates tend to be low as children leave school to help their fathers pull in the nets on their wooden fishing boats.

But Jamestown also boasts a long line of champion boxers who have helped make Ghana one of Africa's most successful sporting nations. At least seven boxers from Jamestown have become world champions, including David Kotei, Joshua Clottey and Ben Tackie; Tackie is known simply as 'Wonder'.

"Look at these kids pursuing to be boxers," says Bronx's coach and founder, Carl Lokko, pointing to a skinny nine-year old in the corner of the school holding a pose he must keep for hours on end, week after week, if he is to learn how to box. "They are not afraid of a grown-up saying 'I will beat you'. They will just say, 'I will beat you too.'"

Jamestown local Tacitus Nana-Yabani remembers stories of Azumah Nelson, a neighbour and three-time World Boxing Council champion, running away from school so that he could practise his boxing at the beach. "The people from the coastal area, their main occupation is boxing and fishing," he says, casting his arm across the seaside neighbourhood. "This is a rough town; it's all about fighting."

Schools like Lokko's have channelled this energy to produce disciplined, hard-working and dedicated sportsmen who go on to fight internationally. But with little support from the Ghanaian government and with the country reeling from the failure of the national team to make it into the London 2012 Olympic games, the future of Ghana's long-held tradition of boxing champions hangs in the balance.

"Our ring is not even a standard ring," says Lokko, "It's a bare floor. How can we move straight to the ring in Europe? How can we perform miracles? If we had the chance of having all that equipment that I see in Europe, Ghana could challenge them to the top." ●

Rose Skelton in Accra