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Interview with Ms Oluwadamilola Elizabeth Oke

(Fashion Model, Gospel Singer, Writer & Human Resource Manager)



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Introduction

Ouwadamilola Elizabeth is a versatile individual with experience in multiple fields.

From modelling to majoring in soil science and being an upcoming artist — she can do it all.

In this interview, The Thinking Watermill Society learns more about Ms Ouwadamilola, her journey and experience in these different areas of her life.



1. You are a multi-faceted individual with many talents. What is the inspiration behind your creativity and consistency?

Being a multi-faceted individual is not easy. I am always amazed at how I combine everything together but I realised it's an endowment from God, so I flow easily in all my activities.

What inspires me to keep going most times is the desire to impact and bless lives.

2. Your participation in pageants is noteworthy. Why is it often a requirement for models to display a special talent during these events?

It's very important that models display special talent during these events because as a model, people want to see how creative you are.

If you have what it takes, you will always carry your audience along, and from there, they love you for who you are and for what you do — not just as a model, but as a talented individual who can fit into any kind of role and do exceptionally well.

3. With that, you have an incredible voice and often sing a lot of gospel song covers. What led you to take this path in your life?

Thank you so much. All I can say is that God directed me to this path. It's a ministry I have received from Him even before I gained admission into the University, but I did not believe so much in myself then, and therefore, did not take it too seriously.

But, anytime I sing in church or outside, the atmosphere changes and I feel the hand of God everywhere and people testify to the glory of God. Since then, I have started taking it seriously and asked God for more grace and God has been faithful more than ever.



4. The beauty and entertainment industry can be difficult to navigate. What difficulties have you faced as a fashion model and singer?

You are very right. Although, I have been into music more than the fashion modelling work. I only got part-time training at a modelling school. I could not have a full time training then because it was clashing with my work at the University. Presently, I don't have much experience in that except being asked to send some revealing pictures which I refused bluntly, as that's not what I do.

So, I have discovered that people misjudge models and take them as those who sell their body. They get the wrong impression about it and people classify all of them as prostitutes, which is not true. That's why I give clear details anytime I want to tell people what I do — that I model decent dresses with other things related.

My love for this has been long, because it came naturally even before I went to modelling school. I would really love to be a brand influencer for clothing, accessory brands, etc, and I believe one day it will come to pass.

And as for music, I must say it hasn't really been easy. Looking at those who sing better, it's kind of intimidating and even sometimes people tell me I do not really have what it takes to thrive well in the industry, as it's like a competition and you have to always be up and working so as not to lose ground.

Another difficulty is the financial aspect. Even when you have loads of songs available to produce, as an upcoming artist it's not easy to get the funds for the studio work and many other things. For example in the Mhagic Velocity competition, the studio fee for just a 6 minute recording a day is not less than 50-60 thousand (Naira) and the competition went on for about 3 months — that is a lot of money. So, you can understand that money can be an issue.

And, another one I can think of is the visibility. As an upcoming artist, it's not easy to be noticed by people on time, especially if you make a social media post and get little engagement. It can be discouraging at times.

5. What steps or decisions did you make to overcome these difficulties?

With what I said earlier, the music industry seems like a competition, but as for me I am not in competition with anyone. I will only do what God directs me to do. Anytime He leads me to give out a song, I believe it's the perfect time, and because I know it's never late with Him.

But with all that, I won't leave the aspect of learning and improving myself by getting more knowledge on music through training (both virtual and physical). I also learn from those who are already ahead of me in the industry. I will not give in to critics but accept corrections that will mould me.

I look up to God who called me and gave me the gift for greater inspirations as we all have different capacities. I have also decided to look out for jobs for now, so I can be a little bit stable financially in order to advance in my music career.

As for the visibility, I am planning to make more use of social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter and TikTok by posting my songs consistently. I know it might not be easy at first, but with consistency and determination I will surely reach a large audience.

6. To follow up, what valuable lessons have you learnt from participating in Mhagic Velocity Talent Hunt Competition?

I must say I really learnt a lot — that it is not always about winning but about impact. That was the first ever competition I participated in as a singer and I must say it was worth it.

I did not expect to get to the finals and to be among the top 10 out of over 300 contestants. I am very happy I participated in the competition. It opened my eyes more to see what I have got inside of me. I became more bold and, to the glory of God, I was able to produce my own songs which I never expected to be possible at that time. It's an experience I will never forget in my life. Most importantly, I learnt that you do not always have to be a winner in every competition. It's purpose might be to meet some great personalities that you never expected to meet easily just as I did. Also, for you to participate it means you have what it takes and it's a starting point to showcase it more for the world to see. Just find out the reason why the competition came your way and make the best use of it.

7. I greatly admire your efforts to educate as a tool to empower, such as by speaking to students in your community. How else do you think education can help change societies?

Education, as we know, is one of the keys to success. No matter what people say about education being a scam or a waste of time, I still believe it is very good for everyone to be educated. With education, mindset changes and communication becomes better as everyone understands the universal language; which is English.

There will also be a reduction in crime rate out there because people will think on how to make money with the knowledge they have instead of depriving people of what they have gathered. We have so many robbers out there because they do not have any skills to look out for a job. They did not go to school and they do not want to be in lack, so they will only look out for means of making money without any certificate.

To make education meaningful and interesting for people to be eager to learn, our leaders should make jobs available for graduates. Let them be assured of job opportunities after completion of school and they will not be so eager to wander around. I believe with such availability from our leaders, people will value education.

And, seeing that there will be a job waiting for them as a graduate, they will leave odd jobs and become learned, thereby leading to reduction in crimes and misconduct.

8. You have studied Agriculture and majored in Soil Science. What are your thoughts on the move to make Africa a more sustainable region?

I think it's the best decision — taking a look at it from the view of what Soil Science is all about.

Soil Science provides the understanding of how soil properties relate and can be managed for optimal agricultural production, waste disposal and management, etc. The understanding of all of these aspects are essential in human efforts to sustain and improve human well-being.

When all of the necessary measures are taken, then the soil is free from contaminated materials and other harmful things that can be carried into the atmosphere through air and cause harm to human health.

Then, the crops grown and cultivated in healthy soils will thrive and lead to a healthy environment which will sustain and nourish the plants, attract beneficial insects and give healthy produce. In turn, this is beneficial to humans as they eat.

Humans cannot survive without these activities, so the soil and the environment work hand-in-hand to create a sustainable environment.

9. What changes should Africa make towards achieving true sustainability?

A lot of harm has been done to our soil and environment through the oil spillage/extraction, air pollution and lots more. So, to have true sustainability in Africa as a whole, I think we should:

- Promote healthy diets;
- Reduce and manage food wastes (by recycling for conservation of natural resources);
- Invest in renewable energy; and
- Promote Urban Agriculture.

Just to mention a few.

10. What should we look forward to from you in the future?

Let me say a lot of great things from my end, as God will have it. More of my songs will be released and most importantly, to accomplish my major desire of being a source of blessings and inspiration to people out there.

I will continue to put in my best in whatever my hands shall be doing and I will give back to the society, so help me God.

Watch out for me as I am coming back bigger and better. Keep my stage name, "Dunnisings" in mind as I will be the one you will see on your screen consistently by the grace of God. Thank you.

Thank you for your cooperation on behalf of The Thinking Watermill Society. All the best in your current and future endeavours, Ms Oluwadamilola.

Learn More about Oluwadamilola Elizabeth Oke

VISIT OLUWADAMILOLA





About The Thinking Watermill Society

The Thinking Watermill Society is a non-profit organization. In particular, it promotes the debate and exchange of ideas among its members regarding the changes underway in the economic, cultural and social landscape, together with the analysis of the consequences that said changes entail, so as to identify the possible opportunities of economic, cultural and social growth related to said changes.

Our headquarters are in Rome, Italy.

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