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COMMENT VOUS APPELÉZ-VOUS? Ngone. C'est un prénom typiquement sénégalais d'origine Bantu. **OÙ ÊTES-VOUS NÉ?** Au Sénégal sur la presqu'île de Dakar. La ville de mon enfance, africaine, cosmopolite ouverte sur l'atlantique, elle respire. **QUEL EST VOTRE MÉTIER?** J'exerce le métier de créatrice de bijoux : une rencontre avec les perles et les matières qui s'est transformée en passion. **OÙ VIVEZ-VOUS?** Paris est ma ville d'adoption. La capitale de la haute couture est aussi une grande source d'inspirations pour moi. **DANS CE NUMÉRO DE CLAM, NOUS VOUDRIONS VOUS FAIRE PARTAGER UNE EXPÉRIENCE QUI A COMPTÉ POUR VOUS : PERSONNELLE, PROFESSIONNELLE, INSPIRANTE, RÉVOLTANTE, DRÔLE OU JUSTE CHOQUANTE.** J'ai eu la chance de travailler pour le cinéma, notamment pour le film « Prête-moi ta main ». Pour le film « Black », le réalisateur m'a demandé de concevoir des bijoux qui incarneraient la personnalité des 2 principaux personnages du film. Un travail riche à la fois sur le plan créatif et technique. **QUELLES LEÇONS EN AVEZ-VOUS TIRÉES ET EST-CE QUE CELA A CHANGÉ QUELQUE CHOSE DANS VOTRE VIE?** Ce travail m'a permis d'exercer ma créativité et de partager mon savoir-faire. J'ai découvert un environnement différent et puis l'idée de créer des bijoux-acteurs, me plaisait énormément. **QUELLE A ÉTÉ VOTRE PREMIÈRE EXPÉRIENCE DE L'ACTIVITÉ QUE VOUS EXERCÉZ AUJOURD'HUI?** La création de mes premiers bijoux. Lorsque je revois les images d'aujourd'hui, je suis heureuse de voir l'évolution de mon style. C'est le résultat d'un apprentissage et d'un exercice permanent. **EN GÉNÉRAL, QU'EST-CE QUE LES EXPÉRIENCES DE LA VIE VOUS ONT APPRIS?** La vie est une constante remise en question des choses. Il faut beaucoup de patience et de détermination pour construire et trouver sa voie. **POUR FINIR, SELON VOUS, À QUOI DEVRAIT-ON DONNER LA PRIORITÉ : LES LIVRES OU LES EXPÉRIENCES?** Les livres nous donnent de précieuses indications qui sont indispensables à la connaissance. L'expérience nous permet de mettre en pratique ces connaissances. En tant qu'autodidacte, j'ai beaucoup appris par la pratique. C'est indispensable dans mon métier.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? Esther Kyung-ju (Celebrating Pearl) Chae. **WHERE WERE YOU BORN?** Eugene, Oregon, USA. **WHAT DO YOU DO?** Polymathic Artist = Actor + Writer + Thought Leader/Trouble Maker. **WHERE DO YOU LIVE?** North Hollywood in Los Angeles + Brooklyn in NYC. **IN THIS ISSUE OF CLAM WE ARE ASKING YOU TO SHARE AN EXPERIENCE WITH US. PERSONALLY, PROFESSIONALLY, INSPIRING, REVOLTING, FUNNY OR JUST SHOCKING.** From my most recent teaching experience in Africa. March 23, 2010 Final. As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I take a look at my life, and realize there's nothing left. 'Cause I've been blasting and laughing so long, that even my momma thinks that my mind has gone. I am writing from my dusty classroom in Nigeria's fairly quiet capital, Abuja. Gangsta's Paradise, the popular theme song from the Hollywood movie *Dangerous Minds* is playing in my head. Three weeks ago, I came to teach acting for film at the New York Film Academy's newly formed Nigeria campus. Somehow I missed the memo that I was going to be playing Michelle Pfeiffer's character in the Nollywood (Nigeria's film industry) movie version of *Dangerous Minds*, teaching "gangster rebels". I must say that this has been an eye-opening experience! One of the screenwriting student mentions in class that the Nigerian press reported that the New York Film Academy teachers were here to "rehabilitate the rebels of the Niger Delta region". The Niger Delta region is the southeastern area between Lagos and Cameroon, home to nine Nigerian tribes whose land contains vast reserves of oil. As many people know, the area has become a seat of horrific bloodshed and violence as the conflict between the disenfranchised populations, oil company conglomerates and the government plays out. On March 17th, 2010, just 10 days after our team of US instructors arrived, there was a brutal massacre of more than 500 civilians, mostly children and women in nearby Jos. It was another sickening cyclic retaliation due to differing political, religious beliefs and ethnic background (all which are too complex for me, the foreign teacher to decipher). Power in the money, money in the power, minute after minute, hour after hour, everybody's running, but half of them ain't looking, it's going on in the kitchen, but I don't know what's cooking. They say I gotta learn, but nobody's here to teach me. If they can't understand it, how can they reach me? I guess they can't, I guess they won't, I guess they front, that's why I know my life is out of luck, foo! I had to laugh at the word use of "rebels." My students are "rebels" indeed. "My" rebels are the ones actually defying violence and conflict in their region, the ones who traveled from far and further afar to come to Abuja to learn filmmaking, acting, editing and animation. These are eager young 20-somethings desperate for a creative outlet for their war-weary wings to fly. Each has a story of how they got here - cousins who applied on behalf for them, church pastors who reached out, radio advertisements they heard while driving. They are committed and they are here. These are rebels armed with art and the power of storytelling. Right now their pen has to be mightier than the sword. These are the leaders of tomorrow. They are rebels without machetes or guns but with pens, scripts and art in hand. Tell me why are we so blind to see. That the ones we hurt, are you and me? I look around my classroom. I know many of them will become the Nouvelle Vague of Nigerian entertainment, if not civic leaders. I hum and nod my head to the theme song Gangsta's Paradise with a smile as my "rebel students" rehearse their scenes, hoping to fulfill my casting as the inspirational teacher that they will never forget. It doesn't escape me that I have left Hollywood for the moment - Quiet on set please and ...Action! **WHAT LESSONS DID YOU LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE AND DID IT CHANGE ANYTHING FOR YOU?** I learned that listening was sometimes not enough - deep comprehension of what was really being said and in what context was required of me. So the change in me was more of a deepening expansion rather than any altering change. **HOW DID YOU GET THE FIRST EXPERIENCE FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW?** Japanese manga called GLASS MASK (Yu-ri Ga-myun) that was translated into Korean that I was obsessed with. I would follow the young gifted protagonist in what ever she did to be the best actor in the world. She was to play Hellen Keller as a young girl so she transformed herself into a deaf mute - which I followed by blind folding and stuffing my ears with cotton and going around the house as a 12 year old kid. **GENERALLY WHAT HAVE LIFE EXPERIENCES TAUGHT YOU?** That the world is extraordinary - both beautiful and/or horrific. **FINALLY, BOOKS OR EXPERIENCES, WHICH ONE SHOULD BE PRIORITY?** Skim a book - so you don't waste too much time figuring stuff out with experience. Then don't skim and have a full experience doing it. Then write a book about it so someone else can skim your book about your experience! Capiche :)

