

Shine Bright LLCE Cycle Terminal

Snapfile 4 Lagoon

Why write Lagoon? p. 56

Nnedi Okorafor: What made me create *Lagoon*? What made me write this novel that is set in Nigeria, present-day Nigeria, in particular 2009, where aliens come to Lagos? What made me write that? Well, the first, the first, the catalyst for this story was, there was a movie called *District 9*. And *District 9* was the first big-budget science-fiction film that was set in Africa. It was set in Johannesburg and this particular film portrayed Nigerians horribly. It portrayed Nigerians as cannibals, criminals, prostitutes. Its main character, the main bad guy was named after a Nigerian president. It was just very clearly a film, for no reason, that was going after Nigerians and I remember seeing this film and being really just extremely irate when I saw this film. 'Cause I went to see it the day it came out I was very excited and then I saw this portrayal of Nigerians and there was no reason for it. It wasn't really part of the plot; it was not necessary; it was just, it just showed, it showed the discrimination that is often meted out against Nigerians in South Africa. And so at one point I was discussing *District 9* with a Nollywood film director Tchidi Chikere and we were talking and we started just speculating, what would happen if aliens came to Nigeria? What would happen? And then the first thing we landed on was that they would go to Lagos, of all parts of the world, they would go to Lagos.

Africa's fastest-growing megacity p. 57

Voiceover: This is Lagos in the not-too-distant future.

Man: In terms of return on investment, I don't know if any other place that is better than Lagos now.

David Frame: Lagos will become the financial hub for the continent of Africa.

Voiceover: But this vision is a world apart from this Lagos that millions know today.

Fisherman: We can't go to any other place. We are fishermen; we are water-bound!

Voiceover: With a rapidly expanding economy and a lucrative oil industry, Lagos is booming. Nigerians and foreign investors alike are converging on Lagos in search of new opportunity.

Taofick Okoya: I believe that we've only just scratched the surface.

Voiceover: Taofick Okoya is an entrepreneur. He's found a niche market selling dolls that celebrate Nigerian culture but says Lagos offers opportunity across all sectors.

Taofick Okoya: We are still third-world and striving really fast to become a mega city and even Nigeria as a country as a whole. There's so many opportunities in terms of technology, infrastructure. It's going to be a huge boom."

Voiceover: The centrepiece of the booming new Lagos is this audacious privately funded project to build a brand-new city that quite literally rises from the Atlantic.

David Frame: Eko Atlantic in total is 10 square kilometres. We project 250 000 permanent residents and a further 150 000 who will be commuting on a daily basis.

Literature as a mirror p. 58

I think that Africa is getting, from literature – literature is holding up a mirror to Africans as a whole. And we know, like, I'm speaking about Africa as a continent, it's a big, huge, diverse place with thousands and thousands of cultures and languages and ideas, so, that said, I think that literature provides Africa with a mirror to inspect itself. Also, certain types of literature, especially science fiction, for example, and a lot of the fantastical literatures, kind of push African readers to imagine and think beyond what's there and, in doing so, giving African readers, equipping them with the tools necessary to solve problems, to come up with new things, and improve life, all sorts of things. So I think that African literature is a big imaginative tool and imagination is very necessary for any peoples.