



By Ayoluwa Uthman

# EDIYE



## *A Lifestyle And Culinary Haven*

Èdiye in Lekki Lagos proves that in the lounge and restaurant business there is always room for more. Service and offerings are what distinguishes one from the other. This multi-faceted chilling spot boasts of a makeup studio, a gym, a shopping mall, a dance studio, an outdoor patio, a bar and of course a restaurant - a complete package.



As you step in, a small signpost redirects you to wherever you wish to visit on the premises, and one can understand why. The beauty of the unique outdoor patio could easily stop you in your tracks.



The supervisor, Elizabeth and a waiter, Jimi, received my colleague Jen, and into the restaurant as, food was what brought us there. It was a modestly sized space, with simple, elegant, dark colored furniture, that perfectly complemented the brightly colored walls. Paintings on the ceiling added an artsy feel to the already elegant aesthetics and the temperature was just right; cool enough to drive away the heat and struggles of the outside world yet warm enough to keep you comfortable. Maleek Berry's "For Me" played softly as we were directed to seats, and Elizabeth went straight to business. This was the moment our royal treatment began.

Èdiye has excellent customer service. Including the supervisor, there are about five staff members on stand by at any time, and the moment a customer walks in, one – or two depending on the number of people – spring into action immediately. We were given menus, and after our initial overwhelm at the abundance of choice, we received a walkthrough from Elizabeth and Jimi – the staff members attending to us - to help guide our choices. The menu had multiple sections: there’s the Africana section which consists of swallow and native soups, the English breakfast section, the Nigerian breakfast section and so on. And in each of these sections they have their custom Èdiye only meals, such as the Traditional combo, consisting of Fried yam strips, fried plantain, gizzard and so on.

On recommendation, I sampled the Waffles and Spicy chicken breast, a plate of rice and Edikan Ilong soup and the “Èdiye special” – a carnivore’s dream of well-seasoned assorted cow meat, ripe plantain with a colorful mix of vegetables and a side dish of French fries. In addition to the Waffles and chicken, Jen sampled the Grilled king prawns with a side of Jollof rice, and a modest portion of pounded yam with Egusi soup. We also ordered smoothies, I had the Tropical Tropicana while Jen had the fruit punch.

The food is made on order, so depending on your choice you might have to wait for about 20 minutes to be served. However, there are board games, such as Ayo, Ludo and Scrabble present to keep you company, and a small platter of groundnuts is served to tame your appetites while your dish is being prepared. Our drinks came in shortly; big, glass servings of thick, fruity delight, that will take you more than a minute to finish.

I would say all the dishes lived up to the hype and anticipation created by their exotic names. The waffles were warm, and a beautiful golden brown, the spice in the chicken was perfectly balanced, all the pieces of meat in the Èdiye special were chewable and tender, and the Edikan Ilong was hot and well stacked with bits of fish and meat. Really, it was a spoiling, and not only were the meals delicious, they were also filling; we had to request that the remaining portion of our orders be packed to go. I didn’t believe my inner glutton could be outmatched, it was a truly humbling moment.

With ambience, service, taste and portions Èdiye scores pretty high, enough to ignore the price tag of 5,000 for an average meal and drinks – It was definitely worth it.

Èdiye is indeed a culinary haven. The frequent showing of high-profile visitors, the friendly atmosphere and the world-class customer service is guaranteed to make a regular out of the pickiest of clients.

But as they say, experience is the best verifier, so if you live in Lekki, or you just happen to be passing through the neighborhood, stop by Number 1, Fola Osibo, and treat yourself to the magic present in Èdiye, you won’t be sorry.

*\* Èdiye is the efik word for “place of beauty”.*



# Jemima Osunde

By Ayooluwa Uthman

## Nollywood's Rare Gemstone

She's all the rage now; from her breakthrough role as Leila in MTV's *Shuga*, to her controversial role as Ranti in *Rumor Has It*, and finally a lead role in *New Money as Toun* - Jemima Osunde has constantly been bagging the parts and rising in popularity. With such an amazing run in a short time, we are happy to unravel this Young, Daring and Ambitious beauty with brains.

Though she was born and raised in Lagos State, Jemima hails from Urhonigbe, Benin City, Edo State. She is the youngest child in a family of six, including three elder brothers and her parents, Douglas and Jumoke Osunde. Her father is a retired civil servant from the National Industrial Corps, while her mother is a director in the Lagos state ministry of education. Growing up for her was described as "Free, and with few restrictions;" explaining further, she said "They let me do things; they're the kind of parents who believe in learning from experience, and at the end of it all, the way they treated me as a child, and even as a grown up, made it clear that there's nothing I can't talk to them about."

Acting wasn't always the path for Jemima- as a child she tilted towards the medical field because of her admiration for a medical doctor friend of her dad's. She said: "It [Being a doctor] was something I fantasized about and knew I wanted to do when I grew up. I also had a lot of interest in and excelled in the sciences at school, so that was further encouragement."

However, as time passed Jemima started to discover other aspects of her. When she was in SS3, she was elected as the social prefect in her secondary school, a role that made her see herself in a new light and gave her reason to question her choice of study. Still, medicine remained a huge part of her life, and rather than give it up completely she chose to study an aspect that would allow her explore and build this 'other side'. The result of her choice is a soon to be completed Physiotherapy program from the College of Medicine, UNILAG alongside her blooming acting career.

Acting began when it was suggested to her at a party by her uncle, celebrity Anchor, IK Osakioduwa. "He's from my father's side. I call him my 'Big Bro'. It was my first year in university and I was at his daughter's house party. He was like 'Come, this girl you talk a lot, you're hyper and you're social; don't you think you should do something in entertainment? What about acting? Have you thought about it?'"

That thought became reality when Jemima broached the subject to her mum who gave her consent.

She ended up being Jemima's chauffeur on the audition and acting trail. "Mum was and still is my biggest supporter. She would wait in the car at odd hours as I went from audition to locations... My first few jobs were with Mnet and African Magic"

She continued, "I was always the 13-year old or the 15-year old secondary school girl. My first paycheck was about 15k; it was for a 'waka pass' role in a movie called Road Side."

Her first lead role came in the short film *Jungle Jewel* produced by Ufuoma McDermott. The movie received an AMVCA nomination for "Best Online Media," and after that Jemima auditioned for and was selected to act in *Shuga*, the series that birthed Leila, the dreamy eyed lover girl. For Jemima, the experience was surreal: "I was 17. It was one of the highlights of my entire life. I was more excited than anything else, and it didn't feel real, not until I got on set."

Now in its sixth season, *Shuga* has evolved to become a global sensation making Jemima an in-demand celebrity though she thinks otherwise: "I won't classify myself as a celebrity oh! I think the fact that





I'm still a student that has to chase lecturers for project work and make attendance in order to write exams is one of the reasons why. Maybe in a few years' time, I'll fully see myself as one".

However, she admits she is definitely more recognized and has to move around incognito on occasion. "Sometimes I deny myself because when people know I'm me, (Jemima), they start to treat me differently. They start to have expectations and even requirements sometimes"

This smart talented young woman remains the pride of her family: "My mom calls herself 'Mommy Jemima' now." Adding with a mischievous smile, "My dad too! He used to introduce me as his daughter in the College of Medicine, now I'm his daughter: the actress who's also in the College of Medicine."

The juggling act is not an easy one says Jemima who is working towards a 4.5 GPA and has had to fib a couple of times to skip classes, to enable her maintain her commitments to acting.

The price is more hard work. "I have to study a lot, because apart from exams, we have tests all the time: impromptu tests, clinicals, end of posting test... there's always one reason or the other to write tests. My health and weight are suffering, people think I'm watching my weight; far from it!"

With such sacrifice one can understand why Jemima describes as painful, the fact Nigerians do not patronize local movies enough in cinemas. She however found a creative way around this when she went marketing her new fare, *New Money*. "Some people complained about some movies they had seen and I could relate with some of them, but that didn't stop my promotion attempts, I gave them guarantees that ours would be different, and

even promised some people their money back. It paid off. Feedback from people that have seen the movie was fantastic."

One can describe Jemima as a wise 'old' young woman. In a world where mediocrity is slowly becoming the norm, especially among the youth, it is rare to find a 22-year old, who is a successful actor, a student with a 4.2 GPA, and is as down to earth as can be. She is a breaker of convention who is as humble as they come. "I see that all ends up in death. I can't afford to be proud or take things for granted" This is exacerbated by the fact that as a medical student she sees a lot of people that fall ill and die, and having lost 5 close family members in an air crash, she claims these have helped her appreciate life more than ever and stay grounded in her faith.

When not on set shooting, or in school chasing her supervisor, Jemima can be found either sleeping, eating, or hanging with friends. She was silent concerning her love life, only indicating with the phrase: "We're working on it" that she was in a relationship.

To fellow actors struggling to get their big break in the industry, she had the following to say: "It's not magic, don't think it will happen overnight. I was very favored that's why I've had the success I had, I don't know how it happened, all I can say is that it was divine favor. Have a relationship with God. He's very essential, especially in this industry. Also, find yourself before you get into the movie industry, because it's very easy to be swayed. You're going to interact and meet with a whole bunch of people on a daily basis, and you might be tempted to keep up with their lifestyle. Don't fall for it, know your values and know who you are."

The sky is just the beginning, for this young beauty set to take Nollywood by storm.