



Rachel

Debby

FLY GIRLS

WORDS BY FLORA IVINS / PHOTOGRAPHY BY ODEY KPA
BESTIES: DEBBY FASINGHA AND RACHEL OJUROMI

Sauntering through residential backyards in Lagos, Nigeria, pausing only to hang out the washing, is Rachel Ojuromi in a pink pixie cut and peeptoes. Her white tank top is emblazoned with pearls dangling from her neck, and paired with cuffed denim jeans tipped with a fur belt. In another video, Rachel perches on a canary yellow stool in a custom dress that wouldn't look out of place on a Mattieu Blazy runway. Her lacy headpiece compliments a lipstick-striped polo shirt that drops at the waist, giving way to layers of deconstructed tulle. This SZA-approved ensemble racked up hundreds of thousands of views online.

Rachel (@giverachelashot) is the model documenting daily life in Nigeria and the founder of The Process Africa, a non-profit organisation that supports young artists. Behind the lens is a team of Lagos-based creatives, including rising designer and stylist Debby Fasingha. Together, the duo have forged a creative partnership through their shared love of fab clothes and artistry. We caught up with the pair via video call for our latest issue.

It is so lovely to talk to you both today. How did you first meet each other and become friends?

Debby: I moved to Lagos in 2023 and used to watch Rachel's YouTube channel. When she posted that she was hosting a film screening I went to check it out. At the event, I told her, 'If you ever want to hang out, let me know.' And she did let me know, ASAP! I still remember the dates because I'm that kind of person. It was July 18th.

Rachel: She's soo obsessed with me!

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Debby: We started hanging out regularly after that. The first time we hung out, Rachel somehow convinced me to go out to a rave which was incredibly boring but we had a really good time. I clocked it and knew immediately we were going to be great friends. Before we went out, she raided my closet too. I was like, 'Wow this girl... she's going to be in my clothes. And I guess three years later she is still IN my clothes.'

You two clearly are kindred spirits. I think it is so rare to connect with a person straightaway.

Debby: The synergy is really good. It is very easy to just hang out and have fun. When that happens, it just makes sense to be friends for a really long time.

Debby, was styling always something you were drawn to?

Debby: My username (@flygirl__debby) came from my uni days dressing up. People would come up to me and go 'ooh she's fly' and it stuck. School friends would encourage me to take styling more seriously and I finally locked in in 2024. One of





the first things I styled were three editorial covers for The Process Africa in January of that year. From then on, I was hooked. It just made sense. Everything from sourcing the clothes, trying to put the looks together, moodboarding... I realised 'Oh wait, this is my shit!'

I saw you worked with Tio Heart on a Rema and Ayra Starr music video.

Debby: It was such a good experience working on a massive set. There were a lot of pulls for the shoots. It was hectic but I love a challenge.

Rachel, have you always been interested in creating social content?

Rachel: When I was in secondary school, my seniors would tell me they got paid 15,000 naira (£8) a month at their jobs, so I knew I didn't want to follow that path. After creating my own content as a kid, I started working as a YouTube manager for a guy who interviews celebrities. In my mind, I knew I wasn't going to stick with it forever. I thought oh, I'm going to be famous. People told me, 'Rachel, that is a bit dramatic don't you think?' But if anyone is, of course it is going to be me! I have always had that mentality, like yeah, of course I'm going to change the world.

Honestly, that self belief is admirable, I think so many people are afraid of advocating for themselves. Did this translate into your work when you were starting out?

Rachel: When I graduated secondary school, I wanted to gain more experience in media. I sent cold outreach emails to brands with the subject "Your favourite intern EVER". My email address reads "giverachelashot", so I ended the message

with "You should absolutely give Rachel a shot." I was like, 'Trust me, I can do this.' In actuality, I had zero clue. But when I decide I am going to do something, I get really serious about it.

How did The Process Africa come about?

Rachel: When I started The Process Africa in September 2023 it was for me to document my own journey. But there are so many people that could benefit from that platform. I felt that young, creative people weren't valued until they were extremely successful. Two months later we decided to do an exhibition for these artists and at least 100 people turned up. I realised, 'Wow, people really need this space.' We are always thinking of how we can help people. If you have dreams and you can get us to believe in them, we'll just do it.

Why did you both decide to start creating content for @giverachelashot?

Debby: Because we were pouring our own money into The Process Africa to keep it a free space for young people, we knew that if we wanted to sustain it we needed to find an alternative way to make money.

Rachel: In the meantime, I was working with Location À La Mode, a modelling agency that spotlights model stories, and I fell in love with it. The agency encouraged me to post videos everyday. Debby and I both really like fashion, so she styles me and our friend Odey Ikpa shoots all our videos.

Debby: It felt like a natural transition too.

I would love to hear about the process behind

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the iconic tulle dress. You mentioned that you went through eight polo shirts to find the right colour combination, and that polo shirts get a bad rep in Nigeria?

Debby: Girl that was hectic. Nigerian streetwear is interesting, people end up making the same thing [like polo shirts] over and over again. When I started designing for my debut collection HOPE, I poured my heart and soul into it. I started with the polo shirt and was wondering how I could take this idea and think a bit deeper about it. I visited Ya Ba market with my friend Tobenna Metu, who is an amazing tailor, to source materials for the look and picked out eight polos. I was very specific with the colourways so we mixed and matched different options. In the Nigerian fashion scene, not a lot of people are willing to push and go past the limits, but a project can still be fun if it is high-end.

The deconstructed skirt is so elegant, it really completes the look.

Debby: I was probably born with scissors in my hand, I have always loved cutting things up and customising them. You can see that in how I style Rachel too. Another thing is being broke, you have to be resourceful. I wanted to add some drama to the piece, so Tobenna gathered three layers of tulle by hand and joined it to the main body. I grabbed my scissors and hacked away at

it to give it a dishevelled look. I didn't want it to look perfect because the process was far from it, and that had to show in the dress as well.

Nowadays, what sort of designers are you both inspired by?

Debby: Margiela was my in into fashion. I remember watching Bliss Foster's 8 hour YouTube playlist explaining his work on repeat. One of my favourite designers is Jonathan Anderson. Alexander McQueen too.

Rachel: A designer I love is Miuccia Prada. Me and Miss Miuccia. I named my cat Miu Miu. Martine Rose too!

Debby: Some more contemporary designers, August Barron, Dauan Jacari, Ben Doctor. Those three I am really obsessed with at the moment.

You have both achieved so much already. Is there anything you see yourselves doing in the future?

Rachel: Hopefully we'll be having a lot of fun designing, modelling. The Process Africa-ing. We are so grateful, really.

Debby: Yeah, we have always worked based on how much fun we are having. As long as we're having a great time, it will be good.

