



Powerlist 2019

**Britain's Most Influential People of
African and African Caribbean Heritage**

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RIISING STARS

On The Up!



There is no disputing that the United Kingdom is bursting with talent.

Adenike Adenitire looks at who's been making the kind of moves that could see them on the Powerlist in a few years...

Once again we are bringing you a selection of up-and-coming talent whose stars we predict will keep rising. We are proud of the fact that so many of our past selections continue to live up to our predictions, including the likes of actress Cynthia Erivo, who is currently gearing up to play Harriet Tubman in a Hollywood biopic; Anne-Marie Imafidon, whose social enterprise Stemettes has gone from strength-to-strength, even hosting the Duke

and Duchess of Sussex at an event this year. Her MBE, given in the Queen's 2017 New Year's Honours list, is also a testament to her success.

And what about Dina Asher-Smith, who we featured in 2016? The British athlete secured a memorable 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay treble at the European Championships in Berlin in August!

So, which future superstars are we showcasing this year?

Sherrie Silver

Creative Director, Choreographer, Actress, Philanthropist

If you were to ask anyone clued up on popular trends, what the biggest music videos of 2018 were, Childish Gambino's *This is America* would be on most lists. The thought-provoking clip which contains hard-hitting and socially conscious messages about identity, culture and

race in today's America had the world transfixed for months following its release back in May. And one of the things people couldn't stop talking about was the series of featured dances from the African diaspora that skilfully moves along the narrative for the video, and the creative director behind the choreography – 23-year-old Sherrie Silver.

Sherrie, who was born in Rwanda and moved to the UK when she was five, is also a dancer and actress. She was chosen to work on the video following a recommendation from Childish Gambino's manager's niece, who was a fan of the dance tutorials Sherrie uploaded to YouTube, something she has been doing since she was a teenager and has continued to do while studying for a degree in business marketing.

For *This is America*, Sherrie incorporated ten traditional dances from the African diaspora, such as the South African "Gwara Gwara". The video has been viewed more than 460 million times and earned her an award in the Best Choreography category at the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards. Sherrie has also worked for African superstars Wizkid, Tiwa Savage and P-Square as well as Sean Paul.

The budding philanthropist uses her platform to promote African cultures and develop programmes for children and socially deprived women.



Ifeanyi Oganwu

Artist, Designer

Ifeanyi's work draws inspiration from across the globe. His furniture creations have been described as 'minimalist and futurist, exploring modernist notions of design in relation to the body, whilst working fluidly between the fields of architecture, art and design'.

Ifeanyi studied at a range of top establishments, including the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago; the Architectural Association, London; and Columbia University, New York. Since then he has worked for the offices of John Ronan Architects, Chicago; Zaha Hadid Architects, London; and has collaborated with the fashion design studio of Hussein Chalayan. In 2003, he joined the London-based structural engineering practice of Adams Kara Taylor where he worked in their Parametric Applied Research Team to develop an integrated approach to explore and represent complex architectural scenarios. In 2008, he founded Expand Design Ltd, a London-based studio that explores the boundaries of art, culture and technology.

In 2017, he was selected as part of the Superbenches project (devised by creative director Felix Burrichter), an installation of public furniture in Stockholm that saw ten designers invited to push the concept of what public furniture can be and reimagine the idea of a park bench as an "architectural intervention" rather than a mere place to sit. Although Ifeanyi draws inspiration from across the globe, he has not forgotten his roots. In the development of a site-specific installation in Lagos, he is working within the architecture of his mentor Sir David Adjaye, to design new objects that complement the building.

