

Since the inception of Kigali Fashion Week, one man has stood as the driving force and mastermind behind this thriving brand. With a friendly demeanor that exudes cultural sophistication and goodwill toward others, John Bunyenshuri embodies the essence of a true cosmopolitan gentleman.



Growing up in Uganda, Bunyenshuri was known as the class clown, always bringing joy and laughter to those around him. His fondest memories include lively outings with friends, painting the town red with wine, laughter, and dancing.

At Namasagali College in Eastern Uganda, Bunyenshuri led his dance group, the "Creative Dance Troupe," on memorable trips to the Capital Kampala to then popular Suzanna Night Club.

Even in his formative years, he recognized that showbiz was his true calling. Fate intervened when his family, facing persecution during Obote's regime, relocated to Vancouver, Canada.



He pursued his studies at San Antonio Community College before venturing to London to study at the London City Lit College for the Creative Arts, specializing in Camera Acting and Theater.

"I may be shy by nature, but acting allows me to transform into a whole new persona. When I'm in front of the camera or on stage, I become extroverted, embracing my alter-ego," John reflects his love for acting.

His journey led him to New York in 1993, where he embarked on a career in the entertainment industry. It was during this time that he discovered a passion for jazz music, mentored by a Jewish-Scottish saxophonist.

Additionally, he found success working with Suzan Scott of the Suzan Scott Agency, portraying a Luther Vandross look-alike for gigs and commercial advertisements.

"With earnings from my work as Luther Vandross, I made a down payment on an apartment in Brooklyn. Around that time, I was in my first relationship and had my first daughter. She, too, has found her place in the entertainment industry," Bunyenshuri shares.

Although the relationship didn't last, he found love again and had his second born daughter, also pursuing a career in entertainment.

Motivated by his experiences, John Bunyenshuri made it his mission to advocate for young talents in the industry, ensuring they receive fair treatment and opportunities.



In 2011, Bunyenshuri came to Rwanda and founded Kigali Fashion Week, aiming to support local talent and generate employment opportunities for youth both locally and internationally.

Today, Kigali Fashion Week has expanded to major cities like London, New York, Amsterdam, and Tokyo, showcasing Rwandan creativity on a global scale.

Looking ahead, Bunyenshuri has exciting plans, including partnering with Bella Flowers to launch Kigali Flower Festival in February next year. Additionally, he's forming a jazz band, Twilight Jazz Groove, poised for a forthcoming launch, further enriching Rwanda's cultural landscape.