

PRECIOUS HAIR & BEAUTY

Written by

John Ogunmuyiwa

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FADE IN:

We open on lofi portraits, photos & footage of the real high street, all cut to together in a rapid mixed media approach/flurry.

CUT TO BLACK:

1 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - EARLY MORNING - 07:30AM 1

The muffled sounds of the street paint a picture in our heads. Kids walking to school, a lorry reversing etc. We hear the sounds of keys fumbling in locks, and a quiet muttering of words we can barely make out. AUNTIE just came back from her holiday [Victoria Island, Lagos Nigeria] and is reciting her new U.C.B [United Christian Broadcast] word of the day.

Finally she manages to open the shutters and the black screen fills with light from the salon and high street. She's muttering in the way old people let every sound loose.

Immediately the sounds of the street floods in loud and clear, the market men yelling, cars and bikes whizzing by, an assortment of languages from Yoruba, to Spanish, etc. Some school boys walk past the shop where we hear them talking about superpowers and how rubbish flying would be (the practicalities).

SPANISH WOMAN (V.O.)

Chicaquieres unas frescas.

BUILDER (V.O.)

..yeah yeah a bit further jus drop
em dere mate.

SCHOOL BOY 1

.... Like flying would be dead bro,
fam the sky's cooold.

SCHOOL BOY 2

Word I hear that still, but imagine
doe...

Auntie shuts the door and it's muffled again. She waddles into her empty salon with her reusable Sainsburys bag, switches on all the plugs, throws an empty tub of blue magic in the bin, turns on the radio and slumps into the salon chair.

AUNTIE

Surely,

(Psalm 23:6)

Your good-ness and mercy shall follow us. Allllll the days of h'our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the lord, forever and ever..

MATCH CUT:

2 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - MORNING - 10:30AM 2

Song on radio changes. One of aunties friends, FUNMI is now slumped in the chair with her hair half done.

Auntie WADDLES into frame and Funmi hands her hair. The salon is filled with Auntie, Funmi & FAVOUR lounging and laughing. They're just hanging out. We get bits of an ongoing conversation. They're probably talking about someone from church. One's eating moi moi.

FAVOUR

Ughh Whats all of dis JAGAJAGA music...

(Kisses Teeth)

FUNMI

Ahhh this why You're crowd's
parties are too dry-0... You're not
current nooow.

FUNMI LOOKS to Favour, Auntie joins the conversation & opens her hands out in a SHRUG.

AUNTIE

Iss it not jus how it as always
been abi?

Auntie RUBS HER HANDS as if she's dusting her palms.

AUNTIE (CONT'D)

(in yoruba)

Nkon yi pada (it's going to
change).

(beat)

But me keh

(kmt)

as long as I can...

(sings)

Never going to let you down, never
going give you up, never going to
hurt youuuuu. Then me I don't mind-
o.

FAVOUR

(rolls eyes)

Mo current. Any way shahh

(beat)

Dayo's stopped going to church.

They all "awwwwww" in unison.

SMASH CUT:

3 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - MORNING - 11:08AM

3

Shop's empty again.

A woman from across the road is outside shouting at passers by trying to get customers. One dapper bro walks past the window, stops, look through, quickly checks the prices on the board. Steps in with a confident swagger, acknowledges Auntie with a small nod.

DAPPER DELE

Excuse me Auntie.. how much for a wash and blow.

(Beat)

FAVOUR

...I won't be long. I'll be finished in 10.

DAPPER DELE

Sweet, I'll be back in a bit.

SMASH CUT:

4 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - LUNCHTIME - 12:30PM

4

Dapper Dele is now in a WAITING CHAIR to get his hair done. There's now someone else in the SALON CHAIR. Favour turns to him and begs, gesturing 10 mins.

In the background through the window, on the right of the screen we see an impoverished couple scatting about (Frankie & Sam). Seems funny. But it's not. Probably homeless and most likely crack heads. At a glance it looks like they're squabbling, a mini domestic but that's just how that's how they show their love.

In fact, at this moment they're actually plotting a way to get a four pack of K cider to share between them. Only need a pound or two. We hear bits of this domestic off screen.

FRANKIE (O.S.)

I've alred done and got it now.

SAM (O.S.)

Ow much do we need?

FRANKIE (O.S.)

Dunno you sor it out.

SAM (O.S.)

Oi oi oi-

Frankie scutters off. Brushing away the come down Sam enters the shop with the sole goal of getting a couple quid. Half way through the door, from inside his jacket he brings out a stolen bottle of bleach. It's slyly uncomfortable.

SAM (CONT'D)

Erm...

(beat)

Aftanoon, is aneee- is anyone intrested in errr...

(beat)

I've gotta, brand new boale of, of bleach? Jus a pound.

(beat)

A pound? £1.50 inn tha shops.

It's awkward. Auntie declines his offer with a shake of her head. Favour looks away.

FAVOUR

Not interested tank you.

Favour ignores him as she talks to her customer. Dele is still in the waiting to get his hair done.

AUNTIE

All the girls must tell you how good your hair is?

Dele gives a frustrated smile.

SAM

60P.

Sam lingers for a moment, fills the room with animosity and then makes his exit.

SMASH CUT:

5 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - AFTERNOON - 01:33PM 5

Hassan the middle aged Pakistani man enters the salon carrying a bag of hair products. Hassan works in the hair shop down the road and passes through from time to time. He hands around products whilst trying his hardest to flirt with Favour.

HASSAN

...so when you will make me my jollof, I'll bring the palm wine?

SMASH CUT:

6 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - AFTERNOON - 2:50PM 6

Auntie is eating pounded yam and egusi. Dele is still waiting.

There's an off screen argument between a young couple. Auntie & her friends are up against the window watching it unfold, heads sticking out the door.

Nakeisha's done. Her relationship isn't worth the drama it comes with. Doesn't even care where she is anymore, people are looking but so what. In her mind Josh's behavior is a bloody piss-take. And he's trying to play it cool as if he's not feeling heated. In the middle of a very public argument she takes a deep breath.

NAKEISHA (O.S)

...I'm so tired josh like...

Like wha li... I dont even, I
don..

JOSH (O.S)

Keish man... Babez babez.

NAKEISHA

Don't fuckin call me that, am I
prick?

(beat)

Naa you must think I'm some any,
any nex girl.

JOSH

You're makin a scene.

NAKEISHA

I don't care. Let them look.

NAKEISHA starts clapping every word.

NAKEISHA (CONT'D)

Am. I. A. Dickedhead. In. life.

(kmt)

(MORE)

NAKEISHA (CONT'D)

You know wha This is not my
portion. I'm done, I'm done...

JOSH

Ahhh but

(kmt)

Ay cmon babez keish. Listen.

NAKEISHA

Said don't call me that...
I'm going home.

Nakeisha and Josh's voices move into the distance.

SMASH CUT:

8 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - AFTERNOON - 04:01PM - 05:03PM 8

BEGIN SERIES OF SHOTS:

We see an assortment of odd people walk by the salon window. A HALF NAKED MAN fully dressed from the waist up, but in underpants and boots asking for money - pulling a trolley with one hand and holding a cup in the other.

We're not sure whether this is funny or quite sad. Inside the aunties are just chatting away.

LATER

Some young MUSLIM MEN on the way to the mosque walking past a christian PASTOR preaching on the roadside.

LATER

Off screen we see some blue flashing lights, the feds have just pulled up and a YOUNG MAN has made a mad dash.

He doesn't get too far, before we know it the women in the shop are as startled as a young man who's PRESSED UP against the window by a POLICE OFFICER.

LATER

A GROUP OF GENTRIFIERS - 3 young, cool hipster types drinking being lads. 2 guys and 1 girl.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

SMASH CUT:

9 I/E. AUNTIE'S HAIR SALON - AFTERNOON - 05:43PM 9

CAMERA SUBTLY CREEPS FORWARD

Salon's quiet, Auntie and Favour are just sitting on the chairs. Dele's finally about to start his wash. Directly in front of the window we see an altercation take place, in which a person not looking where they're going causes someone to drop the cake they were carrying. The aunties just watch things unfold from their seats.

Skips is snickering from a previous joke.

SKIPS

Ohhh snap. My bad, my bad.

RAYMOND

Maaateee, uuuhh look where you're going bro.

SKIPS

Fam, we're both walkin here init, like obviously it's a pavement.

RAYMOND

Whaa Wht'd you mean, you dropped a
cake my g like its not a...

SKIPS

(interrupting)

Naa you dropped it still. Where's
the box? You're a mad guy ukno
walkin around...

Raymond mutters Under his breath.

RAYMOND

Fuckin prick.

Skips and his personality begin to change.

SKIPS

Yo yo U need to relax my guy. It's
bit long out ere.

(beat)

See my man dere?

RAYMOND

About relax, you need to shut up
innit.

SKIPS

Yeahhhh yeahhhh

They both start to square each other up, the people in the
shop are captivated with the drama.

RAYMOND

Wha is it.

SKIPS

You wanna be a big man. Aite cool.
I got sumfin for you.

(MORE)

SKIPS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Ay gimmie da ting.

Skips turns to his friend who pulls out long a blade. Points it at Raymond. Onlookers release a gasp of shock and terror. The aunties in the shop jump out of their seats. It feels very tense.

SKIPS (CONT'D)

Aite cool.

(shouting)

You're a big man now innit. Big man
I don't care.

RAYMOND

Ahhh listen please don't do this,
please I'm not about this life,
don't worry about the cake, let's
forget it.

Raymond's backing away highly aware that his life is on it's edge. He starts to crouch in what appears to be fear.

SKIPS

YOU GOT ME MAD BRUV.

Onlookers are screaming and phones are out.

RAYMOND

PLEASE MAN, PLEASE DON'T DO IT. I'M
NOT WORTH IT.

Suddenly Raymond turns as if to run but jumps up & flies away. Keeps going up until he's flown out of frame heroes/chronicle style. Everyone is dumbfounded and so baffled, but Auntie is the first to turn away from the window and get back to business.

TITLE: PRECIOUS HAIR & BEAUTY

We hear an assortment of cries from onlookers off screen; "Oh my days naa naa", "Maaaaate", "is This life", "Terry imma ave to call back", "Jesu..."

CAMERA SUBTLY CREEPS BACK TO ORIGINAL POSITION

Everyone in the high street slowly starts going back about their business. We JUMP CUT FORWARD as the people in the shop can't believe what they've just seen. They slowly lose interest, with Auntie being the first.

SMASH CUT:

10 I/E. AUNTIES HAIR SALON - AFTERNOON - 6:24PM 10

Dele's hair's all blown out and is leaving the shop.

11 I/E. AUNTIES HAIR SALON - EVENING - 07:30PM 11

Auntie is packing up getting ready to lock up for the day when her friend Julie enters the shop.

JULIE

How now? What's this I'm hearing
about something something?

AUNTIE

Ah Julie my dear, did you not see.

JULIE

Ehhh wah - mi o ri (I did not see)

Auntie has started lowering the shutters and is halfway out the door - very nonchalant.

AUNTIE

Ahhh don't even worry yourself

(beat)

It's just another day

(kmt)

We'll see what tomorrow shall bring

sha.

CREDITS

The shutter closes completely and credits placed on top of the screen. Auntie's conversation fades into the distance. We can still hear the sounds of the street.

END