

# Unchained

## ON THE ROCK

Black liberation in Bermuda and beyond.



Photo: Nicola Muirhead

**Talks. Tours. Workshops.**  
Stories of the Atlantic Basin

**Led by Bermudian storytellers**  
Ajala Omodele & Liana Nanang

An Unstoried initiative

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[www.un-storied.com](http://www.un-storied.com)  
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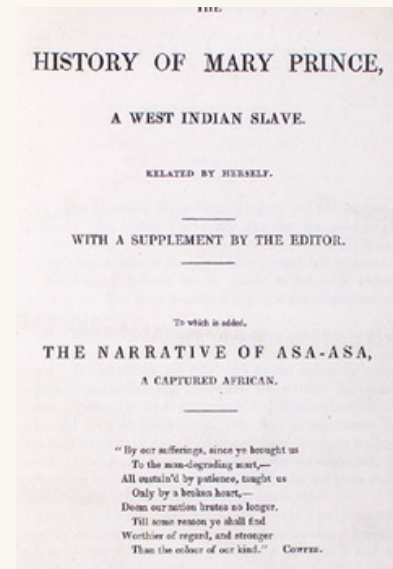
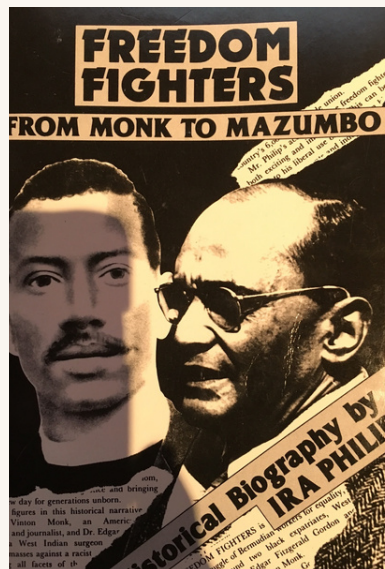
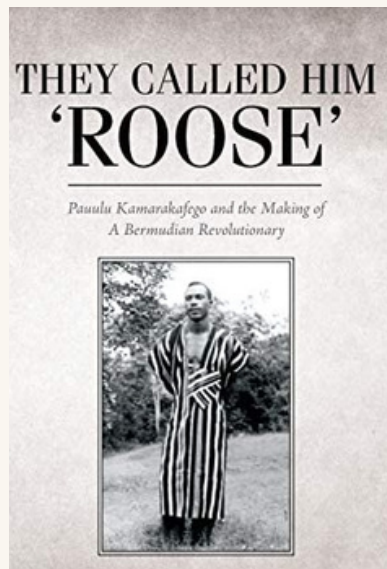
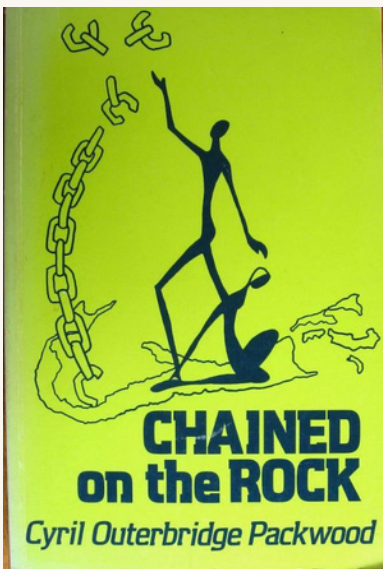


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# About UNCHAINED

*Unchained on the Rock* is a Bermuda-based initiative that chronicles narratives of Black liberation and resistance throughout the Atlantic Basin. Named in honour of the seminal work by Bermudian scholar Cyril Outerbridge Packwood, 'Chained on the Rock', we offer talks, tours, workshops and corporate and educational curriculum consulting that honour our Ancestors and storytelling forebears.

Our programming is delivered by the leadership team of *Unstoried*, a multimedia entertainment studio that empowers and educates People of the Global Majority (aka People of Colour). *Unstoried* is a for-good, for-profit entity that will support free healing centres for PGM as they recover from transgenerational and racial trauma.





# Meet OUR TEAM



Liana Nanang is a multidisciplinary storyteller and the founder and CEO of *Unstoried*.

Inspired by her Black-Bermudian, Iban-Malaysian, and Indigenous-South American heritage, Liana's work navigates race, nationality, trauma, resilience, spirituality, colonialism and her identity as a neurodivergent woman of colour.

Liana's writing and photography have featured in *The New York Times*, and she has been interviewed live by *Forbes*, the UK's *BBC Breakfast* and *BBC World News*. She won Best Columnist in the 2017 Best of Bermuda Awards.

Liana obtained a law degree from *University College London* and is a New York-qualified attorney. She studied acting at *The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute* in NYC.

Liana won Use of Materials in the 2021 Charman Prize at *Masterworks Museum*. Both her visual art and poetry were selected for the 2022 *Bermuda National Gallery Biennial*. She is the author of the Bermuda-based children's book *The Little Cottage*.

Liana is a seasoned PR strategist. She spent several years leading a communications and content development firm and has worked with multinational corporations, political campaigns, and governmental agencies. She is also the former Special Advisor to the Premier of Bermuda.

*"Liana is a fascinating woman... A talented writer, she is an outspoken advocate for women's rights, mental health care and all those struggling in an imperfect society."*

- The Bermudian

*"Ajala has a voice that requires one give immediate attention and this is combined with a rich reflective analysis that comes wrapped up in accessible and meaningful stories. His gift for speaking seems to come from a journey filled with grounded reflection."*

- Amanda Parris, TV Host, CBC  
(Canadian Broadcasting Company)

Ajala Omodele is Bermudian-Bajan educator, writer, poet, and lecturer. He is the Head of Story Development at *Unstoried*.

Ajala is the author of *Dame Lois: The People's Advocate*, *They Called Him 'Roose'* and *Look for Me in the Whirlwind: A Story of Marcus Garvey*. He is currently writing *A Tale of Two Women: Sally Bassett, Mary Prince & the True Story of Slavery in Bermuda*.

Holding a master's degree in education, Ajala has taught at the primary and middle school level and a graduate-level course at York University. He has conducted professional development seminars for Bermuda's educators on our history of slavery and Black resistance. He has been featured in a variety of international documentaries and been interviewed by *Forbes*.

Several of Ajala's poems have been published in *MOKO: Caribbean Arts and Letters*. His poem, entitled *the crossing (aka why I don't like tall ships)*, was selected for inclusion in the 2022 *Bermuda National Gallery Biennial*.

Ajala sees the study of African history as both a map and mirror that simultaneously shows us where we have been, where we are and where we can go, while reflecting our limitless capacity for courage.

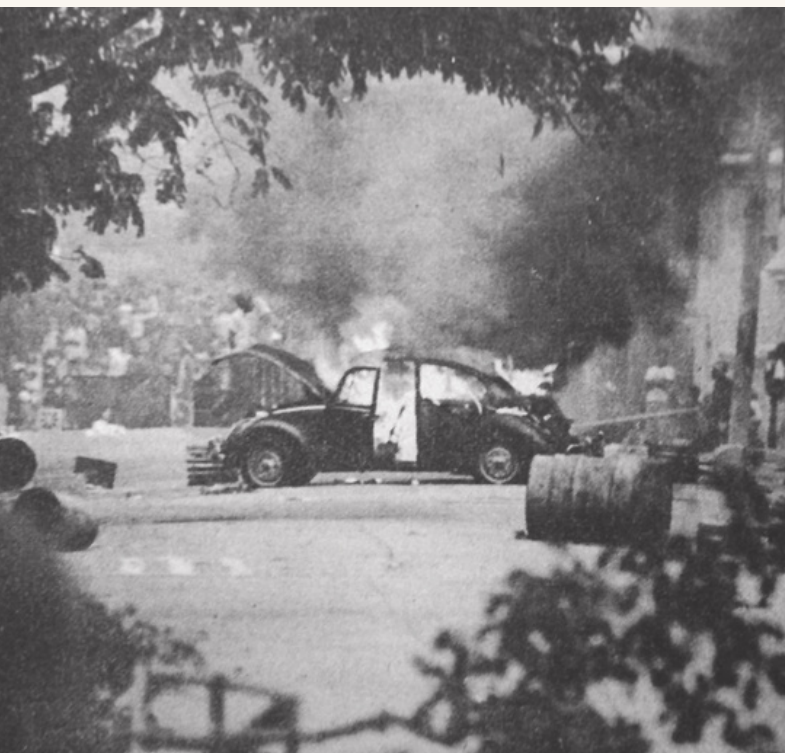
# What WE DO

We offer talks, tours, workshops and educational curriculum and corporate consulting, delivered on our clients' premises or at outdoor and indoor sites around the island. We also periodically host ticketed events.

Our sessions range from one hour to a full day. All our talks and tours include Q&A. Our workshops are tailored for the size and age of our audience and can include slide presentations, videos and worksheets, and provide a more interactive engagement.

All our topics listed below touch on additional related subject matter and we can customise our offerings based upon client interest. Email us on [unchained@un-storied.com](mailto:unchained@un-storied.com) to arrange a private session for your organisation.

Pricing starts at \$1,500. Contact us for a quote.



**TALKS**

**TOURS**

**WORKSHOPS**

**CONSULTING**

[www.unchainedontherock.com](http://www.unchainedontherock.com)

# Topics

<b>UPRISING</b>	<p>Contrary to popular belief, Black Bermudians have never shied away from engaging in acts of resistance. We will discuss the planned insurrections of the 1600s, the Poison Plots of the 1700s, the 100+ years of work stoppage that led to the Cup Match holiday, the 1959 Theatre Boycott, the 1965 BELCO uprising and the relentless turbulence of 1970s. We then bring the resistance history into contemporary focus by looking at the civil disobedience of the last decade.</p>
BLACK PROTEST & RESISTANCE IN BERMUDA	
<b>THEY CALLED HIM 'ROOSE'</b>	<p>This talk brings to glorious life the little-known story of the revolutionary iconoclast and Bermuda National Hero, Dr. Pauulu Kamarakafego. Put under surveillance by the CIA, FBI, MI-5, Interpol and other secret service organisations, he was shot and wounded in both Cuba and Liberia for the ‘crime’ of demanding justice for the oppressed. Upon meeting Pauulu, Nelson Mandela said to him, “It is truly an honour to meet you.” Learn about the incredible life of this home-grown UN environmental scientist and Pan-Africanist – the man they called ‘Roose’ – from the author of the book of the same name.</p>
PAUULU KAMARAKAFEGO	
<b>BEYOND SEASCAPES</b>	<p>“The Black artist is dangerous.” ~ Sonia Sanchez</p> <p>This talk chronicles the history of Black art in Bermuda. We will show how Black artists have, at times, capitulated to and, at other times, subverted and challenged expectations of what acceptable art in Bermuda should be. From this vantage point, we examine the work of Chesley Trott, Bill Ming, Gherdai Hassell, April Branco and many others.</p>
BLACK ART IN BERMUDA	

# Topics

<p><b>WARRIOR. WOMAN. WORDSMITH.</b></p>	<p>Left crippled and nearly blind by decades of relentless abuse at the hands of her enslavers, Bermuda National Hero Mary Prince refused to cower in the face of monstrous brutality. Instead, she distilled her experiences into a compelling eyewitness account that laid bare the horrors of the ‘peculiar institution’ as it was practiced in Bermuda, Turks &amp; Caicos and Antigua. Captured in her autobiography, <i>The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave. Related by Herself</i>, her words reverberated throughout the United Kingdom and its colonies, helping to bring a decisive end to chattel slavery. This talk delves into Prince’s narrative, placing it within the wider context of the times.</p>
<p>MARY PRINCE</p>	
<p><b>STOLEN!</b></p>	<p>Tucker’s Town was once a haven for a small but flourishing, tight-knit Black community. Why was this community stripped of their land and how was it transformed into a lily-white hideaway for the ultra-wealthy? The speakers will take you to the early 1920s, where you will learn how powerful interests conspired to lay claim to the land and permanently banish the Black families whose dead remain buried below manicured golf fairways.</p>
<p>THE THEFT OF TUCKER'S TOWN</p>	
<p><b>A TALE OF TWO LAWYERS</b></p>	<p>What happens when a legal adversary cannot be bought, beaten or broken? Facing certain defeat, the oligarchy of the day was twice forced to grapple with this vexing dilemma. First, at the turn of the century, with formidable Jamaican barrister Matthew Spencer-Joseph and again, seven decades later, with sharp-minded activist-attorney Julian Hall. We examine the cases that placed these two brilliant Black men firmly in the crosshairs of the establishment and the nefarious methods used to neutralise them.</p>
<p>MATTHEW SPENCER-JOSEPH &amp; JULIAN HALL</p>	

# Topics

<p><b>FREEDOM'S FLAMES</b></p>	<p>On an exceedingly hot afternoon in June 1730, an elderly Black woman was tied to a stake as an expectant crowd began to gather. And then the kindling was set alight... We will challenge the grand falsehood that “slavery in Bermuda wasn’t that bad!” and explore what may have driven this elderly Black woman, Sally Bassett, to attempt to murder her beloved granddaughter’s owners.</p>
<p>SALLY BASSETT</p>	
<p><b>WHAT'S IN A NAME?</b></p>	<p>Why abandon your "family" names of "Hall" and “Burchall”? We explain the reasons behind our decisions to rename ourselves and place the process of renaming the enslaved African into its larger, socio-historical context. We graphically demonstrate how our surnames – as well as Smith, Tucker, Butterfield, Gibbons, Dill, and all other names forced upon Africans - are inextricably linked to the transformation of human beings into non-human commodities. We examine the importance of reviewing our legacies and why a Dutch city recently permitted all descendants of slavery to change their names free of charge.</p>
<p>THE BRANDING OF A PEOPLE</p>	
<p><b>ADDITIONAL TOPICS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gombeys</li> <li>• Cup Match</li> <li>• The Friendly Societies</li> <li>• The Enterprise</li> <li>• Sites of Subjection</li> <li>• Desegregation &amp; The Theatre Boycotts</li> <li>• Music or Minstrelsy?</li> <li>• Black Power in Bermuda &amp; the Black Beret Cadre</li> <li>• Pleasant Appetite: Our culinary influences</li> <li>• Africa before enslavement</li> <li>• The benign slavery myth</li> <li>• The 3 Rebel Queens</li> <li>• Slavery in Film</li> <li>• Built by Moonlight: The Cobb's Hill Church</li> <li>• Medical Mistreatment: Segregation &amp; Persecution</li> <li>• Black Business in Bermuda</li> <li>• Dame Lois Browne-Evans</li> <li>• Emancipation in the Atlantic</li> <li>• Assassinations &amp; Executions: Bermuda in the 1970s</li> <li>• The Haitian Revolution</li> <li>• African &amp; Indigenous Spirituality</li> <li>• The true origins of the US War of Independence</li> <li>• Black love as resistance</li> <li>• And more!</li> </ul>
<p>CURATE YOUR TALK: ASK US ANYTHING!</p>	



an  
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initiative

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