

Afro-Foto and Video Productions

Chad Lucas

Paul Adams



Olusegun Odusanya, Afro-Foto and Video Productions

Whenever something historic has happened in the Black community over the past 30 years, you can bet that Olusegun Odusanya was there, with photo or video camera in hand to capture the moment.

Odusanya describes his company, Afro-Foto and Video Productions, as less of a business and more of a labour of love, devoted to making sure memories live on in the community.

Odusanya has long had an interest in photography, but his passion for documenting local history kicked in shortly after the Nigerian-born man moved to Halifax from Toronto in the mid-1970s.

"When I first came to Nova Scotia I was reading the minutes of the African United Baptist Association [AUBA]," he says. "You read the names of people and you don't know who these people are. Somebody like myself just coming into the community, you can't put a face to them. That's when I started taking pictures."

gaining on-the-job training with the Black United Front's community television productions. "That's how I got my little bit of training in video," he says. He later added a course in video production at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

Odusanya, a deacon at Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, started recording services at various churches for posterity. He's also captured many other events, including the community meetings that were held around the landmark BLAC Report on Education in 1994-95. "I have a whole history at home," he says.

His newest interest is documentaries. He teamed with videographer Sobaz Benjamin and Dr. Wanda Thomas-Bernard, the director of Dalhousie University's School of Social Work, on the recent film *HIStory: Reflections on Black Father-Son Relationships*. Odusanya is also working with Dr. Thomas-Bernard on a documentary on Black women's health issues. "I'm looking to branch out more in the documentary field," he says.

Odusanya has also been working with a partner on some ideas of his own. He wants to make films about


Odusanya had some formal training in photography in Toronto, but he completed his courses in Halifax and learned with plenty of practice taking pictures for the AUBA and the Black Cultural Centre. He also branched out into video,

people who have made a difference in the local community, such as East Preston Day Care Centre founder Dr. Joyce Ross.

And he has an idea for a program called *Black Journal*, which he'd love to develop into a full-fledged television series. "It would be about issues that affect the Black community," he says. "This is not just a small production. We're hoping that CBC or (another) network would pick it up. There's no outlet whereby the Black community can address some of the issues that are facing them."

Odusanya, who works for the Department of Defence, says he's not in the video business to make a fortune; he's more interested in giving back to the community.

"When people don't have much money to spend, they know who to call," he says with a laugh.

Whatever he does make, he reinvests in better equipment, so people will receive an even better product, he says. "God's been good to me, and what I can give back in return is giving of myself to the community." 

Afro-Foto & Video Productions

Segun Odusanya

462-6648

oodusanya@eastlink.ca