

Georgina Eku Edewor-Thorley, Hon DLitt

Wednesday 29th July 2026

Orator: Professor Rachel Moseley, Faculty of Arts

Provost,

I am delighted to introduce this afternoon's Honorary Graduand, the actor and film producer: GEORGINA EKU EDEWOR-THORLEY.

Georgina, or Eku Edewor, as she is known, is very familiar with Warwick: she studied English and Theatre Studies here, graduating in 2006. After working as a production assistant to a film producer and completing an acting course at the New York Film Academy, she moved to Lagos to work with her Nigerian mother in her restaurant, subsequently staying to forge her career in Nigeria's flourishing entertainment industry. She has been immensely successful. She has had major roles in several high-profile Nigerian films such as *Flower Girl* (2013), *Superstar* (2021), *Breath of Life* (2023) and, most recently, the lead role in *Dust to Dreams* which premiered at the BFI London Film Festival last year. She was a long-term host of *53 Extra*, an entertainment and lifestyle television show that ran for some 10 years, and is currently playing the main character in the Netflix legal drama series, *Castle and Castle*. At the same time, Georgina has continued to pursue her interest in production. Initially, she produced award-winning commercials, moving into feature films in 2021, when she co-produced *Superstar*. In 2023, she produced *Breath of Life*, Amazon Prime Video's first commissioned Nigerian feature film. *Breath of Life* was high-profile, had global reach, was nominated for several awards and won the 2024 African Magic Viewers' Choice Award. This has been a major milestone in Georgina's career as a producer and she has gone on to produce two more feature films in 2024, *Christmas in Lagos* and *When Love Strikes*.

One of the most important things for Georgina has been working with women and being able to hire and train new female producers in Nigeria. She has recognised and championed the talent of Nigerian women, and their potential to take top creative roles in the film industry. She is passionate about inspiring female leaders and mentoring other women. She actively encourages women to hire other women, and has directly tackled some of the barriers faced by women in the workplace, for example the need to create more flexible working environments in the film industry to support mothers in their careers. Georgina also wants to see more diversity in roles for women actors, beyond sexist stereotypes.



She has also become a strong advocate for women's health. Her personal health journey has shown her that women are often not 'heard' by the medical profession – a situation now recognised by our own NHS. She urges doctors to listen to female patients, to recognise that they understand their own bodies, and to view them as partners during their interactions. Women's health is a particular area of excellence in Warwick Medical School and we were privileged to have Georgina as a guest speaker at Warwick's recent alumni event in Lagos, demonstrating the transformative impact of a Warwick education through her distinguished career; inspiring the wider alumni community to consider their own contribution and legacy.

Georgina's success is based not just on talent, but on hard work, tenacity and focus. We are proud to be able to say that here at Warwick, as a student she both acted and tried her hand as a producer – the rest, as they say, is history!

Provost: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*, GEORGINA EKU EDEWOR-THORLEY.

