

Singsing in Papua New Guinea



01

Before the Sing Sing (the great meeting), Hageners take several hours early in the morning to apply make up. The colours all have a meaning. Red means fertility and sexual attraction. In this picture, the blue dots signify water.



02

Most of the headdresses are made from eagle and birds of paradise feathers, preciously kept in between sheets of newspaper. Some of the more prestigious headdresses are made directly out of whole stuffed parrots.



03

This man is using an electric meter as a nose ring! Papuans like to give a modern touch to their jewels or decorations. Many can be seen using Xmas tinsels in their headdresses.



04 Emira woman, covered in sump oil that they use as make-up following a death during a tribal fight. Many Papuans also use Tippex to create white make up, they find it to be more resistant to sweat. Chinese merchants at Mt Hagen sell it.



05

Cheap Chinese products like this mirror have invaded Papua New Guinea. All the supermarkets in the highlands, better guarded than banks, belong to Chinese merchants. A new sort of western movie scenario.

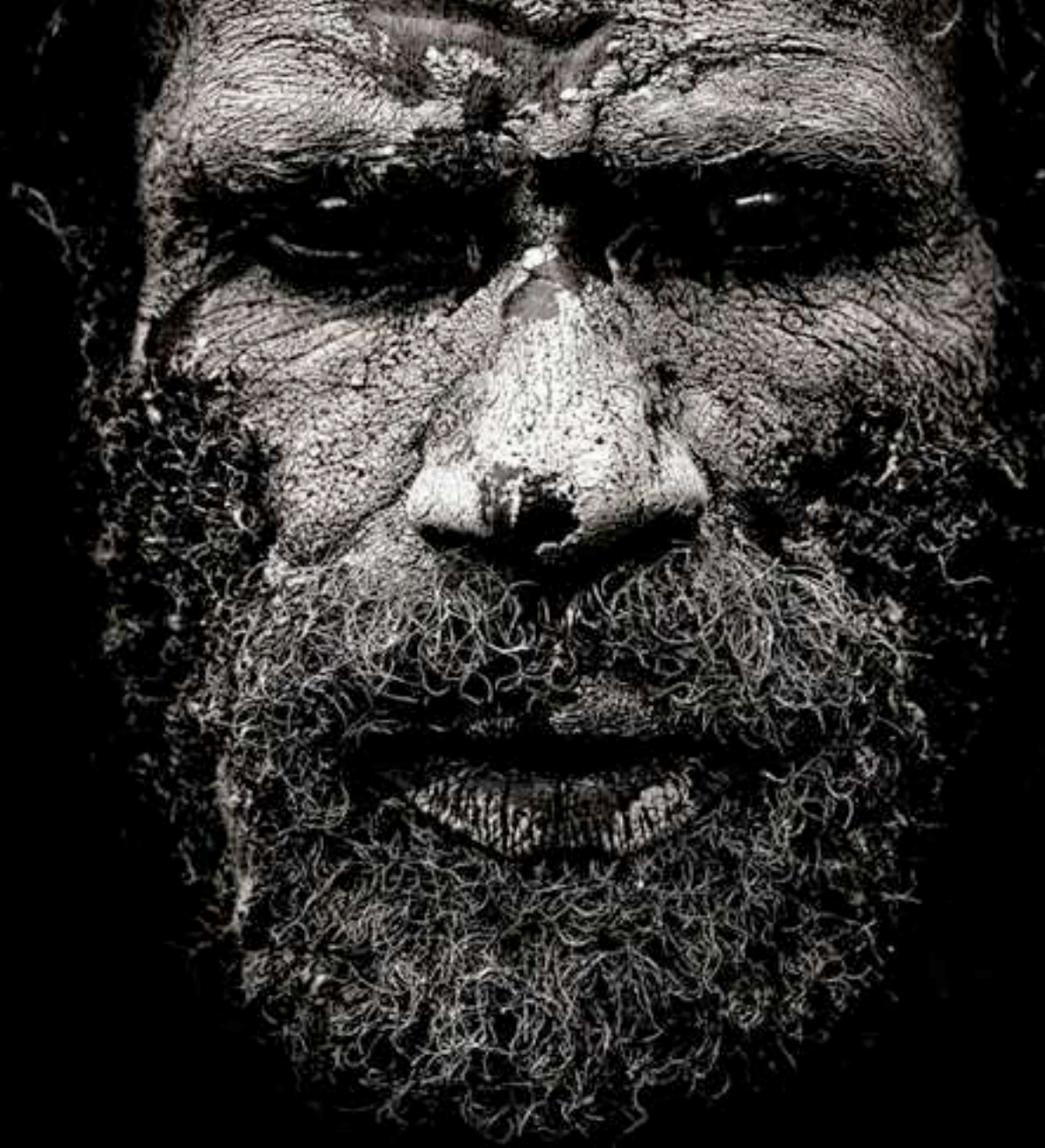


06

The Asaro mud men make their helmets from clay and bamboos. It's heavy (5 kg) and they can hardly breathe inside. They walk in slow motion.



07 The Asaro Mud men cover their bodies with mud. In the Papuan culture, white represents death. They put bamboo sticks on their fingers to make noise and frighten their enemies. Nowadays, the Mud men ritual is a tourist attraction.





09

Omo Masalai, a Chimbu tribe woman. They are called the Skeletons, and are characters from traditional tribal theatrical plays, which mingle with the "real" warriors.



10

The Suli Muli women, the nicest girls around, smiling, all marching together like a roman turtle, with wigs looking like giant mushrooms.



11

The Suli Muli men from Enga. Their hats are made with their own hair and fresh grass.



12

The most famous warriors in Papua New Guinea: the Huli wig men. They sport giant hats, which make them look like Admiral Nelson. The "hats" are made with their own hair, that they start to shave off when they're 14 years old.



13

The Hulig men are warriors. At the beginning of 2010, the tribal fights even started to bother the economical development of their area, as an on-going tribal war troubled the ExxonMobil gas pipeline project.





15

Hagener woman with shells. The seashells come from the coast, and wound up in the Highlands through the years after several exchanges.



16

The feather, shells and furs have become rare and very expensive, due to the fact that they are often sold to tribal art dealers. To put together a full garment, the women often have to travel to several villages to collect all the items required.



17 The vegetable based garments only last for one Sing Sing and reflect the tribes' environment, as they are collected on the day of the ceremony. The women cover each other in oil to shine in the sun.



18

The Sinek (snakes) men passing in front of Hulis warriors; they proceed in a single line in silence, and they then jump up in the crowd. They are characters from traditional tribal theatrical plays, which mingle with the "real" warriors.





20 Man from the Chimbu province with Cassowary feathers on his head. His nose is not pierced, but he's wearing some pig tusks, a sign of wealth.



21

The men from the Kaugel valley are famous for their line dances. They move in perfect synchronicity, singing hypnotic chants over and over again.



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