

**June 30th 2005: Immediate Release:**

## England Striker proposes a toast to Africa

Rachel Yankey, England's most capped player and star of Euro 2005, will once again take centre stage and launch an official cocktail, Ubuntu, to celebrate Africa as part of Educ8, ([www.wowuk.net](http://www.wowuk.net)), a national community initiative in support of Live8 and the G8. The launch will take place at the The Africa Centre in Covent Garden on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 12.30. Educ8 co-coordinator, Melanie Rees says, "It's really great that Rachel is part of Educ8. She is an excellent role model and a great ambassador for our project!"

Ubuntu has been made by Ben Reed, BBC's "Shaker Maker", who kindly agreed to make the cocktail to support the Educ8 project. The internet initiative has also received celebrity backing. "I think Educ8-Celebr8 -Don8 is a Gr8 idea. I would H8 for people to come to it L8, so listen up. This 1 time, do something that all of Africa will apprecia8, get up, get in2 it, get involved, don't devi8, cos at this r8, we could get into a right st8! This is such a good idea, be a m8 and get off your butt and DO SOMETHING!" said comedian Lenny Henry.

The term Ubuntu means, humanness, and it promotes co-operation between individuals, cultures and nations. Melanie Rees, co-founder of WOW, the company behind Educ8, came across the term in a magazine while on holiday in Thailand. "The next day the Tsunami came. I was rescued by a very terrified but enormously courageous young Thai boy named Ood. I witnessed much co-operation between individuals, cultures and nations on Boxing Day 2004. It would be great to see the same co-operation for Africa," she says.

Melanie encourages pubs and bars to serve the cocktail which includes both an alcoholic and non-alcoholic version, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July in conjunction with a nationwide "Non Uniform Day" when everybody is invited to wear or display something red, gold and green to celebrate Africa.

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