

PPMC Magazine SA Issue 120

SA's number 1 Modeling, Pageantry, Talent & Entertainment Magazine

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Koeberg**

Founder of @CultureCut Fashion Brand

**Mariette
Jordaan**

Empowering Women in Martech

Cover Model:

Rechelle Kloek

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Mrs. SA 2024

Semi-finalists

Nthabiseng Sethoga, Charmoné Swanepoel
and Michelle Bisset

Isabel Roos

The Face Behind Isa Carstens Academy

Candy-lee

Duarttee

Miss Grand South Africa 2024 Finalist

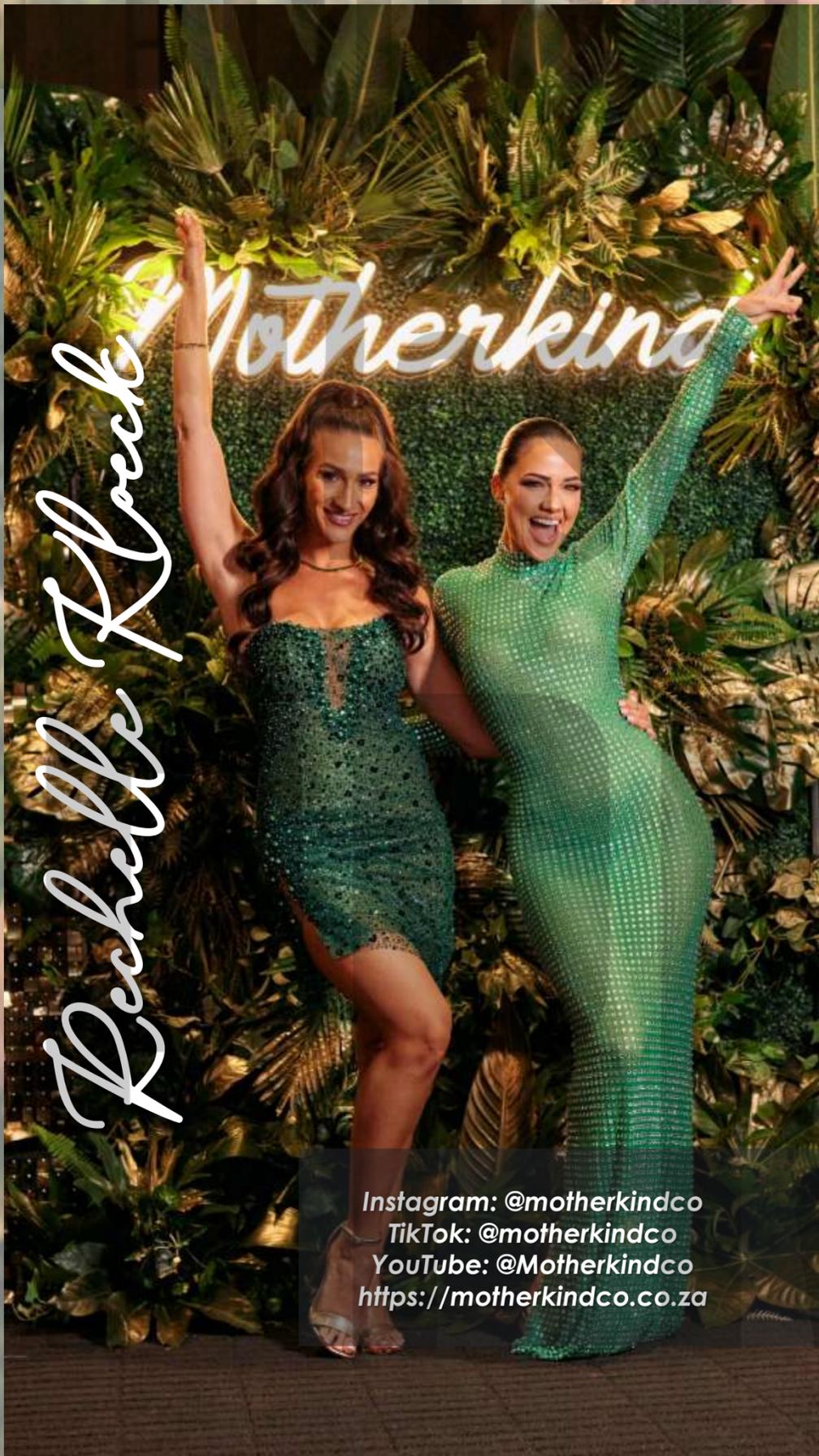
Featuring
**National &
International
Models**

**Neenā Macaire
Bezuidenhout**

Beauty, Resilience, and Empowerment

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May 2024



Rechelle Kloeck

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Salome Muller

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PPMC
Magazine South Africa

Neenã Macaire Bezuidenhout

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Runway to Role Model: A Journey
of Beauty, Resilience, and Impact

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Neenā Maccaire Bezuidenhout's journey into the spotlight began when she was just a baby, entered into her first modeling competition at three months old thanks to the foresight of her grandmother and mother.

"They noticed my talent early on," Neenā explains with a smile, recalling how these early experiences sparked her passion for the limelight, a passion that has since evolved into a successful career in modeling and pageantry.

Growing up, Neenā's childhood was dotted with appearances in competitions and fashion shows, and by the time she was a young adult, she had not only made a name for herself on the runway but had also started exploring the world. Traveling became a memorable part of her career, providing her with the unique opportunity to immerse herself in different cultures.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity that has given me a lot of perspective about life," she shares, reflecting on the broadening of her horizons that these experiences afforded her.

But it was her crowning as the First Edition Jewel of the World 2018 / 2019 in Manila, Philippines, that remains her most cherished memory. This title was not just a win in a competition; it was an affirmation of her hard work and dedication to her craft.

Balancing the demanding roles of a model, pageant contestant, and entrepreneur is no small feat, but Neenā approaches it with a philosophy centered on holistic health. "Holistic Health is your Greatest Wealth," she affirms, emphasizing the importance of maintaining balance across all aspects of life—psychological, emotional, spiritual, and physical. This belief helps her manage her hectic schedule while staying focused on her goals.

The modeling world is notoriously tough, and Neenā has faced her fair share of challenges, including various forms of bullying. Determined to turn her negative experiences into positive action, she launched her anti-bullying and anti-abuse campaign called Never Look Back.

This initiative, which started 11 years ago, allows her to advocate for those without a voice, using her story as a tool for change and inspiration. "Your story is valid and matters," she states, driving home the point that personal experiences can indeed lead to greater good.

Neenā's entrepreneurial drive kicked in early, seeded during her school days when she was part of an entrepreneurs club. "It is important to have something of your own," she says, explaining how she parlayed her modeling experiences and business acumen into creating employment opportunities and providing training that uplifts others.

Every step of her career is a chance to blend her experiences from the runway and pageants into her business ventures. Viewing herself as "a walking advertisement and a real-life brand," Neenā leverages her public image to attract investment and create new opportunities.

Her role models in the industry include figures like Princess Diana, for her humanitarian work and genuine kindness, and Coco Chanel, who carved out a unique space for women in fashion through sheer determination and innovative designs. These women inspire Neenā to stay true to herself and strive for authenticity and purpose in her endeavors.

For those aspiring to break into the industry, Neenā offers straightforward advice: stay humble, know your unique brand, and always look for the lesson in rejection. "Rejection is a part of re-direction," she advises, urging newcomers to focus on self-improvement and resilience.

Despite the pressures and competitiveness of her field, Neenā maintains a positive outlook by practicing gratitude and staying committed to her values. She relishes the adrenaline rush of pageants

and the opportunity they provide to advocate for charitable causes she's passionate about, celebrating the diversity and unity that such platforms promote.

Neenā is particularly proud of personal initiatives like "The Warmth of a Heart," "Every Bag for Every Woman," and her contributions through her campaign Never Look Back, like "I am not a label. Your labels do not define me."

As for her future, Neenā envisions continued growth for her business ventures and global expansion for her campaigns. She remains committed to her mission of making a meaningful impact, hoping to inspire others to share their stories and spread kindness.

Ultimately, Neenā Maccaire Bezuidenhout is not just building a career but a legacy—a legacy of resilience, kindness, and empowerment that she hopes will inspire generations to come.





PPMC
Magazine South Africa

Tanya le Roux

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

From Runway Dreams to Real Impact: How Seventeen-Year-Old Tanya le Roux is Balancing Modeling Aspirations with Education, Social Responsibility, and Personal Growth



Tanya le Roux might only be seventeen, but her aspirations and insights suggest a maturity beyond her years. As she tentatively steps into the world of fashion, her heart is set on more than just personal success. "I've always admired the glamour of modeling, but I also see it as a platform to influence and uplift others," Tanya explains with a sparkle in her eye, excited about the potential her budding career might hold.

Despite being a newcomer in the competitive realm of modeling, Tanya has already tasted the excitement and nerves that come with walking on a runway. Her debut at a local school competition was a

landmark moment for her. Surrounded by the familiar faces of supportive friends and family, Tanya recalls, "It was more than just fun; it felt like the first step toward realizing a big dream."

But Tanya is not one to put all her eggs in one basket. For her, education remains paramount. "My studies are my priority at the moment," she insists. Balancing textbooks with photo shoots isn't easy, and Tanya often finds herself juggling her time and responsibilities. "Spending time with my loved ones is the highlight of my week, but I'm a firm believer that the busier you are, the more you can achieve," she says, echoing an age-old maxim that motivates her through hectic weeks.

Her aspirations extend beyond her personal achievements. Tanya is keenly aware of the influence she could wield and is eager to mentor younger teens navigating their own paths. She passionately shares her philosophy for those looking up to her: "You are never alone, if you need help, ask. Trust your instincts and always count on your support system." With a sincere smile, she adds, "And if you don't have one, I'm here. Never be afraid to pursue your dreams."

The first modeling competition was a nerve-racking yet enlightening experience for Tanya. "Standing there, ready to walk out, I realized how common fear is, no matter how prepared you think you are," she reflects on the lessons learned from facing her biggest fear—falling on stage. This experience reinforced her belief in perseverance, "It's about taking that first step, even when it's scary."

Social media presents another battlefield for the young model, one where images and words can resonate or recoil. "I think carefully about what I post. Each picture, each caption is a reflection of who I am and what I stand for," Tanya remarks, conscious of her online footprint. As a citizen of a vibrant and diverse nation like South Africa, she understands the

importance of respecting differing opinions, "We all have the right to our views, and respecting that right is crucial."

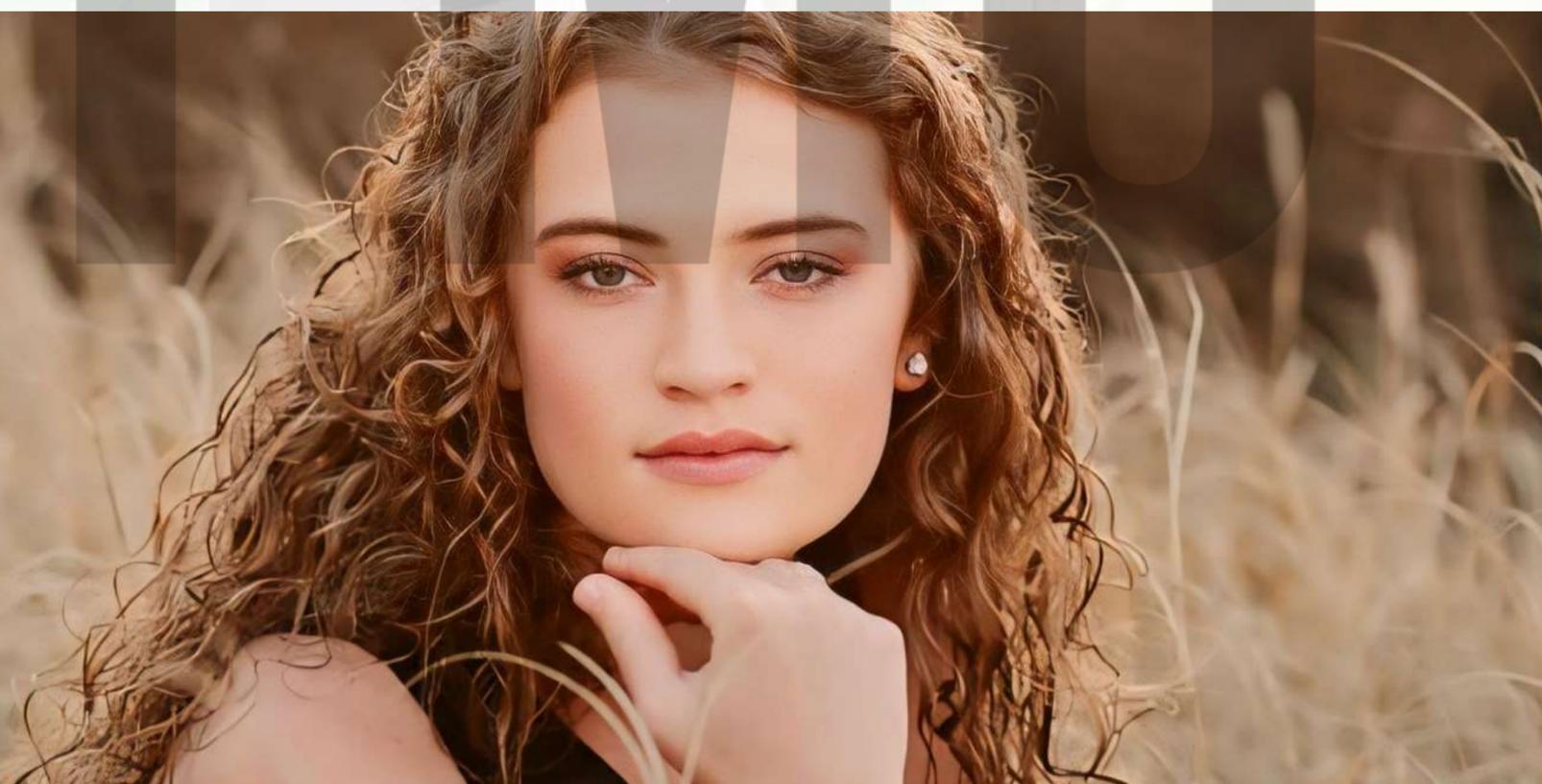
Looking ahead, Tanya dreams of leveraging her modeling opportunities to showcase and serve her community. Her feature in PPMC magazine isn't just a personal triumph but a doorway to greater contributions. "I aim to promote the rich culture and the incredible people of South Africa. I want to get involved, especially starting with charity and community upliftment initiatives," she shares, her enthusiasm palpable.

At home, Tanya draws daily inspiration from her family. Her father, always ready to share a laugh, teaches her the value of joy and humility, while her mother, a paragon of hard work, instills resilience and optimism. Tanya also holds dear the memory of Mr. Morne Badenhorst, whose words, "I'm going to ride the lightning, till the darkness pulls me under," serve as a constant source of courage.

In the broader scope of role models, Tanya looks up to figures like Olympic athlete Derek Redmond, who exemplified true grit by finishing his race despite severe pain. "It's not just about winning; it's about finishing what you started, regardless of the obstacles," she says, drawing a parallel to her own journey.

Ending on a note of encouragement, Tanya reminds everyone: "Love yourself and remember you matter. When life is tough, hold on, and when you're on top, spread the kindness around. Life is about taking what you need and giving back even more."

With dreams as vast as the horizons she hopes to explore, Tanya le Roux stands on the cusp of turning her modeling aspirations into avenues for meaningful change, guided by the love of her family, the wisdom of mentors, and her profound belief in the power of positivity and perseverance.





Lien Klokow

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Memories to Portraits of the Soul

Lien Klokow Photography
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Lien Klokow's foray into the world of photography is a tale of rediscovery and passion, seamlessly transitioning from a career in nursing to becoming a respected professional photographer in Potchefstroom. "My father used to be a photographer with his own darkroom," Lien reminisces. "The atmosphere of that space, along with the smells, sights, and sounds really left an impression on me."

Although initially putting her creative passion aside to pursue nursing at the University of the Free State, the desire to create never left her. Her photographic journey reignited in earnest in 2019, sparked by a thoughtful gift from her husband—a DSLR camera. "It was a pivotal moment. Within months, I resigned from my nursing position and plunged into photography professionally," she reveals.

Lien's photographic style, though adaptive to the demands of her local market, reveals a deep affection for black and

white portraiture. Yet, she doesn't shy away from exploring various subjects. "I love doing portraits in black and white but find myself exploring all avenues," she explains.

This explorative spirit includes capturing the aged and the timeless stories etched on their faces, inspired by famed photographer Lee Jeffries. However, mindful of privacy concerns under the POPI Act, she keeps these deeply personal images private. "They feel too personal to me," Lien shares, reflecting her respect and empathy for her subjects—a trait nurtured during her years in nursing.

The creative process for Lien involves a blend of traditional inspiration and cutting-edge technology. "Most photographers would mention 'Pinterest' when asked about their creative process," Lien notes, using the platform to scout themes, outfits, and poses.

She also leverages her husband's affinity for AI image creation to visualize and refine her ideas before bringing them to life. This partnership not only enhances her creative output but also strengthens their personal relationship, blending life and work in a uniquely supportive way.

One project that remains etched in her memory is her photoshoot at Samuel Broadbent, a residence for elderly individuals living with dementia. "Nothing captures truth and unpretentiousness more than these beautiful people," she states. The authenticity and vulnerability captured in these shoots are a testament to her ability to see beyond the surface, to capture souls rather than just smiles.

Choosing subjects and themes is an intuitive process for Lien, largely influenced by the interactions and the vibes she picks up from her clients. Her background in nursing, with its emphasis on care and understanding, allows her to connect on a deeper level, thereby capturing her

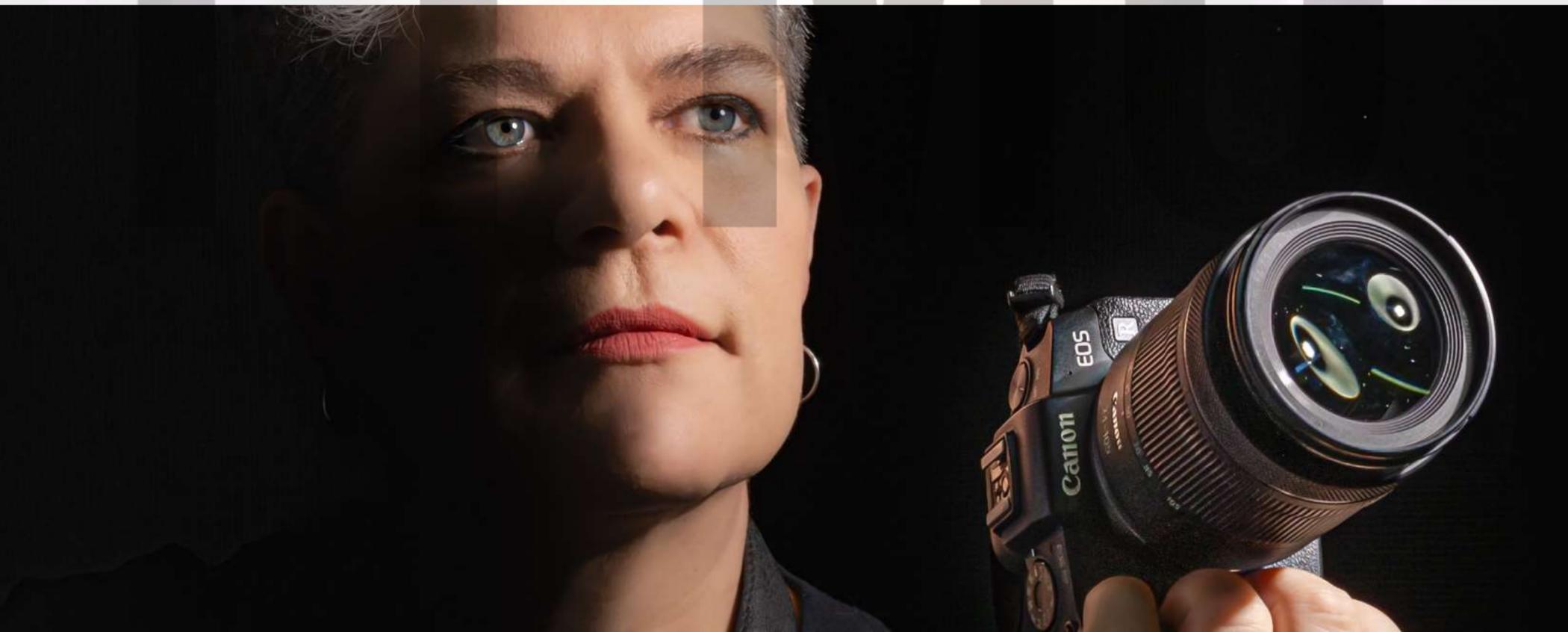
subjects' true essences. "Because of my experience, I can help clients get the most out of what they want, adding depth to each shoot," she explains.

Despite the artistic fulfillment photography offers, it comes with its fair share of challenges. Balancing the artistic side of taking stunning photos with the labor-intensive editing process, and managing client expectations regarding costs, are among the hurdles she navigates regularly. "Most people do not understand the expenses involved in professional photography," Lien points out. "Our prices are high for Potchefstroom, but they cover insurance, software for three different editors, equipment, and extensive editing time."

As digital technology evolves, so does Lien's approach to photography, although she firmly believes nothing can replace the human touch. Inspired by legends like Lee Jeffries and Annie Leibovitz, who capture the profound essence of their subjects, Lien aspires to bring similar depth to her own work.

On managing the business aspects, Lien focuses primarily on the creative and operational tasks, leaving the marketing and social media management to her husband, who also pursues a full-time writing career. For those aspiring to follow in her footsteps, Lien advises, "Take thousands of photos to truly understand the art, and make sure you enjoy editing. It's a significant part of this job."

Looking forward, Lien Klokow Photography will continue to be guided by her heart and creative instincts. "As long as I enjoy what I am doing, I will remain successful and find happiness," she concludes optimistically. With her commitment to authenticity, combined with her unique background and supportive partnership, Lien is poised to continue making a significant impact in the world of photography.



46 Years of building careers in the beauty industry



Now in their 46th year of existence, Isa Carstens Academy comes with a proud and passionate heritage. Isabel Roos is the daughter of Isa Carstens and she followed in her mother's footsteps, expanding the Academy's student count from a mere 48 to a 600. Isabel managed to find time in her hectic schedule to discuss this giant in the beauty industry. "You might plan your day, but things can easily and quickly change when you walk into the office."

When engaging in a discussion with a busy woman like Isabel Roos, who serves as the Managing Director of the renowned Isa Carstens Academy, there's a question that always comes up. How does she manage to juggle everything? According to Isabel, even the most meticulously planned strategies can falter.

Balancing multiple tasks and ensuring they are all managed by the end of the day is quite a challenge – it's a balancing act that Isabel has embraced as a way of life. "Always think about what is important, home and family is important."

Isabel's dedication to the industry is evident in her focus on her students and their requirements, as well as the business's needs, which serve as her anchor. The

enthusiasm of new students and the boundless opportunities presented by the industry bring her joy. "My mother used to say the students keep you young. And that is so true. We don't get younger, but the clients do."

It is important for Isabel and her team to continuously keep up with the needs of the students. This is what helps Isabel to stay grounded in this growing and ever-changing industry. Isa Carstens dates back to the 70's when Isabel's mother Isa Carstens, started the business with a mere 48 students. Today Isa Carstens proudly shows off two campuses, one in Pretoria and one in Stellenbosch, four hostels and Higher Education approved courses. Isabel is proud of how the business has grown with the industry. "Those years it was a three-month beautician course, now students have to complete a three-year diploma course. Therapists are skilled in a higher level of skincare and somatology."

Isabel goes on to explain that the industry has grown into a field of medical aesthetics and therapists can now be qualified to work with doctors and plastic surgeons. When the teaching law changed around 20-years ago, the National Qualification framework for therapists changed and a formal accreditation and registration process was required. A two-year qualification course was no longer approved. Academies had to subject to either a one-year certificate course or a three-year diploma course.

Isa Carstens Academy did not choose the easy road, but, instead, opted to take the rocky road and followed the three-year

diploma process, the same process that universities have to follow, Isabel quickly adds on this topic and says Isa Carstens Academy is at a Level 6 qualification, which brings the academy on university level. "It was not an easy road to take, but I am glad we did it. We can write our qualification, then it goes to the Higher Education department for authorization. It is a long process and committees pulls the proposal apart."

Isa Carstens Academy provides courses on Higher Education and therefore is regulated by the Department of Higher Education. Isabel proudly shares that the Academy has also developed a Level 7 Higher Education qualification. This diploma in skincare and dermatology prepares students to work with medical doctors and is on the same level as a university degree. Isa Carstens Academy is one of two schools in South Africa that offers this in-depth skincare training course.

Isabel's answers with a laugh when asked the question what inspired her to follow in her mother's footsteps. "The industry chose me. I had to choose what I wanted to do and opted for Dental Hygiene. I made it two weeks!"

As a last resort, she started working for her mother. Eventually, her passion for the industry grew, resulting in owning her own salon. Today, it is the industry that continues to motivate, guide, and spark inspiration in her. Isabel mentioned her interest in exploring new subjects, especially focusing on skin health and the ways therapists can contribute to improving it.



About motivation Isabel is firm in saying that only you can make the decision to be and stay motivated. She goes on to say that the beauty industry offers a positive environment, but your attitude does make a difference. "We all get our 'off' days, but it is important to not dwell on it. Don't stay there too long!"

Isabel's advice to therapists and students are to be involved in the industry. To visit expos and training conferences where new things are being discussed. "... and come share it with the students." Push your boundaries and move out of your comfort zone."

It is not uncommon for the Academy to see old students popping in to tell them about what is going on in their lives and where they are. Not unlike any other business, Isa Carstens Academy does have its own challenges and a balance between training and running a business to maintain. Coming from a creative world where skincare the beauty industry is your passion, the financial- and human resources side of the business, can be a tricky one. Isabel says she had to learn a lot about this part of the business.

Sadly, Isa Carstens passed away in 2002, leaving Isabel in a challenging position. With the support of her husband, Gerhard, the Isa Carstens Academy expanded under his guidance, propelling the business to its current status as a prominent industry leader. Managing the corporate side of the business was Isabel's most significant challenge during this time. "I don't like risks, but my husband motivated me. I had a lot to learn from the business side as well, but our recipe worked."

The beauty industry is a female dominated one with most therapists being female Salons and treatments mostly have female staff. Over the years Isa Carstens Academy has seen less than ten males at the facility, but there does seem to be a slow shift.

Isabel explains that the male students excel in in the cosmetic and products side of the industry, especially with a science background. Isabel believes that having more men in the industry would be beneficial, noting that make therapists have demonstrated excellence and success in the field. "They can do it."

Could it be that females are more of the nurturer and carer than males? This is something Isabel would like to see change in the future. Just as we are seeing more males in the nursing sector, this is indeed also a sector that can see more males opting for as a career choice.

Isabel advises prospective students to ensure that a career in this industry is truly what they wish to pursue. "There is a lot to learn and the hard work is two-fold. The training requires long hours of both practical and theory. Campus hours are long and intensive. And once you work in the industry you are expected to provide the same energy and time. If this does not sit well with you, you won't do it."

Isabel says it is important for the Isa Carstens Academy to be sure that the therapists they send out into the industry are qualified and ready. A therapist must: "... understand the business, the therapy side and the client."

Although the industry offers a lot of possibilities and opportunities, it can take its toll on the student or therapist. "It is a caring business; you are not just selling cosmetics. You give a lot of emotion and energy and spend a lot of time on your feet. But if you are willing to put in the effort and sacrifice, this is the industry for you."

Isabel emphasizes that a passion for the industry is important when choosing this study course. The industry is forever changing with new techniques, products and equipment. It is important for everyone in the industry to stay updated and when considering to own your own salon, it is important to keep in mind that equipment can sometimes be expensive. "And if this career is your passion – go for it!"

A balanced life is important to Isabel. She exercises three times a week and enjoys a healthy, hearty breakfast every morning and reaches the office by 9am where she takes the time to greet and talk to the staff. "I like to keep contact and feel the vibe. This can take hours or 30 minutes."

Although she does not teach anymore and does not spend time in classes, she likes to know what is going on. Her day is pretty much taken up by meetings and admin duties. "With e-mails and cell phones everything comes to you, but it does make your day fuller and harder to delegate."

Isabel's preferred color is blue, she has a fondness for dogs, favours coffee over tea, and is a morning person. Her top destinations include the ocean and the West Coast, especially when visiting family. However, she finds solace and nourishment for her soul in the tranquility of the bush. If beauty is your passion, if drive motivates you, this is the career choice for you and Isa Carstens the Academy of choice.



Website: isacarstens.co.za
Facebook: @IsaCarstensAcademy
Instagram: @isacarstens
YouTube: Isa Carstens Academy



PPMC Magazine SA

Vuyeka Magida - Mrs. Bold South Africa 2024 Finalist





At an age when many might consider stepping back, Vuyeka Magida is passionately stepping forward, boldly redefining the essence of beauty pageants and their potential to foster significant societal changes. Vuyeka's compelling story starts with her own battles and blossoms into a broad-reaching impact that epitomizes the very essence of empowerment and advocacy.

"With me at the mature age that I am right now, entering pageants has to be very significant," Vuyeka articulates with a sense of purpose. "I looked for a pageant that is meaningful. For me, Mrs. Bold South Africa stood out because it's empowering women and kids."

Vuyeka's fervor for change isn't confined to her own participation in pageants; it extends to her broader community engagement. She recently founded the Vuyeka Magida Youth Development company, focusing on uplifting the youth and aiding disadvantaged families. This initiative is a testament to her dedication to the next generation, reinforcing her belief that "an empowered kid is an empowered woman in the future."

Reflecting on her own childhood, Vuyeka shares a painful yet transformative part of her life. "Growing up, I was always reminded of how ugly I am. It used to hurt a lot, but eventually, I got used to it." However, this negativity became a catalyst for her personal growth. She found solace and inspiration in watching TV shows like America's Top Model, which helped her develop self-confidence and self-love. "I would see myself on the show, helping other people grow in life regardless of the circumstances," she recounts, a glimmer of resilience in her voice.

For Vuyeka, the term 'bold' encapsulates being brave and confident, essentials for anyone looking to challenge societal norms and make a stand. "Being bold means being unafraid to speak up and take action," she states firmly. Mrs. Bold South Africa offered her the perfect platform to channel this boldness, providing her the opportunity to advocate for those who have lost hope due to societal judgment.

This pageant is much more than a contest of beauty; it is a movement aimed at empowering women to embrace their strength, redefine societal expectations, and become catalysts for change. It celebrates the diverse brilliance of women from various walks of life, including married, divorced, widowed, and mature women with children, empowering them to share their stories confidently.

Asked about what distinguishes her from other contestants, Vuyeka doesn't hesitate to highlight her unique strengths. "My

leadership skills set me apart. I'm not afraid of failure, I'm adept at socializing with different people, and I find it easy to empathize because I've been through a lot in my life," she explains. Her formula for standing out? "Dedication, perseverance, and hard work."

Vuyeka is not just about participating in a pageant; she is about making tangible differences. She's taken concrete steps to influence her community positively, engaging local youth in social activities designed to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and combat teenage pregnancy. Additionally, she is addressing poverty directly by organizing donations of clothes and necessities in her community.

Through her participation in Mrs. Bold South Africa, Vuyeka aims to use her platform for greater good—to raise awareness, fundraise for charitable causes, and inspire others. "I can use my title to volunteer, donate to local organizations, and inspire the young generation to pursue their dreams passionately," she asserts.

In collaboration with local leaders like Bishop Linda, Vuyeka is deepening her community impact, working together on initiatives that include clothing donations and motivational talks at local schools. "Winning this competition would mean opening a new chapter in my life, a chapter where I continue to echo my truth," she shares with conviction.

Her message to others reflects her journey and her hopes for the future: "TRY TO SPREAD HUMANITY AND UNITY AMONG OTHERS. Don't lose hope, be smart and patient, and nothing will stop you from achieving your dreams. Dreams do come true; you just need to work hard on them. If I can do it, you can do it too."

Vuyeka Magida is not just participating in a pageant; she's leading a movement, inspiring a community, and forging a path for others to follow—a true testament to the power of boldness and bravery in the face of adversity.





PPMC
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Janelle Cecilia van Staden

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120
A Cape Town Entrepreneur's
Rise in Fashion and Beauty

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TikTok: janellevansterdam01
Photo credits: Janelle van Staden



Janelle Cecilia van Staden is not just a familiar face in Cape Town's vibrant hair and beauty scene; she is a celebrated entrepreneur and an emerging star in the modeling world. Residing in the picturesque Melkbosstrand area, Janelle has been at the helm of Just Style Me Hair Studio for over 17 years.

Her prowess in hairstyling earned her the coveted Best Hairstylist in Cape Town title at the 2022 KFM Radio Station's Best Of The Cape Awards, a testament to her dedication and skill in the beauty industry.

Her journey into the glittering world of fashion and beauty began in childhood, inspired by her mother who captured her in numerous photographs and entered her into local beauty contests. "From a young age, I knew this was my path. I felt a sense of pride and belonging every time I participated," Janelle recalls. This early exposure sparked a passion that has grown into a full-fledged career in modeling alongside her business ventures.

This year marks a significant milestone for Janelle as she has made it as a finalist in a major modeling competition. Reflecting on her early experiences, she fondly remembers her victory in a quirky contest called MeJ Bene, where she won for having the most beautiful legs—a fun and memorable affirmation of her potential in the modeling industry. "That victory was more than just a title; it was a confirmation that I was on the right track," she notes.

One of her most cherished memories is from her very first competition during her primary school years, where she met South African celebrities Patricia Lewis and Kobus Wiese. The experience was exhilarating

and cemented her love for the spotlight and the world of fashion modeling. Janelle's daily routine is a masterclass in mindfulness and balance. She starts her day by grounding herself, focusing on deep breathing and staying present. "It's about not getting overwhelmed by the day's demands and keeping centered," she explains. This practice helps her navigate the pressures of her dual careers and personal life with poise and resilience.

In a world often clouded by judgment and negativity, Janelle maintains a positive outlook and adheres to a philosophy of kindness and self-acceptance. She champions the '4 B's'—Be Bold, Be Beautiful, and Just Do It, a mantra that encourages both herself and others to embrace their inner strength and beauty. "These principles guide me to shine from within," Janelle asserts, emphasizing the transformative power of self-belief.

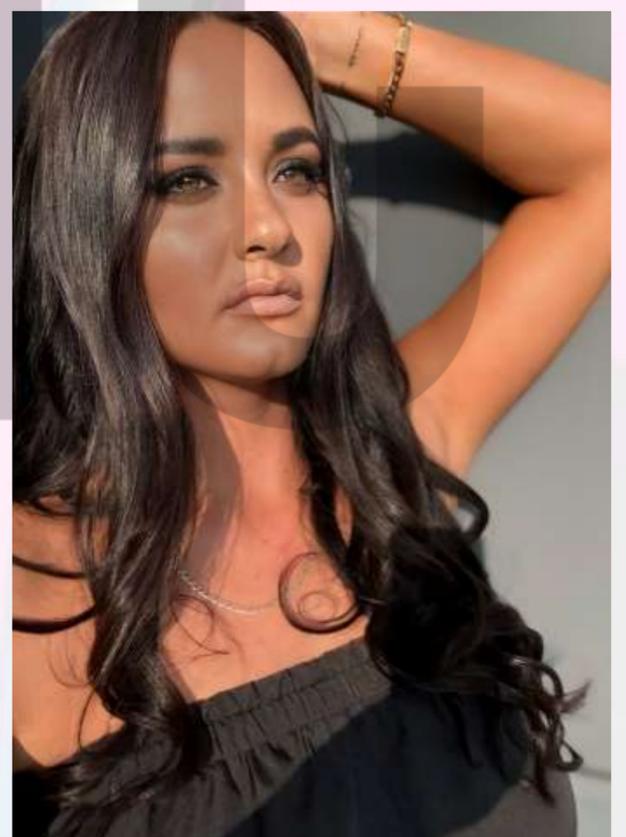
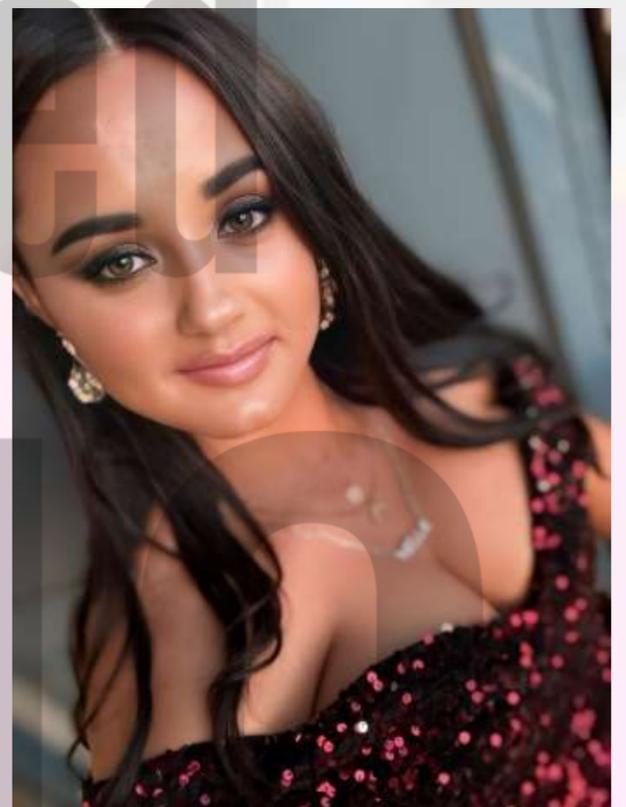
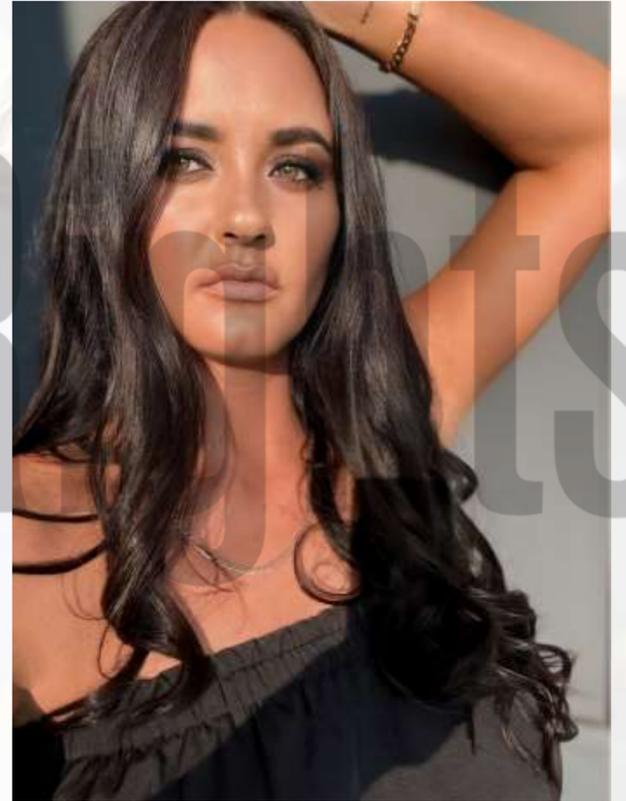
Janelle is also a vocal advocate for diversity in the modeling industry, challenging the conventional standards that often dominate fashion narratives. "The idea that models must fit a certain mold is outdated. True beauty is diverse and inclusive, encompassing all sizes, shapes, and backgrounds," she states, pushing for a more inclusive representation in fashion.

Her commitment extends beyond her personal achievements; Janelle is deeply involved in her community. She regularly judges and sponsors local school events, providing professional hair and makeup services through her studio. These activities not only enhance community ties but also allow her to mentor young talent.

As she prepares for the upcoming major modeling competition in August, Janelle feels a mix of excitement and nervousness. However, her experience and the solid support system she has built over the years give her confidence. "Every step on this journey prepares you for the next challenge," she muses.

Outside her professional life, Janelle is an active participant in social media, where she uses her platforms to connect with a broader audience and share her insights and experiences in the modeling and beauty industries. She encourages aspiring models and stylists to maintain their unique identity. "Stand out by being yourself. Your unique style and presence are your superpowers in this competitive field," she advises.

Janelle's story is one of continuous growth and inspiration, driven by a passion for beauty and a steadfast belief in personal values. Her journey from a young girl in front of her mother's camera to a respected entrepreneur and model is a compelling narrative of ambition, style, and the power of dreaming big.



Mrs. South Africa 2024

Semi-Finalist



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In the heart of South Africa's Northwest province, nestled within the quiet town of Klerksdorp, Charmoné Swanepoel—a teacher, mother, and beacon of hope for many—embarks on a journey filled with ambition and the promise of change. A semi-finalist in the upcoming 2024 Mrs. South Africa pageant, Charmoné's story is not just one of personal achievement but a vibrant tableau of community inspiration and leadership.

“Stepping out of my comfort zone was necessary,” Charmoné begins, her voice imbued with the conviction of someone who has embraced their true calling. “I had to become the best version of myself. It’s not just about change; it’s about growth and realizing the potential God sees in us.”

This profound belief in divine timing and purpose is what spurred Charmoné to follow in the footsteps of icons like Natasha Joubert, another small-town heroine who made waves on a national platform. “Seeing Natasha persevere, maintain her courage—it inspired me profoundly,” she admits.

Despite the glitz and glamor often associated with pageantry, Charmoné's roots in Klerksdorp keep her grounded. Her

life in the small town, coupled with her role as a mother and a teacher, has shaped a rich tapestry of experiences that she brings to the Mrs. South Africa stage. “I’m a mom, a teacher, and so much more. I carry my heart on my sleeve, believe in the good in everyone, and I’m fiercely loyal,” she explains. “But above all, my children and my faith shape who I am and drive my purpose.”

Charmoné's aspirations stretch far beyond personal accolades. As a semi-finalist, she aims to leverage this platform to uplift and empower. “I want to speak in front of crowds, be bold, and inspire especially my two beautiful girls and other young women. No matter your age or status, it's possible to live your dreams,” she passionately shares. This message of empowerment is central to her campaign; she sees the Mrs. South Africa title as a vehicle for broader change, encouraging women to embrace their worth and potential.

Balancing the demands of motherhood, career, and now a vigorous pageant preparation schedule is no small feat. Charmoné shares her strategy for managing it all: “Planning is crucial. I've learned to organize my time meticulously, ensuring I can give my best both at home and in my pursuits.” Her reliance on careful scheduling and embracing technology keeps her on track and less overwhelmed by the whirlwind of activities.

Reflecting on the unique qualities that she brings to the competition, Charmoné believes that her genuine connection with children and her empathetic nature are what set her apart. Life's challenges, including personal struggles with anxiety and faith, have only fortified her resolve. “There were times when stress overwhelmed me,” she recalls. “But through faith and daily reflections, I've managed to regain my strength and even deepen my trust in God.”

The potential impact of the Mrs. South Africa platform is not lost on Charmoné. She sees it as an influential tool for advocacy and change. “People listen when you have a title, a platform. I want to empower women, support those in need, advocate for education, health care, and environmental sustainability,” she outlines. Her vision includes creating safe spaces for mothers and children, enhancing mental health awareness, and fostering community involvement in charitable endeavors.

Support systems are critical in any endeavor, and for Charmoné, her network of friends, family, and sponsors have been her rock. “I am blessed with incredible support. My family, friends, my sponsor Aneska, and the community—they've all played a huge part in getting me here,” she gratefully acknowledges.

For Charmoné, being a semi-finalist means more than just wearing a sash; it symbolizes strength, courage, and the ability to influence. “It's exhilarating yet so rewarding. You realize the impact of your journey, not just on yourself but on others who draw inspiration from your story,” she reflects.

Her personal definition of beauty resonates with authenticity and depth. “True beauty is about what's within—having a beautiful heart and loving yourself. It's about happiness and contentment with who you are, and never letting anyone diminish your self-worth,” Charmoné states.

From motivational seminars to forming deep connections with fellow contestants, every moment for Charmoné in this journey is a step towards greater empowerment and inspiration. “Each encounter, each story shared among us, fuels my motivation and commitment to this path,” she shares, smiling.

Offering advice to other women, Charmoné's words resonate with encouragement and hope: “Never believe you are too old or your dreams too big. You are worthy, created for a purpose, and capable of incredible things. Just believe in yourself!”

As Charmoné looks to the future, her goals are clear. She dreams of living by the ocean, running her own women's empowerment platform, and possibly leading an educational institution. “Whatever the future holds, my aim is to inspire through God's word and my actions,” she concludes.

Charmoné Swanepoel's journey from a small town to the national stage is a vivid illustration of how courage, faith, and perseverance can redefine lives and inspire communities. Her story isn't just about competing for a crown; it's about fulfilling a destiny, empowering others, and manifesting a legacy of hope and change that will echo for generations to come.





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Melissa Moyani

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

From the Courtroom to the Crown: A Journey of Ambition, Advocacy, and Achievement by a 21-Year-Old Law Graduate on the Grand Stage of Miss South Africa 2024



At 21, Melissa Moyani is no ordinary Law Alumni from IIE Varsity College. Besides mastering her academic pursuits, she's a whirlwind of activity — from tennis and swimming to cheerleading and modeling, especially pageantry, which holds a special place in her heart.

"Pageantry is more than just modeling; it's a platform that has allowed me to grow, learn, and understand the depths of humility and majesty," Melissa shares enthusiastically. Her initial foray into pageantry wasn't just for the crowns and titles; it was a journey toward self-discovery and empowerment. Winning her first title was a pivotal moment that spurred her to set her sights higher, leading her to the prestigious stage of Miss Grand South Africa 2024, where she proudly stands as a finalist.

The decision to compete at such a high level was fueled by her previous successes and a desire to push her own boundaries. "After experiencing several local pageants, I felt ready to challenge myself more significantly. It was time to step onto a larger stage and truly put myself out there," Melissa explains. For her, Miss Grand South Africa represented a chance to not only represent her country but to also align with a pageant that embodies her personal values and aspirations.

Discussing the challenges young people face today, Melissa points to a critical issue: the courage to be seen and heard. "Many young people struggle with the fear of stepping out and making themselves

known. This isn't something you learn in a classroom; it's a personal endeavor to build confidence and character by stepping out of your comfort zones," she asserts, highlighting the personal growth that comes from facing one's fears.

Her fervent participation in Miss Grand South Africa is driven by more than personal growth; it's fueled by a commitment to advocate for global peace. "The pageant's theme, 'STOP THE WAR STOP THE VIOLENCE,' resonates deeply with me. It's about standing together against global issues, giving a voice to the voiceless, and representing those who cannot stand for themselves," she states passionately. This cause is not just a pageant platform for Melissa; it's a personal mission.

Melissa's uniqueness in the world of pageantry can be metaphorically described as her being like a grapefruit – seemingly familiar but surprisingly distinct inside. "On stage, or once people get to know me, they see that I'm full of surprises and boundless energy. I believe in the power of persistence and resilience. I'm committed to my goals, returning stronger and more prepared with each challenge," she confidently expresses.

Throughout the rollercoaster of competitive pageantry, maintaining a positive outlook is crucial for Melissa. "I keep reminding myself that I am a winner by virtue of my achievements and just by being here. It's important to embrace the competition but also to enjoy every moment of this journey," she advises.

Melissa also has words of wisdom for those aspiring to enter the world of pageantry. "Follow your passion and your heart. Embrace your unique qualities and imperfections. Remember, pageantry is not just about fitting in; it's about standing out and enjoying the experience. Each setback is not a defeat but a stepping stone to future successes," she encourages.

She strongly believes in the empowering potential of pageants, noting that Miss Grand South Africa's inclusion of a talent show gives participants a chance to showcase their unique abilities and celebrate individuality. "These opportunities are not just about competition; they're about empowerment, self-expression, and community," Melissa concludes.

Those interested in connecting with Melissa or following her journey can find her on Instagram at @melissamoyani and on Facebook at Melissa Moyani, where she continues to inspire and engage with her growing community of followers. Through her platform, Melissa Moyani is not just a beauty queen; she is a beacon of resilience, courage, and hope.





SOUTH AFRICA



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Mariette Jordaan

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120
Mission to Transform Martech
and Female Entrepreneurship

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In an era dominated by rapid technological advancements, Mariette Jordaan emerges not merely as an adept marketer but as a pioneer dedicated to leveraging the potential of marketing technology (martech) to empower women. Her journey is one of resilience, innovation, and an unwavering dedication to community and empowerment, inspiring a new wave of female entrepreneurs in an industry often perceived as impenetrable.

2024 has been a notable year for her, marked by significant recognitions that underscore her impact and leadership. She has been not just nominated but is also a top 5 finalist for the prestigious Woman of Stature Award in Technology for 2024. This nomination is a testament to her significant contributions and visionary leadership in the martech sphere. Additionally, she is the first nominee and finalist from Mpumalanga, highlighting her pioneering status in the region. Further cementing her achievements, she received the Provincial Branch Rising Star Entrepreneur Award from the South African Council for Business Women (SACBW) in 2024.

Mariette's professional path began in the world of fashion retail, but it was her shift to media sales and marketing that sparked her passion for martech. "I noticed many small businesses struggled with digital marketing due to limited budgets and technological overwhelm," Mariette reflected on her early experiences. This observation became the catalyst for her commitment to martech, as she recognized the critical need for support in this sector. Her resolve led her to upskill herself, diving deep into the complexities of digital marketing and martech solutions.

Mariette's approach to transforming businesses through technology is both methodical and compassionate. A standout achievement in her career involved a rural computer academy that desperately needed a digital overhaul. "We established a consistent brand identity, launched an online store and academy, and opened new income streams," she recounted. This transformation was not just about technological advancement but also about sustainability and growth for the community.

Despite her successes, Mariette's journey has been fraught with challenges typical of a woman navigating a high-tech world. "Navigating misconceptions about digital marketing and maintaining healthy work-life boundaries were significant challenges," she acknowledged. To combat these, Mariette has championed the cause of educating others about the nuances of martech and advocating for digital well-being.

Central to Mariette's ethos is the power of mentorship and community. She attributes much of her entrepreneurial spirit and resilience to the influence of her mother and grandmother, both of whom instilled the values of hard work and perseverance. "They taught me that entrepreneurship isn't just about building businesses, but also about building people," she explained. Her engagement in professional networks such as Women Supporting Women has not only bolstered her career but has also allowed her to support and uplift other women in the industry.

Mariette's work extends beyond individual mentorship to fostering a robust community of CEO entrepreneurs. Through initiatives like Kompass Woman - Vrou and the Women Supporting Women Global Movement, she cultivates an environment where women can collaborate, support each other, and share resources. "These platforms are not just about networking; they are about creating a sisterhood of mutual support and growth," Mariette stated passionately.

Faith plays a foundational role in Mariette's philosophy of empowerment. She believes that true empowerment is rooted in self-awareness and spirituality, which provide the inner strength necessary to navigate the challenges of entrepreneurship. "Drawing strength from our faith and from each other is essential in overcoming the hurdles we face as women in business," she shared.

As technology continues to evolve, Mariette remains enthusiastic about the integration of AI in marketing but stresses the importance of ethical practices. "AI holds tremendous potential to revolutionize our industry, but it must be used responsibly. We need to ensure that it supports human expertise and adheres to ethical standards to truly benefit society," she advised.

To young women venturing into martech or any tech-driven field, Mariette offers sage advice: "Establish a strong foundation of faith and authenticity. Continuously seek knowledge, build a supportive network, and always trust in the unique value of your own voice. Embrace your strengths, pursue your passions, and remember that your contributions are invaluable."

Mariette Jordaan is more than a leader; she is a visionary whose influence in the martech industry is marked by a profound commitment to empowerment and community. Her parting message to women everywhere is compelling and clear: "Support each other, believe in your immense capabilities, and together, let's rise and bloom." With such leaders at the helm, the future of women in technology is not only bright but revolutionary.





Miss Bachelorette South Africa 2024

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Empowerment and Elegance

Miss Bachelorette SA 2024 Crowns Ntsoaki Chantal Mabaso Amidst a Gala of Beauty, Advocacy, and Social Change at Gold Reef City, Johannesburg



A Night of Empowerment and Elegance at Gold Reef

On April 20th, 2024, the enchanting atmosphere of Gold Reef City in Johannesburg was aglow with the excitement and grandeur of Miss Bachelorette SA 2024. This pageant, unlike any other, is dedicated to the empowerment of unmarried, mature women, aiming to promote their financial independence and resilience while directly combating gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide.

It serves as a powerful platform for women aged 25 to 50, of all body sizes and backgrounds, emphasizing that marriage should never be viewed as a sole financial resource.

The event's success was largely due to the tireless efforts of the organizing team, led by Janine Nieklaasen, Lloyd Setlabo Mogano, and Mohale Refilwe. Together, they crafted an evening that not only showcased the beauty and grace of the contestants but also their intellect and dedication to impactful causes.

The judges for the evening—Vuyo Dabula, Lesley-Rae Coetzer, Tebogo Lerutla, Sabine Glen, Dikeledi Maboja, and Mbali Mbanjwa—faced a challenging task. Their task was to evaluate the contestants not only based on traditional criteria like poise and aesthetic appeal but also on their commitment to personal advocacy, potential for societal impact, and ability to inspire as role models.

During the event, Refilwe Mogale delivered a powerful speech that resonated deeply with the audience. She outlined the charitable work conducted under the Miss Bachelorette Community Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the pageant, which plays a crucial role in the empowerment of women through various initiatives.

Refilwe also shared exciting future plans for the pageant, including its expansion to an international stage with the introduction of Miss Bachelorette Global. Her advice to the crowd emphasized the importance of instilling a sense of independence in young girls and women, highlighting the correlation between financial vulnerability and susceptibility to GBV+F.

"The empowerment of women extends beyond the superficial," Refilwe stated. "It's about creating environments where women can thrive independently of marital status. Our expansion to Miss Bachelorette Global will carry this message to a worldwide audience, reinforcing our commitment to change and advocacy."

From the 16 formidable contestants who graced the stage, the competition intensified as it was narrowed down to eight extraordinary finalists: Rateng Kokong, Charmaine Mdedetyana, Nthathi Selepe, Naledi Teffo, Kgomotso Nkadimeng, Lorraine Stols, Noloyiso Madulini, and Ntsoaki Mabaso. Each woman showcased not only her beauty but also her intellect and dedication to her cause, making the judges' decisions incredibly challenging.

As the evening progressed, five finalists stood out for their remarkable leadership and visions for change: Lorraine Stols, Nthathi Selepe, Noloyiso Madulini, Ntsoaki Mabaso, and Charmaine Mdedetyana. Their presentations and poise brought them to the forefront of the competition, further exemplifying the core values of the Miss Bachelorette SA initiative.

The tension peaked with the announcement of the top three. Nthathi Selepe, who passionately advocated for educational accessibility, was named the first runner-up. Lorraine Stols, whose advocacy focused particularly on financial freedom and self-awareness, claimed the position of second runner-up. Ultimately, the crown was awarded to Ntsoaki Chantal Mabaso, who impressed everyone with her articulate advocacy and commanding presence.

In her victory speech, Ntsoaki articulated the weight of the crown she now bore: "This title represents a tremendous responsibility—to voice the struggles and fight for the rights of those who have suffered in silence. As a survivor of gender-based violence, I understand the profound impact of these experiences, and I am committed to using this platform to make a significant difference."

Ntsoaki's future plans as Miss Bachelorette SA 2024 are robust and community-focused. She intends to use her own experiences to guide and educate young women about recognizing and combating gender-based violence. "I plan to share my story and the tactics I've used to navigate these challenges to help others identify the signs and find safe ways to break free," Ntsoaki explained.

Additionally, her outreach extends beyond advocacy, aiming to materially support vulnerable communities. "I will work to bring onboard sponsors and donors who can provide essential resources like food parcels, care packages, and sanitary products, along with supporting a feeding scheme that can help sustain these communities," she detailed.

Ntsoaki also plans to leverage her connections with women's empowerment associations to mentor young girls by connecting them with successful women in various business fields. This mentorship is designed to inspire and empower these young women to aspire to independence and success, irrespective of their marital status.

As the evening concluded, the impact of Miss Bachelorette SA 2024 was evident. It wasn't just about celebrating beauty; it was

a powerful declaration of the strength, resilience, and potential of South African women. Ntsoaki Chantal Mabaso's reign promises to be one of impactful change and inspiration, solidifying the legacy of Miss Bachelorette SA as a beacon of hope and empowerment for women across the nation. As we look forward to her initiatives, it is clear that these women are not just beauty queens; they are champions of empowerment and pivotal change agents in their communities.

For those interested in participating or learning more about the values and initiatives of Miss Bachelorette SA, be sure to visit their website at www.missbachelorette.co.za. Here, you can find information on when the next entries open and keep updated with all the latest news about the pageant's ongoing efforts and impact.





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Report

Interview

Enslin Tarentaal

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Exploring Life's Depths Through the Lens: Enslin Tarentaal's Inspirational Journey of Passion, Precision, and Professionalism in the Ever-Changing Landscape of Photography



Instagram: @enslinphotography.68

In the captivating world of photography, where each click of the shutter holds the promise of preserving a moment forever, Enslin Tarentaal emerges as a luminary, blending precision with an unbridled passion for capturing life's intricacies. Inspired by his younger brother, Christopher Tarentaal, the visionary behind Chris-Photography, Enslin's journey into the realm of imagery was inevitable. "Chris's ability to capture the authenticity of skin tones and seamlessly blend natural and artificial light was truly inspirational," Enslin muses, his admiration for his brother evident in his tone.

Enslin's innate perfectionism, coupled with a keen eye for detail, has become the hallmark of his craft. "I've always been captivated by the minutiae of life," he admits, "and I believe in pursuing excellence until it's achieved." It's this unwavering commitment to perfection that led him to delve deeper into the art of photography.

For Enslin, the allure of photography lies in its ability to provide a unique perspective on life's myriad moments. "Observing life through the lens of a camera has instilled in me a profound appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us," he explains. It's this appreciation that serves as the driving force behind his desire to connect with people through his work.

His photographic style is a fusion of fashion, lifestyle, and beauty, infused with urban

elements and an overarching artistic flair. "I allow my work to speak for itself," Enslin says, "often allowing the moment to guide me rather than adhering to a rigid framework." It's this fluidity that imbues his images with a sense of authenticity and spontaneity.

Central to Enslin's approach is his unwavering professionalism and dedication to his craft. "When working with new clients, it's essential to be both professional and polite," he asserts. "I strive to understand their needs and preferences thoroughly, ensuring that I deliver work of the highest quality." His meticulous preparation, both mentally and physically, underscores his commitment to excellence.

Despite his meticulous planning, Enslin acknowledges that challenges are an inevitable part of the creative process. Recounting a particularly memorable shoot, he describes grappling with adverse weather conditions that threatened to derail the entire project. "It was a stormy day, with heavy rain and winds wreaking havoc on our plans," he recalls. "But amidst the chaos, I remained focused, determined to salvage the shoot and deliver results that exceeded expectations."

For Enslin, photography is not merely a profession but a deeply personal journey of self-discovery and growth. "I constantly push myself to question my own work and seek inspiration from others in the industry," he explains. "It's through this process of reflection and learning that I continue to evolve as a photographer."

Looking to the future, Enslin is filled with optimism and a steadfast determination to carve out his place in the competitive world of photography. "I'm still relatively new to this journey, with only two years under my belt," he admits. "But I'm eager to continue growing and refining my skills, exploring new avenues of creativity, and collaborating with like-minded individuals who share my passion for the art of photography."

In an industry driven by innovation and creativity, Enslin Tarentaal stands as a beacon of excellence—a testament to the transformative power of artistry and vision. As he embarks on the next chapter of his photographic odyssey, one thing remains abundantly clear: Enslin's unwavering dedication to his craft and his steadfast commitment to excellence will continue to set him apart in the world of photography.



PPMC Magazine SA

Claudia de Bruyn - Empowerment and Change in the Pageant World





Claudia De Bruyn is more than just a beauty queen; she's a symbol of empowerment and a catalyst for change. Within the glamorous world of pageantry, Claudia has carved a niche for herself, driven by her relentless dedication to make a substantial impact in every walk of life she touches. This resolve shapes her journey, turning each step into a purpose-driven stride toward making a lasting difference.

"My journey to become a pageant titleholder is fueled by a deep passion for making a difference and a relentless dedication to excellence," Claudia began, her voice imbued with conviction. "With every step, I strive to embody the values of integrity, compassion, and resilience."

The allure of pageantry, for many, might be the sparkle of the crown, but for Claudia, it's the powerful platform it provides. "What inspires me to participate in pageants is the opportunity to be a beacon of inspiration and empowerment for others," Claudia elaborated, her eyes sparkling with passion. "It's about advocating for important causes, uplifting communities, and fostering positive change. The chance to represent something greater than myself and to use my voice to amplify important messages fuels my passion for pageantry."

However, the path has not always been strewn with roses. Claudia shared the personal challenges she encounters in the limelight, particularly the vulnerability that comes with public scrutiny. "The most

challenging aspect of the pageant competition for me is stepping outside of my comfort zone and embracing vulnerability," she revealed. "As someone who values authenticity, being judged by others can be daunting. Overcoming self-doubt and insecurities while maintaining grace under pressure is a constant journey of growth."

To navigate these hurdles, Claudia relies on a robust strategy comprising preparation, perseverance, and a positive perspective. "Thorough preparation is key—I dedicate myself to honing my skills and mastering my talents. I also approach each challenge with unwavering perseverance, understanding that setbacks are inevitable but temporary. Lastly, maintaining a positive perspective helps me stay focused on my strengths and the bigger picture of why I embarked on this journey in the first place," Claudia described, outlining her methodical approach to overcoming challenges.

With the crown comes great responsibility, a notion that Claudia holds dear. "Being a titleholder is not just about wearing a crown—it comes with a profound responsibility to inspire, lead, and make a positive impact," she stated firmly. "As a titleholder, I am committed to serving as a role model for others, embodying values of integrity, compassion, and excellence in all that I do."

Balancing the demands of her title with her personal life is a skill Claudia has honed over time. "Balancing my personal life with the responsibilities of being a titleholder is a priority for me, and it requires careful planning and dedication. I set clear boundaries and priorities, ensuring that I allocate time for my personal well-being, relationships, and interests alongside my duties as a titleholder," she explained, providing insight into her disciplined life.

The transformative impact of being a pageant titleholder on Claudia's personal growth and self-confidence is profound. She cites enhanced public speaking skills, leadership development, and an increased capacity for empathy and resilience as key areas of personal development. "This experience has been a catalyst for personal growth, empowering me to embrace new opportunities, overcome challenges, and become the best version of myself," she shared enthusiastically.

As for the future, Claudia is determined to use her platform to champion causes close to her heart, such as education, mental health awareness, and environmental sustainability. "I aim to use my platform to raise awareness, promote positive change, and support initiatives that address these issues. My goal is to inspire individuals, especially young people, to embrace their uniqueness, pursue their dreams fearlessly,

and believe in their potential to make a difference in the world," Claudia passionately articulated her vision.

For those looking to follow in her footsteps, Claudia offers sage advice grounded in authenticity and self-awareness. "It's more than just beauty; it's about inner confidence, poise, and representing yourself authentically. Take time to understand your motivations, research pageants that align with your values, and prepare diligently," she advised potential pageant aspirants.

In dealing with criticism and stereotypes associated with pageantry, Claudia maintains a balanced perspective, focusing on constructive feedback and staying true to her reasons for participating. "Handling criticism can be challenging, but remember your worth and the reasons why you chose to participate. Stay true to your values and use criticism as motivation to prove stereotypes wrong through your actions and achievements," she confidently stated.

Behind the scenes, Claudia shared that the pageant world is a blend of hard work, camaraderie, and unexpected challenges. "Contestants dedicate months, sometimes even years, to prepare. Behind every contestant is a strong support system of coaches, family, and friends. And despite meticulous planning, mishaps can occur. Learning to adapt quickly and maintain composure under pressure is crucial," she revealed, giving a glimpse into the less visible aspects of pageant life.

Reflecting on her journey and the extensive support she has received, Claudia expressed heartfelt gratitude: "A heartfelt thank you to SA ALL STAR MODEL ACADEMY, my dedicated coaches, unwavering supporters, cherished friends and family, and the diligent pageant organizers. Your guidance, encouragement, and belief in me have been invaluable."

In Claudia De Bruyn's narrative, the essence of pageantry transcends the traditional paradigms of beauty, evolving into a profound platform for advocacy, leadership, and personal growth.

Her story is a compelling testament to the potential of pageantry to empower individuals and positively influence society.



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Rechelle Kloeck

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120
The Inspiring Journey of Rechelle Kloeck, Entrepreneur
and Founder of Motherkind, Balancing the Roles of
Businesswoman, Mother, and Elite Show Jumper

Rechelle Kloeck's entrepreneurial journey is a compelling tale of resilience, innovation, and empowerment that resonates across the wellness industry. As the founder and visionary behind Motherkind, she has transformed her personal health struggles into a thriving business that champions women's well-being through the benefits of collagen. This narrative is not just about business success; it's about creating a movement aimed at enhancing the quality of life for women globally.

Rechelle's personal experience with postpartum health issues—hair loss, brittle nails, and poor gut health—was the catalyst for her entrepreneurial journey. The discovery of collagen's transformative effects on her health was a pivotal moment. "It was a life-changing experience that I felt compelled to share with other women," Rechelle recalls. Her mission became clear: to empower women by providing them with products that could genuinely improve their health.

The early days of Motherkind were filled with challenges typical of any startup. From product development and regulatory hurdles to building brand trust and customer loyalty, Rechelle faced each hurdle with a steadfast determination. "Launching Motherkind was about more than starting a business; it was about sharing a solution that had profoundly impacted my life," she explains. Her approach to overcoming these obstacles was rooted in a belief in continuous learning and growth. "Each challenge was a learning curve, providing insights that helped refine our approach and products," she adds.

Balancing the demands of being a business owner, wife, and mother is a feat that Rechelle manages with careful planning and clear boundaries. She emphasizes the importance of setting priorities and managing time effectively to ensure she can meet her commitments in each area of her life. "It's about understanding what needs your attention the most and organizing your time around those priorities," Rechelle says. Delegation plays a critical role in her strategy, allowing her to focus on high-impact activities while trusting others to handle different aspects of both her business and personal life.

Show jumping, another of Rechelle's passions, mirrors the discipline and strategic thinking she applies in her business. The

sport requires trust, consistency, and hard work—qualities that Rechelle embodies fully. Her achievements in show jumping, including prestigious competition wins and representing her country, underscore her dedication and skill. "The discipline required in show jumping has helped me immensely in maintaining focus and resilience in my business endeavors," she states proudly.

Rechelle's success in show jumping has been impressive, with notable achievements such as clinching first place at the Toyota Easter Festive and multiple victories in FEI World Cup events. Each victory in the show jumping arena reinforces her belief in the importance of maintaining focus and resilience, a mindset that she carries over into every facet of her life.

The core values of integrity, resilience, continuous growth, and teamwork guide Rechelle in her personal and professional life. She is deeply committed to empowering women, drawing inspiration from the idea of transforming challenges into opportunities. "Supporting other women to find their voice and purpose drives much of what I do at Motherkind. It's not just about selling products; it's about fostering a supportive community," she emphasizes.

In challenging times, whether in business or personal life, Rechelle stays motivated by focusing on her long-term vision and the impact she aims to make. Her advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to embrace each challenge as an opportunity to learn and to continually seek improvement. "Face each challenge with courage and see it as a stepping stone towards your goals," she advises.

Looking ahead, Rechelle continues to lead strategic initiatives at Motherkind, focusing on expanding the product line, enhancing customer experience, and deepening the brand's impact. She is also active in the show jumping community, mentoring young riders and advocating for greater inclusivity and excellence in the sport.

Rechelle's life motto, "Embrace challenges, empower others, and soar with unwavering determination," reflects her approach to life and work. She aims to leave a legacy that emphasizes health, happiness, and empowerment, touching lives through her business and community activities. Through Motherkind and her advocacy, Rechelle is dedicated to creating a lasting impact, supporting women's physical and mental well-being, and empowering them to lead fulfilling lives.



Mrs. South Africa 2024

Semi-Finalist



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In Durban, a city known for its vibrant beaches and lush landscapes, Michelle Bisset is carving a niche that extends far beyond the traditional realms of beauty pageantry and legal practice. At 31, Michelle is not only juggling her roles as a mother and a professional but is also a formidable contestant in the 2024 Mrs. South Africa pageant, a platform that champions societal change and empowers women. As a semi-finalist, Michelle is experiencing a journey filled with self-discovery and opportunities for personal growth.

"It's been an incredible journey, one that has allowed me to rediscover myself and build my confidence," Michelle says, reflecting on her involvement in Mrs. South Africa. "This platform isn't just about beauty. It's a movement of powerful women who are eager to make a difference in the world."

With a degree in law and the spirit of an entrepreneur, Michelle has established herself as a respected attorney and the director of a legal services company specializing in commercial law. Her professional achievements are impressive, but her passion doesn't stop at her office door. Recognizing the challenges small businesses face, especially in the legal sphere, Michelle founded the Upper Highway Coffee Club, a networking initiative that supports small enterprises in her community.

"Once a month, we gather local business owners together to network and learn in a

relaxed, informal setting," Michelle explains. "We rotate venues, choosing small, locally owned cafes and restaurants. This not only helps increase their visibility but also strengthens our community bonds." At these sessions, entrepreneurs gain access to critical business knowledge—ranging from mitigating legal risks to mastering digital marketing—all provided by expert speakers.

Michelle's commitment to community service extends into her role with the South African Council for Business Women (SACBW), where she is part of the management team for the KZN Chapter. "Our goal at SACBW is to empower female entrepreneurs through mentorship, support, and professional guidance. We want to create a nurturing environment that helps women thrive in their businesses and personal development."

In addition to her professional and philanthropic endeavors, Michelle is an avid runner, currently training for her second Comrades Marathon—an ultramarathon renowned for its grueling distance and the physical and mental endurance required. "Training for the Comrades is not just about physical preparation; it's about mental toughness, resilience, and pushing your limits, which is very much like life itself," she muses.

Michelle draws significant inspiration from a quote by Brené Brown that she considers her life's motto: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust, sweat, and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly..."

This philosophy encapsulates Michelle's approach to life and her multifaceted journey as a businesswoman, community leader, mother, and semi-finalist in Mrs. South Africa. "What matters most is not necessarily achieving every goal we set but embracing the journey of getting there and growing along the way," she shares thoughtfully.

For those inspired by Michelle's story and wishing to follow her progress in the Mrs. South Africa competition and beyond, she actively shares her life's adventures and milestones on her social media platforms, including Instagram @michbisset and on Facebook as Michelle Bisset Mrs. South Africa Semi-Finalist. Through her diverse roles and endeavors, Michelle Bisset embodies the spirit of a modern woman—dynamic, dedicated, and deeply engaged in crafting a meaningful impact.



PPMC Magazine SA

Thuto Mosupi - Face of Northwest Teenager Ambassador





In the bustling heart of Letlhabile, a small township in the North West Province of South Africa, Thuto Mosupi stands out not just for her striking looks but also for her vibrant spirit and ambitious nature. At just 19 years old, Thuto is not only shaping her own destiny in the fashion world but is also setting an inspiring example for others in her community.

Born and raised in a place where opportunities can sometimes seem limited, Thuto has carved a path for herself through sheer determination and a clear vision for her future. "From a young age, I knew I wanted something different, something more," Thuto shares enthusiastically. "Modelling seemed like a distant dream, but my passion for fashion and self-expression drove me to pursue it relentlessly."

Thuto's journey into modeling was fueled by her love for beauty and fashion, nurtured by the unwavering support of her family. "My family has been instrumental in my journey. They've been my rock," she confesses. "With their help, I prepare seamlessly for pageants. I've never felt alone in this journey."

Her ambitions are sky-high as she eyes the prestigious title of Miss South Africa. "Holding that title would be a dream come true. I want to be remembered not just for my achievements but for the selflessness I strive to embody every day," Thuto explains. Her vision extends beyond personal accolades; she sees such titles as platforms to amplify her voice and make a difference in her community and beyond.

Currently, she is actively involved in 'Care and Comfort,' a project initiated by Face of Brits that focuses on promoting hygiene. Her dedication extends beyond her own career as she devotes herself to uplifting others. "We're working hard to make a tangible difference in our community," she notes, highlighting her role in improving living conditions through enhanced community health practices.

Thuto's commitment to growth and personal development is palpable. She regularly participates in modeling workshops and has trained with notable institutions such as Graceful Beauty Modelling Classes and Semicolon Modelling Academy. "Each workshop and each runway teach me something new, not just about modeling, but also about handling life's challenges," she says thoughtfully.

In dispensing advice to budding models, Thuto is both encouraging and realistic: "Do not limit yourselves. In this industry, go for everything and anything that helps you grow." She emphasizes the importance of resilience and openness to learning, which she believes are crucial traits for success in the highly competitive fashion industry.

Despite her success, Thuto remains grounded, attributing much of her success to the support she receives from her family and friends. "They are my biggest cheerleaders and without them, I wouldn't be where I am today," she acknowledges with a warm smile.

Her weekly routine is a testament to her disciplined character. "Weekdays are reserved for schoolwork, while weekends I dedicate to modeling and engaging in other enriching activities," she says. This balance helps her manage the pressures that come with her dual life as a student and a model.

Among her inspirations, Thuto looks up to figures like Marsai Martin and Nyakim Gatwech. Marsai Martin, known for her roles in Hollywood and her distinctive fashion sense, shows Thuto the power of young black women in entertainment and fashion. Similarly, Nyakim Gatwech, renowned for her advocacy of skin positivity, inspires Thuto to embrace her identity proudly. "Nyakim is a symbol of how you can turn your uniqueness into a powerful asset," she admires.

Thuto also shares some lesser-known aspects about herself, revealing her introspective and intellectual side. "People might be surprised to know that I am a novel reader. It's my way of finding peace and gaining new knowledge."

Looking ahead, Thuto dreams of modeling for high-end brands like Chanel and appearing in Vogue magazine. "Being associated with such iconic brands would be a significant achievement for me," she admits, her eyes lighting up at the prospect.

Currently, she holds the title of Face of North West Teenager and is co-owner of Miss Letlhabile, positions that allow her to influence and inspire the youth in her hometown.

For Thuto Mosupi, modeling is more than a career—it's a way to express her most genuine self and to make a lasting impact on those around her. Her journey is a compelling testament to the power of passion and perseverance in the pursuit of one's dreams.



Introducing Candy-lee Duarttee

Miss Grand South Africa 2024 Finalist



Candy-lee, can you tell us a little about yourself and what inspired you to compete in Miss Grand South Africa 2024?

I consider myself quite bubbly and adventurous, with a deep appreciation for various cultures and a particular softness for children. I recently graduated from Brackenfell High School, and I'm currently working as an administrative assistant at Get Metal, while also pursuing part-time modeling. I'm very active and engage regularly in sports like netball and athletics.

The inspiration to compete in Miss Grand South Africa 2024 comes from my deep-seated desire to bring hope and love into people's lives. Winning this title would provide me with a significant platform to make a meaningful difference globally. Miss Grand South Africa supports various impactful projects, including initiatives like Stop the War, and I want to stand as a beacon of inspiration—voicing the needs of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Miss Grand South Africa not only offers incredible opportunities to its winner but also provides a platform that goes beyond national borders, allowing one to connect internationally, learn about different cultures, and grow personally. The prospect of representing South Africa on such a platform and exploring international cultures is a dream come true and drives my participation in this competition.

What is your primary motivation for joining this pageant, and how do you feel it aligns with your personal goals?

My primary motivation for joining this pageant stems from a lifelong passion for beauty, fashion, and self-expression. I'm deeply committed to making a positive impact in the world and using my platform to raise awareness for significant causes. Beauty pageants are a unique venue that amalgamate my interests, allowing me to leverage my voice for the greater good. Additionally, the sisterhood formed among contestants is something I truly value. It's about supporting each other and growing together, which deeply resonates with my personal goals of fostering community and empowerment.

Miss Grand International is recognized for its advocacy against violence. Can you share more about your own platform or cause and why it's important to you?

It's heartbreaking to see our world torn apart not only by acts of war and violence but also by the silence of those who choose to do nothing. When I look at our world, I hear the cries of billions of desperate hearts. I believe it's our responsibility—yours and mine—to act and create a better future for generations to come. It's never too late to make a difference. My goal is to help cultivate love, respect, and peace in our hearts so that we can collectively make our world a more harmonious place to live in. We need to come together to stop war and violence.

This is deeply personal to me, and I want to be a catalyst for change. My platform specifically addresses abuse towards women and children. No one deserves to

be abused, and I've been visiting Sunday schools and other educational institutions to take a stand. I tell them, "ENOUGH is enough. Stand up for yourself, take care of yourself, and remember, you have the right to be YOU, in your own way." This message of empowerment and self-acceptance is central to my advocacy. It's about giving a voice to the voiceless and being that voice whenever possible.

What have been some of the biggest challenges you've faced during the competition, and how have you overcome them?

One of the biggest challenges I've faced has been engaging deeply with the various charity organizations and projects, like the Stop the War campaign. Visiting these places and seeing firsthand the daily struggles of those who are less fortunate—people who are surviving not by choice but by necessity—has been incredibly heartbreaking. Witnessing the extent of danger in people's lives, including children who suffer abuse from parents or bullying in schools, or women abused by their husbands, has been profoundly distressing.

However, facing these harsh realities has strengthened my resolve to be an agent of change. My response to this challenge is to be there for those who need support—to offer a helping hand, an ear to listen, and encouragement to stand proud and tall. My aim is to be a vocal advocate and a role model, inspiring and empowering those in need to find their own voices and stand up for themselves.



Who is your role model in life, and how have they influenced your approach to the competition?

My role model is Demi-Leigh Tebow. Ever since she won Miss Universe in 2017, she has made a significant impact, particularly through her advocacy against the abuse of women and children with her self-defense project. During the final round of Miss Universe, when Steve Harvey asked her about the quality she's most proud of, her answer resonated deeply with me. She spoke about the importance of being confident in who you are as an individual, and how a Miss Universe is a woman who has overcome fears, believing nothing is too much to ask for. That's the kind of confidence and resolve I strive to embody.

Demi's dedication to helping others, especially women who need a voice, shows her caring nature and places her as a true leader and role model. I draw a great deal of inspiration from her example, aiming to emulate her strength, compassion, and leadership in my own journey through this competition and beyond. I see myself as someone who, like Demi, puts others first and strives to make a real difference.

How do you prepare for a pageant, both mentally and physically?

Preparing for a pageant is an all-encompassing process for me, Salome. It starts with a thorough understanding of the pageant's mission, values, and expected competition segments. I immerse myself completely in everything related to Miss Grand South Africa; you could say I eat, sleep, and breathe the pageant!

Mentally, preparation involves focusing intently on the interview segment. Effective communication and a vibrant personality are crucial, so I spend a lot of time honing my public speaking skills. I carefully prepare my introduction to ensure it's heartfelt—speaking honestly and from the core of who I am helps the judges get a true sense of Candy-lee.

As for the physical aspects, choosing the right wardrobe is key. It might sound a bit over the top, but I often select around 110 outfits and then narrow them down to the ones that best represent me and make me stand out. It's about finding outfits that scream 'Candy-lee' in every thread.

Then there's the ramp walk, my favorite part. Here, it's all about practice. I believe firmly that practice makes perfect. The more I practice, the more I connect with the ramp, enhancing my confidence and stage presence.

Ultimately, all this hard work is geared towards excelling in the competition. It's a demanding process, but incredibly fulfilling when you see your efforts pay off.

Regardless of the outcome of the pageant, what are your plans or aspirations moving forward?

Regardless of the outcome, I know I've given my all and done my best. My mindset is geared towards winning, but I also recognize that every girl in the competition is a winner in her own right. The experience alone makes us stronger, and if it doesn't happen now, it's just a matter of time until it does.

Moving forward, my plans are to continue pursuing my dreams. My immediate goal remains to become Miss Grand South Africa, and once I achieve that, I plan to enter Miss South Africa. This journey doesn't end with the pageant; it's just a stepping stone towards larger goals.

My aspiration to be a role model for the younger generation remains steadfast. I want to inspire wherever I go, encouraging others to pursue their dreams with tenacity and resilience. No matter what the outcome of this pageant is, I'll continue to stand tall. As I always say, "the most beautiful thing you can wear is confidence." This belief will guide me through all future endeavors, in pageantry and beyond.

As a public figure, how do you approach having opinions on social or political issues? Do you think it's important to use your platform to speak out?

As a public figure, I believe it's crucial to maintain a positive outlook in all circumstances. I'm very aware of the reasons behind my actions and the causes I support. Everything I do aims to motivate and inspire others in their lives. It's about being a beacon of positivity and encouragement.

I think it's essential to use my platform to speak out, but always in a constructive and positive manner. While no one is perfect, everyone has their own unique perfection. It's important to just be yourself. I advocate for keeping a positive attitude, being proud of who you are, and standing firm for what you believe in.

Using my platform means elevating my voice to promote choices that reflect my values and aspirations. I believe in turning the platform I have into an opportunity to make impactful decisions and encourage others to do the same. It's not just about having a platform; it's about using it wisely and positively to influence the world around us.

In what ways do you think you've grown or changed as a result of your participation in this pageant?

Participating in pageants has been transformative for me. It's not just about the external growth but the internal development that has truly shaped me into who I am today. I've grown into a confident, outspoken, and articulate young lady with robust public speaking skills. My passion for understanding different cultures and deepening my commitment to my charitable work has also intensified.

Miss Grand South Africa specifically fosters an environment that empowers us to be the best versions of ourselves. They encourage us not to emulate others but to find and refine our own unique identities. This philosophy has been a cornerstone in my growth, helping me understand that being authentic is more powerful than trying to fit a particular mold.

Moreover, pageantry has empowered me with the courage to assert myself and take up space in society effectively. It has instilled in me the importance of leadership—showing me not only how to lead but also how to inspire and empower others. The experiences and lessons learned have equipped me to make meaningful contributions, not just in pageants but in broader societal contexts as well.





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PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120
Miss Grand SA 2024 Finalist Shares
Her Journey and Aspirations

Facebook: Candy-lee Duarttee
Instagram: @candylee_duarttee
TikTok: @queen_candy_lee_19



What message would you like to share with your supporters and the young women looking up to you?

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported me—your unwavering belief in me has truly been the driving force behind my journey in pageantry. Thank you for your belief, your generosity, and your kindness. Your selflessness stands as a shining example for all.

To those who have encouraged me continuously, know that your words have meant the world to me. Your support fuels my commitment to push forward, even in challenging times.

To all the young women looking up to me, I have this to say: dare to dream all your dreams. Always believe in yourself, uncover hidden talents, and don't be afraid to embark on adventures. Have fun, be happy, treasure the tiny miracles, and embrace life fully. Reach for the stars, live your life to the fullest, and most importantly, be no one else but YOURSELF.

I am incredibly blessed to have had the support of so many throughout this journey, including Lenie Pieterse, Aunty Elize, the Miss Grand organization, and of course, my family—my parents, brother, baby sister, and everyone else who is a part of my life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And a special thanks to Reana van Tonder, my modeling teacher, who has been guiding me for ten years. Her guidance has been invaluable, helping me not only develop my skills but also grow as a person. Reana, your patience, expertise, and support have made a profound impact on my life, and I am eternally grateful.

Lastly, I extend my deepest thanks to my Heavenly Father, who has held my hand every step of the way. To everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey, thank you. You have all played a pivotal role in shaping the person I am today.

Outside of pageantry, what are some of your hobbies or interests? How do you manage to balance these with your pageant commitments?

Outside of the pageant scene, I keep incredibly busy but always strive to live life to its fullest. Sports are a big part of my life—I absolutely love playing netball. I play for a club and really enjoy playing different positions, though centre and goal defence are my favourites. We usually have matches on Saturdays.

I'm also quite adventurous and always up for something new. Shopping is another passion of mine, especially when it comes to finding new clothes. I also love indulging in some girly activities like spa days, and

taking care of my hair and nails—it's essential for me. I'm a bit of a foodie too; my favorite indulgence is Panarotti's pizza, and I'm a self-confessed chocoholic—Lindt chocolate is my weakness!

Aside from my job, I also model part-time. I really enjoy photo shoots and advertisements for different brands. I've even tried my hand at acting—I starred as a pharmacy assistant in the Afrikaans series "Strate," and played a school student in "Blood and Water." I think I like acting as well—it's just another form of expression for me.

Balancing these interests with my pageant commitments can be challenging, but modeling remains my priority, especially as I focus on winning Miss Grand South Africa 2024. I'm truly honored to be part of this journey and hope to make everyone proud. Prioritizing and time management are key—I make sure to schedule everything and stick to my plans to ensure I can fulfill all my commitments without compromising on my passions.

If someone wants to connect with you or follow your journey, where can they find you?

I'm quite active on social media and would love for more people to join me on this amazing journey! Here's where you can find me:

Facebook: Candy-lee Duarttee
Instagram: @candylee_duarttee
TikTok: @queen_candy_lee_19

Feel free to follow me and reach out—I enjoy connecting with followers and sharing updates about my pageantry experiences, personal life, and much more!

Thank you so much for sharing your journey and insights with us today, Candy-lee. Any final words for our readers?

Thank you, Salome, for this wonderful opportunity. To everyone reading, remember that every challenge is an opportunity to grow stronger and shine brighter. Embrace who you are, cherish your dreams, and never be afraid to stand out. Be bold in pursuing what sets your soul on fire and stay true to your authentic self.

To all aspiring pageant participants and dreamers out there, know that your journey is uniquely yours. Keep pushing forward with determination and grace, and let your passion lead the way. Together, let's inspire change and make the world a better place—one step, one smile, and one crown at a time.

Thank you again for your support and love. I'm excited for what the future holds and I hope to continue making each of you proud. Let's keep spreading positivity and chasing our grandest dreams!





Elaine van Hulst

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From Childhood Fascination with Magazine Faces to a Flourishing Career:
The Inspiring Journey of a Self-Taught Beauty Expert and Entrepreneur



Elaine van Hulst's journey from a curious child sketching faces in magazines to a respected makeup artist and entrepreneur is not just a story of talent, but one of perseverance, dedication, and the pursuit of passion. As she recounts her path, it's evident that her love for makeup has been a driving force since childhood.

From her earliest memories, Elaine was captivated by the world of beauty. "I think I loved it forever," she fondly recalls, her voice tinged with nostalgia. "As a little girl, I was always drawing on faces in magazines, adding lashes, blush, and lipstick. Even my dogs weren't safe from my early experiments with the brush!" This early passion for makeup was not just a fleeting childhood hobby; it was the beginning of a lifelong love affair with beauty and transformation.

As Elaine grew older, her casual interest evolved into a more serious pursuit when she entered the world of modeling at the age of 18. "It was a book given to me by Margaret Gardiner titled 'Die wenpad vir modelle en skoonheidskoninginne' that really got me hooked," she explains. Modeling opened a new perspective on beauty for Elaine, surrounding her with professionals from whom she absorbed knowledge and inspiration. "I started to see beauty as not just an art form but as a potential career path," she shares.

Despite the glamour associated with modeling, Elaine's real passion lay in the power of makeup artistry to transform and empower. This passion had to be balanced

with practical life demands. "I'm an estate agent and a single mother of two, so I had to juggle my responsibilities while nurturing my passion on the sidelines," she states, highlighting the challenges of pursuing her passion while providing for her family.

Elaine's path wasn't paved with formal education in makeup artistry; she is largely self-taught, which makes her achievements even more remarkable. "I've been studying makeup artistry since high school, following trends and adding my own twists," she notes. Her real-world education continued as she worked behind the scenes on photoshoots and fashion shows, always keen to learn from every opportunity.

The transition from a part-time passion to a full-time career was marked by significant moments that reaffirmed her love for makeup artistry. "There was no 'one' moment," Elaine reflects on her career's evolution. "It came overtime, when I realized the trust I received from my clients. My first client was very special; it made me realize I do have a God-given talent and I should keep on sharing it."

Elaine's typical day is a testament to her diverse talents and entrepreneurial spirit. "I don't think I have a typical day," she says, outlining a schedule that swings from real estate to rigorous beauty sessions. She spends her days managing stock of makeup and skincare products, marketing, confirming orders, delivering products, and planning workshop events. On other days, she's prepping her makeup bag for sessions in her studio or at a client's home.

When it comes to new projects, Elaine's preparation process is meticulous. "With my makeovers, I prefer to see a photo of my client with no makeup in good light," she explains.

This level of preparation allows her to tailor her approach to each individual, ensuring that each client looks and feels their best, whether it's for a simple photoshoot or a lavish wedding.

Her favorite makeup projects are beauty photoshoots where creativity meets bold experimentation. "I feel you can play so much more, adding a rainbow effect or

leaning towards Barbie. Pink and more pink!" Elaine exclaims, her enthusiasm for her craft palpable. For Elaine, makeup is more than just beautification—it's about transforming someone's self-perception and boosting their confidence.

Elaine balances her creative vision with client preferences, a skill that she has refined over the years. "The customer is always right, but I do tell my clients to trust the process," she says. It's a delicate balance between respecting the client's wishes and guiding them to try new looks that might enhance their features better.

Among the most common challenges Elaine faces is skepticism about beauty products and their application. "Educating clients about how to use products correctly is essential for achieving the best results," she explains. Proper skin preparation, she notes, is crucial for a flawless finish, something she emphasizes during client sessions and workshops.

In discussing current trends, Elaine highlights the popularity of soft glam, good contouring, and glossy, ombre lips. "Trends are all about making makeup easy for on-the-go ladies," she states, emphasizing that modern beauty trends cater to women looking for both simplicity and impact.

Reflecting on her career, Elaine shares moments of pride, especially when she witnesses the transformation and joy in her clients. "Seeing the glow in their eyes when they see the result—it's truly everything to me," she expresses warmly. These moments of client satisfaction reinforce her commitment to her craft and the impact she can have on individuals' lives.

For those aspiring to enter the field of makeup artistry, Elaine offers practical advice grounded in her own experiences. "Attend makeup courses if you can, do as many free sessions as possible, and never stop practicing," she advises. She emphasizes the importance of building a portfolio, networking, and continuously learning and adapting to new trends and techniques.

Looking forward, Elaine is ambitious about expanding her brand and influence. "I would love to bring out an L-Jenic lip gloss, my own special range," she shares enthusiastically. Her goals also include growing her online shop and expanding her educational workshops to empower more women through the art of makeup.

Elaine van Hulst's narrative is more than just a career biography—it's a vibrant example of how following one's passion, against all odds, can lead to a fulfilling and impactful life. Her story is a beacon for aspiring makeup artists and entrepreneurs, proving that with passion, resilience, and a willingness to learn, anyone can achieve their dreams.

PPMC Magazine SA

Kwakhanya Zweni - A Rising Star in Modeling and Pageantry





At just sixteen years old, Kwakhanya Zweni from Gqeberha is a shining example of youth with ambition and purpose. As a Grade 11 student at Bonzai High School, she is already paving her path in the world of modeling and pageantry, fueled by dreams that stretch far beyond her hometown.

"Ever since I was young, I imagined myself on the Miss SA stage, being an influential woman much like those who have held the title," Kwakhanya says with unmistakable enthusiasm.

Her journey into the limelight began early, nurtured by a strong passion for the glitz and glamour associated with the pageantry and modeling industries. But Kwakhanya is not just about beauty; she has a keen interest in the broader aspects of modeling, including commercial and editorial projects. "This year started on a high note with my agency as we hosted a pageant to welcome new models. We also organize annual workshops where we delve into the various facets of modeling," she explains, highlighting her active role in these initiatives.

Inspiration for Kwakhanya comes from figures like Zozibini Tunzi, a former Miss Universe, whose impact resonates deeply with her. "Zozibini is more than a role model; she is a beacon of change,

helping our society embrace diverse female body types and beauty," Kwakhanya reflects with admiration. It is this type of influence that Kwakhanya aspires to emulate as she carves her own path in the modeling world.

Juggling academic responsibilities with modeling ambitions requires astute time management, a skill Kwakhanya has mastered. "Balancing schoolwork with my modeling career presents its challenges, but staying true to myself and focusing on my goals helps me navigate these hurdles effectively," she reveals, emphasizing the importance of self-awareness and dedication in her dual pursuits.

Support systems are crucial in any endeavor, and Kwakhanya is fortunate to have a strong network. "My family and friends are my rock. They provide the encouragement and support needed to take bold steps in my career," she shares gratefully.

Looking to the future, Kwakhanya dreams of affiliating with renowned brands such as Dove, Maxhosa, and Mercedes Benz. She believes her unique blend of intellect, beauty, and empathy sets her apart in a competitive industry. "I bring not only brains and beauty to the table but also a heart of gold," she asserts confidently.

Rejection and criticism, often inevitable in the world of modeling, are met with resilience by Kwakhanya. She approaches these challenges with a philosophical perspective: "I take each setback as a sign that my time has not yet come. When it does, I trust that it will be perfect," she states. Beyond her modeling career, Kwakhanya has a rich life filled with hobbies that include drawing, reading, listening to music, dancing, and cooking. "I find joy and relaxation in these activities, they balance the rigorous demands of my modeling career," she says.

Kwakhanya's achievements are truly remarkable. Last year, she won her first pageant and is now the current reigning queen of Miss Dare To Dream, showcasing her poise and confidence on the stage.

Additionally, her resume boasts numerous accolades such as serving as head girl in primary school, earning 37 certificates, and winning several titles in high school competitions. Currently, she serves as a prefect, debater, and student council member, illustrating her leadership skills and commitment to community involvement.

Her decision to enter pageantry was also a stand against the stereotypes and discrimination often associated with this field. "I want to dismantle the misconceptions surrounding pageantry and show that it is a platform for empowerment," Kwakhanya asserts.

Preparing for pageants is no small feat, involving rigorous rehearsal schedules, personal practice, and meticulous planning around attire and appearance. "I make sure to practice in the shoes I'll compete in and have my dress ready two weeks before the event," she details, underscoring her thorough preparation method.

Kwakhanya's aspirations include capturing titles like Miss SA, Miss Universe, and ultimately, becoming the first black Miss International. "Winning these titles would not only fulfill my personal dreams but also place South Africa amongst the elite nations of the pageantry world," she ambitiously states.

As a titleholder, she hopes to be remembered for her generosity, kindness, and unwavering passion. Additionally, she is committed to advocating against poverty and raising awareness about hemophilia, leveraging her platform for meaningful change.

For those entering the world of pageantry, Kwakhanya offers this advice: "The journey may be tough, but remember, it takes a QUEEN to conquer all. Each setback is not a defeat but a stepping stone preparing you for greater achievements."

Kwakhanya Zweni is more than just a model; she is a visionary young woman poised to make significant impacts both within and beyond the beauty industry. Her story is one of inspiration, demonstrating that with passion, resilience, and a supportive community, dreams can indeed become realities. As she continues to strive towards her goals, the world watches, perhaps witnessing the rise of a future icon in the making.





@CultureCut

Urban African Lifestyle Brand in Fashion





From the bustling streets of Port Elizabeth, Algene Koeberg-Van Boomen emerges as a visionary force in the fashion world, leading the charge with her innovative brand, CultureCut. More than just a label, CultureCut is an homage to Urban African lifestyle, seamlessly integrating the continent's vast cultural richness and diversity into its fashion and decor lines. Algene's foray into the world of fashion began in her early childhood, a passion ignited by a thoughtful gift from her father.

"My dad bought me my first sewing machine at age 5 when he saw how much I loved making clothes for my dolls," she reminisces. This early interest in fashion design blossomed as her skills grew, leading her to create her own clothes which soon caught the attention of admirers, laying the groundwork for what would later become CultureCut.

Algene's approach to design is distinctive and revealing. Her philosophy, "If you see it, you will know where it is from," suggests that each garment tells a story of its origins through its striking color combinations, bold prints, and unique aesthetics. These elements ensure that each piece not only stands out but speaks volumes about the wearer's confidence in self-expression. "My items stand out with their vibrant prints, color, and structure, especially against the more recent monochrome and neutral trends," Algene explains.

Drawing inspiration from the endless beauty of her surroundings, Algene points to nature, people, and architectural

wonders as her muses. "We live on the most beautiful continent, filled with a diverse group of people," she says, her designs reflecting the varied cultures, landscapes, and architectural designs that Africa offers.

When beginning a new collection, Algene always starts with the fabric, letting the patterns and colors guide her creative process to visualize the end products and the people who will wear them. Despite the contemporary appeal of her designs, each piece retains a connection to African heritage, a homage to the continent's influence on her creative direction.

In an industry often criticized for its environmental and ethical impacts, Algene stands as a champion for sustainability. She describes the detrimental effects of fast fashion, which relies on cheap labor and quick turnaround, leading to significant environmental damage and poor working conditions.

"These practices not only exploit workers but also produce garments that significantly harm the environment due to the materials used and the waste generated," she points out. In stark contrast, CultureCut is built on principles of sustainability, employing eco-friendly materials like pure cotton, optimizing fabric cutting to reduce waste, and avoiding plastics by using reusable and environmentally friendly packaging.

Algene's commitment to sustainable fashion extends beyond materials and processes; it influences the ethos of her brand, emphasizing the importance of ethical practices that consider both humanity and the environment. "The fashion industry, being one of the largest polluters globally, needs to adopt a more environmentally conscious approach," she asserts, underscoring the need for sustainability to transcend being merely a trend.

Her debut at Vukani Fashions marked a significant milestone, showcasing her first collection inspired by the natural beauty of Africa, including the Sahara Desert, the African Acacia tree, and captivating sunsets. The collection not only solidified her reputation among South Africa's fashion elite but also set a benchmark for her creative expression.

Looking to the future, Algene dreams of taking CultureCut to the international stage, showcasing at major fashion weeks

around the world and expanding the brand to create more job opportunities. Her recent foray into a mom-and-me range highlights her innovative approach to design, appealing to family bonds through fashion, and she plans to delve deeper into using tribal prints and crafting her own unique fabric patterns.

To those aspiring to make their mark in fashion, Algene offers sage advice: "Just be yourself. Not everything will appeal to everyone, but authenticity speaks through your work. Those who are genuine in their creations, mindful of their collaborations, and aware of their environmental impact are the ones who will truly make a difference."

Algene invites everyone to follow her journey and connect with CultureCut on social media at @CultureCut. Through her distinctive designs and steadfast dedication to sustainability and ethical practices, Algene Koeberg-Van Boomen is not merely crafting garments; she's crafting a new, conscientious narrative for African fashion on the global stage.



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Magazine South Africa

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Rese

Lindie Nel

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Breaking Barriers and Building Dreams: The Remarkable Journey of Belinda 'Lindie' Nel - A Testament to Resilience, Entrepreneurial Spirit, and Empowerment in the Beauty Industry, From Overcoming Adversity to Achieving Success



Belinda Nel, affectionately known as Lindie, is a remarkable individual whose journey from humble beginnings to becoming a successful entrepreneur serves as an inspiration to many. Growing up in Pretoria West and Centurion, Lindie faced considerable adversity, grappling with financial hardship and the absence of a father figure in her life. Despite these challenges, her story is a testament to resilience, determination, and the power of unwavering faith.

"At age 17, I took on weekend jobs to support my family," Lindie recalls. "My mother, a single parent, worked tirelessly to provide for us, and I felt compelled to contribute financially." It was during this time, working at the Saint George Hotel, that Lindie honed her work ethic and developed a keen interest in entrepreneurship.

Transitioning from the hospitality sector to the beauty industry, Lindie gained valuable experience working at Spilkin Optometrist before venturing into entrepreneurship with her own Beauty Salon in Hartbeespoort. Specializing in essential beauty treatments such as facials, nails, waxing, and tinting, Lindie's salon quickly became a local favorite.

However, Lindie's entrepreneurial spirit didn't stop there. From 2010 to 2014, she ventured into the Aircon business, followed by a partnership in the restaurant industry in 2016. Unfortunately, the onset of the

COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 dealt a severe blow to the restaurant industry, forcing Lindie to pivot once again.

Undeterred by adversity, Lindie seized the opportunity to broaden her knowledge in the beauty industry, embarking on a journey of continuous learning. "Since 2020, I've immersed myself in various courses to expand my expertise," Lindie explains. "From aesthetics to permanent makeup, I've dedicated myself to mastering every aspect of the beauty industry."

Today, Lindie stands as the proud owner of a Level 4 Laser Clinic, a testament to her perseverance and passion for empowering others to look and feel their best. "My mother was my greatest influence," Lindie reflects. "Her resilience and unwavering belief in me instilled the confidence to pursue my dreams, despite the challenges."

Despite facing childhood bullying due to her red hair and freckles, Lindie transformed adversity into motivation, vowing to help others reclaim their confidence. "I never want anyone to feel the way I did," she says. "Empowering others to embrace their uniqueness and feel confident in their skin is my ultimate goal."

Life's challenges have taught Lindie invaluable lessons in resilience and faith. "One of my biggest challenges was a failed business partnership," she admits. "But through prayer, surrounding myself with supportive people, and trusting in God, I found the strength to rebuild and pursue my dreams."

Recognition for Lindie's perseverance came in the form of a nomination as the 3rd best businesswoman in Hartbeespoort in 2018. However, her greatest fulfillment stems from empowering others and giving back to her community.

"Diversity and inclusion are at the heart of everything I do," Lindie affirms. "I believe in creating opportunities for everyone, regardless of background or circumstance." From organizing charity events to supporting local businesses, Lindie's commitment to community upliftment is unwavering.

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is crucial for Lindie, who prioritizes self-care to be the best version of herself for her clients. "Taking time for myself, spending quality time with loved ones, and nurturing supportive relationships are essential," she emphasizes.

Looking ahead, Lindie is excited about the future and envisions expanding her clinic to reach even more individuals in need of her services. "My journey has taught me that with faith, hard work, and perseverance, anything is possible," she says. "I encourage others to believe in themselves, pursue their dreams relentlessly, and never give up."

As Lindie's story exemplifies, from adversity springs resilience, and from perseverance blooms success. Her journey serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring others to overcome obstacles, embrace their uniqueness, and chase their dreams with unwavering faith.



Mrs. South Africa 2024

Semi-Finalist



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Xolelwa Mazibuko, a civil engineer from the rural villages of Mooiplaas and Ncera in the Eastern Cape, is making waves as a semi-finalist in the Mrs. South Africa 2024 competition. More than just a contender for a beauty title, Mazibuko is on a heartfelt mission to redefine societal standards of beauty and inspire individuals facing insecurities linked to their physical appearances.

"My journey to Mrs. South Africa was ignited by a childhood dream, one that was almost extinguished by years of insecurity due to my crooked teeth," Mazibuko revealed. Despite the teasing and the self-doubt of her younger years, she grew to love her unique smile. "I realized that I could be the change I wanted to see. It was time to step up and help others, particularly children, who might be suffering from the same kinds of insecurities."

Xolelwa's resolve is strengthened by her personal life as a mother. She sees her children, who have inherited her dental structure, as a catalyst for her advocacy. "They are my biggest motivators. I refuse to let them hide their smiles as I did. This cycle of insecurity ends with me," she stated emphatically.

Her upbringing in the Eastern Cape, where community bonds form the backbone of societal structure, has significantly shaped her worldview. This community-centric upbringing combined with her specialized skills in water engineering has enabled her

to contribute significantly to community development. "Every project I work on allows me to see the tangible impacts of my efforts and further understand the complex dynamics within our communities," Mazibuko explained, illustrating how her professional life intertwines with her personal mission.

In the Mrs. South Africa competition, Mazibuko hopes her presence can challenge and shift perceptions about beauty. "I aim to use this platform to speak to everyone—young or old—who feels diminished because of physical abnormalities. My goal is to help them embrace their uniqueness and persist in pursuing their dreams despite societal pressures," she shared. Her approach involves not only raising awareness but also educating communities on how to address and correct misconceptions about physical abnormalities.

Balancing a demanding career, family life, and the rigor of a national beauty pageant is no small feat. Mazibuko credits her ability to manage these responsibilities to her learned skill of delegation, as well as the unwavering support from her family. "Having grown children who are supportive and understanding allows me to navigate my responsibilities without sacrificing my performance in any area," she said gratefully.

Xolelwa's campaign is personal. She has faced and overcome significant challenges, including dealing with the public judgment that comes with such a high-profile role. "I've learned to not let other people's opinions create self-doubt within me. This competition involves both being judged officially and exposing oneself to public opinions, which I have learned to handle with emotional intelligence and maturity," she explained.

Mazibuko's colleagues have also played a critical role, rallying behind her with fundraising efforts and moral support for the pageant-related activities. "Their support has been overwhelming and humbling, ensuring I can meet the financial and promotional demands of the pageant," she noted, visibly moved by their solidarity.

For Mazibuko, being a semi-finalist in the Mrs. South Africa contest is about much more than beauty; it's about being a role model who embodies the values of resilience, diversity, and positive societal impact. "It's about showing up as myself—Xolelwa, the engineer turned semi-finalist, who wears boots and helmets by day and stilettos by night. It's about showcasing the diverse capabilities of women."

A memorable highlight of her journey so far was walking on stage during the public casting, unreservedly smiling with her teeth on full display—a moment of personal

triumph. "Being called as a semi-finalist while embracing the smile I once despised was an incredibly affirming experience," she recounted.

Mazibuko offers a piece of advice to other women contemplating entering a pageant or pursuing any big dream: "Hold on to your childhood dreams. They are powerful and poignant reminders of your deepest desires. Pursue them with tenacity."

Looking beyond the competition, Xolelwa aspires to develop or join initiatives that provide emotional and practical support to parents navigating the complexities of raising children with physical abnormalities. Her long-term vision includes creating a more inclusive society where physical differences are embraced rather than shunned.

Through her participation in Mrs. South Africa 2024, Xolelwa Mazibuko hopes to convey a message of empowerment and transformation across South Africa: "Embrace the change you wish to see and actively break down the barriers that obstruct our collective dreams. Together, we can build a future where diversity in beauty is not just accepted but celebrated."

Follow her journey and show your support by connecting with Xolelwa on her official social media platforms: Instagram at @xolelwamazibuko and Facebook at Xolelwa Mazibuko Mrs SA Semi Finalist 2024.





Candice Ormiston

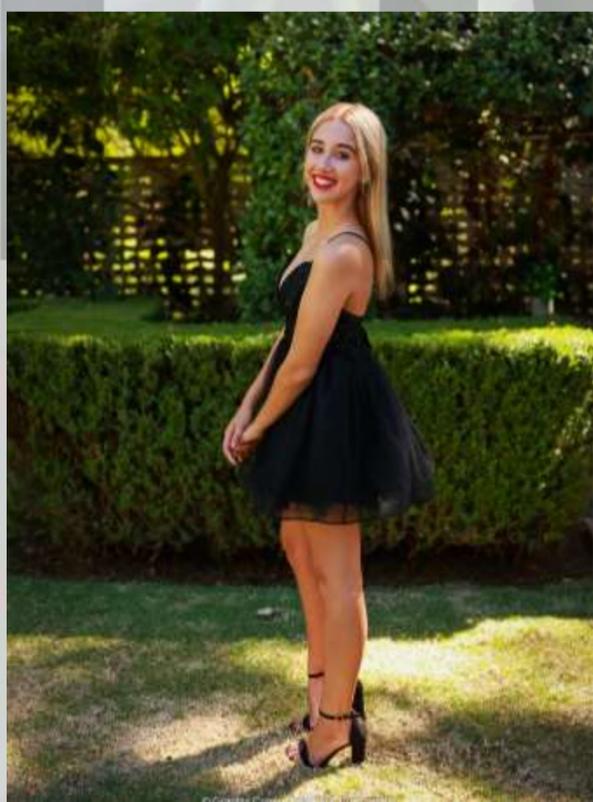
PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Graphix Corner Designs & Photography

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In the ever-evolving world of photography and graphic design, Candice Ormiston le Roux stands out as a passionate creator whose journey from graphic designer to acclaimed photographer has been both inspiring and transformative. Founder of Graphix Corner Designs & Photography, Candice's artistic journey began with a deep-rooted passion for creativity which first found its expression in graphic design back in 2010.

"Being able to express my creativity every day was my passion," Candice reflects with enthusiasm. It wasn't long before her innate talent for photography emerged, leading her down a new, exhilarating path.

"I've always had an eye for photography," she recalls, remembering how she'd view the world through a lens of potential masterpieces. This constant inspiration from her surroundings led her to purchase her first camera in 2018, marking the official start of her photography career. "When I went for my first photoshoot, I realized that this is what I'm meant to do," Candice says, recalling the pivotal moment that defined her future.

Candice's photographic style is an elegant fusion of boldness, warmth, and natural beauty, heavily influenced by her love for natural lighting. "I feel natural light makes any photo look attractive," she explains, detailing her preference which plays a significant role in her visual storytelling. Her primary genres include portraiture and nature, though she enjoys exploring other genres to challenge her creativity and expand her portfolio.

However, turning a passion into a profession is never without its hurdles. For Candice, the initial challenges were financial, given the high costs associated with professional photography equipment. Additionally, juggling graphic design and photography was demanding. "Photography equipment doesn't come cheap, and balancing it with graphic design on busy days has become an acquired skill," she explains. Yet, through persistence and hard work, the rewards began to manifest, affirming her commitment to her art.

Candice's workflow is meticulously planned, ensuring each photoshoot is tailored to meet client expectations and the unpredictable whims of nature. She assists clients with everything from choosing the venue to finalizing the shoot's timing, always with a backup plan in mind. "During the photoshoot, I always assist my clients with posing and help them feel more comfortable in front of the camera," she shares, emphasizing the importance of client experience during shoots. Post-shoot, Candice delves into the world of editing, a process she describes as humbling but immensely rewarding.

To keep her photography fresh and engaging, Candice continually experiments with new venues and introduces innovative themes into her shoots. This approach not only enriches her portfolio but also keeps her audience captivated and eager for more. Reflecting on her most memorable photoshoot, Candice recalls an event for the Moth Motorcycles Association, which was particularly significant.

"The sound of bagpipes playing as we commemorated the 15th anniversary of the association and honored fallen soldiers was incredibly moving," she recounts. The photoshoot not only marked a memorable milestone but also featured in a local newspaper, highlighting Candice's growing influence in her community.

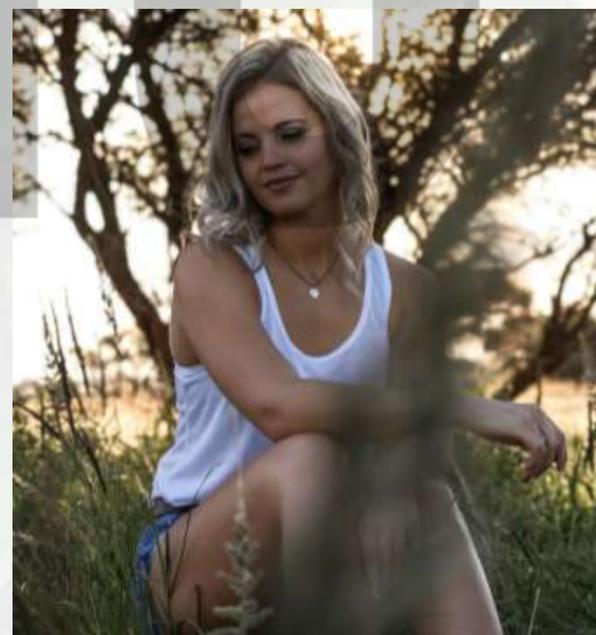
In her artistic practice, Candice balances her creative vision with client expectations, advocating for a mutual understanding of her photographic style. "You should choose a photographer whose work resonates with you," she advises potential clients. This philosophy helps ensure satisfaction on both ends, maintaining artistic integrity while fulfilling client desires.

Candice actively engages with the broader photography and local arts community, contributing her skills to local

events and initiatives. Her indispensable tools, the camera and laptop, are her companions in the creative process, essential for capturing and refining her artistic expressions.

The rise of digital and social media has compelled Candice to adapt her promotional strategies. Although initially challenging, she has embraced these platforms as essential tools for reaching new audiences and securing client engagements. Her advice to aspiring photographers is straightforward yet profound: "Practice, practice, practice. Don't give up, you will get there. Take photos of everything, find your niche, and invest in a good editing program."

Looking forward, Candice is thrilled about the prospect of opening a small studio, a dream she has nurtured for years. As she continues to grow Graphix Corner Designs & Photography, her gratitude extends to everyone who has supported her on this journey. Followers and enthusiasts can connect with Candice via her social media pages on Facebook at @athousandwordspgd and Instagram at @graphix_corner_, where she continues to share her passion and creativity with the world.





PPMC
Magazine South Africa

Meet Lehlogonolo (Hloni) Loate

A Designer's Insights on Runway Preparation

A story by
Christel
Marais 

In the dynamic and ever-evolving world of fashion, where every stitch tells a story and every design is a statement, Lehlogonolo (Hloni) Loate stands out as a beacon of creativity and innovation. From humble beginnings to viral sensations, Loate's journey from personal passion to professional pursuit is a testament to the transformative power of self-expression and the relentless pursuit of one's dreams.

Born and raised in South Africa, Loate's love affair with fashion began at an early age, nurtured by the vibrant tapestry of cultures that surrounded them. "Fashion has been my lifelong passion, fueled by the inspiration I draw from the stylish individuals around me," Loate reflects. Encouraged by friends and family, Loate embarked on a journey to turn their passion into a profession, driven by a desire to create garments that spoke to their unique vision and cultural heritage.

The pivotal moment came in March 2022 when Loate attended a friend's wedding wearing a dress of their own creation. The dress, affectionately dubbed "the Hlogi Dress," caught the eye of everyone in attendance, sparking an unexpected wave of interest and admiration. "It was incredible to see the response," Loate recalls. "The dress seemed to resonate with people on a deeper level, drawing them in with its unique flair."

But it was the reaction on social media that truly catapulted Loate into the spotlight. After sharing photos of the dress on Instagram, the post quickly went viral, amassing an astounding 7.5 million views in a matter of days. "I was overwhelmed by the response," Loate admits. "It was a surreal moment, seeing something I created connect with so many people from around the world."

Buoyed by this overwhelming success, Loate made the bold decision to officially launch Hlogi Designs on May 22, 2022, marking the beginning of a thrilling new chapter in their fashion journey. "It was a dream come true," Loate says. "To see my designs come to life and resonate with people in such a profound way was incredibly rewarding."

But Loate's journey into fashion design has been anything but conventional. Eschewing formal education, they have instead embraced a self-directed approach, immersing themselves in a myriad of experiences that have shaped their understanding of the industry. From attending fashion shows to dissecting designs on television programs like Fashion Police, Loate has honed their craft through observation, experimentation, and sheer determination.

"For me, learning is a lifelong journey," Loate explains. "Every experience, whether significant or subtle, contributes to my evolution as a designer." This commitment to continuous growth and exploration is evident in Loate's eclectic style, which draws inspiration from a diverse array of sources, including art, architecture, nature, and, most importantly, their own cultural heritage.

Central to Loate's design philosophy is a celebration of diversity and a commitment to inclusivity and sustainability. Through vibrant colors, bold patterns, and African-inspired motifs, they strive to create garments that resonate with personal significance and cultural heritage. "Fashion should not only be beautiful but also responsible and mindful of its impact on the planet and society," Loate emphasizes.

Aspiring fashion designers looking to follow in Loate's footsteps are urged to take that crucial first step without hesitation. "Don't let fear, doubt, or procrastination hold you back any longer," Loate advises. "The sooner you start, the sooner you'll gain momentum and progress towards your goals as a fashion designer."

In the fast-paced world of fashion, preparation is key, especially when it comes to runway shows. Lehlogonolo (Hloni) Loate, the creative force behind Hlogi Designs, shares insights into their meticulous preparation process and the key elements they consider essential for a successful runway presentation.

"When preparing for a runway show, I meticulously consider several crucial elements," Loate begins. "Conceptualization is where it all starts. I spend countless hours brainstorming ideas, sketching designs, and refining concepts until I'm satisfied with the vision for the collection."

Design execution is another critical aspect of the preparation process. "Once the concepts are finalized, it's all about bringing them to life," Loate explains. "I work closely with skilled artisans and craftsmen to ensure that each garment is meticulously crafted to perfection, paying attention to every stitch, seam, and detail."

Model selection is also a key consideration. "Choosing the right models is essential for bringing the collection to life on the runway," Loate emphasizes. "I look for individuals who not only embody the spirit of the collection but also exude confidence, grace, and authenticity."

Styling plays a vital role in creating a cohesive and visually striking runway presentation. "From hair and makeup to accessories and footwear, every aspect of styling is carefully curated to complement and enhance the garments," Loate adds.

Set design is another crucial element that sets the stage for the runway show. "The runway itself becomes a canvas for artistic expression," Loate says. "I collaborate with set designers to create immersive environments that transport the audience into the world of the collection."

Lastly, promotion is key to generating excitement and anticipation for the runway show. "I leverage social media, press releases, and other marketing channels to create buzz around the event and attract attendees," Loate explains.

"Building anticipation and excitement is essential for ensuring a successful turnout."

But perhaps the most important element of all is the support and empowerment of the models. "Pumping up my models is not just about making them look good on the outside," Loate emphasizes. "It's about helping them feel confident, empowered, and celebrated from within. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, I strive to empower my models to walk the runway with grace, poise, and unwavering confidence."

Reflecting on past shows, Loate shares a memorable moment from their debut runway presentation. "The Walk in Elegance fashion show held in April 2024 was a milestone moment in my career," Loate recalls. "As the models strutted down the runway showcasing my debut collection, there was a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation in the air. The audience's eyes were glued to each garment, eagerly taking in every detail and design."

"After the show, as attendees mingled and discussed their favorite looks, I was overwhelmed by the positive feedback and admiration for my collection," Loate continues. "It was a moment of validation and affirmation, reaffirming my passion for fashion design and the importance of staying true to my creative vision."

Looking ahead, Loate reflects on the evolution of the fashion industry since they began their journey. "Since I started two years ago, the fashion industry has experienced notable changes and advancements," Loate observes. "Digitalization has become increasingly

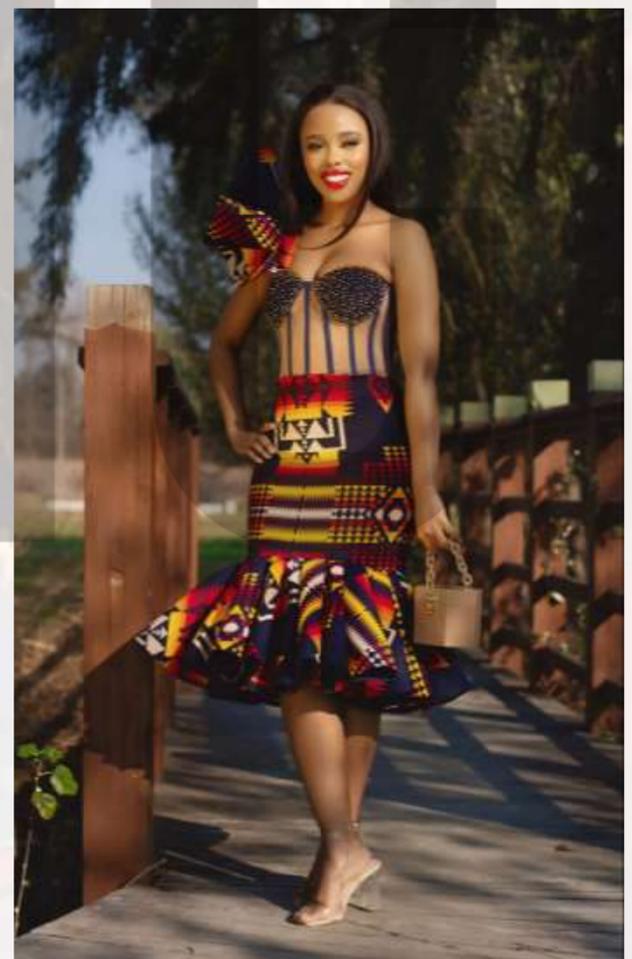
prevalent, with brands leveraging e-commerce and social media to reach consumers directly. Inclusivity and diversity have also become central themes, reflecting a broader societal movement towards acceptance and celebration of individuality."

"Despite these advancements, fashion designers today face numerous challenges," Loate acknowledges. "From intellectual property issues to market saturation and competition, financial constraints, and changing consumer preferences, navigating the complexities of the industry requires resilience, creativity, and adaptability."

But despite these challenges, Loate remains optimistic about the future of fashion. "As I continue my journey in the fashion industry, I'm excited to see how these trends will continue to shape the future of fashion," Loate concludes. "With passion, perseverance, and a commitment to creativity and inclusivity, I believe that the possibilities are endless."

With a growing presence on social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram, Loate continues to captivate audiences with their unique vision and unwavering commitment to creativity and inclusivity. As they carve out their place in the fashion world, one thing is certain: Lehlogonolo (Hloni) Loate and Hlogi Designs are poised to leave an indelible mark on the industry for years to come.

Stay updated with Hlogi Designs:
TikTok: @hlogi-designs
Instagram: @hlogidesigns
Personal Instagram: @hloni_loate





Diana Roux

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

The Inspirational Journey of Diana Roux - A Mother, Motivational Speaker, and International Award-Winning Health, Beauty, and Wellness Therapist Redefining Beauty Standards, Empowering Communities, and Spreading Love One Act of Kindness at a Time



In the heart of Mpumalanga, amidst the lush greenery of the Lowveld, resides a woman whose journey is as compelling as it is inspiring. Diana Roux, lovingly known as Di among her family and close friends, embodies resilience, compassion, and unwavering faith in the face of life's trials and tribulations. From overcoming medical odds to carving out a successful career in skincare therapy, Diana's story is a testament to the power of determination, perseverance, and unwavering belief in oneself and a higher power.

A mother of three beautiful children, Diana's path to motherhood was not without its challenges. Doctors had delivered the heartbreaking news that she would never conceive, but Diana refused to accept that verdict. "Each child I've been blessed with is an absolute gift from God," she affirms, reflecting on the miracles that have graced her life. Divorced after 27 years of marriage, Diana found herself navigating the complexities of single parenthood, a journey fraught with uncertainty and fear. Yet, through it all, her steadfast reliance on her faith has remained unwavering, guiding her through the darkest of times and illuminating her path forward.

Passionate about life and determined to make a difference in the world around her, Diana describes herself as a woman who treasures the lessons learned and the moments shared. "Life can be cruel; we live in a broken world where difficulties abound," she acknowledges. "But we have the power to choose our reactions to these challenges." Armed with a boundless reservoir of positivity and an unshakeable resolve, Diana embraces each obstacle as an opportunity for growth and self-discovery, inspiring those around her to do the same.

Professionally, Diana is a three-time international award-winning Health, Beauty, and Wellness therapist specializing in skincare. Her expertise lies in working with the revolutionary medical skincare range RegimA, renowned for its efficacy in treating a myriad of skin conditions, from acne and scarring to pigmentation and aging.

Through her work at Face to the Wind Health, Hair, Beauty, and Wellness Spa, Diana has transformed the lives of countless individuals, instilling confidence and restoring self-esteem with each

treatment session. "With your face to the Wind, you will feel the power of change," she asserts, attributing her success to her unwavering faith and the divine guidance that has guided her every step of the way.

But Diana's impact extends far beyond the confines of her spa. As a motivational speaker, she has graced countless stages, captivating audiences with her message of resilience, faith, and unwavering belief in oneself. One of her most significant speaking engagements was before a group of 300 ladies, where her powerful testimony moved many to tears and inspired them to embark on their own journeys of self-discovery and empowerment. "It's always my story to God's glory," she humbly acknowledges, recognizing the role of divine providence in shaping her path and guiding her towards her purpose.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Diana is deeply committed to philanthropy, devoting her time and resources to supporting organizations such as Hospice, Grace Baby Haven, and Lifeline. Whether through donating clothes to those in need or advocating for mental health awareness, Diana's compassion knows no bounds, and her impact on the lives of others is immeasurable.

As a contestant in the prestigious Ms. Mpumalanga pageant, Diana sees an opportunity to amplify her voice and continue her mission of service and empowerment. Despite facing personal hardships, including the recent loss of her father, she remains steadfast in her dedication to making a positive impact and leaving a lasting legacy of compassion and kindness.

"My biggest thing in life is to do something for someone who will never be able to pay me back," she says, echoing her belief in the power of selfless giving and the profound impact it can have on the lives of others.

Throughout the competition, Diana maintains a positive outlook, focusing on her unique journey and the meaningful connections she has forged along the way. "Winning isn't my priority," she reflects. "What matters most is that my parents believed in me." As she continues her journey on the pageant stage, Diana's unwavering faith, resilience, and genuine kindness set her apart, leaving an indelible impression on all who encounter her.

In the end, Diana's story is one of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of love. And as she continues to inspire others with her words and actions, her impact will undoubtedly ripple far beyond the confines of any stage or competition, leaving a legacy of compassion, kindness, and meaningful change in her wake.



PPMC Magazine SA

Makgoboketsa Colline Kgatle - Pageant Queen's Journey to the World Stage





In the fiercely competitive and dazzling world of pageantry, where glitz meets determination, Colline Kgatle's ascent to becoming the second runner-up in a major international competition has been nothing short of inspirational. With each poised step and articulate answer, she has not only captured hearts but has also become a beacon of resilience, echoing a profound message about the power of knowing one's purpose.

Colline's journey to the pageant crown was fraught with challenges, the greatest being the struggle to maintain balance between her rigorous pageant schedule and her personal life. "One of the biggest challenges was not having enough time for my family and myself," Colline confesses.

The journey was arduous, demanding sacrifices that tested her limits. Yet, her resolve did not waver. "What drove me was my why. If you don't know your why

and have a purpose, you will be overwhelmed and not finish the race," she reflects. This steadfast focus acted as her guiding light, keeping her eyes on the prize even when the end seemed elusive.

Behind Colline's success is an unwavering support system that bolstered her through the toughest times. Her husband, Itumeleng, adapted to new household roles, mastering culinary skills while Colline was engrossed in her pageant preparations. Her children, too, showed remarkable independence. "My daughter managed to excel in her studies and even earned merit awards despite my limited availability," she says proudly.

Beyond her immediate family, Colline's extended network of relatives, friends, and sponsors provided an unshakeable foundation. From financial backing to moral support, they were integral to her journey. "My sister Lorraine played a major role; she was involved in everything from garnering sponsorships to spearheading campaigns. We share this crown," Colline emphasizes, highlighting the communal effort behind her individual achievement.

Reflecting on the defining moments of the competition, Colline believes that staying true to herself made all the difference. Her authenticity, combined with a deep-seated faith, were her greatest allies. "It was God's time for me to be crowned the second runner-up, to fulfill the God-given mandate," she shares, a testament to her spiritual grounding.

The pageant also catalyzed significant personal and professional growth. Colline sharpened her public speaking skills, mastered the art of time management, and learned the delicate art of negotiation. Each skill learned and each lesson absorbed have contributed to her evolution not just as a contestant, but as a multifaceted individual. "Understanding people and knowing where to place them

has been crucial. It's about embracing every season of life," she explains.

As she looks forward to representing South Africa on an international stage later this year, Colline is excited about the opportunity to promote her homeland's rich cultural tapestry and diversity. "Representing my country is about more than just wearing a costume; it's about embodying the spirit of our nation and sharing our stories with the world," she expresses with anticipation.

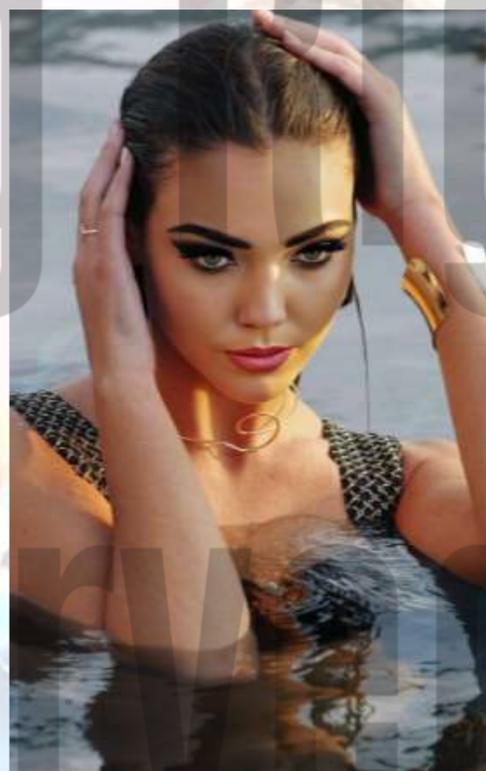
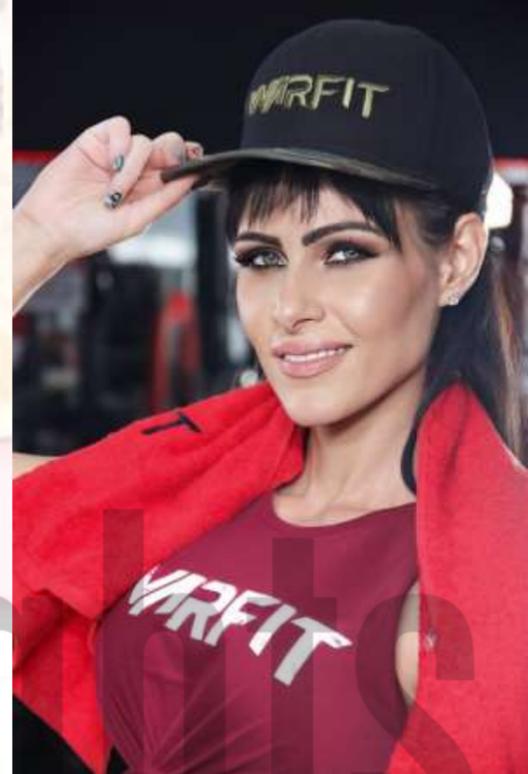
Colline's advocacy for mental health and substance abuse is driven by personal experience and a compassionate understanding of the challenges families face. "This cause is close to my heart," she admits, outlining her commitment to educational and support initiatives that address these critical issues.

Looking beyond the crown, Colline envisions a future where her efforts continue to bear fruit through her foundation, and through ongoing community engagement. She aspires to further her education and to mentor young girls, planting seeds of hope and resilience.

To those considering the path of pageantry, Colline advises, "Be authentic, know your why, and embrace your purpose. This platform is a powerful tool for advocacy and change."

Colline Kgatle's story is not merely one of personal achievement but a vivid illustration of how determination, supported by a clear sense of purpose, can overcome formidable obstacles. As she prepares to showcase her South African heritage on the international stage, her journey from Hammanskraal to the heights of global pageantry is a powerful reminder that anyone can achieve greatness when they commit to their dreams and stay true to themselves.





Andre Sturgeon

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Capturing Life's Fleeting Beauty

From Stolen Moments to Grand Celebrations: The Artistic Journey of a Self-Taught Photographer Based in Pretoria, Documenting the Authentic Beauty of Everyday Life





In the heart of Pretoria, South Africa, Andre Sturgeon is more than just a photographer; he's a storyteller whose medium is the camera. Born and raised in this lively city, Andre's approach to photography is deeply personal and rooted in his passion for capturing what he describes as "stolen moments"—those fleeting snapshots where his subjects are most authentic.

"I didn't start out as a professional," Andre reflects with a smile. "Photography was just a hobby initially while I was working in a completely different field. But as I spent more time behind the lens, my interest grew deeper and it became a burning passion." This passion propelled him to transition from hobbyist to professional, driven by an innate desire to freeze moments of raw, unfiltered life.

Andre's artistic journey is inspired by the beauty and diversity of the human condition. "I'm driven by the opportunity to capture beautiful things and beautiful people. There's a thrill in being able to freeze a moment and say, this—this is something special," he explains. This fascination extends to all his subjects, from the tender expressions exchanged during a wedding to the unguarded laughter of children at play.

He recounts one of his early influences: capturing unplanned, candid moments—like a sneaky kiss from a bride and groom, or an elderly grandmother shedding a tear during a poignant moment. "It's those unscripted moments that really speak to people. They reveal more about the subject than any posed shot ever could," Andre notes.

Despite his now polished skill, Andre is primarily self-taught, a testament to his dedication and love for his craft. "I've taken several courses to sharpen my technique, especially concerning lighting and composition, but much of what I've learned comes from simply doing," he says, stressing the importance of continuous learning and adapting in photography.

Discussing his style, Andre hesitates to box himself into a specific category. "I capture life—real, unposed life. That's my style. It's about the essence of the person or the place I'm photographing." This philosophy has guided him across various projects and genres, from vibrant weddings to serene newborn shoots, each requiring a distinct sensitivity and approach.

Andre's portfolio is filled with memorable projects that reflect his versatility and keen eye for detail. Notably, his collaboration with models like Andre de Goede and Izelle Botes in a rustic yet glamorous photoshoot showcases his ability to blend natural settings with high fashion, creating a juxtaposition that's visually stunning.

Another project that stands out is the Pretville pin-up shoot, where he partnered with Christiaan Botes. Here, he created a series of pin-up style portraits that not only echoed the charm of a bygone era but also captured the playful confidence of the women involved.

When asked about a favorite photograph, Andre pauses thoughtfully before describing a personal and poignant image. "It's a family photo featuring my late grandmother. It's not just about her being my grandmother; it's about capturing her legacy, her emotions, and her life's story in a single frame. That photo is incredibly special to me."

Andre's approach to selecting his subjects is instinctive, guided by his attraction to authenticity. "I aim to photograph the essence of a person or a moment," he states. His professional challenges have evolved from securing initial bookings to now juggling a busy schedule, a testament to his growing reputation and demand.

Looking ahead, Andre is enthusiastic about future projects, especially those that align with his interest in the fitness world. "I'm planning several shoots with fitness models. It's exciting to combine my love for fitness with my passion for photography," he reveals. This new direction promises to add a dynamic layer to his already diverse portfolio.

Andre Sturgeon's story is one of passion transforming into profession. From his candid captures at weddings to his glamorous fashion shoots, his work invites viewers to pause and appreciate the beauty of the moment. As he continues to evolve and push the boundaries of his craft, Andre remains committed to capturing life's beauty in its most authentic form.

For those interested in following his journey or booking a session, Andre is active on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram under 'Andre Sturgeon Photography', and he's also reachable through WhatsApp. Each frame Andre shoots reinforces his belief in the power of photography not just to document but to celebrate life—a message he hopes resonates with everyone who views his work.





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Johan Goddard

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120
From Personal Transformation
to Bodybuilding Success

Instagram: @i.am.beast.fit
Facebook: Johan Goddard
Photo credit: Andre Sturgeon



In the world of health and fitness, stories of personal transformation often serve as beacons of inspiration. Johan Goddard's journey from a teenager grappling with health concerns to a seasoned bodybuilding competitor epitomizes this narrative of resilience, dedication, and triumph.

At the tender age of 16, Johan found himself at a crossroads when a close relative experienced a health scare. The realization that he could be susceptible to similar health issues struck a chord deep within him. "I did not want something like that happening to me," Johan recalls, a determination igniting within him to take control of his own health destiny.

Armed with this newfound resolve, Johan embarked on a solitary quest for self-improvement. With no gym membership and only the resources he could find at home, he initiated what he terms a "transformation" journey. Through sheer grit and perseverance, coupled with healthier dietary choices, Johan shed an impressive 30 kilograms of weight, defying the odds and reshaping his physique.

As Johan's passion for fitness burgeoned, so too did his interest in bodybuilding. Over the past six years, he has immersed himself in the intricacies of the sport, dedicating countless hours to sculpting his physique and mastering his craft. While Johan's journey officially commenced in 2020 when he first competed in the Bodybeautiful show hosted by Lauren Leigh Porter, his love for bodybuilding was

truly kindled during that inaugural experience.

Since then, Johan has become a familiar face on the competitive circuit, gracing the stages of prestigious events such as Superbodies, NPC, IBFF, Arnolds, PCA, and Opulent Models. His impressive track record boasts a plethora of podium finishes, including coveted 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place titles.

For Johan, however, the true essence of his journey lies not solely in the accolades but in the profound moments of personal growth and self-discovery. "I can't really define a greatest moment," he muses, "as the best moment would always be winning the top spot." Yet, Johan emphasizes the significance of receiving constructive criticism from trusted mentors and peers, viewing it as a catalyst for continual improvement and refinement.

Presently, Johan finds himself in a building phase, diligently working alongside Coach Morras to enhance his muscle quality and size. His rigorous training regimen encompasses six to seven days of intense workouts per week, supplemented by cardio sessions, sauna visits, and posing practice. Upholding a balanced diet comprising predominantly clean, wholesome foods punctuated by a weekly cheat meal, Johan maintains his physique year-round through unwavering consistency and discipline.

Beyond the world of bodybuilding, Johan seeks solace and fulfillment in his personal pursuits and relationships. A devoted partner, son, and friend, he cherishes moments spent with loved ones and nurtures a shared passion for photography with his significant other.

Looking ahead, Johan's aspirations extend far beyond the confines of the present moment. With his sights set on the NPC regional and pro qualifier in December, he remains steadfast in his pursuit of excellence, harboring dreams of turning professional and making an indelible mark on the bodybuilding world.

As he reflects on his journey thus far, Johan attributes much of his success to his unwavering determination and strong-willed mindset. "If I want something, I go after it and work for it," he asserts, embodying the ethos of resilience and tenacity.

In his quest to inspire and empower others, Johan shares a simple yet profound message: "You can do anything you put your mind to if you're willing to do the work." With a firm belief that "the body achieves what the mind believes," Johan hopes to instill a sense of hope, possibility,

and unwavering resolve in those who dare to pursue their dreams.

As he continues to carve his legacy in the world of bodybuilding, Johan remains eternally grateful to his partner, coaches, supporters, and mentors who have stood by his side throughout his journey. To those who aspire to follow in his footsteps, Johan offers sage advice: "Don't shy away from the work... be willing to accept criticism."

In closing, Johan invites readers to connect with him on social media platforms such as Instagram (@i.am.beast.fit) and Facebook (Johan Goddard), offering a glimpse into his world of passion, dedication, and relentless pursuit of greatness.

Johan Goddard's story serves as a poignant reminder that with unwavering determination, boundless passion, and an unyielding belief in oneself, anything is possible. As he continues to inspire and uplift others through his journey, Johan epitomizes the transformative power of the human spirit in overcoming adversity and realizing one's true potential.





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Thabang Clement Chauke

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From Shy Student to Empowering Speaker - The Remarkable Story of How One Man's Journey Inspires Change through Radio, Public Speaking, and Pageantry





Thabang Clement Chauke, a name synonymous with inspiration and empowerment, didn't always possess the confidence and purpose he exudes today. Reflecting on his journey, he recalls his formative years, "When I was still young in high school, I remember I had no sense of purpose to life. I was a confused child who knew not what they wanted to do or be." However, amidst the uncertainty, a beacon of hope emerged in the form of his former teacher, Mrs. Malope. "Every morning when you wake up, look at yourself in the mirror. Tell yourself that you are beautiful and special," she would say, words that planted seeds of hope and purpose in his heart.

Driven by the desire to pay forward the transformative impact Mrs. Malope had on him, Thabang embarked on a journey to become a transformational speaker. "I believed that the work she did in me, I should do the same to others. That serves as one of my major reasons why I became a transformational speaker," he reveals.

Thabang's evolution into a dynamic public speaker wasn't without its challenges. Battling with shyness and low self-esteem, he initially struggled to find his voice. However, a pivotal moment in 2010 marked the beginning of his ascent. "I started motivating a group of youth that was not more than 10 people," he recounts. Through perseverance and dedication, he honed his craft, gradually transitioning from addressing small groups to commanding large audiences.

Embracing public speaking as a craft in 2013, he delved into online tutorials, refining his skills and solidifying his presence as a compelling speaker.

When asked about the key to connecting with his audience, Thabang emphasizes the power of real-life stories. "Real-life stories are gateways to powerful speeches," he affirms. Drawing from his own experiences, he forges emotional connections and delivers unforgettable messages that resonate deeply with his audience.

Crafting messages that transcend boundaries and resonate with diverse audiences is another hallmark of Thabang's approach. "I focus on transmitting an IDEA," he explains. By distilling his messages to core ideas, he ensures their universality, employing various modes of communication to reach his audience effectively.

Distinguishing between impactful speakers and average ones, Thabang underscores the importance of continuous learning and research. "An impactful speaker takes time to study about their field," he asserts. By immersing oneself in research and learning from esteemed speakers, one can elevate their craft and make a lasting impact.

Beyond the realm of public speaking, Thabang's influence extends to the airwaves as a radio content contributor. With a focus on self-development and relationships, he seeks to empower listeners to embark on a journey of personal growth and nurture meaningful connections.

Remaining relevant in an ever-evolving media landscape is a challenge Thabang tackles head-on through relentless research and a passion for growth. "Research has become a part of my second nature," he affirms. By staying informed and embracing growth, he ensures his content remains pertinent and impactful.

One of Thabang's most memorable projects involved a series of shows with Radio Pulpit, where he delved into the intricate stages of divorce. Sharing his own experiences was both challenging and therapeutic, offering listeners valuable insights and solace.

As an organizer of pageants, Thabang recognizes the significance of such events in providing women with a platform to amplify their voices. "Pageantry is a global movement... it's a platform that gives women a voice," he states. Beyond the

glitz and glamour, his pageants prioritize empowerment through programs like school outreach, enriching the lives of youth.

Addressing concerns about beauty standards in pageantry, Thabang emphasizes confidence as the epitome of beauty. "Beauty for us is CONFIDENCE," he declares, advocating for inclusivity and celebrating diversity in all its forms.

Despite challenges such as stigma and exploitation, Thabang's commitment to setting a positive example through his pageants remains unwavering. "Branding is key for us. Our brand reputation is everything to us," he affirms, ensuring inclusivity and integrity are at the forefront of his endeavors.

Reflecting on success stories, Thabang shares his personal transformation through pageantry, highlighting the importance of perseverance and hard work. "Pageantry pushes you to earn what you get," he asserts, empowering individuals to strive for excellence and embrace challenges head-on.

For aspiring transformational speakers and event organizers, Thabang offers sage advice: "Find a reason behind why you do what you want to do." By anchoring oneself in purpose, one can weather the storms and leave a lasting legacy of excellence.

Looking ahead, Thabang's aspirations are bold yet grounded in humility. "I want to leave a mark. I want to become remarkable," he declares. With a steadfast commitment to excellence, Thabang Clement Chauke continues to inspire and empower, leaving an indelible imprint on all who encounter his message of hope and transformation.





Photo At The Bay

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Photography, Design, & Photobooth

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Nestled in the heart of the Garden Route, Mosselbay provides the perfect backdrop for Danelle, the visionary photographer behind Photo At The Bay. Her camera lens captures not just images, but the essence of moments, turning everyday scenes into memorable snapshots.

Danelle has been in the professional photography business for over three years, a journey marked by its highs and challenges that she navigates with fervor and faith.

"It wasn't all easy," Danelle recalls. "Starting out, there were plenty of tears and late nights trying to perfect my craft. But through prayer and trusting in Yahweh, I've seen my dreams turn into reality." Her faith and determination have been her

guiding lights, helping her establish a successful career while balancing the joys and trials of motherhood to two wonderful daughters.

Photography for Danelle is not just about the photos but about the stories each picture tells. Early in her career, Danelle learned an invaluable lesson about the importance of self-confidence in her art. "One thing I wish I knew earlier was to stop comparing my work to others," she says candidly.

"Everyone starts somewhere, and each photographer has their unique path and style. Embrace your journey, even the failures, because they teach you and help you grow."

How did Danelle hone her impressive skills? It turns out, the secret lies in perseverance and embracing each opportunity as a learning experience. "I got better through a lot of trial and error, and yes, lots of prayer," she laughs. "Every shoot taught me something new, no matter how experienced I became. Starting with free sessions and styled shoots also helped me build my portfolio and my confidence."

Being prepared is key in photography, and Danelle swears by having several backup batteries and SD cards on hand, especially during critical shoots like weddings. "Oh, and a husband to carry your stuff around doesn't hurt either!" she jokes. Her humor and practical tips make her a relatable figure in the photography community.

Seeking feedback is crucial for any artist, and Danelle values honest reviews from her clients and the broader Facebook community. These insights help her refine her techniques and client interactions. When it comes to equipment, Danelle is well-equipped with her Canon EOS R and a versatile 24-100mm lens, complemented by a GODOX V860 flash to brighten up those darker scenes.

Her preferred settings reveal her adaptability and technical knowledge—ranging from portrait mode and aperture priority to auto ISO and continuous shutter, which she adjusts based on the environment and her creative vision.

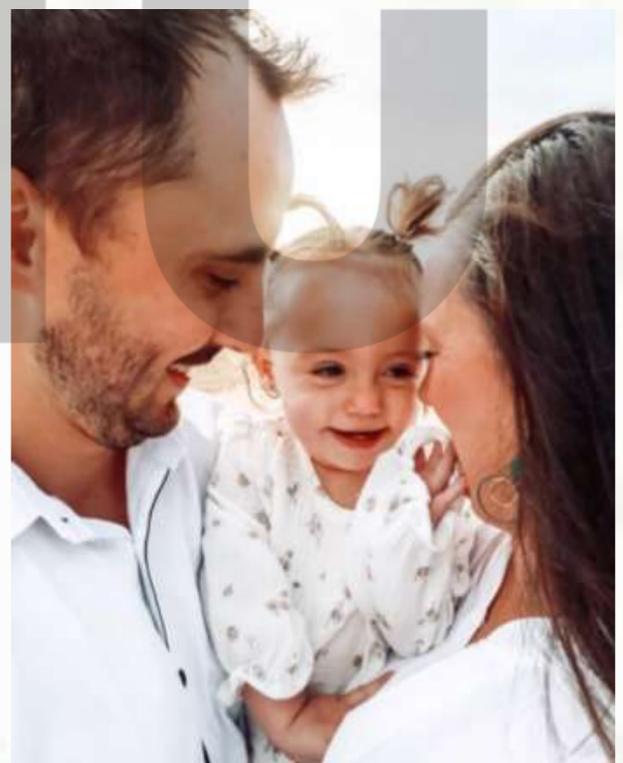
Danelle's approach to photography is as fluid as it is inspired. "I don't stick to a strict focus during shoots; I let the moments inspire me," she explains. This spontaneity has served her well, especially in an era dominated by social media, which she embraces wholeheartedly. "I love using platforms like Facebook to showcase my work and connect with new clients, though word of mouth remains incredibly powerful."

Influenced by notable photographers like Charl Kemp and Shavaune Photography, Danelle advises budding photographers to forge their own paths. "Stick to your style, don't imitate others, and you'll stand out," she advises. For inspiration, she turns to Pinterest and her surroundings, always with an eye for potential and creativity.

Magazine shoots pose unique challenges compared to more candid lifestyle photography, requiring perfection and extensive planning. However, Danelle handles these pressures with grace and professionalism, ensuring a comfortable and collaborative environment for everyone involved.

To explore more of Danelle's work or connect with her, visit her website at www.photoatthebay.co.za or her Facebook page, Photo At The Bay - Photography, Design, Photobooth.

Whether through a lens or a simple conversation, Danelle's passion for photography and her commitment to capturing life's beautiful moments are evident in every interaction and photograph she takes.





Nthabiseng Sethoga

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 120

Resilience, Empowerment, and Grace: The Inspirational Journey of Nthabiseng Sethoga, Semi-Finalist in the Mrs. South Africa 2024 Competition, Championing Change and Breaking Stereotypes in Randburg and Beyond



At 43 years old, Nthabiseng Sethoga is a figure of resilience and empowerment in her community. As a proud semi-finalist in the Mrs. South Africa 2024 competition, she brings more than just her charisma to the stage; she brings a lifetime of experiences and a deep desire to make a difference.

Residing in Randburg but originally from Alexandra Township, Nthabiseng is an award-winning author, a dedicated mother to two boys, and the proactive founder of the Chosen Wives group, a network that supports and uplifts married women.

Nthabiseng's decision to enter the Mrs. South Africa competition was driven by her alignment with its core values. "The pillars

of Mrs. SA resonate deeply with me," she shared, her eyes lighting up with enthusiasm. "It's focused on breaking stereotypes and empowering married women to be the best versions of themselves. It's something I am incredibly passionate about."

Her own story is one of faith and foundation. Raised by a single mother and her grandparents, Nthabiseng was instilled with godly principles from a young age. "My faith in Christ is essential; it keeps me grounded, focused, and hopeful," she explained, attributing her grounded nature and determination to her upbringing.

As a semi-finalist, Nthabiseng has set ambitious goals for her tenure. "I want to be the change I want to see in the world," she declared. "My aim is to bring hope to those feeling hopeless—whether they're struggling with depression, weight issues, or rejection. I want to motivate them to never give up."

Juggling her personal life, career, and her involvement in the Mrs. South Africa competition is a challenging task. Nthabiseng described the balance as tough but rewarding. "After getting the Mrs. SA schedule, I called a family meeting," she recounted. "I explained the commitment required and asked for their patience and support." Nthabiseng also mentioned the financial sacrifices involved, including postponing the publication of her second book to save for competition-related expenses.

Her unique position as a confident and charming plus-size contestant sets her apart from others. Nthabiseng's personal experiences with depression and rejection have endowed her with a deep empathy, which she readily shares with fellow

contestants. "God anchored me before, and He will do so again," she says, offering a message of hope and resilience.

Nthabiseng plans to leverage her platform, particularly through social media and media engagements, to address and influence issues affecting her community positively. The support from her family, Chosen Wives, and other affiliations has been indispensable. "They've been incredibly patient and supportive," she says, highlighting the crucial role her support system plays in her journey.

Reflecting on the significance of her participation, Nthabiseng speaks with conviction: "I am a woman of great influence, a stereotype changer. Mrs. South Africa is equipping me to be the best version of myself." One of her most memorable moments was during the Mrs. South Africa Ladies breakfast. "As I walked on stage, I almost shed a tear thinking of the challenges I faced. But the cheers from the crowd turned it into a moment of triumph, a dream coming true."

Her definition of beauty transcends the physical: "Beauty is how you see yourself in the mirror. You become a reflection of what you feed yourself," she notes. This philosophy underpins her participation in the competition and her message to other women, encouraging them to pursue their dreams with confidence and self-belief.

Looking beyond the competition, Nthabiseng has clear aspirations. She plans to publish more books, raise awareness about weight loss, and eventually open a counseling practice. Her final message as a contestant is poignant and clear: "Body shaming and judging people based on appearances are wrong. We should treat each other as we wish to be treated."

Follow Nthabiseng's inspiring journey on Instagram and Facebook, where she shares updates and insights under her name, Nthabiseng Sethoga.



PPMC Magazine SA

Thandiswa Mazibuko - Shaping the Future of Fashion and Philanthropy





In the vibrant and ever-evolving world of modeling and pageantry, young aspirants often stand out not just for their beauty and style, but also for their vigor and commitment to making a difference. One such inspiring individual is Thandiswa Mazibuko, a 20-year-old dynamo from Nquthu, a northern region in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Juggling roles as a student, model, and hired MC, Thandiswa is already making significant strides in the realms of fashion and philanthropy.

Thandiswa's journey into the world of modeling was sparked by an interest in the multitude of opportunities that the industry offers. "What sparked my interest in the modeling industry is the career opportunities. As an individual, you may explore modeling as a career path, whether in beauty or fashion, and also get to know people from different places," she explains. It was this blend of career advancement and social interaction that drew her towards pursuing modeling more seriously.

Fashion modeling, in particular, captivates her, representing a sector where style intersects with individual expression. Influenced by global icons like Rihanna, Thandiswa admires their flair and audacity—qualities she herself aspires to embody.

Amidst her modeling pursuits, she is firmly committed to her education, strategically planning her schedule to ensure she maintains a balance between her studies, modeling assignments, and personal

growth. "To balance these responsibilities, I plan to create a schedule and prioritize tasks, allocate time for studies, work, modeling, and personal activities. I'll also use calendars, to-do lists, and reminders to stay organized and on track," she shares.

Thandiswa's passion extends beyond the runway; she is deeply committed to charitable causes, particularly focusing on aiding children in need—a reflection of her altruistic spirit. Each year, she dedicates time to charity work, ensuring that vulnerable children receive assistance and support. "I ensure that each year I do charity work in ensuring that children in need get help each and every time I'm around," Thandiswa states proudly.

While Thandiswa has already attended modeling classes to hone her skills, it is the world of pageantry that has particularly facilitated her personal development. Pageantry, for her, offers opportunities not just for accolades but for personal transformation—enhancing self-confidence, public speaking skills, and stage presence.

She approaches each competition with thorough preparation, trained by her mentor and drawing on the experiences of seasoned models. "I normally get trained by my mentor, practice by myself, and also get help from other models who have more international experience," she describes her preparation routine.

With aspirations to be crowned Miss South Africa one day, Thandiswa hopes to use such a platform to advocate for issues close to her heart, particularly mental health awareness among the youth. "I choose to advocate for mental health since the youth gets affected a lot... suffering from depression caused by all the difficulties of life while trying to strive for success," she elucidates on her advocacy focus.

The support from her friends and family is indispensable in her journey. They keep her grounded and ensure she manages her myriad responsibilities effectively. Beyond modeling, Thandiswa dreams of working with international brands such as ZARA, Steve Madden, and Refinery.

She aims to distinguish herself not only through her modeling prowess but also through her resilience and positive demeanor under pressure.

Facing rejection and criticism is part of the modeling industry, yet Thandiswa handles these challenges with maturity and grace. "I never take rejection personally, and I accept criticism graciously and get back on the horse," she says with confidence. Inspired by pioneers like Tyra Banks, who broke new ground in the modeling industry from a young age, Thandiswa is motivated to blaze her own trail.

Thandiswa's interests beyond the runway include baking, marketing, and photography—hobbies that allow her to express her creativity and learn new skills. She is also passionate about travel and trying new experiences, traits that complement her dynamic career.

One of her most cherished achievements came recently when she was crowned as the first Miss IFP Youth Brigade Umzinyathi District Municipal 2024 Queen, a milestone that she holds in high regard. For newcomers to pageantry, her advice underscores the importance of dedication and persistence: "Practice, practice, practice. The more you practice, the more prepared you are, and the better you will do. Remember, most pageant winners have competed before, often many times."

Through her endeavors, Thandiswa Mazibuko is not merely a model; she is a beacon of hope and an inspiration for the youth of South Africa. With her determination, innovative approach, and unwavering positivity, she exemplifies how passion and perseverance can lead to extraordinary outcomes.





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