



PRESS RELEASE

Meet the POPSTARS Judges

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POPSTARS hopefuls; meet the industry professionals that will pave the way to superstardom: **Zwai Bala, PJ Powers and Azania Ndoró.**

In the next months, singing hopefuls will have to pull out all the stops to impress Zwai, PJ and Azania as they go in search for the best South African POPSTARS, exclusively on e.tv on 4 September 2010.

BIOGRAPHIES

Zwai Bala

Zwai Bala, the renowned South African musician and producer, really needs no introduction. This singer and songwriter has been 'wowing' audiences across the country since the age of 11 when he entered The Shell Road to Fame in 1986 and reached the semi-finals. Zwai has come a long way since and has quickly turned his vocal talents into a complete entrepreneurial experience.

Zwai first broke onto the big-time music scene with Kabelo Mabalane and Tokollo Tshabalala, who with Zwai, formed kwaito group TKZee. This group were to revolutionise kwaito completely when they released singles "Take It Eezy", 'holiday hit' "Phalafala" and the ever-popular "Shibobo" which featured Bafana Bafana player Benni McCarthy. Some consider "Shibobo" the song that was a culmination of the group's hard work on their previous album and sold a staggering 280 000 units of the hit single.

Zwai's music career spans not only deep into his youth life, but also far and wide across the world. From being the first black pupil to be admitted into the Drakensberg Boy's School because of his musical talents to pursuing a Master's Certificate in Orchestration for Film and TV through Berklee Music in Boston, Zwai has always been a cut above the rest.

With the success of TKZee, Zwai ploughed his talents into many spheres of music including musical director, acclaimed soloist and record-breaking producer. Zwai more recently has worked on musicals featuring Ali Campbell of UB-40 fame, produced "Grace", the latest album from the two-time Grammy award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir and has been the featured soloist at the Classical FM/ Lexus Soiree at the Sandton Intercontinental.

Zwai has had extensive television experience with performances on local soapies and even hosting various programmes. Zwai was also a judge on local talent search show, POPSTARS South Africa. He's contribution to POPSTARS South Africa was so impressive, that he was asked to be of service to POPSTARS East Africa which saw him tour the likes of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

Zwai's career has seen him rake up awards as a musical director, composer, singer, songwriter, arranger, teacher and public speaker. With all of these accomplishments, the sky truly is no limit for this musician.

PJ Powers

Mention the name PJ Powers and one immediately thinks of one of the greatest musicians South Africa has ever produced. To date, PJ Powers has recorded 16 albums and her accolades are simply stupendous. This powerhouse in the South African music industry started her music career at the tender age of 19, when she formed part of the all-girl group "Pantha" in 1979 as lead vocalist. She then gained experience as lead vocalist in rock band "Hotline" from 1980 to 1987, after which she launched her solo career.

What has made PJ Powers unique and such an inspiration to her audiences and South Africans in general, is her ability to appeal to such a diverse cross-section of people. Her love for traditional African music has seen her produce many hits that have appealed to African audiences in many Southern African countries and this strong relationship with native African music has seen her receive the nickname "Thandeka" or "the loved one".

PJ's illustrious career has not been without hardship. PJ was banned from radio and television in 1988 by the then apartheid government for her performance at a charity concert in Zimbabwe with Miriam Makeba and Harry Belafonte. The then imprisoned Nelson Mandela sent her encouraging words from his cell in Victor Verster prison saying that she should continue her singing.

Her collaborations are a sublime indication of her talent and dedication to South Africa and music and have seen her work with Vicky Sampson, Yvonne Chaka Chaka and M'du Masilela. She has shared the stage with the likes of Eric Clapton, Hugh Masekela, Janet Suzman and Richard E. Grant.

Some say that her collaboration with Ladysmith Black Mambazo on the song "World in Union" which was performed at the Rugby World Cup in 1995 was the event that shot this performer to superstardom.

A more recent collaboration has been with South African hip hop artist HHP, where they've produced the song "Jabulani" which was first performed with "Hotline" back in the 1980's. The new remix of this song has been dubbed the P & J Remix and is one of the singles that are forming part of a whole album by PJ Powers and HHP.

PJ Powers is undoubtedly one of South Africa's finest musicians and serves as a valuable asset as inspiration to the youth and the rainbow nation alike.

Azania Ndoro

Azania Ndoro definitely doesn't have a face for radio. The beautiful and upbeat radio DJ and TV host has fast become one of South Africa's most recognisable faces in the media.

Azania, who hails from Pimville in Soweto, started out in television as a co-host on "The Joint" and then went on to travel to London where she lived and worked for three years. Azania always had a love for television and upon her return from London, presented a variety music show.

In 2003, Azania hosted 'Backstage Live' on e.tv, a live daily programme where she interviewed the soapie's stars and took calls from viewers live every night.

Azania is no stranger to POPSTARS, having been part of the judging panel in 2004. She believes that people are born stars and looks forward to finding the next POPSTARS group in South Africa.

Since then Azania blossomed as a DJ and a producer on radio where she entertained audiences with her music knowledge and insight into the early hours of the morning.

Today, Azania is a rising star in South African media and entertainment and is a good example of what can be achieved if you work hard and never give up.

AUDITIONS DATES

Aspirant singers who think can be the next best POPSTARS are invited to come to the auditions:

DURBAN	21 and 22 August	Gateway Theatre of Shopping (Ster-Kinekor)
CAPE TOWN	28 and 29 August	Tyger Valley Centre (Ster-Kinekor)
JOHANNESBURG	4 and 5 September	Maonya Mall (Ster-Kinekor)
PRETORIA	11 and 12 September	Centurion Mall (Ster-Kinekor)

Ends/

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