



PRESS RELEASE

NEW Documentary: Zulu Surf Riders

TX: Sunday 21 November at 6.30PM

Many surfers scream 'cowabunga' as they climb a 12ft wall of water out of sheer excitement, but KZN's Zulu surfers scream just to let the world know that they can be pros too. See them brave the big waves of KZN's South Coast, cross cultural boundaries, and inspire entire communities with their legacy in the two-part documentary Zulu Surf Riders starting on Sunday 21 November on e.tv at 6.30PM.

We all have preconceived notions about our society. We presume to know what a librarian would look like, or the type of person who'd be a leather-clad biker. Well what about a surfer? A tall, tanned and blonde man who uses words like 'lank' and 'dude'? Perhaps it's a sign of exactly how flexible cultural boundaries are, or maybe it highlights our own cultural stereotypes, but on KZN's South Coast, Zulu men surf in some of the most demanding conditions in South Africa, and they've been doing it for the past two decades, with the community of Umzumbe forming the epicentre of the black surfing community.

The documentary introduces us to the twins Cyril and Mishak Mqade, the real pioneers of this movement. They come from a community with very little resources and where employment is scarce, but they've overcome cultural and financial adversity to make their dreams of surfing possible and achieve success in a white-dominated sport. We see how they have inspired a new generation of Zulu surfers who own the waves.

"The documentary shows the triumphant spirit of the men and boys of Umzumbe. They pursue their passions in spite tremendous hardships and continue to change perceptions of this sport and their communities. As a channel we are proud to bring their inspiring endeavours to our viewers," says Zanele Mthembu, Group Head: Content Production Division.

About the filmmakers:

Carlos Francisco and Andre Cronje are South African video producers with documentary production as a long-standing ambition. Keen surfers themselves, the decision to document this story emerged within their circle of surfing buddies and they decided, along with copywriter Brenen Nortjie to capture the story of the Zulu Surf Riders.

Zulu Surf Riders: Episode 1

TX: Sunday 21 November @ 6.30PM

The first part of the documentary introduces us to the surfing twins Cyril and Mishak Mqade and traces their journey from surfing as a passion to the lauded athletes they are today. It examines local superstitions around the ocean and perceptions of surfing culture. We then look at the growth of surfing as a sport in the Zulu community and see how impactful the sport has been when Cyril becomes the first ever black South African Springbok surf judge.

Zulu Surf Riders: Episode 2

TX: Sunday 28 November @ 6.30PM

Viewers are introduced to the next generation of Zulu surfers, unafraid these boys whistle as they approach giant waves. See how the Mqade twins have become mentors in their community, encouraging youngsters to pursue the sport. Their youthful zeal is balanced with a practical view of the sport as we see how a lack of government funding and sponsorship affects this community of surfers.