



## Press Release

### THE AMSTEL SALUTE TO SUCCESS - AND THE WINNERS ARE...

*e.tv is proud to announce the three winners of  
**THE AMSTEL SALUTE TO SUCCESS.***

***Congratulations Mikhael Subotzky, Penelope Thloloe and Masingita Masunga.***

This popular local series was a televised search for those worthy South Africans whose stories of success best serve to inspire and motivate others to reach for their dreams. The show was also a celebration of the incredible South Africans who have changed themselves and the world around them through their own efforts.

**Masingita Masunga** has given physically disabled people across South Africa the opportunity to make valuable contributions to society through her work. **Mikhael Subotzky** is an extraordinary young artist who graduated from UCT with a Fine Arts honour degree. His work is intimate, bold and unique and it is no surprise that Mikhael was the first person in the history of Michaelis to receive a 100% final year mark. **Penelope Thloloe** is a ballet teacher who has been elected to the Board of Ballet Theatre Afrikan as Director of Satellite projects and is about to turn the world of ballet on its head. Her roots in the Alexandra community are very strong and she has identified a wish in the community of Alexandra for the development of professional dancers.

Each winner walked away with R100 000 for use on a worthy project of their choice.

**e.tv Publicity Department: Rhona Pool (021) 481 4532**  
**Please contact me for high resolution pics of the winners.**

## **SHORT OVERVIEW OF THE WINNERS:**

Their achievements are stories to uplift and inspire...

### **Mikhael Subotzky**



Category: Art and Culture

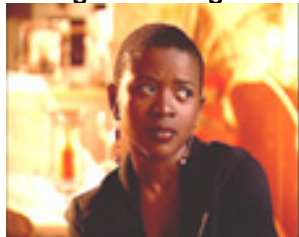
Age: 23

Occupation: Photographic artist

Location: Cape Town

Last year Mikhael graduated with a Fine Art honours Degree from Michaelis, UCT. He received 100% for his final year mark, a first in Michaelis's history. His final exhibition was of photographs of Pollsmoor Prison inmates. He spent an extensive period of time in the prison with the inmates and also looked at exposing broader social issues around the prison. Mikhael has also given the prisoners art lessons for both creative and therapeutic purposes.

### **Masingita Masunga**



Category: Education and Community

Age: 25

Occupation: Petitions for the Physically Disabled

Location: Johannesburg, Gauteng

Gauteng-based Masingita Masunga has given physically disabled people throughout South Africa an opportunity to make valuable contributions to society through various projects created by her Tinyungubyiseni Talent Promotions Company. Masingita suffers from cerebral palsy that manifests itself as a speech impediment. She grew up in Limpopo. Even though her parents treated her like any other child, her community shunned her, they thought they were mad when they sent her to an ordinary primary school, now she is a successful woman in her own right. She is Managing Director of Tinyungubyiseni, an organisation that staged the country's first beauty pageant for the disabled, the Miss Confidence SA competition, and promotes Nyeleti - Star Beyond Limits, a music competition for people with disabilities. A culmination of initiatives undertaken by people with disabilities for people with disabilities, the organisation embarks on

initiatives countrywide. Chair judge of the Arts and Culture category of the Award, Mr Siphon Mabuse says Ms Masunga's contribution to physically disabled people in South Africa makes her a true role model. "Ms Masunga has reached her goals with minimal resources. She is an incredible activist in her field who has risen above her challenging background to make a national impact. She raises funds herself and, without the resources that others have access to, she has become an outstanding role model."

### **Penelope Thlooe**



Ballet Teacher

Age: 24

Ms Penelope Thlooe, 24, has been elected to the Board of Ballet Theatre Afrikan as Director of Satellite projects and is about to turn the world of ballet on its head. Her roots in the Alexandra community are very strong and she has identified a wish in the community of Alexandra for the development of professional dancers. This would result in the production of many dancers that can go out into the marketplace and earn their living from dance. It would also eventually result in a number of qualified teachers of dance from the community. Ms Thlooe trained with Martin Schönberg since the age of ten, won a scholarship to Ballet Rambert, London, and completed 18 months of training there. She was a founder member of the youth company, Ballet Theatre Afrikan, and on her return from Ballet Rambert danced in the professional company. She qualified through the Ballet Theatre Afrikan Academy as a ballet teacher in the internationally recognized Cecchetti Method in 2002. Ms Thlooe has already taken over the responsibility for Satellite School classes (with 250 pupils at present) and more especially founded the afternoon classes in Ennerdale.

Ms Thlooe has already approached the schools of Alexandra and has had an overwhelming response, especially as the project would be based directly in Alexandra. As most children in Alexandra have no means of transport, it would be impossible to put in the hours of training unless the project was based within walking distance. She has therefore identified suitable facilities at two schools for the short term in the heart of Alexandra and is presently spreading the word at the schools. This project is due to begin in the next few weeks.