



## **PRESS PACK**

### **THE AMSTEL SALUTE TO SUCCESS**

#### **1. PRESS RELEASE**

*“Success is peace of mind that is the direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best, to become the best that you are capable of becoming.” John Wooden - legendary basketball coach.*

Hosted by ex Miss South Africa Kerishnie Naicker, The Amstel Salute to Success is a brand new local series on e.tv that celebrates South African success stories. It is also, ultimately, a search for a single South African whose story of success and plans for the future best inspires and motivates each and every one of us.

The Amstel Salute to Success crew spent months travelling the country and was privileged to meet hundreds of amazing people and listen to their stories of success. In the thirteen episodes of this highly anticipated series viewers will meet the 36 people selected as semi-finalists through this process. Each week one of them will move on to the final where they will have the chance to walk away with R100 000 for use on a worthy project of their choice.

What came across strongly in the initial interviews with South Africa's biggest achievers is the following advice: If you really want to get somewhere in life you have to work, you have to invest, you have to persist and sometimes you have to sacrifice. Success doesn't come easily and unless you shape the circumstances of your life, it will end up shaping you.

Over the course of the series e.tv hopes to bring to light the different routes hardworking and talented South Africans have explored to make their dreams come true. These extraordinary people are all eager to share their life stories, whether from rags to riches or managing to overcome disabilities to achieve the almost impossible.

Viewers will also come to know the panel of judges - they have all spent years thinking about success and making it happen. Just a few of the judges are: Moss Mashishi (CEO of JOWSCO), Vanya Mangaliso (fashion designer and founder of the Sun Goddess fashion house), Bob Mabena ( Primedia executive, broadcaster and entrepreneur), Jimmy Dlodlu (jazz musician), Joan Joffe (Corporate Affairs executive, Vodacom), Isabel Jones (Consumer Rights Advocate and television personality) and Gwen Gill (Sunday Times Newspaper social columnist).

Don't miss The Amstel Salute to Success, the only show on television that recognizes genuine success stories from across the country and celebrates the incredible South Africans who have strived to change themselves and the world around them through their own efforts.

**Starts Sunday 5 June at 4.30pm, only on e.tv.**

**e.tv Publicity Department: Rhona Pool (021) 481 4532**

**Please contact me for high resolution pics or a bound version of the press pack.**

## **2. SHORT OVERVIEW OF THE CANDIDATES:**

Their achievements are stories to uplift and inspire...

**Jean Davidson** is the first black woman in South Africa to produce cut roses for both the local and international markets. **Lourens Swanepoel** is a stroke survivor and the founder of Babies Behind Bars. This former business high-flyer did not let a sudden disability prevent him from changing lives in a positive way. **Mayur Lodhia** is a man whose ambitions know no bounds. He was brought up in difficult circumstances but excelled at school to win a full bursary to study actuarial science at UCT. The UK based Institute of Actuaries recently honoured Mayur as being the best overseas student writing their exams. **Themba "Darkie" Mngomezulu's** destiny was to be in fashion. From an early age he was involved with the construction of garments as he and his mother would sell second hand clothes to miners to make money. Hear his story and the details of his big break at SA Fashion Week. Also known as the "struggle doctor" **Dr Iqbal Surve** became an important business figure in the Western Cape when he helped set up Sekunjalo, a successful black empowerment company. **Cyril Mdladla**, a man who knows the world of publishing and deadlines inside out, went from sport's reporter to newspaper mogul – he is a man who believed so passionately in his dream that he was willing to risk everything to make it come true. **P J Sabbagha** always dreamed of the theatre and eventually started his own successful dance company. When **Sandra Africa** got the contract to build retaining walls for a major company, she had no vehicle, no experience and only R22 to her name. Through hard-work and perseverance she educated herself on how to do this work and grew into a major contractor. **Professor Lynette Denny's** commitment to community health is so strong that while she was working full-time at a hospital, she also began working in a converted caravan with women who were suffering from cancer. **Julia Hill** was running a very successful catering company until disaster struck in 2002 and left her unable to work for months. She took this time to reflect on her life and made a subtle change in direction that has made her invaluable to the community in which she works. **Doreen Southwood** has dedicated her life to her art, and is making waves all over the planet. Arnold Tanzer started a catering company that focuses on South African food with a modern edge. He is dedicated to South African cuisine and placing our menus on the international arena. **Masingita Masunga** has given physically disabled people across South Africa the opportunity to make valuable contributions to society through her work. **David April** has a passion for African Dance and received the Tunkie Memorial Award for his contribution. The Gauteng department of Education commissioned him to co-write the Grade 12 African Dance syllabus. **Mikael 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 Mikael was the first person in the history of Michaelis to receive a 100% final year mark. **Diana Ferrus** is a poet and a lecturer whose dedication to the rights of marginalized peoples, and women in particular, has seen her catapult onto the world stage. Her poem, A Tribute to Sarah Baartman, has such an effect globally that it was signed into law in France. **Adenaan Hardien** is a name familiar to many investors as he is frequently asked for his opinion on television and radio. But not many people know the struggle that Adenaan went through to get to where he is today - African Harvest Fund Managers Chief Economist. **Coert Knoetze** is a living tribute to overcoming difficult circumstances. A car accident at the age of 6 left him confined to a wheelchair, but did not stop him from making the most of his life. He has travelled all over the world, is a provincial basketball player and also happens to run an insurance brokerage that turns over more than R20 million a year. **Cookie Edwards** has endured more abuse in her few years on this earth than most people do in a lifetime. You will hear her story in her own words over the next half-hour. She has managed to come through a world of intense violence and do some invaluable work with women who have been abused. **Professor Moja** is the first black woman to head up a major South

African medical faculty. She was born into an educational system that actively sought to suppress her ability to go further, but she made sure that she never lost sight of her dreams. **Grace Mnguni** is currently the Program Director of the Johannesburg office of AFXB, an international NGO based in Switzerland with a focus on women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. **Bulelwa Qupe** is a fishing business owner – this former nursing administrator is fighting a struggle for the economic liberation of Eastern Cape women. **Rehad Desai** is a filmmaker and activist who has worked on HIV prevention before entering the world of film in 1996. His work focuses on socio-political issues and he owns a production company called Uhuru Productions and is an Executive Director at the Three Continents Film Festival. He has also made several films, as well as a broadcast talk show. **Kutlwano Masote** is a cellist and was the first black member of the National Symphony Orchestra. **Dr Walter Stuart** is an orthopaedic surgeon at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, for more than 10 years, Dr Walter Stuart has offered hope to those suffering from arthritis or injuries, infections and defects to their arms. From modest beginnings in a small South African village in Mafikeng, **Thebe Medupe** worked hard to become an astronomer - at the age of thirteen, he built his first telescope and made his own map of the moon. **Flick Asvat** is a social entrepreneur and has started a successful skills mentoring program and has written a book. **Tanya Javanovski** is a businesswoman, author, motivational speaker and mother. She is currently very busy trying to take her networking business nationwide. **Liam Lynch** began photographing whilst studying political journalism at Technikon Pretoria in 1996. His work as a student, documenting campus clashes along racial lines, saw his work picked up by national newspapers and distributed internationally by Associated Press. **Katekani Hlabathi** is a successful software engineer who grew up in the impoverished Chavani Village near Louis Trichard, Limpopo. He first two years of schooling took place under a tree because of limited educational facilities in the area. Dr Mamokgethi Setati is a respected mathematician. She grew up in Garankuwa Township. **Gesie Lategan** is the owner of Domaine Brahms Wine Estate - to move from making a first wine to exporting most of your wine takes some doing, but that is exactly what Gesie has done.

**Walter Nxumalo** is a restaurant owner whose rise to the top began when he started a catering business. At a corporate function he catered that requested African Cuisine, the client loved the food and suggested he open a restaurant. "I learned my business skills from my grandma who used to sell mealie cobs at railway stations", says Walter. **Penelope Thloeloe** 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. **Bernard Marobe** is a mechanical engineer whose dream of starting the first black owned safari operator, Mankwe Safari's, came true through hard work and determination. He has won numerous tourism awards.

### 3. ALL THE JUDGES:

- Khehla Mthembu:** CEO Corporate Affairs, Old Mutual
- Moss Mashishi:** Matemeku Investments.  
CEO, The Johannesburg World Summit Company, or Jowsco & chairman of Matemeku Investments, which has formed a partnership with One&Only Resorts. Mashishi was CEO of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, which attracted thousands of international delegates to SA.
- Vanya Mangaliso:** Sun Goddess  
Fashion designer and founder of the award winning Sun Goddess fashion house.
- Laura Kganyago:** National Director of the Women's National Coalition,
- Diane Terblanche:** Divisional Manager of Enforcement and Exemptions at the Competition Commission of South Africa.  
Prior to this, Ms Terblanche was the founder and CEO of the Consumer Institute of South Africa and chairperson of the National Consumer Forum (NCF) until 1999. She also served as a lawyer at the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg and as Director of the Legal Aid Clinic at the University of the Western Cape in Bellville.
- Bob Mabena:** Strategic advertising executive at Primedia, broadcaster and entrepreneur.
- Jimmy Dlodlu:** Jazz Musician  
Musician: guitar, arranger, bandleader, vocals **Genre:** jazz, fusion, African Jazz. Jimmy received 2 FNB SAMA Awards for "Best Newcomer" and "Best Contemporary Jazz Album" in 1998. He has represented South African culture in the acclaimed Paris Lavillette festival alongside Hugh Masekela, Busi Mhlongo, Dolly Rathebe and Dorothy Masuka.
- Joan Joffe:** Corporate affairs executive, Vodacom.
- Walter Chakela:** Playwright, poet and CEO of Windybrow Theatre.
- Gail Smith:** Editor, City Pulse  
Editor of Pulse Magazine, City Press. Award winning journalist, regular contributor to Mail & Guardian, former deputy editor of Elle magazine, and documentary filmmaker.

**Isabel Jones:** Consumer Rights Advocate, Television Personality.

**Vuyo Radebe:** Blink Magazine CEO.

**Deon Opperman:** Founder of AFDA: School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance.

**Matthew Buckland:** Mail and Guardian.

**Gwen Gill:** Sunday Times Newspaper social columnist.

**Riah Phiyega:** Transnet Foundation Group Executive Director for Corporate Affairs.

**Kaibe Mollo:** Business Unit Director, Herdbuoys

**Alf Khumalo:** Photographer  
Photographer, The Star. Award-winning Khumalo, recently awarded the Order of Ikhamanga, South Africa's highest award for excellence in the creative arts, is a self-taught photographer. His famous photograph of Mohammed Ali is known throughout the world.

**Moagi Bodibe:** Dep Editor of Drum Magazine.

**Ben Filmalter:** CEO, Mugg and Bean.

**Linda Ferns:** GM of Athletics SA.

#### 4. EPISODE BREAKDOWNS:

**Episode 1: Candidates: Mikhael Subotsky, Cookie Edwards, Prof. Leticia Moja**

##### **Mikhael Subotsky**



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.

##### **Cookie Edwards**



Category: Education and Community

Age: 35

Occupation: Women's Abuse Activist

Location: Durban, KZN

Cookie fell pregnant at sixteen and found herself in an abusive relationship. By the time she was 21 she had three children, and had suffered broken ribs, jaws, black eyes... She was abused sexually, physically, emotionally, verbally and financially. After 13 years of abuse her husband was murdered in town, and she found herself a single parent. She started a crisis centre for abandoned children, while working part time for the post office. She then started using her home to counsel and help abused women, helping them to get help. She partnered with the police and various other organisations, receiving support from Geraldine Frazer Moleketi. This resulted in the KZN Intersect Coalition. She was elected as the provincial co-ordinator and now also does outreach to other countries for INTERSECT. INTERSECT employs a new concept and

organising principle to create powerful, multi-disciplinary INTERSECT Coalitions for social mobilization across countries worldwide to end the co-epidemics of HIV and Violence Against Women/Girls

### **Prof Letticia Moja**



Category: Education and Community

Age: 47

Occupation: Head of Medical Faculty, University of the Free State

Location: Bloemfontein, Free State

She was the first black woman to head a South African medical faculty, i.e. She is Dean of the Faculty of Health and Science at the University of the Free State's Medicine Department. Born in Ga-Rankuwa, Pretoria, she studied in KwaZulu/Natal but spent the majority of her life in the Free State.

Her specialisation is gynaecology and cancer research. She also supports the training of health professionals in disadvantaged communities. She currently serves on the Medical and Dental Board and is Vice-President of the Health Professionals Council. She is also acting president of the Provincial AIDS Council and is currently doing her MBA.

### **Episode 2: Candidates: Dr Mthuthuzeli Nyoka, Lourens Swanepoel, Jean Davidson**

#### **Dr Mthuthuzeli Nyoka**



Doctor and novelist

Born in Uitenhage, in the Eastern Cape, Mthuthuzeli's father, Nomabhele Nyokom, was a medical practitioner for close to fifty years. His mother worked as a nursing sister at Livingstone Hospital. Mthuthuzeli fell in love with reading when his parents would use it as a punishment during his childhood. He grew up in P.E and attended Cowan High school. From then on, he moved to study medicine at Natal University. After qualifying as a doctor in 1984, he went on to specialise as an

ENT surgeon. He has had a private practice since 1993. Although he has managed to squeeze in being Chairman of the Gauteng Cricket Board in 2001, and as well as knocking up his first novel in 1998. I Speak to The Silent novel recently published by UKZN Press, and has been well received; he has even been compared to Zakes Mda.

## **Lourens Swanepoel**



Stroke survivor and founder of Babies Behind Bars

Lourens Swanepoel is the co-founder of Babies Behind Bars (his wife is the other founder)

During a Director's meeting on the 8th of July 1996, disaster struck Lourens and his life changed in seconds. In Lourens words: "I suffered a severe stroke while explaining our international vision to the board of directors. Standing in front of them with the nearest chair approximately 5 meters away – reaching it became the biggest goal in my life. I never reached it. Within the space of 4 metres, I lost control over my neck, right arm and hand as well as my right leg, intestines and bladder. From a fit, successful golden boy I was reduced to a pathetic heap of nothing... After suffering my stroke I understood that life is about giving and changing other people's lives. It's not all about you. My wife and I love children (we have 5) and so we started Babies Behind Bars, a fantastic program that looks after children born in prisons."

### **BABIES BEHIND BARS:**

The Department of Correctional Services is faced with the challenge of creating opportunities for incarcerated mothers to raise their children in an environment with facilities conducive to proper childcare. This did not exist prior to our project.

Because of the launch of Babies behind Bars in 2000, there are now crèches & toy libraries in prisons all around the country. The JHB female prison serves as a home to more than 45 babies from birth to age 3. They are in desperate need of care. We have solicited funding from various corporate companies, the main sponsor is the European Union, others are Pick-n-Pay, Game, churches, bible study groups and various other organizations.

I took part in the South African Cycling Championships for Gauteng North and won my first four medals of the five events I entered for. In 2004 I won another four medals and a medal on the able bodies SA Championships. I am training currently for the Beijing Paralympic games in 2008.

## Jean Davidson



### Rose Producer

Ms Jean Davidson is the first black woman in South Africa to produce cut roses for both the local and international markets.

To produce a quality niche crop one must have at one's disposal high technology and proper facilities such as those used by Ms Davidson. She shares techniques and research with international rose producers and is now faring extremely profitably with this high value crop.

She started farming in 1996 on 3 ha and later extended the land to 5 ha and produces some 6 million stems each year. About 60 % of the flowers are sold in Europe, while the remainder is sold directly to local florists and agents. She visits flower auctions and exhibitions in Holland annually, to ensure that the quality of her product meets world standards.

She uses natural resources to improve the soil and works closely with the CSIR in resource utilization by using a coal based fertilizer. She recycles the flowers to improve the texture of the soil.

Ms Davidson currently employs 48 permanent staff members. The staff are promoted to management level within the company and she ensures that her staff receive constant training.

She is currently a member of the Board of the Agricultural Research Council.

### **Episode 3: Candidates: Grace Mnguni, Bulelwa Qupe, Rehad Desai**

#### **Grace Mnguni**



#### **NGO Director**

Grace Mnguni is currently the Program Director of the Johannesburg office of AFXB, an international NGO based in Switzerland with a focus on women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2000 Grace single-handedly set up and established the South Africa office from the ground up.

In the five years she has been with AFXB she has created programs in Soweto, Alexandra and Witbank. The programs, ranging from after school for children to income generating activities for women, have an 85% success rate and there are always more people on the waiting list than the field officers have capacity for.

Grace is a woman with an amazing capacity for multi-tasking and even more amazing is her innate ability for networking and teamwork. So although her title of Program Director denotes that she is working toward her goals for the organization she represents, she is simultaneously accomplishing much more.

Grace invites volunteers and professionals from overseas to stay in her home in Soweto on a regular basis. She has an uncanny sense of what others need and is quick to make guests feel at home and her sense of humour infuses everything she does.

Grace's gift of networking with other professionals, both nationally and internationally has helped her to create an amazing array of both support and referrals that buoy her in her work. The motto that can be heard by anyone who is around her long enough is: "there is always something to learn from another person."

Amazing Grace as she is known to many of her friends is a tireless worker who gives little heed to her title; in fact, when the grunt work needs to be done she is right there with her employees.

Grace excels in her role as grant writer and is even used by one of her funders to help review proposals and facilities of other grass roots organizations around Africa.

During her years at AFXB she has garnered the funding support of organizations such as: Anglo-American Chairman's Fund, De Beers, Firelight Foundation, Mother Bear, Momentum, just to mention a few.

Grace sits on several boards and has judged at contests such as Youth Leader of the Year. She also intermittently reviews books for the publisher Hesperian Foundation which specializes in emotionally abused children.

One of Grace's biggest gifts is her inspiration to those that work with and for her. Many of those who have worked with her are now directors themselves, having absorbed the fundamental philosophy that she embodies. The philosophy Grace lives is that anything is possible if you apply yourself.

Grace has not come from a wealthy or privileged background but she has made the very best of who she is. She prides herself in learning something new every day and she never keeps that knowledge for herself.

Grace has in effect, given herself to her work and in doing so not only does commendable work but is also a model and inspiration for so many other women and men in her field.

Grace is well travelled internationally, having attended several AIDS conferences and addressing press conferences in Europe and North America.

She transcends cultures as if the entire globe were her home. It is clear that in her young life her accomplishments are only the groundwork for where her life will take her. For nothing can hold down a woman of such strength and vision.

### **Bulelwa Qupe**



#### **Fishing Business Owner**

If you'd asked Bulelwa about her owning a business three years ago she would have laughed at your face. A fishing business noga!

Bulelwa was then a registered nursing administrator and a Community Health Nurse concerned with healing her fellow beings. But now she's fighting a different struggle - that of economic liberation not only for herself but for Eastern Cape women as well.

When an opportunity for women to apply for fishing rights arose she jumped at it and before long she was passionate about an industry she never thought women should dabble at in the first place.

She started Aqua - Fish & Chips Shop in Motherwell Township in 1995 and is currently the Managing Director of this business as well as a member for Ezabantu Fishing, a close corporation owned by seven women. She was the first black woman in the Eastern Cape to obtain a fishing license and quota.

But that's not enough for Bulelwa she's now started an exporting company, Buntu Marketing and Exporting, that is responsible for selling fresh fish to Spain. In this venture her business associates, Pesca Fresca Latandi, are mentoring her. The new company is combination of Ezabantu cc and Mazidlekhaya Fishing while Bulelwa personally holds 50% shareholding and both companies have medium term rights in hake longline and inshore trawl and will be involved in buying and exporting abalone (perlemoen). "The aim is to expose us to the export market and to steadily build up the Buntu brand overseas especially in Spain and Asia, the largest consumers of fresh fish. It was also a business move to ensure that we'll be an active empowered company and be hands on at all levels of the business," says Bulelwa.

Her immediate plans are to expand their product base by venturing in the highly competitive and exclusive abalone processing and export business. The building has been checked and complies with the standards set for abalone exports, an South African Revenue Services approval has been granted and a Sea Fisheries permit will be granted before July 2003, her deadline for the commencement of operations. "We've already done market research and we'll be exporting our abalone to Hong Kong. As part of our community development activities we intend offering 10% shareholding to the black communities situated along the coast that have abalone trade permits

in the new Gonubie export company. This will ensure that even after selling their abalone to us, they will receive long-term empowerment and rewards," says an upbeat Bulelwa. Because she believes forearmed is forewarned she went about educating herself about the fishing industry. She also completed various Certificate courses in business and a Module in Mariculture on an Honours level. Bulelwa strongly believes in economic empowerment and community development and she believes networking goes a long way in ensuring that women as well as communities are informed about opportunities for empowerment. As a result she is involved in numerous community activities and serves on the task group for the development of Port Elizabeth Harbour. She is also a member of the Nelson Mandela Metropole Chamber of commerce, the secretary of the Hake Longline Association as well as serving on the national board, an executive member of the Eastern Cape fishing forum, and is an Eastern Cape representative of the South African Women Entrepreneurs Network (SAWEN). On top of that she juggles a marriage and is a doting mother to four children ages between 25 and 9. Like almost all entrepreneurs of colour, starting out presented enormous problems especially with access to finance. "I approached the Eastern Cape Development Corporation in 1997 which offered a R50 000 loan and luckily business went well and I paid it off in two years. I used to have fish supply problems and when I heard on radio government offering fishing rights to women, it seemed like God sent opportunity. I formed a co-operative with seven interested women and as Ezabantu applied and we eventually obtained a quota of 33 tons of fish, an equivalent of 3 boat trips per annum at 12 tons each. Each year our quota increased and we're now at 122 tons," she says triumphantly. At the moment Bulelwa employs 24 people in the fishing boat that bring in her fresh fish and 10 more people at her Motherwell fish and chips shop.

## Rehad Desai



### Filmmaker and activist

Rehad spent most of his earlier years in exile. He completed his History Degree in Zimbabwe. He completed a Masters in Social History at Wits University. He then worked on HIV prevention before entering the world of film in 1996. He has kept close to his roots, never forgetting how South African politics has shaped his life. His work focuses on socio-political issues. He owns a production company called Uhuru Productions, and is an Executive Director at the Three Continents Film Festival. He has also made several films, as well as a broadcast talk show.

Rehad Desai is Producer and CEO of UHURU. He began his career in print media in 1986 while living in India. There he freelanced for the Times of India for six months. He then went to complete a history degree that began in London and was completed at the University of Zimbabwe. In 1996, Rehad entered the TV and film industry as Producer, where he has focused much of his energy on historical and socio-political productions

On his return to South Africa, he became a media and training officer for the South African trade union movement and completed his Masters in Social History at WITS University. He worked in HIV prevention, before entering the world of film and television as a producer/director in 1996, where he focused his energy on historical and socio-political productions.

He grew up in exile in the UK because his father Barney Desai was a political activist. Rehad returned with his father in 1990. His father died in 1997. Rehad was arrested in 2002 when he

was marching in the Freedom of Expression March so he is still politically active. They were protesting against the world summit that was being held here. He has also actively protested against the Iraqi war.

#### **Episode 4: Candidates: Kutlwano Masote, Prof. Denny, Sandra Africa**

##### **Kutlwano Masote**



Category: Arts and Culture

Age: 32

Occupation: Cellist

Location: Johannesburg, Gauteng

Kutlwano was the first black member of the National Symphony Orchestra. He has performed in all sorts of mediums with the country's best musicians. From Marcus Wyatt (jazz legend), to backing ballet companies, to several of the country's symphony orchestras. He is an inspiration to aspiring musicians.

Born in Soweto in 1973 into a musical family, Kutlwano studied the cello from the age of eleven under his father. After matriculating from St. John's College, he went on to study music at Wits University where he was the recipient of several merit prizes including the Pack Sisters Prize (awarded to the most promising string instrumentalist). In 1995 he was offered a scholarship to take a place at the prestigious International Menuhin Music Academy in Switzerland at the recommendation of Lord Menuhin himself. He was also awarded the Premyslav Overseas Scholarship in 1996. Upon returning to South Africa, Kutlwano became the first black member of the National Symphony Orchestra in 1998. As soloist he has appeared with the National Symphony Orchestra, the North-West Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Conservatory Chamber Orchestra, the Free State Symphony Orchestra, Camerata Lysy (Switzerland) and the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. He also featured at the Ingolstadt Festival (Germany) as the guest solo artist in 1996 and 1998 and at the Maitisong Festival (Botswana) in 2000. In 2000, Kutlwano was invited to perform the complete cycle of Beethoven's compositions for cello and piano at RAU's chamber music series with pianist Jill Richards. He is also a member of the Motswako String Quartet. He has sat on the board of directors of the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra in 2001 and currently serves on the board of the Johannesburg Music Initiative and the Tirisano Khulanathi Music Research and Development Project whose focus is in audience development and music education. He joined Classic Fm in 1999 as a presenter of Classic SA promoting South African composers and recording artists.

### **Prof. Lynette Denny**



Category: Education and Community

Age: 47

Occupation: Research into preventing cervical cancer, administering cervical cancer treatment in Khayelitsha

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape.

Professor Lynette Denny has saved the lives of countless women through her commitment to combating the huge spread of cervical cancer in disadvantaged areas. In her words: "...everything was always like walking through mud and had to be done on shoe-string budgets. Initially we used a converted caravan as a clinic room parked next to a primary care clinic in Site C Khayelitsha. It was literally back breaking work and I ended up with two major back operations..." After her research started to yield results she began to get funding from various sources. They had to expand into ship containers, as there was no space for them in the primary health care clinics. They faced many obstacles such as training researchers with no research history, or even trying to be accepted in a black community as a white woman. While she was doing all of this she was carrying her normal workload at another hospital where she didn't find support. But her hard work has paid off and her research has found an alternative to pap smears, which could save a quarter of a million lives every year. She also works in fighting child and women's abuse. She is conducting studies into rape and its effect on people's lives; the effect of HIV on cervical diseases; and trains undergraduate and postgraduate students at Groote Schuur.

### **Sandra Africa**



Category: Business and Commerce

Age: 42

Occupation: Founded and runs Corporal Construction Company

Location: Outshoorn, Western Cape

The eldest of 9 children, Sandra started to run the household when she was in standard 2 and her mom and dad became ill. In standard 6 their family home was bulldozed to the ground by the government and she and her whole family were relocated to Dysselsdorp (population 23 000) under the Group Areas Act.

Their lives were filled with adversity and she desperately desired to be able to offer her family and everyone she knew, employment. She was the first woman to tender for a building contract in her area but was turned down because she had no experience. In her words: "A white man got the job". So for two weeks she went to the building site early every morning and asked them to let her be a sub-contractor. She says she knew that the only way the people in Dysselsdorp would get work would be if someone from there (herself) got a contract. Eventually the boss was so tired of her that he gave her a small sub-contract to build retainer walls. Having no experience in the building industry at all, she went to the local library and studied how to build retainer walls. Then she found some matriculants who were hanging around, went back and started building. She had no bakkie, no bank account and only R22 to her name. She has since registered Corporal Construction, a company that has been subcontracted by construction giants such as Group Five and Grinaker. Africa has put her hometown of Dysselsdorp near Oudtshoorn on the map as a major construction player in the area, and her company's involvement in building projects has brought employment and a better life to the majority of the town's 23 000 residents. Empowering the people around her, Africa has assisted community members in everything from achieving their drivers' licences to opening their own businesses. Her building, civil and road construction company has landed a number of contracts in the Oudtshoorn area, and she often manages contracts worth several millions of rands.

From her early days of buying one bag of cement at a time and owning a hammer and a screwdriver, Africa now plays a key role in the region's development. Other interesting facts: Was one of the first people in Byselsdorp to get a drivers licence... Started an advice office to help illiterate people fill in official forms and faxed them for the community... Very involved in AIDS education with NOKOSA and NAPWA. Won Category Business Woman of the Year Award 2003.

## **Episode 5: Candidates: Adenaan Hardien, Diana Ferrus, Coert Knoetze**

### **Adenaan Hardien**



Category: Business

Age: 32

Occupation: Chief Economist, African Harvest Fund Managers

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape

Adenaan came from a poor family in one of the more notorious slums on the Cape Flats. He was born in Kenwyn, but in 1978 his family was forcibly removed to Mitchells Plain, as Kenwyn was declared a whites only area. He still managed to build up solid academic qualifications and currently enjoys a position that is usually the domain of white males. Armed with two masters' degrees in Economics, Adenaan is a passionate advocate of the value of economic input to the broader investment process, and makes sure he is always abreast of the latest trends. As African Harvest Fund Managers' Chief Economist, a position that he has reached over a short span of time, his input into the investment process is crucial. He is also a key conduit through whom the

company shares its views with the broader public. He is now a well recognised voice and face, appearing frequently for national economic commentary on radio and television. Adenaan is also a keen teacher, always willing to explain complicated economic reasoning to both internal trainees as well as for external training workshops.

### **Diana Ferrus**



Category: Arts and Culture

Age: 37

Occupation: Poet/Lecturer Industrial Psychology

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape.

Diana Ferrus is a camp fighter for the reclamation of marginalized African women to reclaim their place in society. She literally merged poetry into law to forever entrench the rights of women when her poem, Tribute for Sarah Baartman not only saw the famed remains sent home but, in a first-ever, the poem was published into a French law. This event captured the imagination of the world and put Ms Ferrus on the international stage as a writer, poet, performer and successful campaigner for justice and human rights. She actively promotes black Afrikaans women writers and raises funds for their development and hosts poetry-writing workshops for illiterate and semi-literate women, capturing the history of the women involved. This year Ms Ferrus helped establish the Writers Association of South Africa and she currently assists in the nurturing of the Khoi women now surfacing in Afrikaans literature.

### **Coert Knoetze**



Category: Business and Commerce

Age: 37

Occupation: MD Staysure

Location: Durbanville, Western Cape.

At the age of sixteen Coetze was in a car accident that left him a paraplegic. After finding a school that could accommodate a wheelchair he finished Matric and entered the business world. But the idea of travel was too appealing so he took a gap year - he funded his trip by working in a

kibbutz kitchen for six months, and managed to visit 11 countries. When he returned he found his “feet” and took a job as an insurance broker. He soon realised that this was the ideal environment for him. He started a tiny brokerage firm office (4m x 3.5m) with a partner. He bought his partner out 9yrs ago and now employs 10 people, has a 2500 strong client base and a turnover of R20 million/yr. He is one of the Mutual & Federal Top 10 brokers, SA Eagle Top 10 and Santam Top 20 brokers. He is a member of the Cape Chamber of Commerce as well of the Insurance Brokers Council of South Africa. In his personal life he has 3 daughters, a wife and 4 properties, and amazingly has his Eastern Cape Colours in Basketball.

## **Episode 6: Candidates: Themba Darkie, Doreen Southwood, Arnold Tanzer**

### **Themba “Darkie” Mngomezulu**



Category: Business and Commerce

Age: 28

Occupation: Owner and Designer “Darkie”

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape

Contact: TBC

Themba grew up in poverty in Thembisa, and he and his mom used to sell second hand clothes from handouts to make money. They would wash and iron them and then take them around to be sold. Once the churches started giving out clothes they began to prosper. They did so well that his mom had enough money to buy a house. His clothes and designs use only recycled garments, and he now has his clothes in all the most stylish stores in South Africa.

### **Doreen Southwood**



Category: Arts and Culture

Age: 29

Occupation: Sculptor Fashion Designer

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape

Doreen Southwood (born, Cape Town 1974) currently works and lives as an artist and clothing designer in Cape Town. In 1999 she completed a degree in Fine Art at Stellenbosch University. She continued to practice as artist as well as lectured at Stellenbosch University and Cape Town Technikon. In 2001 she had her first solo exhibition at the Bell-Roberts Gallery in Cape Town. An interest in public art was sparked off with the Dutch sponsored project Homeport in 2001 at the V&A Waterfront. In 2001 and 2002 she was one of the top ten finalists for the Absa atelier. In 2003 she was awarded the Sasol prize at the Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees. Later in 2003 she was the first winner of the Brett Kebble Art Award. Her work is found in corporate and private collections in SA, Europe and the US. Recent exhibitions include the Dakar Biennial in Senegal, Decade of Democracy at the South African National Gallery in Cape Town and Forty/Veertig at the Sasol Museum in Stellenbosch. She was selected to take part in the exhibition Personal Affects: Power and Poetics in Contemporary South African Art, hosted at the Museum for African art as well as the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City, August 2004.

At the end of 2004 she spent six weeks in the town Tilburg (Holland) after being selected with Willem Boshoff and Nicholas Hlobo to work on proposals for the Vrijplaats public sculpture competition for the city. In 2005 she was awarded the public sculpture project in Tilburg and invited to submit her final drawings and plans. The date for installation still needs to be determined.

She is also planning a painting exhibition for later this year in Cape Town.

Other interests include clothing design and this led to the opening of the retail outlet MeMeMe in January 2003 with designer Kirsty Bannerman of clothing label Coppelia. Due to the success of this small venture in Long Street, Cape Town, Kirsty and Doreen are currently applying to Cavendish shopping centre for retail space, also in Cape Town.

## **Arnold Tanzer**



Category: Business and Commerce

Age: 37

Occupation: Chef and owns Food on the Move, Catering, also educates people in industry.

Location: Johannesburg, Gauteng

Arnold was the first name to be brought up in the food and beverage industry by the editor of Food and Home Magazine. He has a catering company in Braamfontein that focuses on South African food, with a modern edge.

They also consult both private and corporate clients on issues relating to food and beverage. He has conceptualised restaurants and run kitchens all over the country. The last restaurant is Joburg was Delicatessen, an upmarket restaurant and deli. He has also won several awards for cooking, and recently participated in the most prestigious cooking competition in the world. He is Vice President of the South African Chefs Association, Continental Director on the World Association of Cooks Society, a lecturer on African Cuisine at the Prue Leith College of Food and Wine, and a member of the Chaine des Rotisseurs.



## **Episode 7: Candidates: Dr Walter Stuart, Thebe Madupe, Flik Asvat**

### **Dr Walter Stuart**



Orthopaedic surgeon

At Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, for more than 10 years, Dr Walter Stuart has offered hope to those suffering from arthritis or injuries, infections and defects to their arms. He first realized the need for a specialist centre to deal with arm / upper limb ailments during 1996 & 1997 when he studied in England. There were units designed to specifically treat these problems all over Europe and North America, but none in Africa. So, in 1999 he started raising money to build one in Baragwanath, where the Orthopaedic dept has always been the busiest dept in the hospital with over 110 hand ops being carried out each month. Hand ops also being the highest number of ops done by the hospital overall.

Because hand ops are not considered “high-profile”, raising money for the hand unit was very difficult. So he took it upon himself to do so. Although the modest father of two would hate to admit it, he is credited with single-handedly bringing the centre to fruition – to the extent of digging into his own pocket and working weekends to get the project off the ground. He raised R5.9 million from mainly mining companies like Anglo American and Gold Fields. And the Hand Unit will finally be opened in August 2005. The spokesman for Gauteng’s Dept of Health, Simon Zwane, said the community would greatly benefit from the new “world-class” services at the hospital.

### **Thebe Medupe**



Astronomer

When Halley's comet passed near the earth in 1986, it sparked off Thebe Medupe's interest in astronomy. At the age of thirteen, he built his first telescope and made his own map of the moon. Thebe came from modest beginnings in a small South African village in Mafikeng, called Ramosadi (a village with no electricity or running water). His mother took care of the three boys (Thebe is middle one) and his father worked in construction as a labourer. But because his parents wanted the best for their son, they struggled and sent him to a good school, Mmabatho High in Mafikeng.

When still at Mmabatho high (at 13) part of a school project theme week was a topic on astronomy. After doing his own extensive research at the school library, Thebe then made his first telescope, with cardboard boxes and lenses that he borrowed from the science lab. His keen interest in science led him to start excelling in the subject and in 1990, he won the Bophutatswana region's Science Olympiad. The prize was a trip to London to the Youth Science Fair (his first time out the country). The first thing he wanted to do as soon as he got there was to see the Greenwich Observatory and once he arrived there, he fell in love with it and "wanted to spend all my life there." This is where his love for astronomy began. He went on to obtain his degree in Physics and Applied Mathematics and also majored in Nuclear Physics.

Thebe went on to obtain his Masters in Astrophysics from the University of Cape Town (with a distinction), to become one of the first three black South African astronomers in astrophysics. His research focuses on the use of sound waves, generated inside stars, to probe the interiors of a particular class of pulsating stars (astero-seismology). He is currently working and continuing his research at the SAAO - the South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town and is also a visiting lecturer in physics and astronomy at the University of the North West in Mafikeng. He is the leader of the University of the North West's newly established theoretical astrophysics programme that he founded over two years ago.

### **Flick Asvat**



### **Social Entrepreneur**

Flick started a skills mentoring program and has written a book. She is a social entrepreneur and the founder of Altered Attitudes. She has written regular articles in Progress Magazine, a publication focused on sustainable development. In her articles she advised corporate executives, government and civil society on strategies for organisational and social transformation. In May 2004 she published 'Let us do this thing'. Her book presents a comprehensive strategy for corporations to implement their Broad-Based Socio-Economic Empowerment (BBSEE) Charters."

The Altered Attitudes Concept was developed over twenty three years and tested in various contexts - on individuals, groups and broader society. It was endorsed by the Chief Researcher, Senior Psychologist and Psychotherapist at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in 1993. In 1994 it was tested on a group of managers at QData Dynamique. In 1998 it was applied as a methodology to transform communities. In 2002 it was decided to promote the professional training to corporations and it was refined and adapted within the context of national and global requirements. In 2004 the concept was applied to transform rural communities, accelerate skills development and the establishment of compliant businesses. The concept is applied within legislative frameworks such as the National Skills Development Strategy, the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, the National Qualifications Framework, and the implementation of national and global labour and quality standards.

**Episode 8: Candidate: Mayur Lodhia, David April, Masingita Masunga,**

**Mayur Lodhia**



Category: Business

Age: 24

Occupation: Investment Analyst

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape

Mayur's father left the country when he was 2yrs old, leaving his mom to bring him up alone. He still excelled at school receiving the 12th highest mark for Matric in KZN. Based on this he received a full bursary from Norwich Life to study actuarial science at UCT. He has had numerous job offers overseas but has decided to stay in South Africa. He has just become the first Black South African to win the Charles M Stern Award (from the UK based Institute of Actuaries) for the best overseas student writing the exams. At 24, Mayur is destined for greatness, and he aspires to run a South African financial services company. But for now he is happy to learn from the industry and develop his remarkable skills.

**David Thatanelo April**



Category: Art and Culture

Age: 35

Occupation: Executive & Artistic Director of Moving into Dance, Mophatong

Location: Johannesburg, Gauteng

David has been working in the performing arts for 12 years in various capacities. He was born in Kimberley, and has been performer, choreographer, teacher, fundraiser, dance activist, judge and reviewer. His work has taken him all over the world as both choreographer and performer. He has also won many awards as a dancer. Most recently he has been commissioned to write the Grade 12 African Dance syllabus for the Gauteng Department of Education.

## **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 Siphso 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."

## **Episode 9: Candidates: Tanya Javanovski, Liam Lynch, Katekani Hlabathi**

### **Tanya Javanovski**



Businesswoman

Tanya Javanovski is a businesswoman, author, motivational speaker and mother.

She was born in Spain to a Jewish Yugoslav mother and Australian Father. She moved to South Africa when she was two. She is currently very busy trying to take her networking business nationwide. She loves nature and her children - twin girls of 11 yrs and a boy of 14yrs.

Tanya grew up in Cape Town, and after matriculating gained her experience from organizing promotional events from the age of 18. She believes the unstinting enthusiasm and almost compulsive determination has driven her to succeed beyond even her own wildest dreams. With all the trappings of financial success and public recognition, it is, however, her charity work, her appointment as Patron of the Cup for Cancer project and her role as founder of the Women in Business networking club that have given her the greatest joy and fulfilment.

In Tanya's own words: "If you have love, you have everything but the only way to get love is to give it. Invite love and laughter into your life on every possible occasion, and learn how to appreciate what you have: if you do, you will always have enough. Train your mind to be calm, loving and kind. Be an inspiration to others and you will always be happy. Choose to fill your mind with positive energy; remember the kind words people say and the good things they do and forgive those that don't say or do either. Let love surround everything you do, and you will be guaranteed happiness for yourself and all those around you."

## Liam Lynch



photographer

Born in 1976, Liam began photographing whilst studying political journalism at Technikon Pretoria in 1996. His work as a student, documenting campus clashes along racial lines, saw his work picked up by national newspapers and distributed internationally by Associated Press. Upon completion of his diploma, Liam commenced freelancing as a news photographer, though soon became frustrated and turned to other related means of support (photographic editing, layout and design) while continuing to work photographically on more long-term and personal projects.

As Liam's work began to concentrate more on the documentation of urban community life, through music, youth and counter-cultural groupings, he also came to work at South African History Online, a web-based educational resource and publishing company.

During his time there, he was responsible for book and exhibition production of several key projects, as well as photographing for several of SAHO's publications. He also shot socio-economic projects for the South African Department of Public Works, as well as the Development Bank of South Africa, before leaving to freelance once again, upon joining South Photographs in 2003.

He is currently working on a personal project "... Son Take A Good Look Around", documenting the working class community he did much of his growing up in, which Nedbank has shown recently across South Africa as a work in progress, as part of their "Profiled Artists" showcase.

## **Katekani Hlabathi**



### **Software Engineer**

Katekani grew up in the impoverished Chavani Village near Louis Trichard, Limpopo. He first two years of schooling took place under a tree because of limited educational facilities in the area. However he still managed to excel and was given a scholarship from Standard 8 to study science subjects. He finished Matric in 1991, and was sponsored by CSIR to study an Electrical Engineering Diploma at Technikon Witwatersand. He then began working as a technician at CSIR. Not satisfied with his qualifications, he enrolled in Computer Engineering fulltime at the University of Pretoria. During this time he was still working part-time at CSIR to support his family, as he was the family breadwinner. He now works as a Software Engineer at CSIR's Defence Technology Business Unit. Last year Katekani and some of his Matric Friends started an Annual Career Day Initiative to educate learners about career options.

## **Episode 10: Candidates: PJ Sabbagha, Cyril Mdladla, Dr Surve**

### **Peter Sabbagha**



Category: Art and Culture

Age: ± 35

Occupation: Choreographer

Location: Johannesburg, Gauteng

After graduating and lecturing for a period PJ founded the Forgotten Angle Theatre Company, where he remains artistic director. His work pays special attention to HIV/Aids in South Africa. In 2003 he founded Artists Doing Aids (ADA), which brings together a group of like-minded and socially responsible artists, who are committed to addressing and responding to the presence of this pervasive disease.

PJ presently serves as a board member and director for the Dance Factory and is involved in teaching and creating work with their youth programme. He has also developed a training programme called the Anti-Retroviral Theatre (ART), which was influenced by his focus on

HIV/AIDS. He has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Daimler-Chrysler Award for Dance and Choreography, and an FNB Vita award. At present he is the 2005 Standard Bank Young Artist.

### **Cyril Mdladla**



Category: Business

Age: 45

Occupation: Editor in Chief, UmAfrika Newspaper

Location: Durban, KZN

Cyril grew up in Umlazi Township in Durban. After Matric he started working as a sports writer for Ilanga, the country's largest Zulu newspaper. In 1987 he became editor of UmAfrika and increased its circulation to 60 000 as an alternative news source during the height of repression and violence in Natal. The newspaper sought to expose the corruption behind the conflict. He then spent the nineties working for various papers around the country as a political journalist. When The Independent on Saturday was released he joined as deputy editor. In 2001 he cashed in his savings and together with Andy Stanton revived UmAfrika after its liquidation. They launched the paper with R200 000. UmAfrika now has a turnover of R5 million and it employs about forty freelance and permanent staff. He continues to contribute stories to the Business Day and also contributes to radio and television discussions. Another feather in his cap is that as he was a keen footballer in his youth and founded Cosmos Football Club, now Jomo Cosmos, in the 1980's.

### **Dr Iqbal Surve**



Category: Business and Commerce

Age: 42

Occupation: Doctor and Businessman, CEO of Sekunjalo Investment Serve. A holding company with investments in health care, fisheries, IT, property and financial services.

Location: Cape Town, Western Cape.

Iqbal describes his career path as: "activist, doctor, businessman..." Iqbal grew up in Harfield in Cape Town until his family was forcibly removed to Lansdowne by the apartheid government. His father always wanted the best for his kids so through his corner cafe he managed to put five of

them through medical school. Throughout high school and university was involved in activism. When he left university he set up the emergency services group to look after victims of torture under PW Botha's government. He became known as "the struggle doctor". His work in the Eastern Cape eventually invited unwanted attention from the government. He therefore returned to Cape Town and tried to find work. He couldn't return to Groote Schuur because he was too close to the prisoners from Robben Island. So he approached Tim Noakes to work in sports medicine. He then did his honours in sports medicine. Around the time of the first democratic elections he decided to focus on medicine instead of politics. He set up a sports medicine centre in Lansdowne, and became Bafana Bafana's and Mandela's Cape Town doctor. He then saw that the Cape was lagging behind Johannesburg in terms of empowered companies and he and a few others started Sekunjalo to introduce a new approach to economic empowerment to the Western Cape. They set up the company with less than R1 million from various investors. Today the company has an annual turnover of over R350 million. Iqbal tries to maintain a socially conscious approach to business.

## **Episode 11: Candidates: Dr Mamokgethi Setati, Julia Hill, Gesie Lategan**

### **Dr Mamokgethi Setati**



#### **Mathematician**

Mamokgethi is a dynamic multi focused mathematician. She grew up in Garankuwa Township to a poor but proud family They survived on oranges and pap. Her father encouraged all of his children to work towards a university degree. She now holds a PhD degree in maths and lectures at Wits University. But her work is far further reaching than that, not forgetting her roots, she is involved in community work, and wants to try and improve perceptions of maths in the country, to debunk the myth of maths being a higher status subject, especially amongst disadvantaged kids. She is currently national president of the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA); the South African representative to the International Commission for Mathematical Instruction (ICMI) and an executive member of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education. She is the managing editor of Pythagoras, a South African mathematics education journal that is accredited by the National Department of Education. She writes for newspapers and has done work in rural communities. She is also involved in the "adopt a learner" programmes.

## **Julia Claire Hill**



### **Caterer**

In 2000 Julia started a catering company, which soon started to take off, until late in 2002 disaster struck when she badly burned three fingers and the thumb on her right hand. For three months she couldn't do things like hold a knife. This was an eye opening moment and she decided to help people who hadn't been as fortunate as her. She started helping kids at the Johannesburg School for the Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disabilities Children, who had lost appendages like noses or fingers due to burns. Many of the pupils she taught were blind so she helped do lesson plans for them that included using senses like smell or touch. She also became a trustee for the school and lectures in townships on nutrition and hygiene. Once her catering premises increased she started training people who had survived burn accidents on how to work in a kitchen and work with people. These burn victims now have gainful employment and earn a salary. They also donate edible leftovers from functions to the needy.

## **Gesie Lategan**



### **Owner Domaine Brahms Wine Estate**

To move from making a first wine to exporting most of your wine takes some doing, but that is exactly what Gesie Lategan of Domaine Brahms has done. Ms Lategan, who was then still a practicing advocate, persuaded her husband in 1989 that they needed to buy a neglected farm in the Paarl district. She resigned her job and started studying at Elsenburg College of Agriculture where she obtained her Diploma in Cellar Technology in 1992. A serious car accident in 1991 meant that she could not start farming immediately. She went back to the Department of Justice until 1996 when she decided to give farming a go with the help of a farm manager and more labourers. However, Ms Lategan was still in charge of all planning and was involved in all aspects of farming.

Her passion for farming has won her numerous accolades including the Farmer of the Year award in 2003/04 (this being in both genders). Having achieved this in a male dominated industry is a

great feat. She has even taken it upon herself to dedicate her time to doing motivational work in disadvantaged areas, where she motivates and teaches women in these areas all the skills they require to become farmers in their own right.

Ms Lategan became a member of the Paarl Vintners, an organization of Paarl winemakers, in June 2001. She is currently Chairperson of the Board of Directors, the first woman to have this position.

Ms Lategan has made it her mission to train young people from previously disadvantaged communities to work on the farm. Ten people are employed permanently with another three used in rotation. Between 30 and 40 women from a nearby squatter camp are employed in season. Two older women on the farm look after the children of the younger women.

Her other awards also include being the Female Farmer of the year in the National Markets for the Western Cape and runner-up in the same competition countrywide. She was also the Female Farmer of the year for the export market for the Western Cape in 2003.

## **Episode 12: Candidates: Walter Nxumalo, Penelope Thlolo, Bernard Marobe**

### **Walter Nxumalo**



Restaurant owner

In his own words Walter related his lifestory and route to success: “ I was born in Soweto on the 5th of April 1971 and I was part of a big family who battled to make ends meet. My mother earned a meagre salary by selling second hand clothes during those apartheid years but tried to give me the best education she could.” (She sent him to high school, one of the best the best private schools - St Ansgars in Lanseria.) “The other kids had lots so we used to admire them and told myself one day things would go my way.” After matric he went to work to help his mom. He started selling pap and vleis at stadiums at big matches and in 1997 he started a catering business. At a corporate function he catered that requested African Cuisine, the client loved the food and suggested he open a restaurant. “I learned my business skills from my grandma who used to sell mealie cobs at railway stations and my uncle who sold apples and sweets in the trains. The police would come to confiscate all our goods often, because we were selling illegally but didn’t have too many problems and we would be left in abject poverty until we could get things together again. Opportunity came when Transnet and Gauteng tourism came for a tour of Soweto. My mother and I catered for the function and we were spotted immediately by Transnet management who invited us to come and have a look at the unused restaurant at the top of the Carlton Centre. It was called Top of Africa. When we arrived we didn’t hesitate to offer to take it over. We now own Top of Africa Restaurant and Bar, the highest Restaurant in Africa.

We acquired another restaurant at the JHB Art Gallery and another outlet at Ubuntu Kraal for catering services during events in Soweto.

### **Penelope Thloeloe**



Ballet Teacher

Ms Penelope Thloeloe, 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 Thloeloe trained with Martin Schönberg since the age of ten, won a scholarship to Ballet Rambert, London, and completed 18 months 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 Thloeloe 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 Thloeloe 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.

### **Bernard Marobe**



Mechanical engineer

Bernard grew up in a town near the Pilanesburg National Park, and he first started working as a mechanical engineer for Sun City. The next year he moved into the park to start working as a

tracker in the park. He then began working his way up into management positions. In 2001 Bernard decided that he wanted to play a bigger role in the South African Tourism Industry. In order to follow his dream of owning a game park he sold everything he owned, including two of his cars and his house, "If I had a wife at the time I could even have sold her..." He thus started the first black owned safari operator, Mankwe Safari's. Mankwe is located in the Pilanesberg Nature Reserve and is close to Tlabane where he grew up. Bernard feels that the tourism industry is still too white, but that his company made a major breakthrough in changing the status quo in the sector.

Bernard has won numerous awards in tourism namely: Top Ten Conservationist Award, Community Development of the Year Award, and the ETEYA Emerging Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year Award).

Episode 13: FINALS

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