



Creatives Magazine

Issue 5 | March 2023

Creative Arts Role Models beyond Borders



**The Flamboyant
Skhothane
uStigo
owuswidi**

**Meet the Prolific
Joburg based
Creative
Intercessor**

**Jaycee
RapAddict's
Rap Attack!**

**He is a Resilient
Virtuoso
Sfisoman**

**The staunch
Pan-African
Maskandi artist
Nqamebomvu**

**King KG, an
eloquent
Poland-based
Zimbabwean
writer**

**A MASKANDI
MUSIC PRO -
INCENGAKAZI**

**A Philanthropist
and a Creative
in one shape
D Major General**

**The Ngadlangadla
Bizzah Skhulu**

**The Gospel Prowess,
Lindiwe Machacha**

**The Big Animal
Sibanjana
Junior**

The Gaborone based Sisters of Faith

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Matabeleland South



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 5th Issue of the Creatives Online Magazine

It is my pleasure to inform you that your favourite read, the Creatives Magazine is a unique female-dominated brand that comprises of a team of 3 females (Chief Executive Officer, Editor in Chief, and Editor) and 2 males(Art Director and Web Director). Content creators include 5 females and 1 male. This indeed is inspirational and challenges women to rise up and dominate the media space. Since the establishment of this thrilling Creatives Magazine in January 2022, the team has continued to work even harder to make it simply the best, most creative, most engaging and most dynamic online magazine. This issue unleashes the Matabeleland South (Rainbow-Province) creatives as they beckon within and beyond borders. It shows in a blow-by-blow sequence how Matabeleland South has suddenly beamed to be the cradle of creative artists. The scope and the trend-setting genre takes the community of online readers along a path of trials and tribulations that the multi-talented creatives have conquered. The content creators bring forth a positive picture of struggles and immediate fateful experiences within the Rainbow Province and abroad. The successes scored through collaborations with established performers, give the reader a different and positive impression.



The diction that dominates the presentations creates a distinct brand that is cherished by the vibrant young generation. From the multiple achievements attained by the creatives coming from humble backgrounds, one easily discerns the triumph of hard work and perseverance from a simple beginning. The dominance of the arts as a possible path to stardom comes shining loud and clear. This issue brings forth the possibility of a collection of the creative industry's building blocks towards vivid, informative and outstanding national documentaries for online consumers. Thank you for checking out the Creatives Magazine, we hope you will like it as much as we do.

Dr Trenance Khoza
Editor in Chief

Creatives Magazine

Meet The Team



Sithokozile Sibanda is the founder of Rainbow Province Creatives Private Limited, an entity that focuses on the production and distribution of an online/digital magazine called the Creatives. The organization also provides the artist professional management services and documentary production. The startup was established in January 2022, and so far 4 issues of the magazine have been published. On 24 December 2022, Creatives Magazine was honoured with an award recognition where it received an Outstanding Online Media, merit certificate of nomination at the Roil Bulawayo Arts Awards, RoilBAA. Sibanda is a multi-award-winning Arts Journalist, the noteworthy award being the prestigious Outstanding Print media Journalist award received from the National Arts Merit Awards, NAMA in 2022. Sithokozile is a cohort 3 fellow from the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, AWE and a cohort 5 fellow from the African Women Entrepreneurship Corporation, AWEC. The two organisations, AWE and AWEC equipped her with the prerequisite knowledge and skills that led her to start a creative industry brand. Sibanda is a media and journalism expert, a publisher as well as a presenter at local and international seminars. She is a holder of the following qualifications, a Master of Science Degree in Journalism and Media studies, a Post Graduate Diploma in Media and Society studies as well as a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Media Studies. Her academic and professional basket is assorted with a plethora of certificates where she specializes in journalism, media and the creative industry. She is a mother of one baby girl, Thabiso Jewel Dube whom she proudly describes as a huge blessing from God.

Meet The Team



Trenance Khoza (Dr) is a Language Research Fellow at the Midlands State University National Language Institute. She holds the following qualifications: a PhD in English Language; a Master of Education in English Language and Literature; a Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication Studies; a Diploma in Special Needs Education; a Diploma in Education; and a Diploma in Christian Ministries. Her daily duties include language editing and research. She is a seasoned teacher educator and a scholar who has taught in schools, colleges and universities in Zimbabwe. Dr. Khoza has worked as a lecturer, handling both Communication Skills and Research Modules. Her works include supervising research students doing their undergraduate and higher degrees studies. In addition to the above, Dr. Khoza does External Academic Examining for PhD candidates with some universities in South Africa. She is a published scholar who has presented at both national and international fora. Dr Khoza is currently the chairperson of the Zimbabwe Academic Non Fiction Authors Association (Gwanda Chapter). Spiritually, Dr Khoza is a born again christian who believes in the Second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and is passionate about soul winning and teaching the word of God. She strongly believes that all things can be done through Christ who strengthens us.

Meet The Team



Hellen Maphosa is the Chief Executive Officer of PM Clothing Private Limited, a clothing manufacturing company with a focus on the production and distribution of classic high quality clothing. This, the company has done for more than nineteen years, and works as a supplier for organisations like Edgars stores, Power Sales and others in different areas of operation. Being a fashion designer by passion and profession, she joined the family business officially in 2013 and took the reigns in 2019. Under her management, the company was honoured with its first award, an effort award from Powersales National Supplier in December 2020. Maphosa is a cohort 3 fellow from the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a fellowship that pushed her to pursue her passion and neglected skills, writing being one of them. She is currently a presenter at the international church-based television station, Prophetic Channel of ECG, The Jesus Nation Church. There, she also does editorial work. Maphosa completed a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Clothing Fashion Design and holds a Graduate Diploma in Fashion Design as well as a few other certificates and diplomas in various fields. Maphosa is a mother of one, a daughter, LaTisha. She is her angel and princess from whom she learns daily and strives to set an immaculate life example for.

Meet The Team



Priscilla Xeshelihle Moyo-Maseko affectionately known as 'Prie' or 'Xesha' is a young phenomenal and versatile lady whose vision is to see an inclusive, progressive society.

Priscilla is an Administrator at Joshua Nkomo National Foundation, a nonprofit organization which aims to preserve the legacy of a 19th-century authentic leader Dr Joshua Nkomo who paved way for unity and freedom in Zimbabwe. Priscilla is a holder of an Honours degree in History and International Relations from Midlands State University. She also holds various certificates that include a certificate in Entrepreneurship, Website Development and Website Design as well as a certificate in Justice. The ambitious and zealous lady's passion for an inclusive society propelled her to venture into humanitarian work, she volunteers in projects that empower the vulnerable in the community. Donating school stationery and sanitary wear. Priscilla became an autism Awareness Ambassador in 2021 in order to lobby and advocate for the rights of people living with disabilities and to ensure that people with Autism are included in society. In 2021, Priscilla was selected to study Civic Leadership through the Young African Leaders Initiative Southern Africa cohort 11. In 2022, she was once again selected for the African Civic Engagement Academy through the United States embassy and the University of Georgia. Xesha's versatility compelled her to venture into literature, she writes inspirational novels and has since published three novels. The young lady is also delighted to join the Creatives Magazine this year, where she is one of the writers. Prie aims to work hard to meet her goal of an inclusive society and she aspires to hold a PhD in the near future.

Meet The Team



Khayelihle Moyo (professionally known as Khaya Moyo) is a reputable radio presenter and producer, corporate director of ceremonies and voice-over artist. She is passionate about the media space, one of her most notable achievements being the youngest female personality to co-host a radio breakfast show in Zimbabwe. She has demonstrated her flexibility and exceptional talent through hosting flagship shows on radio and currently leads the content creation team as a content producer for Skyz Metro FM. Beyond radio, Khaya is a communications consultant specialising in Public Relations, Reputation Management, Brand Positioning and Digital Media Management. She is a graduate of the prestigious Academy of Women Entrepreneurs, AWE, cohort 3; a program run through the US Embassy. With a background in community developmental work, Khaya is passionate about education, particularly literacy development. At present, she is studying towards a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Communication. As a member of the Global Change-makers network, she represented Zimbabwe at an international youth summit in Brussels, Belgium. She is the former chairperson of Twimbos Giving Hope Bulawayo chapter (an initiative founded on the principles of using social media as a tool to mobilise resources for the underprivileged). Khaya is also a published writer, having her work featured in a collection of short stories.

Meet The Team



Witness Timothy Hadebe is the founder of Tamaa Arts. This is an arts house that focuses on managing literature, music and theatre arts events. The house was established in June 2021. The house has produced various theatre plays and theatric music pieces so far. Witness's brand, Tamaa Arts has been invited to grace many events as a guest house and sometimes as entertainment organisers. Witness is an actor of par excellence, a creative director and majors as a writer. He has started a growing movement tagged Witness Timothy Hadebe novels, which is an online platform that gives inserts of other writers' products to readers. Witness Timothy Hadebe has hosted the national unity day celebrations as the Master of Ceremony. He has also acted as one of the leading actors in the Dstv Amanxeba Program. Witness is also a chorister who has mastered the theory and practice of choral music. Witness also boasts of being multilingual being able to speak Ndebele, English, Xhosa, Shona, Sotho and Venda fluently. He has worked as an interpreter for these languages. Witness is a young man who is inspired to see a smile on every face he comes across as he believes that the main goal of living is being happy. Witness is also an ambassador for emotional and psychological wellness.

Meet The Team



Sikhanyisiwe Sibanda is a journalist and a media studies professional who loves writing and spends most of her time reading and writing. Born in Matabeleland South from a small village called Bhalula in Gwanda South. Sibanda is the last born in a family of nine. She did her primary education at Bhalula Primary School, thereafter she went to George Silundika High School for her secondary studies and then did her Advanced Level studies at Mzilikazi High School. At Mzilikazi High, she was part of the school Press Club called Mgandani Times, she was also a public speaker. That is where her passion for journalism grew and she had to pursue her dream at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). With family support and good friends, her dream came true. At the moment she is a holder of a Master of Science Degree in Journalism and Media Studies and she has a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Journalism and Media Studies. Sibanda has worked in the Media Studies field as a lecturer at the Creative College of Arts Africa (CCA- Africa). She has also worked at NUST and Zimbabwe Open University. She is also a mentor for youths and loves teaching them about different things, especially about good behaviour and self upkeep especially girls. She has so much love and care for youths and she says her dream is to help so many youths through educational campaigns especially focusing on issues like drug abuse and teenage pregnancy. Although she has many commitments, Sibanda is a proud mother of three handsome boys, whom she says she feels are a great blessing to her and her husband Future Mpilwenhle Gumbo. She still finds time to take care of her little ones whom she says give her a thousand reasons to keep on pushing in life.

Meet The Team



Sihle Nkiwane is a multi-talented individual who has worked in the public relations and marketing fields. Nkiwane has also served in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education as a teacher in rural Nkayi. She is a holder of a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in English and Communication Studies from Midlands State University and a Bachelor of Social Science Special Honours Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation. Sihle is a content creator at the Creatives Magazine. She is also pursuing a career in monitoring and evaluation with CNFA-Amalima Loko. Sihle also enjoys writing. She has written a dissertation on Africana womanism, with specific reference to Tsitsi Dangaremba's texts. Sihle is a mother to a handsome young boy Bandiswa Kona, her sole pride and joy. Among other interests, she has a passion for agriculture and issues affecting women and children.

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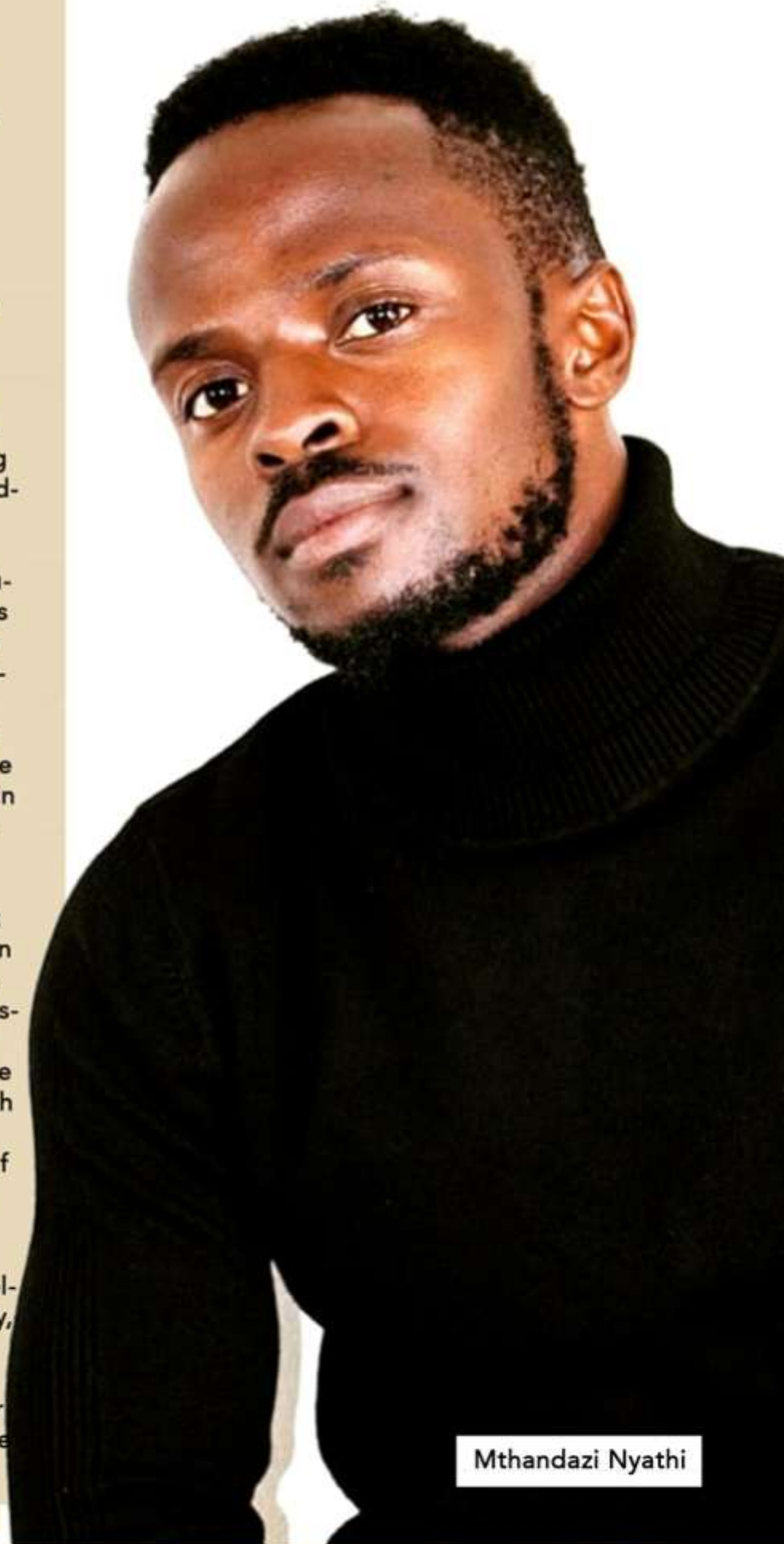
Intercessor

By Sithokozile Sibanda

Excelling beyond borders, making waves outside his home ground and raising the Zimbabwean flag high from his base in South Africa is a young man called Mthandazi Nyathi. He is well known in the arts world as 'Intercessor'. His stage name simply buttresses his already strong character that shows how passionate he is about what he does in the arts and entertainment industry. When one is in a field of their calling, surely nothing and no one can take anything away from them. The level of dedication he carries, coupled with commitment makes Intercessor stand out as one of the most courageous and trailblazing creatives from our beautiful rainbow province, Matabeleland South of Zimbabwe.

The young man born in Manama area in Gwanda, a place where he also grew up, is currently based in South Africa. There, he is pursuing his music career. The Afro-pop genre is his area of specialty, this is where he feels most at home. "I'm a versatile musician but my main genre is Afro-pop", he says. Since childhood, Intercessor has had a strong passion for music. Growing up, he used to be the best vocalist at school, church choir, as well as drama group. These were early tell-tale signs of his hardworking and passionate nature.

The Joburg-based, creative reveals that his zest for music developed in the year 2019. Previously, he had gone down the acting path. He however felt less inclined to this area of art but later joined his friends who were in the music industry and thus truly



Mthandazi Nyathi



"When I started music I made it a point that into yami yonke engiyenzayo ilabadala phakathi ukuze ihlonipheke"

found his footing. He does acknowledge the contributions he made while in the acting field when he discloses that he formed one of the illuminated drama groups of that time. Manama Kom-Unite in Arts (MAKUA) is the name of his brain child. A drama group he affectionately defined as, "the best in entertainment during that time in the whole of Matabeleland South". Intercessor pays tribute to the two members of the group who have passed on, that is, Boiketlo Malemane and Jonias Dube (may their dear departed souls rest in eternal peace). The MAKUA group is sadly survived by just two members, a young man, Ntuthuko Mabulala and himself.



Intercessor explains how he moved to South Africa in search of better survival and how he got off to a great start. He found himself in "The Queen" and "Isibaya", soap operas where he used to come in often times as an extra. "I decided to go to South Africa to look for a better job and continue my acting career. As I arrived, I found an agency that I worked with and I was doing extras on the soapies "The Queen" and "Isibaya" that air on Mzansi Magic. Unfortunately, things did not go well because I did not have adequate documents to get a big role on television, I kept pushing until I met South African guys who were doing music".

Intercessor is a creative who has done incredibly well in the arts and entertainment sector and light-heartedly, he boasts of the several accomplishments under his name. With us he revisits some areas of his music that he has enjoyed as the years went by, "In the music industry I enjoy doing shows, creating new music and touring new places". This is a man who has done some commendable collaborations with big names in the music world. The year 2019 saw the release of his 8-track album titled Ngisemathandweni. This is an



album that houses such amazing songs, songs that will surely get one in their feels. Sobabili, Buhle bakho, Ngivumeleni featuring the late P Brian, Girl of my dreams, Ingilosi (Ngirozi) featuring Dino Mudondo, Uthando Lwami, Ngisemathandweni feat P Face(Mozambique) and Lance Hebron and Bengikuthandile where he featured Dino Mudondo, the Rasta Kwasa artist, with whom he made Ingilosi (Ngirozi) song. The album Ngisemathandweni was the first he ever released. This is an album that set him on a pretty high pedestal as it launched him into the music industry and



went on to win the best album of the year title at the 2019 first edition of The Eminent in Sports, Music and Academic (TESMA) awards held in Gwanda, Zimbabwe. That same year, the song Ubhle bakho received a nomination for the best RnB song at TESMA. Intercessor did it again in 2020 when Inde Lendlela, a result of collaborating with the Bulawayo-based artist, Leslie, scooped the Best Afropop

song of the year award. Intercessor's musical journey is far from over. He has proceeded to release five singles which he proudly lists; " I did a Sobabili remix featuring Trevor Dongo. There are two projects also released that seek to promote the Sotho culture which are Ko Gae featuring Mtee Bolamba and Still You feat Zizikazi and Q. Mpu-melelo, the Konke Sizokulungisa single is a cover song

for Martin from Ndolwane Super Sounds. Martin was so gracious as to grant me permission to do it and release it under my distribution. Another single that I have released is Inde Lendlela featuring Leslie Kampila. That is the one which won the Afro pop song category at the TESMA Awards". Intercessor has also worked with Bhadilah, Gettie Diamond creating some great works.

Intercessor highlights that the rest of the songs that he has are features and are doing well on the streets. He is featured on an Amapiano song by Zizikazi and Leslie Kampila titled Imbengwana yothando(Kahari kerudo) where they sing in 5 languages: Ndebele, Sotho, Shona, English and tongues, (yanda ndere boshanda). "I am also featured on a song by a South African upcoming and promising singer called Yanda Trap-Skandi, the title of the song is Impumelelo.

"Trevor Dongo proved excellent and instrumental as we worked on the remix for my song called Sobabili that is part of the album", adds Intercessor. Intercessor recorded his first single in 2019 in South Africa at Ice n Flame Studios where Lance Hebron was his producer. "I started taking music seriously because of him, Lance Hebron". He is happy to share that DJ Drummz is the producer he mostly



works with in his projects and adds that the two understand his direction as far as his music is concerned. The single was received with thunderous applause and the excitement from his audience is the force that pushed him to work on his album, *Ngisemathandweni*. Intercessor is optimistic as his music is largely played on Zimbabwean and South African major radio stations, "So far I am 100% sure that my songs are playing in Zimbabwe on Power FM, Radio Zimbabwe, National FM, Khulumani FM, Skyzmetro FM, Ntepe Manama FM, and in South Africa on Siyathuthuka FM, Nongoma FM, and Hilbrow FM. The Afropop star explains how his music is different from that of the creatives of his age, "I do music for the elderly as compared to what my mates do. Most of their music focuses on the young generation and I think this is one of the reasons why I always make it in big stages". Intercessor also explains how his kind of music appeals to different audiences when he says that he has a wider fan base as he focuses on Afro-pop, deep Afro-pop and the current Afrobeat in order to accommodate everyone and mostly the elderly listen and support his music. Intercessor believes that more influence is among older people, this is where the credibility and the seriousness of his art in the music industry can be found.



He mentions that there are few youthful influencers hence he receives all the support mostly from the generations that came before him. "When I started music I made it a point that into yami yonke engiyenzayo ilabadala phakathi ukuze ihlonipheke". Intercessor makes it a point that every day he works on improving his style in the art of music and is privileged to work with renowned artists who give him all the hope that he is surely on the right track. "I was welcomed well into the music

industry, working with bigger artists shows how big I am even though I used to doubt myself, today I can safely say that the future is bright". This creative icon from Manama is currently under the mentorship of Lance Hebrouitar. He comes out each time with lessons he believes will help improve his music using his own



skills and these will help in exploring his creativity as much as he can. "If I master the keyboard techniques I can be perfect enough, I can play or compose songs using my own skills, but if there is nothing that I know about playing the guitar it becomes difficult, it means I will always have to rely on someone else's creativity". He also adds that the ability to play the guitar will also mean that in some of his shows, he can play the guitar by himself, a goal he will surely reach in no time.

"I want to learn everything elemusic phakathi ngoba yiyo impilo engifuna ukuyiphila, maybe later on I will be doing all these things on my own and lokho kuzongenza ngibe lolwazi kakhulu noma nje iproducer idlala ngami ngisheshe ngibone ama mistakes", concludes Intercessor with a little smile lighting his face up■



Chocolate Stigo

By Priscilla Xeshelihle Moyo-Maseko



colourful character and impeccable dancing skills are exuded as he sets the dance floor on fire with his dance skills. "I have been a dancer from a very tender age and my young brothers have always supported me. At that young age, one of them asked me - " what name will you use on stage because you dance like nobody's business? You do sweet things, chocolate-nandi-nandi-lollipop." I did not reply to him but just kept quiet. Three days later, at a birthday party, I danced like nobody's business. A man asked my two young brothers for my name. "it's Chocolate Stigo.", they emphatically responded and that is how my stage name came about." Chocolate Stigo is also determined to live up to his name providing his audiences with nothing but only the best in terms of entertainment.

Chocolate Stigo, born Mayford Nyathi, is a multi-talented musician and dancer from Gwanda, Matshetsheni. He was born and bred in Nkashe Ward 1 and Ward 22 under the chieftainship of Chief Mbiko Masuku in Zimbabwe. Chocolate Stigo, born on 17 July 1993, did his primary education at

Nkashe and South Hill primary schools. He then went on to Nkashe High School, before proceeding to study boiler making at Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Polytechnic. The multipurpose Chocolate Stigo is currently based in Pretoria, South Africa where he is pursuing his music career. Born a dancer and entertainer, Mayford Nyathi's stage name, 'Chocolate Stigo' befits. His

" I learnt to dance when I was seven years old and I was self-taught...I was in love with music as a dancer from school..." Stigo has always been aware that he was a unique child with a God-given talent that many can only dream of and so, continued to push himself to realize his dream.

Stigo is a proud 'S'khothane', whose music career was inspired by the likes of Big Nuz, Kalawa Jazme, Trompies and Alaska. He is a vocalist and makes different genres of music like House, Gqom, Afro house and Afro-pop, which he began in 2018. Stigo has two music albums under his belt. The first album titled 'Imnandi impilo' was released on 1 December 2020, it's a thirteen-track album with two music videos. The other album, 'S'cula nonstop, was released on 3 March 2022. This one is an eleven-track album with one music video. Chocolate Stigo takes pride in his music videos, "wachoma sokunyathela" and "Gologo" being some of his beautiful works. In them, the world gets to see just how amazing his dancing game is!

Chocolate Stigo is not one to shy away from showcasing his talent. He always leaves the crowd asking for more. Stigo has performed in different places like Pretoria, Mpumalanga, Soweto, Jozi, Tembisa, Oliven and Centurion in South Africa. Back home in Zimbabwe, he has performed in most parts of Matabeleland South such as Gwanda, Vumba, Garanyemba, Ntepe, Manama, Filabusi and Silalathani. To boost his career, Chocolate Stigo has collaborated with various other artists like Jaycee Rapaddict from Kalawa Jazme, Jika boys group, boss Goldie yispege-nege boi, Intercessor and Jassy A from Motswedding F.M South Africa. Plans for a show in Zimbabwe in April 2023 are underway and he hopes that the show will be

like no other. Everyone should gear up to see this icon, Sweet Chocolate do his thing. After completing his tertiary education at Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo polytechnic, just like other youths, he went on a job search to no avail. Being a young man with the responsibility of supporting his siblings, he began selling firewood via scotch cart in Gwanda town. Although this earned him some money to support his mother and siblings, it could by no means give him security. This forced him to move to South Africa in 2012 in search of greener pastures. Upon arrival, he quickly learnt that things were not at all as glamorous and rosy as he had expected. Once again, he found himself struggling to find a job in his field of study. An opportunity to sell achar

presented itself and Stigo wasted no time in taking it. Later on, he joined the construction industry, where he was when one day, as he hoped, landed a job in boiler making. The boiler-making job was a dream come true for the smart and grateful Stigo who has maintained the job to date. "I moved to South Africa in 2012, ngaqala ngaspana ngisenza iachar ngaza kuconstruction ngishay'ifosholo ngingudak-aboy, after that, I got a job in boiler making.", he recalls. Although Stigo was now operating in his dream job in South Africa, he could never abandon his music passion and will forever be grateful to DJ Mtharimba and DJ Malackean who made music a dream come true for him. He happily narrates; In 2019, I met DJ Mtharimba and DJ Malackean. The two helped me to record. Because I had already written some of my own tracks, I got more and soon after that, I dropped a single track whose title is "Imoto". This track put me on the map and was my introduction to many. I pushed myself until now and those DJs pushed my music to a higher level, and I remain thankful to them. Chocolate Stigo's passion and zeal for music propelled him to start his own company, Stigo

entertainment. According to him, "At Stigo entertainment we teach new artists how to sing, to push music and how to dance at no fee." Stigo entertainment welcomes

every talented individual between the ages of 10 and 23 years to come and learn how to do music and to learn dancing skills. Stigo has not yet received any awards or recognition and he has not submitted his name for any awards because he believes he still has to push himself to do better and to work harder.

As an artist, Stigo faces numerous challenges like any other artist in the industry. Most of the challenges are financial and impair the recording of music and creation of music videos. Moreover, the effects of COVID-19 placed many people in turmoil.

Chocolate Stigo was also hard-hit by the effects of COVID-19. His career was just at its grassroots when COVID-19 hit the continent forcing his music career to come to a standstill.

This, however, did not deter him as he pushed himself when COVID-19 eased, leading him to release his first album in December 2020 and his second in 2022. A determination highly commendable is what he has displayed, not only in music but also as a general trait throughout his working life. His message to other artists and the upcoming ones is, "work hard and don't be shy to put yourself out there."

Push, no one can push you to work hard but yourself, ungehlu-leka today, vuka uzame again tomorrow." However, Stigo alludes to the positive results of his music career, he says bookings for performances help him financially. He has managed to raise money to record his music, do his music videos as well as fend for his family. He appreciates his God-given talent which has managed to change his life for the better.

Matabeleland South in Zimbabwe, according to Stigo is indeed a rainbow province, colourful, with a vast abundance of talent. Matabeleland South province is home to many artists from different ethnic backgrounds and some are still struggling to get recognition and showcase their talents. He believes that there is a greater need to help each other in order to discover this talent hence he launched Stigo Entertainment to help others reach their full potential in the Arts industry.

As the first born in his family, it was his goal to attain an education in order to help fend for his mother and siblings. He juggles boiler-making and music, making it seem effortless. Nyathi owes his boiler-making career to his mother who worked hard after the death of his father to take him to college. After the passing of his father, it was hard for his single mother to fend for her family, especially with the challenging economic situation in Zimbabwe. His phenomenal mother never abandoned her children, she believed that education was the key to her children's success and she worked hard to give her children an education. Stigo describes his mother as 'imbokodo'. A woman who went against all odds and

" God bless my lovely Mom
yimbokodo uGogo UmaTshili, uyasebenza
umama lamanje lokhe nje ezisebenzela. "

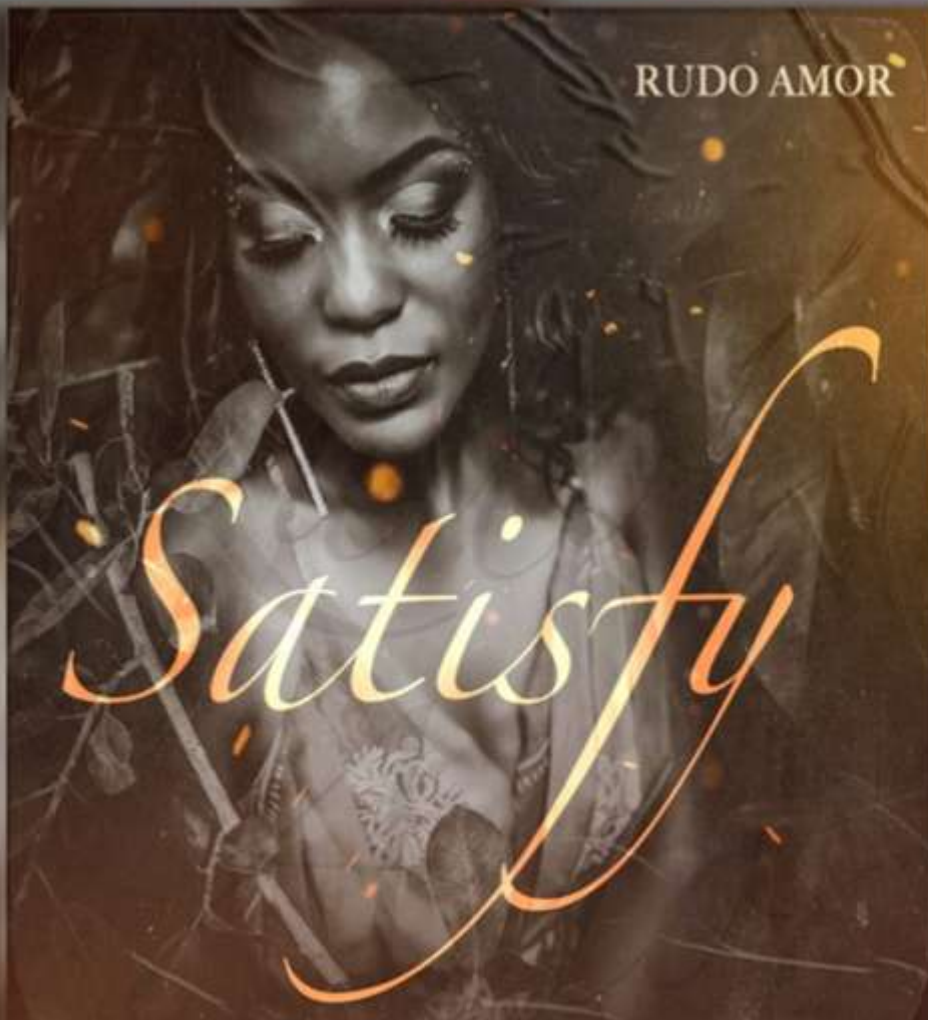
Push, no one can push you to work hard but yourself, ungehlu-leka today, vuka uzame again to-morrow." However, Stigo al-ludes to the positive results of his music career, he says book-ings for performances help him financially. He has managed to raise money to record his music, do his music videos as well as fend for his family. He appreci-ates his God-given talent which has managed to change his life for the better.

Matabeleland South in Zimba-bwe, according to Stigo is indeed a rainbow province, col-ourful, with a vast abundance of talent. Matabeleland South province is home to many artists from different ethnic back-grounds and some are still strug-gling to get recognition and showcase their talents. He be-lieves that there is a greater need to help each other in order to discover this talent hence he launched Stigo Entertainment to help others reach their full po-tential in the Arts industry.

As the first born in his family, it was his goal to attain an educa-tion in order to help fend for his mother and siblings. He juggles boiler-making and music, making it seem effortless. Nyathi owes his boiler-making career to his mother who worked hard after the death of his father to take him to college. After the passing of his father, it was hard for his single mother to fend for her family, especially with the challenging economic situation in Zimbabwe. His phenomenal mother never abandoned her children, she believed that edu-cation was the key to her chil-dren's success and she worked hard to give her children an edu-cation. Stigo describes his mother as 'imbokodo'. A woman who went against all odds and



worked hard to give her children a life better than her own. In appreciation, he expresses, "Engingakutsho kumama yikubonga kakhulu inhlonipho lothando asiphe lona lokusigcina angasideli njengabantwabakhe. Umama wathi kithi, "bantwabami umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu" God bless my lovely Mom yimbokodo uGogo UmaTshili, uyasebenza umama lamanje lokhe nje ezisebenzela." Stigo raves and brags about his mother and the two share a special bond as his mother also supports him in his music career. Stigo also made a wonderful song about his mother and saw that she features in his music video "wachoma sokunyathela." He further says "umama yimbokodo yichocolate ice cream, vanilla stambo, my Mom is my everything." It is beyond any reasonable doubt that Stigo has so much love and respect for his queen. It is quite obvious that with his two brothers closely following, his mother is his number one fan■



Sfisoman

By Priscilla Xeshelihle Moyo-Maseko

The musical whizz, the die-hard, the go-getter and the multi-talented and ever so jovial Paidamoyo Mوندondo a.k.a Sfisoman is a musician, songwriter and music producer from the rainbow province in Zimbabwe. Sfisoman was born in Masvingo and grew up in Tombo village, Filabusi in the Matabeleland South Province of Zimbabwe. Sfiso is currently based in Leb-owakgomo, Limpopo South Africa where he is pursuing his musical career. He sings amapiano as well as apostolic gospel music.

Sfisoman attended his Primary education at Tombo Primary School and proceeded to Msithi Secondary

School for his secondary education. It is at Tombo Primary school that he realized his God-given musical talent at a very young age. Singing was the only thing that motivated him to go to school every day so he could sing at the school assembly. He says "ngangihlabela kakhulu, ngangithanda khona ukudlula amabhuku eskolo." Sfiso faced many challenges in high school leading him to drop out of high school before completing his high school education. In 2004, he then turned his focus to music. He began singing in church, the Apostolic Church where he attended, he says even pastors were very fond of him and they all loved to go

with him whenever they were attending

church services so he could sing. People in the church were always looking forward to the service to hear him doing his his thing, his melodious voice was soothing and inspired a lot of people thereby winning more souls to to Christ.

"Ya ngachaza abaningi and some baguquka baza enkonzweni ngenxa yokuhlabelela engangikwenza ngaleso sikhathi, abafundisi babebanga ukuhamba lami njalo beze benginikeze impahla zokugqoka ukuze ngingayangisi ma ngihamba labo."



Music became his sanctuary, a way to escape his tough world but with a vision and hope that one-day music would change his life. He kept pushing until he was promoted to the position of choirmaster in the church. At the age of 16, the talented Sfiso led a choir group of over three hundred (300) people to represent the Matabeleland South Province during the provincial gospel choir competition in Bulawayo.

During the period between 2006 to 2008, Zimbabwe was hard hit by economic challenges such as unemployment, inflation, hunger and starvation. The period also saw a massive increase in migration to neighbouring countries like South Africa and Botswana due to the mentioned pull and

push factors. Sfisoman was not spared from this economic challenge, life became unbearable for Sfiso who was struggling to earn a living by just singing in church. Singing in the church could no longer sustain him. Just like any other youth, he had a dream to be employed and change his life and that of his family for the better. This forced Sfisoman to migrate to South Africa in search of greener pastures as well as to pursue his music career. He moved and settled at Lebowakgomo in Limpopo, South Africa. When he got to South Africa, he learnt and acquired professional skills in construction and carpentry and began working in that field. After acquiring construction and carpentry skills, he became self-employed and

managed to fend for himself, his life slowly changed and he could sustain himself. With his burning zeal to make his musical dream come true, Sfiso met Ntleleng Musical Production Company in 2012 and recorded his first-ever albums (2 albums). The albums were not very successful as they did not reach musical stores but to him, it was a breakthrough as far as his music career is concerned.

Sfiso decided to then shift the focus from relying on other studios to producing for himself. He faced many challenges trying to record music, he says it was a frustrating and tough phase but it

motivated him to start his own recording company. He then taught himself to produce music without help or support from anyone. The determined Sfiso explains;

"It was not easy at all before I got my own studio. It was very hard because ingoma ziyabe zinengi but imali isala ukuthi uye recorder and sometimes ube lemali-yakho baku recode ngeskhathi sabo yikho okwenza ngama kancani ngadinga esami istudio, ngaqala ukuzifundisa mina ngedwa njalo angizange ngithole uxhaso emuntwini ngayilwa eyami ngaze ngaba ngulo enginguye lamhla because there was something in me... kwakunzima ngithenga okunye kusitsha ngenxayokuswela ulwazi"

He saved money from his construction job and started his own production company Sfisoteinment, a record label and a music production company. Through Sfisoteinment, Sfisoman finally realized his dream. He produced 4 extended plays, EPs, 3 of those have 6 songs each and one has 5. He also has 13 singles and is expecting to release 8 more singles by the end of February 2023. His life changed, his followers increased and his music became more known.



Some of Sfisoman songs are Come Closer, Camera, Ingubo, Masimbongeni, Better Life, Soft Life, Meke ahambe, Ngazise, My Vale, Ulithemba lami, Komberedza and Ngizobayini.



The musical prodigy has also produced a number of hit songs such as ungangidi, komberedza and ngiyopanini among others which launched his musical career. Through his production company Sfisoteinment, Sfiso has also helped other artists to reach their dream by producing and recording music for them. Sfiso is so passionate about music, he is also an energetic, bubbly and great dancer who always leaves people in awe and asking for more. "...makufika leso skha-

thi sokucula ngizizwa angani akuseyimi, kusegazini" says the music whizz, Sfisoman.

Growing up, Sfiso did not receive any support from his family during his musical journey, something that saddens and leaves him distraught hence he appreciates all the support and the love he receives from his followers on social media and those around him. His wife is his main pillar of strength and support. Despite the lack of support from his family, Sfiso continues to work hard to achieve his ambi-

tion. Sfiso is also a dexterous keyboard player, again a skill that he taught himself, he also knows how to play the drums. He bought a keyboard and other instruments to use when producing a beat for his songs. His songs have a beautiful harmonious beat that makes people want to get down to dancing. The versatile and artful Sfiso works extra hard to pursue his career. He explained that the gigs as well as the construction job helped him buy musical instruments which further boosted him.

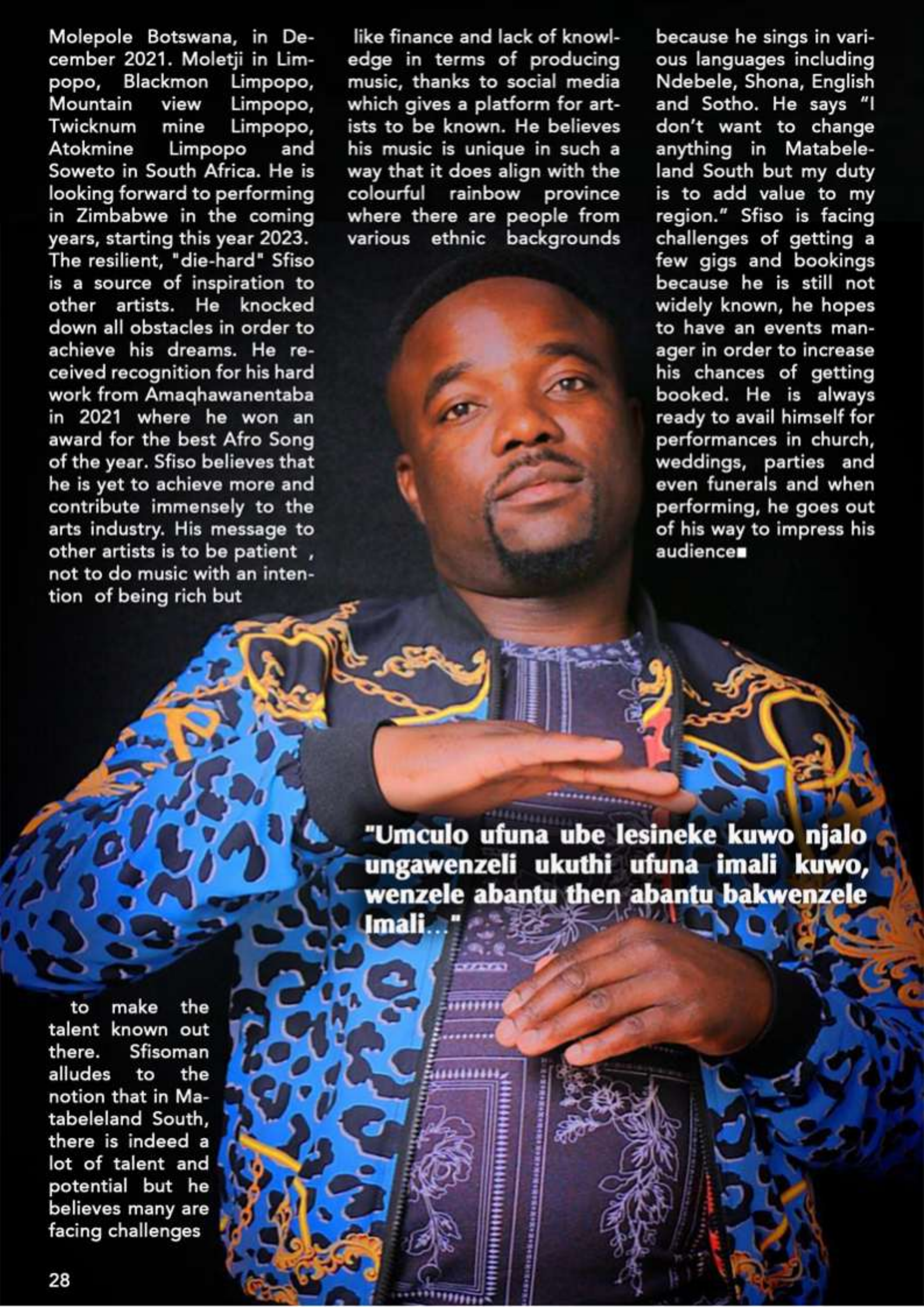
Sfisoman says he draws his inspiration from the late Mandla Maphumulo a.k.a Mampintsha from Big Nuz (South Africa) even though they do not sing the same music genre, he looks up to him for inspiration.

To date, Sfiso has collaborated with various other artists like Team Delela, Jaycee Rapaddict, Tee Lee and many more. He enjoys doing collaborations and he takes it seriously as a way of learning from others. He performed in different places in

Molepole Botswana, in December 2021. Moletji in Limpopo, Blackmon Limpopo, Mountain view Limpopo, Twicknum mine Limpopo, Atokmine Limpopo and Soweto in South Africa. He is looking forward to performing in Zimbabwe in the coming years, starting this year 2023. The resilient, "die-hard" Sfiso is a source of inspiration to other artists. He knocked down all obstacles in order to achieve his dreams. He received recognition for his hard work from Amaqhawantaba in 2021 where he won an award for the best Afro Song of the year. Sfiso believes that he is yet to achieve more and contribute immensely to the arts industry. His message to other artists is to be patient , not to do music with an intention of being rich but

like finance and lack of knowledge in terms of producing music, thanks to social media which gives a platform for artists to be known. He believes his music is unique in such a way that it does align with the colourful rainbow province where there are people from various ethnic backgrounds

because he sings in various languages including Ndebele, Shona, English and Sotho. He says "I don't want to change anything in Matabeleland South but my duty is to add value to my region." Sfiso is facing challenges of getting a few gigs and bookings because he is still not widely known, he hopes to have an events manager in order to increase his chances of getting booked. He is always ready to avail himself for performances in church, weddings, parties and even funerals and when performing, he goes out of his way to impress his audience■



"Umculo ufuna ube lesineke kuwo njalo ungawenzeli ukuthi ufuna imali kuwo, wenzele abantu then abantu bakwenzele Imali..."

to make the talent known out there. Sfisoman alludes to the notion that in Matabeleland South, there is indeed a lot of talent and potential but he believes many are facing challenges

Not many people can say they've shared a stage with some of the continent's biggest and most distinguished musical acts. To the greater population, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Black Coffee, Cassper Nyovest and Nasty C is really nothing more than a sweet, sweet fantasy. While we fantasise about these African greats and their musical prowess, one young man is living out his childhood dream of pursuing a career in music. This young man is Sindiso Moyo, professionally known as Jaycee Rapaddict. The name certainly speaks for itself – Rapaddict (rap addict) demonstrates his relentless commitment to rap music as a hip-hop aficionado.

Jaycee Rapaddict was born and bred in Filabusi, in Matabeleland South province of Zimbabwe, a town affectionately known as koGodwayo. In 2003, 13-year-old Jaycee Rapaddict moved down south to neighbouring South Africa for school and to be close to his father. Keeping in touch with his paternal side of the family is something he needed to do at the time. However, while he was filled with the excitement of relocating to a land of opportunity, little did he know that a year later, his life would change drastically. A year after moving to South Africa, a young Jaycee lost his mother. The tragedy of losing a parent at a tender age undoubtedly took its toll on him. While it was a difficult period in his life, Jaycee Rapaddict turned to poetry as a form of expressing himself and as a source of healing. Amid grief, Jaycee discovered his passion for storytelling through music; "From an early age, I had an interest in poetry. After the passing on of my mother in 2004, I started writing songs and I gradually fell in love with hip hop, which sparked my desire to make music and perfect my craft".

The spark grew into a flame and in pursuit of his dreams, Jaycee Rapaddict soon realised that he had his work cut out for him. He amusingly reflects on the slip-ups he made early on, "I used to make a lot of mistakes when I first got into the studio to record music. I am grateful for that learning curve as it helped me to improve on my style and approach". Over the years, he honed his rap skills and in 2014, he released his debut album, which introduced

JAYCEE

RapAddict

By: Khayelihle Moyo





him to the industry, giving him a significant amount of recognition. At this time, he hustled through distributing free CDs to anyone and everyone.

His passion for music saw him connecting with fellow musicians and in 2016, he formed a group with three other aspiring artists, one of them being Leon Lee, a vocalist known for lending his voice on DJ Obza's hit, Mang'dakiwe. The quartet named themselves Jika Boys and in order to get closer to the heart of the city of Gold, the four moved from Soshanguve to Midrand. While there, Jaycee continued to pursue a solo career and released his

masterpiece, Push, which catapulted him to popularity within Pretoria. It was while he was performing the hit track at a Dr. Malinga show that he was noticed by late Kwaito star, Mjokes (who was also a member of the legendary Kwaito outfit, Trompies). "That day is one to remember! At the last minute, Dr. Malinga put me on stage to perform as he had suffered an injury which made it hard for him to get on stage. I performed Push because it was trending at the time in Pretoria and the crowd went wild. I had no idea that Mjokes was there. He was impressed by my performance and afterwards, he organised a meeting at Kalawa Jazmee for the following day". Kalawa Jazmee is one of the biggest recording labels in South Africa, co-founded by Oskido. The meeting was fruitful as it landed Jaycee and his crew members, Jika Boys a recording deal. Just like that, Jaycee Rapaddict was a Kalawa Jazmee recording artist! "Signing with Kalawa helped me to achieve a lot. Together with Jika Boys, I had many TV appearances, I mingled with celebrities and interacted with record label owners."

Unfortunately, the glory was short-lived, barely a year into the 5-year recording deal, Jaycee had to leave the label and forfeit his deal. Recounting the painful experience, Jaycee sadly shares how his time at Kalawa Jazmee ended abruptly. "As Jika Boys, we began to have squabbles and disagreements and due to these issues as a group, we had to part ways. It is sad that we had to walk away from a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This definitely was a bit of a setback in my career".

Nonetheless, true to his moniker, Jaycee is a rap addict and has continued to relentlessly 'push ipassion'. As an independent artist, he continues to make music and experiment with different sounds. His latest album Indlamuva is doing well and features an amapiano gospel song, Uhamba Nami, which gives glory to the Almighty even in trying times. Speaking of his experience since turning independent, Jaycee Rapaddict has no regrets. "Personally, I have found being an independent artist, works for me. I do not owe anyone my craft and I am not under any pressure to change my style to please anyone else. Yes, there are challenges here and there, but I am making it work".

Excitingly, Jaycee Rapaddict has two music awards under his belt. For two years successively, Jaycee Rapaddict has won Best Hip Hop at the Amaqhawanentaba FM Music Awards in 2021 and 2022, which is a testament to his dedication and talent. Locally, he has collaborated with Madlela Skhobokhobo and Mfana kaJobe; while in South Africa he has made music magic with DJ Callme, Svilla, Manny Yack and Miss Pru DJ just to name a few. He looks forward to working with Jah Prayzah and has plans to incorporate Amapiano movers and shakers, and Amaroto on his next project. His next project will be an album titled, Isicelo which fans should be on the lookout for ■

The staunch Pan-African Maskandi artist **Nqamebomvu**

By Khayelihle Moyo



Maskandi music is commonly associated with Zulu folklore in South Africa and is regarded as a genre imported into Zimbabwe, particularly in the Matabeleland regions of the country. However, did you know that we, Zimbabweans exported Maskandi music to South Africa?

A quick history lesson: The roots of what is today called Maskandi have been traced back to non-guitar-based forms of music in the 1920s, with the shift to guitar beginning in Rhodesia in the 1930s with a group of musicians inspired by the music in Western films. It was then developed by migrant workers in South Africa into what we enjoy today.

Now that we understand the the origins of Maskandi, it's imperative that we celebrate our local talents that are dominating the Maskandi space and pay homage to its roots back home. One cannot speak of Maskandi without mentioning Nqamebomvu! The staunch pan-African artist, whose government name is Onseimo Tshuma, has a suave voice that resonates with the acoustic Maskandi guitar. Having grown up in a strong traditional environment in Kwekwe, Nqamebomvu's love for music dates back to his days in primary school at St. Theresa in Zhombe, where he fell head over heels (figuratively and literally) in love with traditional dance. His interest kwezomgi-do (dance) grew over the years throughout his secondary schooling at Nduku Secondary in Zhombe and Silobela. It is

this passion at a tender age that has nurtured the artist that he is today. To demonstrate his strong commitment to his craft, Nqamebomvu passionately affirms that he will die by the sword that he lives by, that is music, "Ukucula vele ngiqale lana kumaskandi njalo komaskandi ngiyophuma ngebhokisi".

Currently, Nqamebomvu resides in neighbouring South Africa, where he moved to years ago in search of greener pastures for his "9 to 5" job as a haulage truck driver. Reflecting on relocating to South Africa, Nqamebomvu believes it was the best decision for his regular job as well as his musical pursuits. Particularly for his music career, South Africa is opening many doors of opportunity for him, including access to major gigs; as he is set to take to the stage at one of Kwazulu Natal's biggest traditional music festivals, Gugu LikaMasikandi in April. Moreover, through his popularity, he has managed to become part of a well-established association of Maskandi musicians which is led by renowned South African Maskandi musician, Thokozani Langa.

Despite his growing success in a foreign land, Nqamebomvu laments the absence of support back home. "In South Africa, I receive more support than KwaMthwakazi" he states sadly as he wishes for a great deal to be done in order to improve the local music industry.

"Ngokuya kwami kube uhulumende uyanikeza abaculi imali okanye kube lemicimbi ebakhona ekhombisa ukuxhasa abaculi kunhlangothi zonke".



NQAME BOMVU

Bazali Bami

He believes that the government has a key role to play in building the music and entertainment industry. According to him, the government must set aside a budget for the Arts, with funds channelled towards artists and creatives and create platforms for artists to showcase their talent so as to gain visibility and recognition.

01. Usomandla Uyaphendula (04:48)
02. Ngiyisoni (04:20)
03. Bazali Bami (04:52)
04. Ziyacwebezela ft Jeys Marabini (05:56)
05. iHighlander (04:04)
06. Nyawo Lwami ft Gazelinyama & Bhamuza (05:20)
07. Intandane (04:32)
08. Ngiyeke Manager ft Gazelinyama (05:04)
09. Ziyacwebezela Instrumental (04:04)
10. Deda Msahazo ft Bhamuza (05:20)

Moreover, he believes local radio stations and national broadcasters have a vital role to play in supporting and promoting local artists and their works. However, he feels that these platforms are slacking and doing a disservice to local musicians by favouring regional and international content over home-grown music.

"Imisakazo emikhulu esibhek-
ele ukuthi isikhuphule ayidlali
ngoma zethu, idlala kakhulu
abantu bakwamanye amazwe.
Lokho yikho okwenza ukuthi
singanakwa ekhaya ngoba be-
cabanga ukuthi akukho mculi
ekhaya

In addition to the lack of sup-
port that he and many artists
encounter, Nqamebomvu
faces another significant
challenge, finance. They
were not lying when they
said 'money makes
the world go round'
and in music, money

bags are a ne-
cessity, espe-
cially for an in-
dependent
artist
such as
him.

Studio time is expensive,
with many studios charging
by the hour. As such, for a
well-produced, quality
project to be completed,
many hours of hard
work and determina-
tion are required.
Nonetheless, in
spite of the chal-
lenges, Nqa-
mebomvu is
positive that
he is on the
right track to
stardom.

With two
albums to his
musical name,
Nqamebomvu
is currently
working on a
self-titled Ex-
tended Play

(EP) which he intends to re-
lease in March this year. The
EP features three songs and
he is confident that it will be
one for the books! The proj-
ect features a song that re-
flects on his journey as a cel-
ebration of his achievements
thus far and another one that
speaks about the dating pan-
demic of 'umjolo'. "Kule EP
ngisebenza loMshini wase
Showe, uyena uProducer;
ngisebenza loThembelani
umfana wase Bhulwa loBah-
luphile. EP ilengoma ekhulu-
ma ngenhlonipho kumaciko,
lengoma yenjabulo yami kuz-
inga engiyakulo emculweni".

His debut album, Sithi Bazali
Bami was released in 2018,
with features from prominent
artists Bhamuza and Ga-
zelimnyama and the living
legend Jeys Marabini. He
credits Jeys Marabini for the
great support he offered him
in the recording of this album
as he recorded all ten tracks
at Marabini's home studio.
His second offering, Nga-
bon'imihlolo was released
last year, the predecessor to
his forthcoming EP. Apart
from his own work, Nqame-
bomvu has lent his voice to
several collaborations with
local and regional artists. On
the local front, he featured
on a song with Big 5 and TK
Brothers that raises aware-
ness on the coronavirus. Re-
gionally he has collaborated
with Lesotho musician, Travis
as well as Zambian artist,
Pola.

Nqamebomvu is currently in
the process of making his
music available online. In the
meantime, fans may access
his music directly from him
by contacting him on
+2761700525 or connecting
with him on social media ■

King KG, the eloquent Poland-based Zimbabwean writer

By Sihle Nkiwane

Writing is a form of communication, it is concrete and permanent. It serves so many purposes among them to inform, entertain, explain and express feelings and persuade among many others. As the old adage goes, 'the pen is mightier than the sword'. Writers in the past have had a profound impact on society and still continue to do so as this form of art has won them so many wars and battles than the sword can. Society has seen impressive writers like William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Chinua Achebe, and Joseph Conrad emerge over the centuries from all over the world. Drawing closer home, we have the likes of Charles Mungoshi, Dambudzo Marechera, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Mihla Sitsha, Phathisa Ngathi, the list is endless.

Creatives Magazine had the privilege of featuring our very own, affectionately known as KingKG, Mthulisi Ndlovu, a Poland-based Zimbabwean writer. He is a humble young man born and bred in Plumtree in the Matabeleland South Province, an area traditionally considered a home to the Kalanga people.

Mthulisi embarked on his literary journey at around the age of sixteen. Like many young people from developing countries that are usually engulfed in socio-political and economic disparities, he decided to advocate for sanity and confront these irregularities using pen and paper. Growing up under the guardianship of his grandmother who raised him single-handedly, life was not a bed of roses. He recalls how as a child he would walk to school barefooted without proper school uniforms. Mthulisi confesses to not



knowing what exactly he wanted to be when he grew up but says deep inside him he knew he had a purpose to fulfill. His grandmother spotted the talent and potential in him. He says "I vividly remember her telling me that the only thing that could rescue us from poverty is taking my book and pen seriously". She would encourage him to read and write more and this became a game changer for him as it propelled him to change his attitude towards many aspects of his life in general. Having taken his granny's words seriously, Ndlovu has become a philanthropist and global African Honorary Award recipient. He is a multi-published academic writer and publisher with a number of books under his belt including a co-authored Ordinary Level ZIMSEC isiNdebele set book called Izinkondlo Ezinhlombhlobo.

Speaking of world publications, Mthulisi has written the longest poetic assertion of 'Ubuntu'. The poem is in the form of a book, entitled; 'Ubuntu' (The Raw Truth Unravelling). The poem becomes his third solo project. It was published in 2019. Delving into the poem, one realizes it is indeed a daring piece of art that keeps haunting many dark forces. The poem runs from the first page to the last page of a 51 paged book. It is the first of its kind and dubbed the longest epic poem in the history of local and international publications.

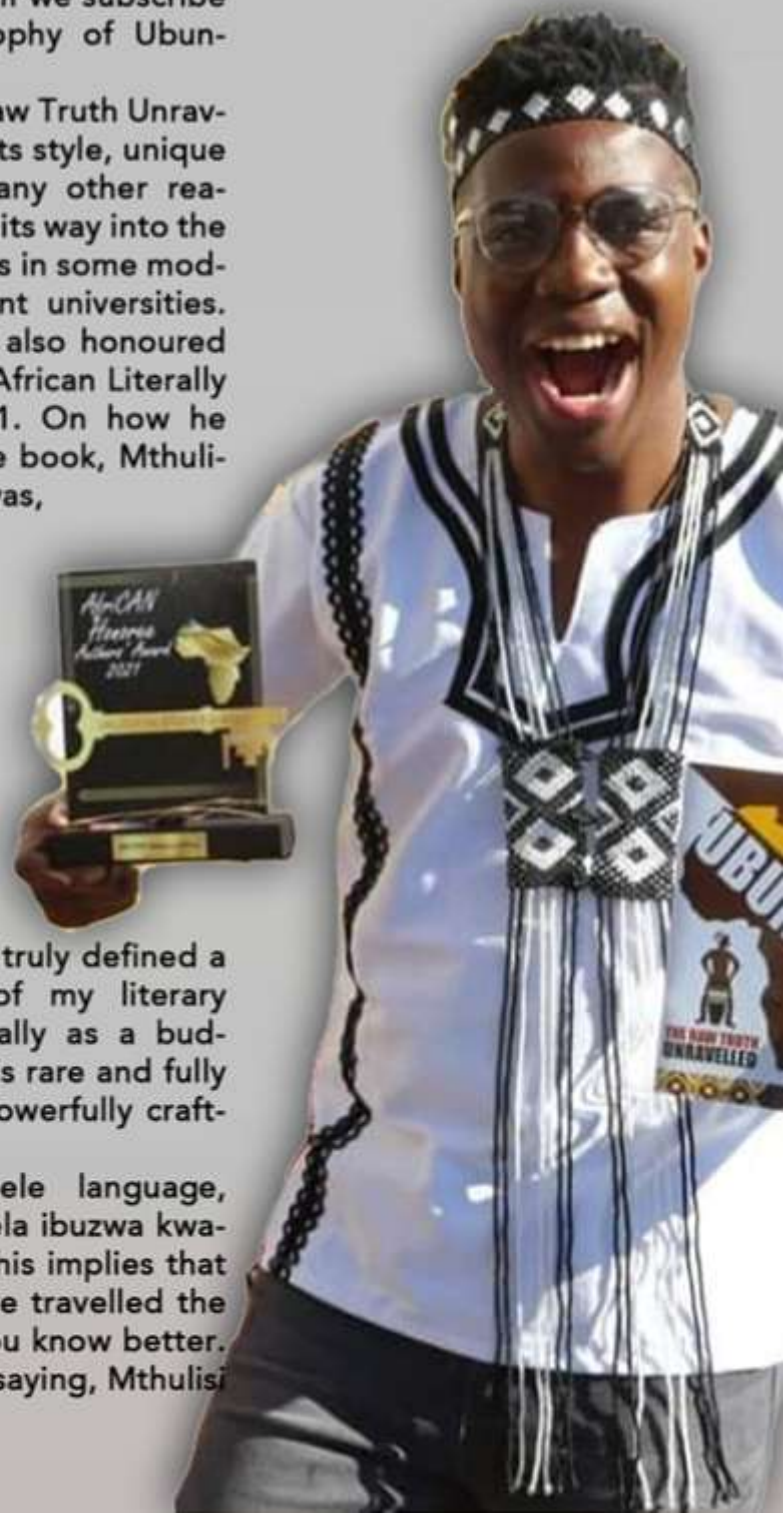
In its content, the poem unravels important issues that are usually left unsaid and avoided by many in our communities. It explores leadership, religion, education, and a bit of spirituality. It is a poem that tackles the preservation of our social fabric emphasizing hailing the spirit of Ubuntu above any other cause under the sun. He says, "I strongly believe that as a people we could survive and co-exist with harmony, love and meekness if we subscribe to the philosophy of Ubuntu/Hunhu.

Ubuntu (The Raw Truth Unravelling), due to its style, unique nature and many other reasons has made its way into the list of set books in some modules in different universities. The book was also honoured with a Global African Literally Award in 2021. On how he feels about the book, Mthulisi's response was,

"the book has truly defined a huge chunk of my literary career, especially as a budding writer, it is rare and fully packed with powerfully crafted content.

In the Ndebele language, they say, 'indlela ibuzwa kwabaphambili'. This implies that those who have travelled the road before you know better. In light of this saying, Mthulisi

has had the privilege of working with a number of legendary and budding brilliant creatives including the late Mr Cont. Mhlanga, Mr Phathisa Ngathi, Mr Philani, A Nyoni, Maison Thwala, Mihla Sitsha, Mrs Barbara C. Makhalisa amongst others. These opportunities are blessings to him as they have taught and aligned him with the true cause and fundamentals of genuine artistry.





" I simply got inspired by the desire to speak out and point out that which deserves attention " .

He has derived great lessons from those who walked the path before him including the late Mr Cont. Mhlanga whom he says taught him to commercialize his art and advised him to never be comfortable with fame and popularity as they do not bring much in terms of one's upkeep and safeguard of the future of their loved ones.

Authors do not just write for the sake of mere writing. Writing serves a purpose and usually targets a certain audience. Mthulisi explains that his writing is definitely not intended for mere entertainment and amusement. He says, " I write for a solid cause, it is voicing that which many are shunning away from. I write about hardcore issues, especially the socio-political and socio-economic issues that are being considered sacred and a no-go area. I speak for those without courage, guts and a voice to voice their genuine concerns". He further assert-

ted that he believes speaking the truth into power and conscientising humanity through one's conviction is an absolute fulfillment of true existence. The emancipation of humankind is a divine cause which we ought to embrace and hail. To Ndlovu, it is spiritually uplifting and fulfilling to be able to touch lives at that level just by the use of a pen and paper. In totality, he has co-authored about six books to date and is still continuing. Ndlovu is the founder and president of a nine-year-old charity trust by the name TROVOCO which seems to alleviate the plight of needy individuals in society, including orphans, people living with disabilities, people living with Albinism, rural boy and girl child amongst others. KingKG is also the founding CEO of Ubuntu Afro Publishers and Media, which seems to publish and promote indigenous languages and creatives. He has also bagged a number of

achievements and accolades. Asked what motivated him to become a writer, he responds, " I simply got inspired by the desire to speak out and point out that which deserves attention". He goes on to say, "I simply realized that the world I dream of could only come into fruition if I act on it". Mr Ndlovu has many thanks to extend to his fans, and audience the world over as they have always been supportive from day one. He says " I am truly grateful and humbled by their overwhelming desire to consume my creative content".





As a writer, he also loves to read what other authors write about. He says that Mpho's Search, a book written by Sandra Braids is his greatest read not forgetting Phathisa Nyati whom he says is his favourite writer of all time as he grew up on his content, he purports that Mr Nyathi's works are rich in indigenous knowledge systems and unapologetically Afrocentric. Currently, Mr Mthulisi Ndlovu is working with the government of Poland and private

schools around Europe in spearheading cultural exchange programs. He has had the privilege of representing the country in Estonia and around Poland.

As a concerned youth, Ndlovu feels drug and substance abuse are cancer in our society, especially among the youth attributable to lack of employment and idleness which contributes to mental health-related issues. He further encourages youths to be responsible citizens who

should also register to vote and take part in building a better Zimbabwe.

Mthulisi considers himself a realist, he speaks his mind and writes about what he sees as unfit for society. As a parting shot, he advises other creatives to create without fear or favour and be the voice of reason and untainted truth ■

The Big Animal Sibanjana Junior

By Sikhanyisiwe Sibanda

A talent is a gift from the Almighty and everyone is born with one, but it is a different story for "The Big Animal Sibanjana Junior, who has multiple talents and is doing wonders in the creative industry. The South African-based creative whose birth name is Zaphaniah Sibanda is a porter, ceramic sculptor, gospel singer, visual artist and actor. He is from Plumtree, Bulilima West, ward 10.

Sibanjana is one example of a multi-talented creative whose passion spreads across several art categories. He is a pure legend and this is a clear testimony that he was born a creative and shall forever remain one.

In the acting industry, he has flown the country's flag higher as he has featured in a number of South African soapies like *Generations* in 2010 where he acted as a thug who went to collect money from JB who was working for Rubby. It takes a lot of talent and commitment to be considered in foreign productions, being selected as the right person to perform a particular role in a foreign country is more of a blessing that comes with a high level of seriousness and dedication to one's work. Sibanjana is one of the talented artists who have been privileged with high responsibilities outside their home countries. Sibanjana also mentions that

he acted in a Kalanga drama called *Buhuhha Bupamhidzwa* which means "If you are a man you must upgrade yourself", he says.

The Big Animal Sibanjana Junior has also featured in movies like "The Lethereal Africa" produced in 2006 where he acted as a soldier and in 2010 appeared on "District 9" where he acted as a Nigerian gangster.

The Bulilima's gifted creative does not only spend his time acting, he is also a gospel musician who has released 9 albums namely: *Sizawanyathela Madimoni; Sohlongana Ezulwini; Sikhokhelele Moses; UJesu uyinyonyama; Ulwandle olumnyama; Madodana; Muya Waleza; Ngambulelwe; and Uhambo*. Sibanda has worked with Vincent Future Dawn recording studio in Bulawayo, Kapamba studio, Nicholas Ndebele and BK studio. The gospel singer has also managed to bring his works home as he has performed his music in his hometown Plumtree, for community charities.

Sibanjana is also a proud porter, visual artist and sculptor who has continued to shine at the same time thinking about the youths in his hometown Plumtree. His art skills and knowledge he acquired between 1982 and 1984 at Mzilikazi Art Centre, a vocational training establishment, in Bulawayo are unique according to him.



"My art is different from that of others because I use my hands not a computer, my works have been showcased at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe and some at Go Nature Go at Bulawayo Museum," says The Big Animal Sibanjana Junior.

In some of his drawings, he has drawn famous places and people in Zimbabwe like the late artist and veteran Cont. Mhlanga and places like Victoria Falls and Zimbabwe Ruins. He has also sculptured some prominent people in the country like the late former Vice President Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo, the late former President Robert Mugabe and South Africa's late former President Nelson Mandela.

The youths are the future of any nation and it takes one to actually realise their talents let alone investing and dedicating one's self to nurturing and grooming them. It is something that Bulilima's creative has embarked on, a journey to success in a bid to uplift his community through community empowerment training programmes. training programmes. "I am busy with the youths in my community

teaching them art and craft. The name of the project is called Milikani Recreation Art Center," he says. The skills and knowledge that he is sharing with the youths have earned them recognition as youths who are capable of producing amazing handwork products and brilliant performances.

The Big Animal Sibanjana says that he received 10 trophies from Isizeni Sabansundu in 2020 when his students were competing with Chapo and Bulawayo children. He said the trophies they won all at once were for different categories that included drama, acting, traditional dance, rumba dance and poetry, these are his areas of expertise in which he has demonstrated high levels of passion and dedication. He is a great source of inspiration not only for the community where he comes from but for all surrounding places locally and internationally. Sibanjana also fulfills a humanitarian role where he travels from South Africa to Zimbabwe to help Persons With Disabilities, (PWDs) through the donation of assistive devices that enable them to lead independent lives.

That kind of gesture is critical as it is highly empowering. He mentions that he has managed to donate wheelchairs to the needy from his home in Bulilima and the kind of responses he gets from them gives him all the energy and love to continue showering them with all that they need to lead better lives. He is one of very few creatives who believe in stretching a helping hand to the needy. His contributions to his community are for a good cause and this deserves a high applause.

This visionary man, the Big Animal, Sibanjana has an ambition of establishing a school of creative arts that he believes will help in identifying, marketing and promoting talent from his community. He looks forward to receiving assistance in any form necessary in order to realise his dream of coming up with this great initiative with awesome opportunities, especially for the less privileged. He intends to take his passion for teaching youths, art and craft to a higher level under a fully registered entity. "Challenges are there especially funding, we are also looking for space where we can build a school, at the moment we are working from an open space," he says".

The Big Animal surely has a lot of impressive projects that he is working on, the good part is that he loves what he does, and this is why he can manage to balance all the activities and come up with quite commendable productions. "I enjoy everything that I do and that makes the load even lighter, quite manageable to handle■



A Maskandi music pro – Incengakazi

By Sihle Nkiwane

"If you want to make your dream come true don't sleep"- Yiddish (West Germanic language) Proverb. This is the case for Promise Sikhosana who goes by the stage name Incengakazi Lamasombuka. Most of you would wonder why she started singing in recent years while in her late 40s. I couldn't help asking her where she was all this while, this is the missing voice that many Maskandi fans have been yearning for. Who wouldn't have loved to listen to such a euphonious voice? Almost in her 50s, her voice is as captivating as one can imagine it. For her age people have many questions, where was she all these years? Well in response to that, she says "there is a time for everything".

Promise was born in Bulawayo on the 15th of August 1973. She grew up in Bulawayo's Lobengula Suburb and did her secondary education at Njube High School. As a child, she was never a part of any singing group or choir. Surprisingly having heard her melodious voice escape out of her mouth, every adult wanted her to be at church every Sunday. It is at this point that she realized that there was something peculiar about her voice. She says it still never came to her to join any singing group, band or choir although she always had this dream of herself holding a mic in her hand and singing

on stage.

To her, singing came naturally, it was not all struggles and music classes like is the case for some. It was as though from the very minute she could utter her first word she was singing. She vowed one day she would share the wonderful gift God had endowed her with. She would not hide it from anyone and for this reason, she decided to venture into music particularly singing Maskandi music. Sometimes called "Zulu Blues", Maskandi music emanates from South Africa in Kwazulu Natal. It is a sub genre of Zulu folk music. Maskandi singers often sing about social issues ranging from love, HIV, death and many more. To understand the genre even more, it combines Western musical instruments with locally spoken dialects.



9:00

I ALARM ka 09:00

INCENGAKAZI

LIKAMASOMBUKA

featuring Izicimamlilo

SOUTH AFRICA 2022



Back in the day, the genre was mainly dominated by males, however, females like our own Incengakazi Lamasombuka have slowly penetrated the male-dominated space, also characterizing Maskandi music as fast-spoken poetry. In April last year, Incengakazi Lamasombuka released her first album called Alarm ka9. She has however been there in the industry for a while. As we speak, she is working on her second album, title to be revealed soon and it features gospel Maskandi songs. She is also looking forward to releasing yet another one, Alarm ka9 part 2 that is meant to coincide with her birthday when she turns 50 in August. To her, singing is a God-given talent, she says she receives

songs and poems any time of the day. As a young girl, she loved to listen to Imthente and Izingane Zoma and many other Maskandi artists. She however is sad to say that piracy is destroying the arts industry and something has to be done about it. She further indicates that it is not easy to make oneself known as an artist, it requires plenty of hard work.

Promise, a singer based in South Africa has worked with Isigodo Esihlaba Abathakathi, and confesses that she has learnt a lot from him though he is much younger than her. As one of the main features of Maskandi music, her music also goes with poetry. Listening to her album's title track, 'I- Alarm ka 09:00' one cannot

help but realize her creativity, especially in the way she addresses the issue of HIV and AIDS. In the song, a man deceives his partner who observed her routine 09:00 alarm that reminds him it's time to take his ARVs. This cunningly, deceptive act is done without the knowledge of the other partner who just thinks her partner is visiting the restroom. It really brings out a sad scenario depicting a painful issue that really exists in our societies. Many such stories have been told in our societies. More captivating is the distinct guitar that plays along. The 10-track album features such songs as Bambelela, and Qinisela among others. In her 6th track, she features Izicimamlilo. Last year in May, Promise surprisingly did a splendid performance at Hillbrow Theatre in South Africa as she performed alongside other artists. There is no history of music in her family, she introduced her plan to start singing as she says "everyone thought it was a joke". At this point,

she realised that singing was a way she could express herself. She could address many issues through music and singing. Singing makes her feel better and builds her sense of belonging in society. She says, " I have no doubt in this journey I have just begun., I'm seeing a big road open ahead of me and I will walk on it for as long as God is walking with me".

Currently, Incengakazi Lamasombuka is going solo and here and there engages backing vocalists. She is based in South Africa where she is also

working. Before saying goodbye, she took time to advise aspiring musicians not to hide their talent but rather showcase it. "Artists should not hesitate to share what they have as it may as it may heal someone out there", she concludes.

Promise Sikhisana gives us a great lesson as she proves that it's never too late to start a music career and hopefully her success story will be an inspiration to many ■



Ngadlangadla, Bizzah Skhulu

By Sithokozile Sibanda

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Brezhnev Musesengwa, Bizzah Skhulu, the Ngadlangadla is a Zimbabwean creative based in South Africa, Johannesburg. He is an artist, actor, songwriter and scriptwriter. He ventured into the music industry in 2014, having been inspired by Kwaito group Big Nuz. Big Nuz originally comprised R-Mashesha, Mampintsha and Danger. He passionately describes them as having played a key role in his music career. He mentions that he used to listen to a lot of their music, and he was a proud fan who never missed a day without playing their tracks, "Bignuz is a huge brand and they shaped me to be what I am now, I had a lot of inspiration from them, my deepest condolences to Mampintsha who recently passed on and R. Mashesha whom we lost in

2015". Danger is the only surviving member of the Big Nuz group.

"I used to sing BigNuz songs and it was during the time of 'Umlilo we Big Nuz' when I developed an interest in music, this is when I started writing my own songs and performed some in front of my peers who loved them and encouraged me to keep on keeping on". Bizzah also says, "Ngenza wonke umhlobo we music as long i beat ngilithandle".

When asked about how he ventured into the music industry, Bizzah says, "Angeke ngikhohlwe lapho engivela khona", he says it was very demanding to do music in Gwanda, especially when considering that by then there were no recording studios in the province and this meant that he had to travel to Bula-

wayo to access studios which he heavily relied on.

Travelling to Bulawayo for Skhulu was very expensive as he was not employed and had no other source of revenue generation to enable him to meet all the expenses to access recording studios in Bulawayo. Bizzah is, however, grateful for the support he received from his beloved family and friends who have been his pillar of strength as they highly supported his music scope. The Ngadlangadla enjoys the fact that his fellow artists in Zimbabwe are progressing, scooping awards that make him happy. He is passionate about the arts industry as he prays that one day when he is financially stable he will give back to his community and support the creatives from his province, Matabeleland South.



months, bekumnandi”, he says.

Tenmax liked Gazilami track and offered to sponsor a video for it together with Bhekezakho song. “Those music videos made a change in my music journey and those are the songs that landed me to be where I am today”. He says this was the best quality video to ever come from Gwanda that reached 4000 views on YouTube within a week. “They offered me an opportunity to work with them as they saw a lot of potential in me, I was amazed”. He reveals that it was the first video to get a launch, sponsored by Cry Mantengwane where his fellow artists such as Bhadilah, Khoi khoi, Skollah , Kadder were also invited. He proudly describes Gazilami track as his door opener as it built his brand.

Bizzah also released a six-track album and some singles while in Zimbabwe. He collaborated with other renowned artists from Gwanda such as Skollah who featured him in his song called “Magenge”, produced by DJ Drums.

Skhulu is one of the most celebrated Matabeleland South icons in music. He managed to put extra effort into his music journey which was “not a walk in the park” as he describes it, “Bekungekho lula” His dedication and love for music pushed him to be the person he is today where he is a shining star in South Africa.

Bizzah briefly describes the challenges that he is facing in the arts industry, “Challenges are there and they are mainly to do with finances and this hinders me from acquiring the best equipment to make my works more impressive”. He cites some of the interventions that can be considered that will ensure that the creatives realise their full potential, “These can be overcome if one receives a sponsor or

record label deals”.

While in Zimbabwe, Bizzah managed to release the following music videos, Bhekezakho and Gazilami. The two music videos were sponsored by a Zimbabwean video company known as Tenmax, which exists to support local talent especially those without the means to realise their dreams due to financial constraints, support is in the form of sponsorships.

Bizzah mentions that it took him four months to come up with two fully baked productions. The music scenes were shot in Bulawayo, Harare and Hwange. Tenmax Zimbabwe catered for all expenses up to the time the videos were released. “They provided everything, they even booked hotels for me for the four



Skhulu is flying the Matabeleland flag high in South Africa, he has released several tracks such as "Mpilo", "Ngadakwa", "Ekhaya ngizobuya" among other hit songs. Bizzah is working closely with his music partner Tbos the Boss, a Gwanda product as well, whose works in South Africa are quite commendable, together they have managed to reach beyond the sky. Bizzah and Tbos the Boss have a record label where they sign young artists, the other four members of the record label are South Africans, Muntuza.com, Trenzy, Shorts and Nature Boy.

"I do everything by myself except producing music, something that I intend to learn in the near future, I really need to learn how to

produce". Bizzah is a solo artist, and production-wise he works with a producer.

"I have performed in many places such as Cry Mantengwane, Phelandaba Stadium, Gwanda Red Cross and Gwanda District Club back home. I also used to get invitations to perform in Bulawayo, Mpopoma hall". In South Africa his biggest show was in Rusternberg where he got sponsored and earned a lot of money. At Joburg Gandhi square, Bizzah shared the stage with the likes of Mapaputsi and people attended in their numbers.

To improve the performance of the arts industry, Bizzah says he would support the artists financially as this is a big hindrance in their careers.

Skhulu the Ngadlangadla calls for unity among the Mata-

leland South artists, he says, "Bangadlalani umhobholo", meaning that they must not be jealous of one another, instead, there is a need for them to work together in supporting and promoting each other in the arts and entertainment sector. Bizzah also says that "God does not love those who do not love each other, ngeke afake izibusiso lapho abantu bengathandani". Bizzah also encourages artists to have good relations with people who are working tirelessly to improve the arts industry in the province, he cites Master Zhoe as a creative who has gathered imperative equipment for the setting up of a fully equipped recording studio in Gwanda town. Bizzah says, "Master Zhoe uphetha yonkinto and this will enable artists to rise".

Bizzah is saving money for the setup of a recording studio in Matabeleland South where he will allow artists to record free of charge, "I do not want them to go through what I went through because it was very painful, I want to make a change in their lives" concludes Bizzah Skhulu, the Ngadlangadla. ■



D-Major General

By Sikhanyisiwe Sibanda

Marvelous Anele Hleza, a.k.a D Major General, is a Zimbabwean Afro-pop star based in South Africa, he is a passionate musician whose love for music can be traced to a period when he was of school-going age. D Major General comes from Thusi, a small village in Esigodini under Umzingwane district in Matabeleland South. He explains how the contributions he made while at school shaped him to be the person he is today. He says he started taking his music professionally 3 years back and acknowledges that his art continues to improve. "I used to sing a lot while at school, I was one of the best in the school choir and this is how I noticed that singing is something that I am born with", says D Major General.



So far, D Major General has released a 10-track album called Ngeke Ngivume, which is made up of the following songs: Sthandwa sami; One day; Lengoma; Ngeke ngivume; Uyangithanda na?; I will never let you go; Bazali bami; Singaba hambayo; Izandla phezulu; and Madlozi ami. The album was released in 2021. In 2022, Hleza made another release of a single called Ngisize.

"I have performed in Jabula Inn, Esigodini, Esibomvu and Mawabeni in Matabeleland South province. In South Africa, I have showcased my creativity on different platforms in various places that include Pata Pata in Maboneng, Sumit club in Hillbrow and at Hillbrow Inn," says D Major General.

D Major General is particularly encouraged and spurred by the love and support he receives from his family and this gives him the strength to pursue his art. He boasts about the strong support structure he has with individuals willing to see him grow in the creative industry. At times for one to actually prosper and enjoy whatever he or she is doing, one needs support from the people around him. D major General enjoys the support from his friends and his love for music keeps him going.



The General encourages everyone whose passion is in the arts to always be cautious about the need to be patient and highly committed in order to get to the level where they want to be. He explains that a lot of endurance is needed for one to excel and strive in the industry. He mentions that building a brand and ensuring its success and sustenance is one area that deserves a lot of attention. "It is not easy to be an artist and one needs to be patient." "It's not an easy road to be an artist, it needs patience", he said. D Major General began his music career in South Africa and he does his recordings at True Tune Records.

D Major General who did his primary school at Mlomoliwoto Primary School and his secondary education at Mzinyathini High School says he loves songs from Mafikizolo and the late Oliver Mtukudzi.

He says if given an opportunity in Matabeleland South, he would go to schools and help children in any way he could to improve their lives. He added that he would also help the less privileged learners by buying stationery and paying school fees for them.

He also said that the challenge that he has realized is that as Zimbabwean artists, they do not support each other in the arts industry. He batters the point that one cannot make it alone in this industry without help from others. He encourages artists to be united and support each other by any means necessary. He acknowledges that the support will go a long way in perfecting their brands to ensure that the industry benefits not only a few but several creatives united for a good cause.



"I think as Zimbabweans we are not supporting each other and as musicians, we can work together to beat the pandemic," says The Major General.

D Major General says he sings wholeheartedly and he enjoys it. Although based in South Africa, D Major General frequently comes home for music shows ■

Lindiwe Machacha

By Witness Timothy Hadebe




Gospel music has been accepted by large communities in Zimbabwe. Different types of genres under the Gospel have come and gone. Others have coexisted over the years and some still do exist. This is what Lindiwe Machacha gives us as her first statement during her interview. Lindiwe Machacha is a gospel artist who goes by the name "The Psalmist". One could readily think about the beautiful soothing psalms from the bible.

Lindiwe Machacha is a powerful gospel artist who was born and bred in Matabeleland South in Plumtree.

"When I was at a very tender age, I used to listen to gospel artists though they were not as many in my country as now. I used to sit and listen to the words, and how they were carefully written. After that I would carefully follow the harmonies, and I would feel goosebumps all over my body, I was already born again by that time but when I was listening to the music it always felt as if I was being birthed anew every time", she says. Lindiwe is currently based in South Africa in Johannesburg where she is actively participating in the gospel music industry but is deep-rooted in her home town, Beitbridge.

Growing up experiencing the life positives and negatives that people were facing in her community, Lindiwe could see some youth who



were abusing drugs on a massive scale and in turn drugs abused them, not to mention the hunger that stroke other families and even theirs, The Psalmist also talks about the character of other community members she used to see. She says among all these negatives, she also got to be brought up in a well-loving community with a very rich language complexity. The place was dominated by isiNdebele, Sotho, and Venda. In times of funerals, weddings, and any other functions you would see the elderly, and young coming together and singing psalms with beautiful voices in support of the community. She says she ventured into gospel singing so that she could preach to her community and the world at large. She wanted to see the good qualities of the community and a change in all the problems they were facing.

"I wanted to also tap into that grace that used to give me goosebumps when I was young. I want to also partake in sharing the grace through song, you know music is a very powerful tool in the bible and in the world. We have seen in the bible God

destroying

Kingdoms using music, we saw God giving instruction to Joshua saying move around Jericho with good singing and great joy and the mighty walls of Jericho

fell to rubble. There are many instances where they used music to scatter the armies. If we can all learn to sing from our hearts, with faith I believe we can destroy the walls of Jericho in our communities", the Psalmist says.

Lindiwe is a member of the Zion church. She says she is a member of the Israel Christian church, a very prayerful church but one thing she has learnt is they always balance the preaching, the prayer and the worship in song. She is greatly indebted to her church pastor Mr Mazibuko who has helped her a lot in her music journey.

Lindiwe Machacha's stage name, the Psalmist is a powerful name that was inspired to her by energetic and spirit-filled psalms that she sang. Lindiwe said she ventured into gospel in 2019 when she was recording her first-ever album. The story of her life is the foundation of her work. She joyfully says "I grew up in church, I was one of the most committed church members as I would attend almost all church services, I was interested in growing in the word of God and in spirit, what I felt moved to do was to preach the word, I loved singing a lot so then I decided to save God and preach his Gospel by singing". Today Lindiwe has one album that consists of 13 songs. She also recorded four singles in 2022 namely: Ngezinsuku zonke; lizwi; Ngisimamise; and Silommeli.

She says these songs have been powerful psalms used by worshippers to walk through painful times and experiences. She also released

one video for the song Ngisimamise which means "establish me oh Lord". This was a song that she sang in times of hard times, there were snares set up on her by the devil and spiritually she was having challenges. She wrote the song "Ngisimamise" to say establish me oh Lord, make me stand through every problem that I am facing.

Lindiwe has also done some collaborations with other artists including Mr Mazibuko who is the one who offered her voice training and taught her a lot about music recording. Mr Mazibuko is a South African producer and director who owns Injali Recording Studio and is a pastor of Israel Christian Church. He is a musician of par excellence and is very good at grooming artists. "Some of the gospel artists who inspire me to do my work are Hlengiwe Mhlaba, and Mai Mwamuka. I love their music and I am inspired because these are women who have stood their ground in this gospel industry. I would like an opportunity to collaborate with them to spread the word of God in beautiful harmonies. musician in the family other than me, however my family has continued to inspire me by believing in me and supporting me in all of my songs. The psalmist says she has received some recognition for her great artistic work, such as the best female artist award from Amaqhawanentaba music awards. She says that such kind of honour shows that her future is bright and she is now strong-willed to continue



as there are people and houses that show appreciation for her work in such an amazing way. She also received the best gospel song award from TESMA in 2022. Lindiwe says the year 2022 has been a good year despite the financial challenges she faced. She says there is a gap in artist linkages and support systems." if given an opportunity I would advise artists to be one, work together and always support others at all times for the betterment of the industry", she says.

The talented gospel artist says her work is unique, she tries to be herself always and does not fake herself to be others. She is however open to more collaborations this year with people from differ-

ent types of gospel music. She says there is a need for more big shows and concerts for gospel artists so that they are put out there to the people. She says sometimes the distribution of her work is affected by lack of finance and this would be avoided if she could get sponsors.

The Psalmist says when she started writing songs while in Beitbridge, she fell in love with the ChiVenda language and she did her first song in Venda titled Mudzimu Wanga, which means he is God who is able, the provider, the healer. Lindiwe says in working on Mudzimu Wanga, she met three different producers who did not finish mastering her song. She says one of them blocked her after

he tried calling him several times and some made her sing Accapela without beats. She says these are some of the challenges that women face in the creative industry. They meet people who waste their time and some rob them of their money. She feels established studios should make things easy and affordable for artists to record so that they do not get conned by these inexperienced people. She says sometimes women's lives are in danger as they would have to go to isolated or unsafe places just to record songs. Lindiwe says despite these and other unfortunate incidents, she never gave up on her talent as she believes that the talent she has comes from the fire burning inside her. She is doing God's work by ministering through gospel songs. "Writing a song comes from inspiration and it usually takes me 2-7 days to write a song"



SISTERS OF FAITH

By Witness Timothy Hadebe



Sisters of Faith is a gospel music group based in Botswana Gaborone, that comprises 2 Zimbabweans, Siphathisiwe Ndlovu and Christine Moyo as well as Christine Naritsile, a Motswana. The group was formed in 2015.

“We called ourselves ‘Sisters of Faith’ because there were many challenges that we faced before *siqala ukuhlabelela kodwa sasisiba lethemba lokuba ekucineni* we will make it indeed *sacina siphumelele sasesikubona ukuba uma ukholwa e Nkosini* nothing will fail, that is why we are Sisters of Faith”, reveals Siphathisiwe.

Their breakthrough into the music industry occurred in 2021 when they released their first album called

Sahlengwa with the following 5 tracks: Sahlengwa, The Lord is my strength, I wanna thank you Lord, We lift you high and Give praise.

The group has also released a single called Ke Mmoloki. Siphathisiwe mentions that they started writing songs way back in 2015.

The group has very passionate members who share a common goal of fulfilling their life purpose which she says is to win souls to the Lord through music. This is one of the fast-emerging and rising gospel music groups with a huge potential, especially if they receive support in the form of sponsorship and professional management for their growth and development in

the creative industry.



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