

**Mail & Guardian**

# Young South Africans 2011

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## Editor's Letter

**M**aking lists is easy: scratch your head, Google around for a few hours, ask your friends, confirm your prejudices. Making a credible, compelling selection of people aged 35 and under who are truly helping to set a new agenda for South Africa is a different story — especially when you are trying not to repeat yourself.

Nine out of 10 people profiled in the *Mail & Guardian's* 2011 line-up of 200 Young South Africans are new to the list, which is the product of the combined talents of our in-house research team and an avid bunch of social-media contributors, who weighed in on our website, along with Facebook and Twitter.

In the end we chose them for their impact, their creativity and the resonance of their values with the project of building the South Africa that we all want to live in: vibrant, prosperous, equitable, diverse and hungry for the challenges of growth and change.

I think that excitement is reflected better than ever this year in the writing, design and photography that showcases all 200. Crucially too, we have greatly sharpened up the 200

Young South Africans website (YSA2011.mg.co.za), providing enhanced tools for them to stay in touch with each other, and with you.

We are a young democracy, that is to say, an incomplete one. We have a demographic youth bulge of unemployed and poorly educated people. The youth of South Africa are often cast in baldly negative terms, alternatively they are celebrated with uncomplicated enthusiasm.

The *M&G* 200 cuts through the clichés to find our most thrilling potential precisely where it emerges from a context full of challenge, bewilderment and opportunity.

It is not an easy project, but it may be the one we enjoy most.



**Twitter:** @nicdawes

**Nic Dawes**  
*Editor-in-Chief, Mail & Guardian*



DAMON HYLAND



## Foreword

**T**he past 20 years have marked a transition from South Africa's difficult past to a future filled with possibilities. Those possibilities have come into being as a result of the immense sacrifice of previous generations of young people, in particular the youth of 1976 and later years. These bright possibilities do not mean that the task of driving the country towards cohesiveness and progress is going to be any easier. It probably gets more difficult.

South Africa's past struggles have shown beyond doubt that significant energy is injected into our efforts for greater prosperity when young people decide to place themselves at the centre of key developments. Xstrata's support of the *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Young South Africans must be seen as our contribution to recognising and encouraging stronger

and better leadership by the youth of our country. Brimming with fresh ideas, optimism and the radical thinking needed to achieve a step change in the affairs of the country, their role is to continue demonstrating that they are more than ready to lead various spheres of South African life.

We congratulate those selected, but, equally, encourage those who were not to keep working for a brighter future for our society.



**Website:** xstrata.com

**Andile Sangqu**  
*Executive Director, Xstrata South Africa*













**Cream of the crop.** These fine people are the movers and shakers in their respective fields. Xstrata celebrates the *Mail & Guardian's* Top 200 Young South Africans.

**xstrata**

*Celebrating the architects  
of tomorrow...*

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## Committed to Tomorrow

Xstrata believes in South Africa's future. That is why in the last three years alone we have invested over R200 million in the development of communities. This includes over R80 million committed to education, R40 million for community health and more for job creation, arts and the environment.

[www.xstrata.com](http://www.xstrata.com)



## 200 Young South Africans | Arts &amp; Culture



## Nat Ramabulana Actor

I first saw Nat Ramabulana in 2009 at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in the production *Hayani*, in which he co-starred with his friend Athandwa Kani. At that point Ramabulana had barely left Wits University, where he had studied drama.

Watching student productions usually requires considerable fortitude and many painkillers and I find I do it more out of duty than anything else. But that production, an evocation of their childhoods, was a pleasant surprise. It was a mature work in which they slipped in and out of several characters, reminiscing with dexterity and poise.

Since that student performance Ramabulana has been attracting attention and this year won a Best Supporting Actor Naledi for his role in Craig Higginson's *The Girl in the Yellow Dress*.

Born in 1983, Ramabulana was educated at various Johannesburg schools before enrolling at Wits. He is effusive in his praise for his benefactress, Ms Hill, and his parents, who paid Model C school fees from their wages as domestic workers. His hero is director and actor John Kani, a man he describes as "a phenomenon" who "completely defied the odds". It seems Ramabulana might be following his lead. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Twitter:** @natramabulana

**He is effusive in his praise for his parents, who paid Model C school fees from their wages as domestic workers**



## Laduma Ngxokolo Textile designer

Not many men think knitting is cool, but Laduma Ngxokolo is one of them. Encouraged by his mother's skill, the 24-year-old Port Elizabeth designer created his first jersey when he was just 14. When his mother died his hobby generated income for the family.

In 2010 Ngxokolo, a graduate of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, took the design world by storm with his MaXhosa knitwear collection, inspired by the dazzling motifs of 18th-century Xhosa beadwork.

The London-based Society of Dyers and Colourists awarded him first prize in

their Global Design competition. And the collection also won acclaim at the Milan Design Week in Italy for its cutting-edge blend of ancient and modern.

But there's one market Ngxokolo still wants to crack — and it's much closer to home. He dreams of seeing *amakrwala* (Xhosa initiates) wearing his jerseys instead of Western brands such as Pringle when they return from the bush to celebrate their journey into manhood.

— **Ayanda Sitole**

 **Twitter:** @Africanmun



CHRIS SAUNDERS

## Tshe-Tsha Boys Music & dance group


From the streets of Chiawelo, the predominately Shangaan suburb of Soweto, to stages in New York, London, Barcelona and Amsterdam — this is the journey about to be travelled by the Tshe-Tsha Boys.

Formed in 2004 by producer Richard Mthetwa (aka Nozinja) after he saw a style of dance called "Tshe-Tsha", Tshe-Tsha Boys comprises his sons and their friends, dressed in clown outfits.

"I was targeting the kids' market, like McDonald's," says Nozinja. "I thought once I had grabbed the kids I could grab the parents." But the outfits are hardly

child-friendly. With a selection of clown and skeleton masks and pillows shoved inside bright orange overalls, the characters look slightly deformed. And when they show off their dance moves, which involve wriggling, jerky movements, they look especially bizarre.

With an international record deal and gigs booked all over the world for later this year, the Tshe-Tsha Boys are about to explode. — **Lloyd Gedy**

 **Website:** sites.google.com/site/nozinjamusic/home

## 200 Young South Africans | Arts &amp; Culture

## Sally Partridge Writer

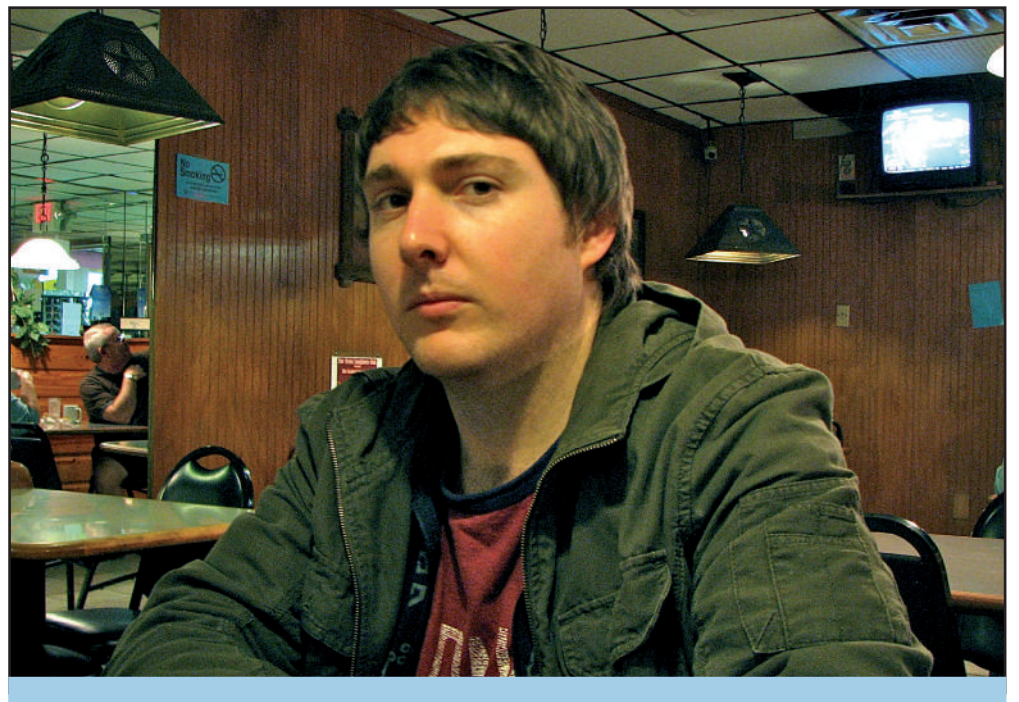
**"Y**oung people are smart, discerning and want to be entertained as much as adults do," says author Sally Ann Partridge. She should know. Her novels, *The Goblet Club* and *Fuse*, speak to the online generation, but with a South African perspective.

She finished *The Goblet Club*, her first novel, when she was 18 and when it was finally published when she was in her 20s, it won the MER Youth Prize for best young adult novel. *Fuse*, which draws on themes of school killings and brotherly love, followed in 2009, and her third book, *Dark Poppy's Demise* will be released in June 2011.

As a freelance editor Partridge has edited a series of teen novels, one of which became the first book to be published by Mxit. Multitasking Partridge is also an editor for two entertainment publications, and grateful for it. Without that she might just become someone who "sits in front of their computer all day, in their pyjamas, with a cat on their lap".

— **Lynley Donnelly**

 **Twitter:** @sapartridge



## Wayne Thornley Director

**B**ack at Rhodes University, where he studied acting, Wayne Thornley never imagined his first involvement in a major motion picture would be as the director of a full-length animated movie. But sure enough, in 2012, when *Zambezia* (Triggerfish Studios) hits movie theatres, Thornley will get to see his name lead hundreds of producers, animators and CGI characters on the credit roll.

It's a big deal for someone who fell into animation after seven years of slogging it out as an actor and director on live-action films. Luckily, 33-year-old Thornley is in love with the freedom of the animation process.

"I want wind, I get wind," he says. "I want a talking elephant, I get a talking elephant. It's amazing."

The family adventure story is racing against two other CGI animated features currently in production to be the first to come out of South Africa. Overseas, the film has been eliciting gasps from production studios when they learn how small Thornley's budget was. All thanks, he says, to the incredible family of producers and animators he has been working with. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @thorny77

## Daniel Ting Chong Designer, artist, VJ

**I**n 2005, when Daniel Ting Chong looked at his matric results, he was amazed to find three digits next to his design practical. The young artist had confidence in his abilities, but 100%? "I thought it was quite ridiculous," he admits. But the remarkable mark was a sign of things to come.

Now 23, Ting Chong is one of Cape Town's most sought-after young designers, creating everything from pillowcases and toys to phone apps and websites. After graduating from the brand communication school Vega, in 2009, Ting Chong cut his teeth at the President design studio before opening his own studio with three partners, in Woodstock.

At Rondebosch Boys High School Ting Chong's love for design flourished under the tutelage of renowned Cape Town artist Andrew Putter. Guided by him Ting Chong and a few friends started a digital magazine called *I Eat Soup*, which became a medium for other high-school artists to exhibit their work.

Ting Chong believes design is all about tangibility,

so, although he would be honoured to see his work on your home or office wall, he would much rather see it in your restaurant or on your T-shirt, out in public spaces, interacting with people and cultures.

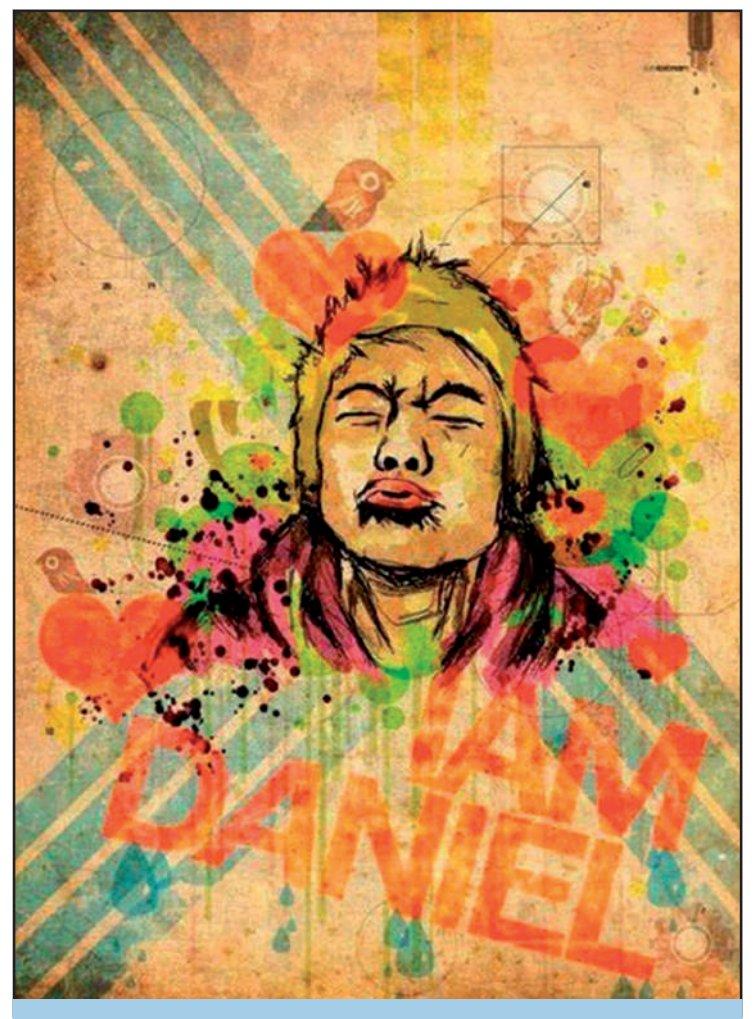
It is this principle that guided the creation of his Design Indaba magazine cover in December 2010. Drawing on the "Do it Yourself" theme, Ting Chong used the cover as a template for readers to cut out and create a 3D typeface, forming the letters DIY.

Off the page and into your personal space is his style. So it's not surprising that when he is not designing clothes or putting designer touches to restaurants such as Me in Longmarket Street, he is projecting lights and custom graphics on to packed dance floors as resident VJ at the Assembly club.

— **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @danieltingchong

He would much rather see his work on your T-shirt



## 200 Young South Africans | Arts &amp; Culture



MARWHAAN LODEWYK

## Kyle Shepherd

Musician, poet, creative artist

Jazz pianist Kyle Shepherd's mother once worked for iconic jazzman and pianist Abdullah Ibrahim, so perhaps it's not surprising that he eventually chose the piano after a long flirtation with the violin.

The composer and arranger, born in Cape Town in 1987, was initially drawn to the violin and classical music before switching to the piano and jazz as a teenager. "I was attracted to the instrument [piano] because of its improvisational possibilities. I needed more from music."

Shepherd has two albums, *fineART* (2009) and *A Portrait of Home* (2010), both nominated for Samas, and another album scheduled for release in the next few months, on which he features the late jazzman and pedagogue Zim Ngqawana. When Shepherd's debut album came out Ngqawana said the young musician had "managed to find a balance between the intellect and intuition. Kyle is a meditator and a poet."

Indeed, what Shepherd is doing is something of a balancing act; he talks about the influence of Cape Town in his music and how his ear is always tuned to the music of this country and from all of this he is trying to create something new — an idiom that at once connects and distinguishes him from some of his favourite musicians, who include pianists Jason Moran, Cecil Taylor and Keith Jarrett and horn superstars John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman.

Besides Ngqawana, he has also performed with saxophonist McCoy Mrubata, pianist Hilton Schilder and others and has toured the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, France, Denmark, Malaysia, Swaziland, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

His music has been used in two films, *Afrikaaps* by Dylan Valley and *The Uprising of Hangberg*, a film by Valley and Aryan Kaganof. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 Website: [kyleshepherd.co.za](http://kyleshepherd.co.za)


## Anthea Moys Performance artist

Many people don't "get" performance art, but Johannesburg-based artist Anthea Moys believes making people laugh is half the battle. Her master's degree focused on "structured play", which could mean anything from creating a scheduled snowball fight to riding a stationary exercise bike during the 94.7 bike race.

But there is a serious side too — all her work is a comment on the environment and the way people approach their shared space. "For me, being an artist involves risk-taking, testing things out, making unlikely connections, interrupting routine

in order to inspire, shake up and wake up!"

Moys's approach has been recognised by people outside Johannesburg, the city that inspires her. She has held a residency at Monash University in Australia and has been invited to participate in exhibitions from Sweden to Switzerland and Berlin. In the future she intends to complete her PhD in fine art while continuing "to facilitate and lead energetic investigations into the heart of the city". — **Lisa van Wyk**

 Website: [antheamoys.com](http://antheamoys.com)



## James Cairns Writer, director, actor

"When you need to make a strategic decision, ask yourself: 'what would China do?'"

It's pointless taking James Cairns seriously. He's old-school comedy; the kind that turns a stepladder, some clever "toons" and a few lighting effects into an alternative reality filled with characters you want to either hug or hit. Either way, you have to care because his genius is always tangible, even if his props aren't.

On stage Cairns is a physical theatre practitioner par excellence, morphing between characters like a man possessed.

Offstage this writer, director, television actor and comedian is as skilled and sharp as a Swiss Army knife. His plays, *Rat* and *Brother Number*, received standing ovations; his one-man tours de force, *The Sitting Man* and *Dirt*, beat Andrew Buckland to win the 2010 Naledi award for Best Performance in a One-Person Show. That's the league he's in. And he's only just beginning to climb the imaginary ladder.

— **Cat Pritchard**

 Twitter: [@maczomba](https://twitter.com/maczomba)



## 200 Young South Africans | Arts &amp; Culture



## Ricky Lee Gordon

Creative director, curator and founder: /A WORD OF ART

In the art world, Ricky Lee Gordon is a star in the Bob Dylan tradition. At 26, this young artist is painting with and for the soul, inspiring others by taking his work out in broad daylight and on to the streets, where everyone can enjoy it.

Inspired by the idea of inspiration, Gordon is a creative who believes in and lives by "art for change". He evinces this through the visually arresting murals he's been spray-painting as "Freddy Sam" (the names of his grandfathers) since he was 14.


They can be found at schools and crèches revitalised with vital bursts of colour by Write on Africa, the non-profit organisation he founded. He also contributes to popular culture through the promotion of "new brow" art in his Woodstock-based art space, /A WORD OF ART. Created from and with heart, his work is tagged not only with a signature crown, but also with consciousness and conscience.

Gordon, who likens himself to Peter Pan, has the gift of turning everything he believes in into reality. It helped him make the Gauteng rugby team when he

was still at school, launch a clothing label at 18 and turn a derelict building in Woodstock into a hugely popular art space that has since extended into creative collaborations with brands such as Adidas.

But Gordon is not interested in brands, money, sparkling opening nights or white-walled exhibitions, what he's looking for is a return of gratitude and grins. So he roots his art in communities, as he's done from Woodstock to Barcelona, Berlin and Khayelitsha. That's why the next project he'd like to undertake is painting 13 schools inside out in an effort to understand the impact of and the science behind art for change.

Young and gifted, with a spirited, soulful and selfless outlook, Gordon illustrates the effect a true artist can have, and gives hope to others that "the times they are a-changing". — **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [freddysam.com](http://freddysam.com)  
[a-word-of-art.co.za](http://a-word-of-art.co.za)  
[writeonafrica.org](http://writeonafrica.org)

## Pumeza Matshikiza

Soprano

London-based soprano Pumeza Matshikiza is one of the South African classical world's busiest exports. Since leaving the University of Cape Town's College of Music she has studied at the Royal College of Music and was selected for the Jette Parker Young Artists' Programme at the Royal Opera House for 2007/8 and 2008/9.

In 2010 first prize in the prestigious Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition netted her €10 000, which she invested in further voice training. Most recently, Matshikiza appeared in the title role in a new production of Mozart's *Zaide* with the Classical Opera Company at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. A reviewer wrote of her recent performance as Vendulka in Smetana's *The Kiss* at the Wexford Festival in Ireland: "She pours out her heart and soul in her strikingly smoky lyric soprano, whose gleaming top is like the sun emerging from the clouds. There's a star in the making here." — **Lisa van Wyk**

 **Website:** [imgartists.com](http://imgartists.com)



## Chloe Townsend

Founder: Missibaba

Missibaba is the brainchild of leather accessories designer Chloe Townsend. In her Cape Town-based studio Townsend and her team produce carefully crafted high-end bags, belts, jewellery and, recently, men's shoes.

In a bid to give back, Missibaba also includes a group of women from the iKhaya Trust Centre in Kayamandi outside Stellenbosch, who work on embellishing the leatherwork and manufacturing the jewellery, both of which have become synonymous with this cult label.

A graduate of the London College of Fashion, Townsend has, in the space of six years, seen Missibaba stocked in

stores around the country, as well as in Germany, the US and Portugal. And although her longstanding love affair with leather may not be every nature lover's cup of tea, she believes there are many different ways to be environmentally conscious. "Our aim is to create pieces that will last a lifetime and will not perpetuate the cycle of cheap disposable goods." — **Lynley Donnelly**

 **Website:** [missibaba.com](http://missibaba.com)

## 200 Young South Africans | Arts &amp; Culture


## Matheu Clifford Kieswetter Conductor

**M**atheu Clifford Kieswetter's dream of becoming a world-famous conductor was inspired at age three when he watched his father conduct their local church choir in Kensington on the Cape Flats. Twenty-two years later and, baton in hand, Kieswetter is in Europe — adding strings to his bow faster than Robin Hood fired arrows. Blazing a trail as an up-and-coming conductor, Kieswetter has guest conducted the Bulgarian State Philharmonic, the Orpheus Sinfonia in London, the Kammerphilharmonie Graz in Austria and recently nabbed the last coveted spot for a master's in conducting at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Two years ago, Kieswetter was working as a largely self-taught conductor, composer and music schoolteacher in Johannesburg. A scholarship to complete a teacher training course in London — where he took the opportunity to attend masterclasses by renowned conductors — orchestrated a change in tempo and destiny; one that whirled him to the finals of the Weiz International Conducting Competition in Austria and, next stop, Glasgow.

During his master's, Kieswetter will have his hands full — conducting three operas, a ballet and 12 premieres of new works a year, while working as assistant conductor of the Royal Scottish Academy orchestra and choir and the BBC Scottish Symphony. Beyond international recognition, it's the qualification and experience he hopes will give him a stronger voice in South Africa to do what he really wants to do — create social change through music.

This is the reason Kieswetter founded the Opus Almus Project in 2008, a foundation that gives wealth to the youth in the form of music education and golden opportunities that would otherwise have been inaccessible to them. Passionate about contributing to the development of South African youth, Kieswetter hopes to emulate the successful El Sistema music program in Venezuela locally — and to continue to inspire other people's lives with music in the way it inspired his. — **Lu Larché**

 **YouTube:** Matheu Clifford Kieswetter





## Andile Dyalvane Ceramicist

**C**elebrated ceramicist Andile Dyalvane knows how to mould a simple lump of clay into a unique work of art. Inspired by his cultural heritage, the 33-year-old Eastern Cape artist creates exquisite bowls and vases, which he decorates with traditional scarification designs.

His style is simple and inventive and he enjoys seeing the delight on people's faces when they encounter his work for the first time. Dyalvane has come a long way from the small village of Ngobozana, near Qoboqobo, where he was born and grew up.

He studied at Sivuyile Technical College in Gugulethu and at the Port Elizabeth Technikon, before making his name in 2003 with a solo exhibition at the Irma Stern Museum in Cape Town. His accolades include a Design Icon and Master Crafter award from the Cape Craft and Design Institute, and an *Elle Decoration* International Design award. Dyalvane says he tries "never to lie" either in art or in life. — **Ngoako Matsha**

 **Facebook:** Andile Dyalvane  
 **Twitter:** @ANDILE0323



## David West Fashion designer

**C**atholic Sexy: a sassy name for a fashion collection. For innovative Cape Town designer David West it encapsulates the spirit of his 2010 winter range. "I realised that conservative dressing — convent style and demure — is sexier than being exposed," he explains.

The 34-year-old describes himself as "very shy", but this doesn't stop him from pushing the boundaries — creatively and otherwise. In 2009 he opened a concept store in Woodstock, in spite of being advised not to. "It's still a dangerous area," he admits, "but we believe in it."

Since creating his own label in 1998 West has

won acclaim both locally and internationally. In 2000 he won the Durban Design Collections and was nominated for a Catherine Award. Now he designs for Woolworths.

West frequents Cape Town art gallery Whatiftheworld for inspiration and is an avid fan of cutting-edge Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo.

His favourite item of clothing? A simple grey V-neck jersey. — **Ayanda Sitole**

 **Website:** davidwest.co.za



## 200 Young South Africans | Arts &amp; Culture

## Kudzanai Chiurai Visual artist

For a man of few words, Kudzanai Chiurai is not afraid to speak his mind — which he does, loudly and brilliantly, through his art. His brutal honesty and fearless commentary on the status quo had him exiled from his homeland, Zimbabwe, and helped accelerate his rise as an internationally acclaimed artist by the age of 30.

Through his subversive statements, opinions, spoofs and observations, multilayered in arresting mixed-media works, he has been dubbed a poet, an anti-poet and a cultural philosopher. And yet Chiurai is not the kind of guy who would appreciate being put in a box.

In spite of sell-out shows, exhibitions abroad and his art hanging on the walls of New York's Museum of Modern Art and in Elton John and Richard Branson's homes, Chiurai remains unaffected: a cut-off observer, clearly speaking his truth. Not surprisingly then, his only future agenda is to return home to Zimbabwe to teach kids about art. — **Lu Larché**



**Website:** [goodman-gallery.com/artists/kudzanaichiurai](http://goodman-gallery.com/artists/kudzanaichiurai)



SUICIDE MONKEY

## Bryan Little Filmmaker

Bryan Little wanted to be a painter. But a film about a painter, director Julian Schnabel's biopic of neo-expressionist Jean-Michel Basquiat, convinced him that his canvas was actually film.

"I was 16 years old at the time and, after watching *Basquiat*, film became, for me, the ultimate platform. It's four-dimensional in that it incorporates the elements that are most important for my work: music, people and concepts and it is time-based," says the 30-year-old, who grew up in Pietermaritzburg and lives in Cape Town.

Little started experimenting with borrowed cameras and edited short films by connecting two video players and arduously recording and re-recording scenes.

He then studied film at City Varsity.

He admits to "a soft-spot for 16mm film", but enjoys mixing everything from "shooting on cellphone cameras to HD" and has made music videos, adverts, MTV clips and the cinema verité documentary, *Fokopolisiekar: Forgive Them for They Know Not What They Do*, about the Afrikaans punk rockers, Fokopolisiekar.

The film was named best South Africa documentary

at the 11th Encounters Documentary Film Festival and received rave reviews at the 2009 International Documentary Festival in Amsterdam.

Little, a Grand Prix winner at the Design Indaba, is also a co-founder of the Ruff Cuts Film Festival and was included in a list of the top 50 up-and-coming filmmakers in the world by Shots International Showreel.

He also co-runs a production company, Fly on the Wall Productions, which has adopted an audacious approach to getting it's name out there.

Little laughs as he tells of the company's approaches to MTV: "We essentially made loads of short films and emailed them randomly to addresses we made up at MTV. We figured at least one or two would get through and they did, and were soon circulating around the company. Then we got the call — they wanted us." — **Niren Tolsi**



**Twitter:** @flyonthewallSA  
**Facebook:** flyonthewallSA

## Antonia Steyn

Photographer

Antonia Steyn's nickname is "photographer of the stars" — a label that's often associated with her idol, the legendary Annie Liebovitz.

The 33-year-old portrait's of Pieter-Dirk Uys shows what makes her work so special. It's Uys as you've never seen him before — in a suit, and gold high heels. The portrait won her Media 24's Photographer of the Year award in 2007.

The following year she netted an Absa L'Atelier Merit award, for a very different subject: AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche. "I was in fear of him my whole childhood," Steyn recalls. "Getting to a place where I trusted him, and he trusted me, was challenging."

Steyn will hold her first solo exhibition later this year. She hopes it will reflect the diverse faces of South Africa.

Her recipe for capturing a great image? Stay humble. "Put yourself on the back burner, to allow people to reveal themselves to you,".

— **Ayanda Sitole**



**Facebook:** [Antonia Steyn Photography Group](https://www.facebook.com/AntoniaSteynPhotographyGroup)



## 200 Young South Africans | Arts &amp; Culture

## Tanit Phoenix

Actress and model

Although she may not be *Straight outta Benoni*, as in the comedy she starred in, Durban-born model and actress Tanit Phoenix is tipped by some to be South Africa's next Charlize Theron.

Phoenix, who has modelled since she was 15, has enjoyed a meteoric rise from obscurity to stardom. Her beauty has catapulted her on to the covers of glossies, double-page spreads in *Sports Illustrated* and runways in all the fashion capitals. It has also helped her land golden contracts with brands such as Veet, to be the face (and legs) of their global campaigns.

But Phoenix's greatest achievements and ambitions lie beyond beauty and firmly in the film world. Her debut role, starring opposite Nicolas Cage in the 2005 feature, *Lord of War*, remains her career highlight and was the first of her pairings with A-List heavyweights, including Wesley Snipes, Danny Trejo and, most recently, John Cleese in *Spud* and Denzel Washington in *Safehouse*.

And she has no plans to slow down just yet. Phoenix

recently landed the lead role in *Femmes Fatales*, a television series that airs across America in May and, later this year, she will be shooting her next film, playing the role of Pablo Picasso's first muse.

She may be hot in the Hollywood spotlight but Phoenix is just as down to earth as the next Durban girl. And though many agree that she is hypnotising on screen, off screen she is, in fact, a hypnotherapist. She is also a vegan and an avid nature lover who dreams of owning her own self-sustainable, fully organic medicinal herb farm.

Until then, she'd like to work with her two heroines, Meryl Streep and Cate Blanchett, and turn the stream of scripts coming in from big studios, and from Steven Spielberg himself, into accolades and awards. It may not be too long before another Oscar is brought back to South Africa. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @tanitphoenix



## Neil Coppen

Writer, director, actor

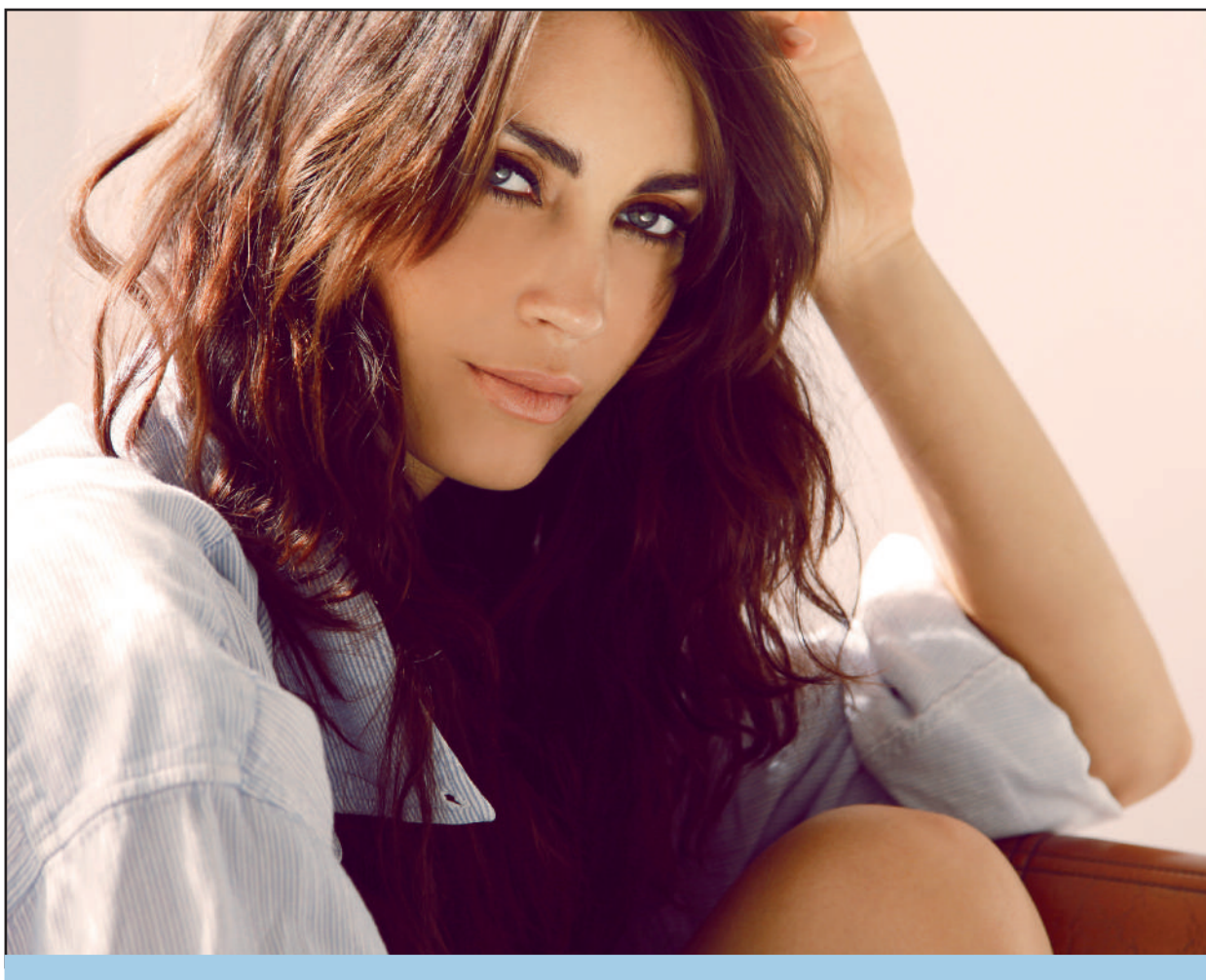
Durban-based actor, writer and director Neil Coppen started out like many of his peers — performing Shakespeare. That was until he produced his breakthrough script, *Tree Boy* (directed by Libby Allen), a piece of experimental theatre that combined various forms of animation and live performance and won the Durban Theatre Award for Best New South African Script.

Multitalented Coppen may have won the 2011 Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year award for theatre, but he doesn't plan to limit his creative focus.

He recently took part in the 2010 *Reasons to Live in a Small Town* project, which saw him join artist Vaughn Sadie in "taking over" the town of Dundee in KwaZulu-Natal, exploring its history through art interventions that involved public spaces and local inhabitants.

Coppen says he is "interested in exploring how tangled our histories are as South Africans and how we all inherit and lug about ancestral baggage from past generations". — **Lisa van Wyk**

 **Website:** neil.iaminawe.com



## Jon Savage

Musician, 5FM DJ

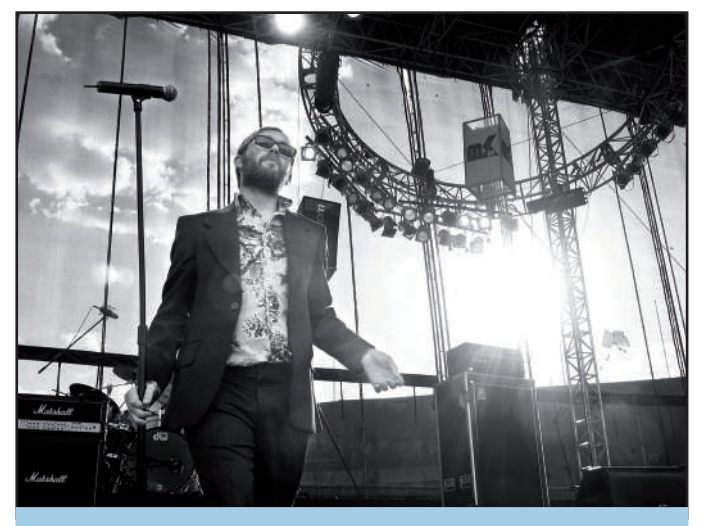
Beyond love, Jon Savage's father gave him the best gift a parent ever could — he showed, by example, that there are no limits in life. It's what inspired Savage to do things like run his own film company, start a band, convince Lenny Kravitz to send a birthday wish to an infatuated friend and, characteristically, shoot for the stars.

As the lead singer of Cassette, Savage's charisma, energy and "wont-take-no-for-an-answer" attitude have been instrumental to the band's success. They are also, most likely, what landed him his latest gig —

hosting 5FM's *Power Nite of Rock*.

And when he's not performing or playing music he's composing it. Savage wrote the original score for the South African musical *Streets of Gold* and intends to focus more on that field. With his sights set on original music composition, a solo album and a daytime radio show, it seems clear that, for Savage, the sky truly is the limit. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @cassetteband



## Spoek Mathambo Musician

Some time last year I went to a local music franchise shop to buy *Umshini Wam*, musician Spoek Mathambo's debut album. I asked a bemused shop assistant if he had the album.

"Spoek?" It turned out he had never heard of the man, nor did the shop stock his music. Yet a few months previously the 25-year-old had been featured in *Fader* magazine and was big news on the internet and the European dance scene.

It's appropriate that Mathambo is a sensation on the internet; back in the early 1990s, when the internet wasn't known outside of geeky circles, Mathambo was messing around on his cousin's computer. Later he enrolled for medical studies before dropping out.

Mathambo's music is a melding of funk, house and kwaito and acid commentary on the here and now. The reaction to his music has either been the unqualified admiration of devoted aficionados or the confused headshake of the naysayers who wonder,

"what the hell is going on?"

Explaining his sound, Mathambo says: "I am putting a spin on what was going on in the Pretoria house music scene, the Durban scene." What he's doing, he says, is an interpretation of the manifold waves of house and kwaito music, of hip-hop, of the hours of listening to his father's soul and jazz records; it's also what symbols such as Abdullah Ibrahim, Dumile Feni and other South African icons mean to him. "I am making something that feels like South Africa in 2011."

Mathambo, who was born Nthato Mokgata, adopted the name Spoek Mathambo from the television show *Emzini Wezinsizwa*. Now he's been signed by rock label Subpop and is set to perform at the Glastonbury Festival and at New York's Lincoln Centre in August. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Twitter:** @SPOEK\_MATHAMBO



NICO KRINJNO



## Cynthia Jele Novelist

Cynthia Jele, winner of the this year's Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best first book in the Africa region for her novel *Happiness Is a Four-Letter Word*, is no newcomer to accolades. In 2008 she won first and fourth prizes in the BTA/Anglo-Platinum short-story competition, a literary contest run by literacy activist Beulah Thumbadoo. But the Commonwealth prize is easily the most significant award to date for this Catholic schoolgirl from KwaZulu-Natal. "When you've written a book that is classified as 'chick-lit' you're made to believe that your book is not of literary importance. The award is definitely something the genre needs." Jele, who graduated with a BTech in public health from the then Natal Technikon, spent six years in the US, where she completed a BA in international business at North Central College in Illinois. Given her predilection for winning prizes, it's safe to say that the Commonwealth Writers' Prize isn't the last that will come her way. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Website:** kwela.com

## Mamela Nyamza Dancer, choreographer

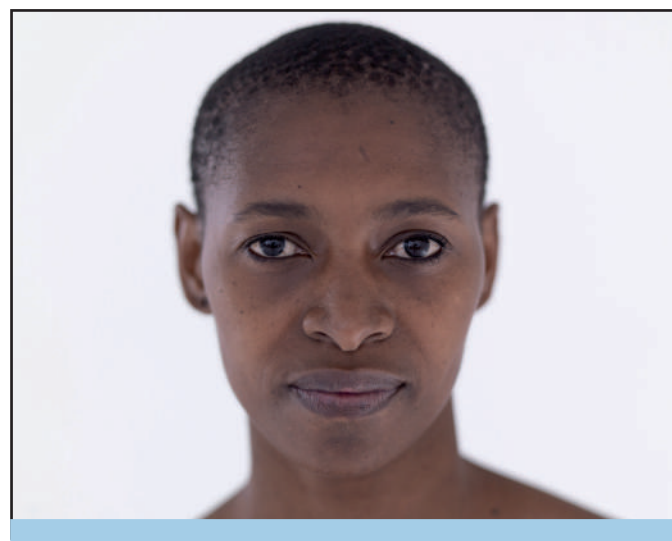
Award-winning dancer and choreographer Mamela Nyamza is not afraid to express herself — even if that means creating a completely new vernacular of dance to ensure her voice is heard.

With integrity and dexterity, Nyamza challenges the conventional language of ballet and, in her own fiery vocabulary, uses dance to push herself, her body and audiences to places they have never been before. Her provocative dance pieces, inspired by her childhood in Gugulethu, are stories that draw parallels between dance and cultural traditions, social issues and autobiographical events — which she

brings to a point, *en pointe*.

Nyamza started dancing at the age of eight in Gugulethu and continued her training in Pretoria and New York before performing on stages and at festivals around the world. At 34, self-employed and mother of an 11-year-old son, Nyamza won the 2011 Standard Bank Young Artists Award for Dance, recognition she considers her reward for believing in herself and speaking her truth. — **Lu Larché**

 **YouTube:** Mamela Nyamza



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## Mary Sibande Artist

Last year 19 buildings in the Johannesburg CBD were wrapped in the image of Sophie, a domestic worker, her blue Victorian dress billowing around her, eyes closed dreamily.

The exhibition, titled *Long Live the Dead Queen*, was part of a public art project, Johannesburg Art City World Premiere Annual Exhibition — giant building-wraps in the inner city — which premiered in June to coincide with the 2010 World Cup.

Sophie was conceived by visual artist Mary Sibande, who received a BTech honours degree in fine art from the University of Johannesburg in 2007 — the first woman in her family to get a university education. The artist, born in 1982, works in various media, including painting, sculpture and photography.

The sculpture of Sophie was cast from Sibande's own body, which she uses to explore the domestic worker's status — her dreams, her aspirations. She

regards the domestic worker figure as a heroine and her work is a celebration of this woman, who is, in many ways, the mother of the nation. But the image she has conjured up is far from the domestic worker of our private spaces or that of apartheid's imagination.

Sibande was, perhaps, the most celebrated South African artist in 2010 and her busy itinerary reflects this — her work was featured in the group shows *Pierneef to Gugulactive* from 1910 to 2010 at the Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, and *l'Exposition du Festival Mondial des Arts Nègres* in Dakar.

She has received a number of residencies and fellowships, which have included stints in France, Germany, Switzerland, New York, Italy, Washington, DC and Finland. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 Website: gallerymomo.com


## Damien Schumann Photographer

Twenty-nine-year-old Damien Schumann never contemplated a life behind the camera. That all changed the day he met a documentary photographer while travelling through the Middle East from 2001 to 2003.

Inspired by the power of photography as a tool for social activism, Schumann hitchhiked through Africa to Palestine and returned with enough material for his first Cape Town exhibition, *Balala*. Its success led to a scholarship to the Ruth Prowse School of Art in Woodstock, Cape Town.

In 2006 he used his camera to celebrate the courage of people living with TB and HIV in the townships of Cape Town and Lusaka. He housed his photographs in a moveable township shack, and the travelling exhibition won widespread acclaim — notably from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Bill Gates.

But for Schumann success was bittersweet. He realised that “pictures alone could not save lives”. Now he structures his work around advocacy campaigns and tries to “push boundaries” for the sake of change. — **Sibongile Nkosi**

 Website: dspgallery.com  
Twitter: @dspamien



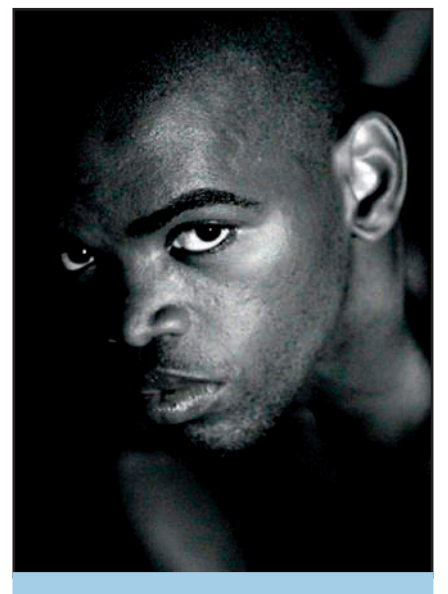
## Sivuyile Ngesi Actor

Sivuyile Ngesi is not the most talented actor around, he just wants it more than anyone else. Or at least that's the line this self-skilled, self-motivated actor/comedian delivers with perfect comedic timing.

It might be an occupational hazard. The 25-year-old is fresh off the stage of *DeKaf*, his one-man comedy show that took the Golden Ovation award for best comedy at the 2010 National Arts Festival and has been touring sold-out spaces ever since.

But don't be fooled; he takes this acting gig seriously. When he's off stage he's probably on set, taking on lead characters in TV series such as *League of Glory* or *Kululeka* or putting on his best German accent for yet another foreign film. He probably has Keifer Sutherland and Jon Voight on speed dial since his successful role in the movie version of *24*. Guess he'll have the last laugh when he delivers his Oscar acceptance speech in isiXhosa. — **Cat Pritchard**

 Twitter: @sivn



## Rob van Vuuren

Comedian, actor, writer, director

Who says men can't multitask? Not Rob van Vuuren. The blonde-moustached godfather of all things *zef* may be better known as Corné's sidekick Twakkie, but Van Vuuren isn't just a comedian. He's also an actor, playwright, director ... and a ballroom dancer.

Since he graduated with honours in drama from Rhodes University in 1997 Van Vuuren has been a regular on the nation's TV screens, not only as Twakkie in SABC 2's *The Most Amazing Show*, but, as a presenter of SA's *Got Talent* and *Crazy Games*. In 2008 he donned top hat and tails to win the celebrity dance competition *Strictly Come Dancing*. This year he bagged the inaugural Comic's Choice breakthrough act award.

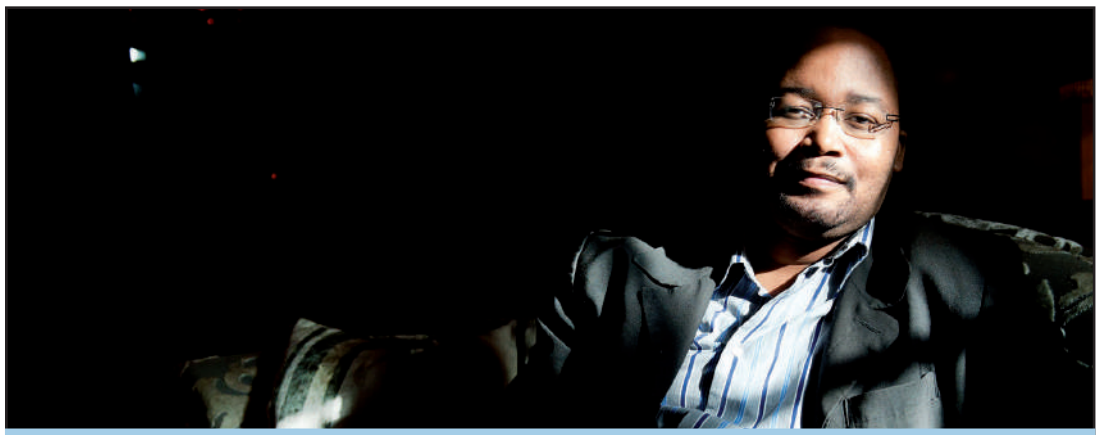
But Van Vuuren believes the best is yet to come, otherwise "there would be no reason to keep going".

His most valuable lesson in life? He channels his inner Twakkie and answers: "Don't be kak!" — **Aphiwe Deklerk**

 **Twitter:** @Robvanvuuren



He's the blond-moustached  
godfather of all things *zef*



## Bongani Ndodana-Breen

Composer

Bongani Ndodana-Breen shatters any conception that the world of classical music is a stuffy, Eurocentric anomaly in modern South Africa.


In 1998 he became the youngest classical composer to win a Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music. He is also the only composer from Africa to have been featured in a concert comprised entirely of his own works in the prestigious Composer Portraits series at the Miller Theatre in New York.

Like many South African classical artists Ndodana-Breen has found more fame and fortune

abroad than at home, but his latest work, *Winnie: The Opera*, which premiered in South Africa in April, looks set to change that.

Ndodana-Breen is inspired by his heritage, and traditional Xhosa music feeds into much of what he does as a contemporary classical musician. He hopes to continue in this vein, writing more "operas and other works that continue to give a South African voice in classical music".

— **Lisa van Wyk**

 **Website:** bonganindodanabreen.com



## Faith47

Street artist

You may not know her name or face, but you might know her work. Faith47 is one of South Africa's most prolific street artists, with images adorning everything from abandoned cars to old factories and decaying urban spaces.

She says she has a "deep affinity" for neglected places, which is why she uses them as a canvas to highlight "our elusive relationship with dreams, memory and human interaction".

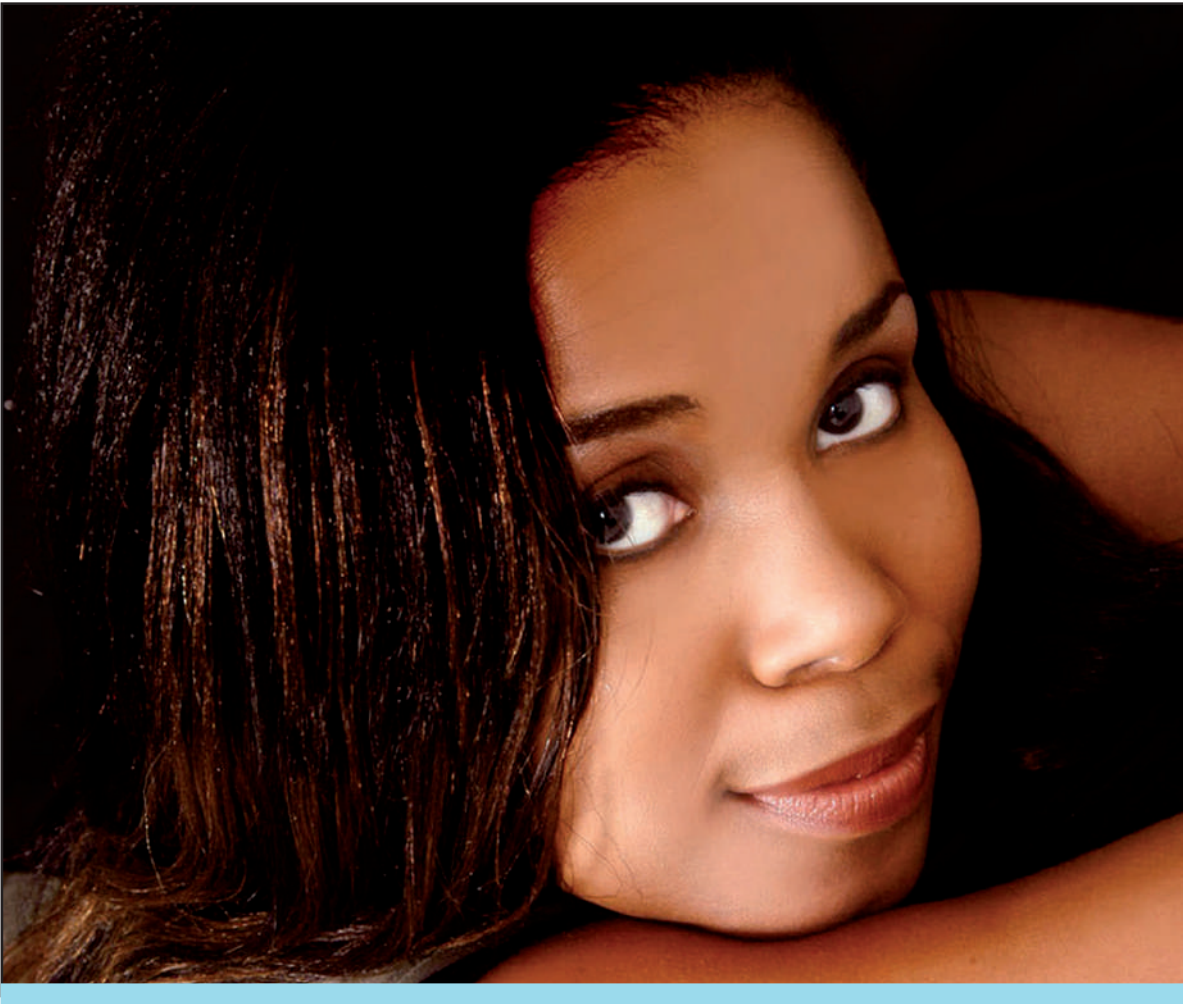
Luckily people don't have to frequent back

alleys to access her images. Her work is exhibited in Berlin, the US, China, Spain and here at home, and is also featured in international art and culture magazines and documentaries. Her work and approach to art have received the exposure and recognition she seeks not only to elevate her own work but also the art form as a whole.

— **Lisa van Wyk**

 **Website:** faith47.com

## 200 Young South Africans | Business &amp; Law



## Sina Hina

Head: Microsoft business unit,  
Business Connexion, Eastern Cape

**W**ining and dining customers between the odd round of golf: it's all in a day's work for 31-year-old Sina Hina.

Inspired by Walt Disney's management style Hina shot up the corporate ladder and now heads the Microsoft business unit of Business Connexion in the Eastern Cape.

A belief in the possibilities of technology led her to study financial information systems, technology she would like to make widely available and which she is convinced will help transform service delivery in rural areas.

In spite of her many achievements Hina still feels she has to prove her worth — especially as a woman in a male-dominated world. But she gets her kicks out of convincing people to use her technology, and she won't rest until her workmates are as passionate as she is.

In 2009 her infectious spirit earned her the Business Women's Association corporate winner award for the Eastern Cape. — **Sipho McDermott**

 **Twitter:** @sinarioh

## Buli G Ngomane

Marketing and communications executive: Access Management

**H**ow has Buli G Ngomane managed to squeeze such an impressive career into such a short time? The answer, says this 35-year-old, is simple: never procrastinate. "The only time to pause is when you're taking stock of what you want to achieve. And then you go again. Life is short."

Ngomane is a "renaissance woman". She has sung for a Saudi Prince, shared the stage with South Africa's most talented musicians, from the Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra to Ray Phiri, and even collaborated with local rock band Evolver One. Her career in radio, TV, entertainment and marketing has spanned 15 years, so it's hardly surprising to learn that this bold go-getter is also a former *Idols* hopeful. Ngomane's voice has sweetened the airwaves too. She caught the radio bug at university and went on to host shows on Algoa FM and Highveld FM.

These days she is a corporate high-flyer. She is the

marketing and communications executive for Access Management, a company that aims to transform the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth into the country's leading sports and entertainment venue. As a proud daughter of the "Friendly City", Ngomane believes it is exciting to be part of such a vibrant initiative.

She has always been self-motivated — even as a child. When she was in grade two she managed to convince her teacher to fast-track her into grade three and she hasn't stopped since. But she values her downtime, too. She travels abroad at least twice a year (Miami and Barcelona are her favourite cities), making sure her cellphone is firmly switched off.

— **Ayanda Sitole**

 **Facebook:** Buli G Ngomane



## Max Ebrahim

Partner: Insurance and legal liability practice, Webber Wentzel

**T**hirty-four-year-old Max Ebrahim is one of the few young black insurance lawyers in the country. When he joined Webber Wentzel a decade ago he planned to specialise in mergers and acquisitions. Instead, his mentor, Danie Le Roux, pushed him to do an LLM at University College London.

A Nelson Mandela scholarship made it possible, but Ebrahim still had to cover his living costs. "When you finance your own studies, it's a powerful incentive to complete them," he jokes. As a partner in one of South

Africa's leading insurance practices Ebrahim has acted for some of the most important insurers and brokerages both in South Africa and abroad and has been involved in one of the largest personal injury claims settled in South Africa.

Ebrahim is aware that some clients "still think people of colour are less competent". But, he adds, "Fortunately this provides an opportunity to prove people wrong."

— **Sipho McDermott**

 **Twitter:** @MaxEbrahim

200 Young South Africans | **Business & Law****Colin Thornton**

Founder: Dial a Nerd

**T**welve years ago Colin Thornton was studying for a BSc in computer science and hating every minute of it. So he dropped out. The only problem was he was 20 years old, broke, and knew a lot about computers but very little about anything else. So he borrowed R5 000 to print fliers and get the word out that he could fix computers. Only a few people responded, but he soon discovered an untapped niche market that found him providing computer support to home users.

Most of his clients were older and in need of support to keep up with the ever-evolving digital space. Word soon spread and another business was born in yet another supportive parent's garage.

Today Dial a Nerd is bigger and more "geeky" than ever, with an annual turnover of R45-million, 14 branches and 135 staff around the country. This is one nerd who might just grow up to be another Bill Gates. — **Glynnis Underhill**

 **Website:** [nerds.co.za](http://nerds.co.za)
**Hamza Farooqui** Co-founder and CEO: CII Holdings

**I**t is hard to imagine bankruptcy ever being a positive experience but Hamza Farooqui recognises that even in business the hard times only make the good times better.

In 2008 Farooqui was managing director of the South African branch of WorldSpace Satellite Radio when its parent company went insolvent. Farooqui believes that, despite many successes, working with the company's former chairman through the bankruptcy court process, and helping Worldspace survive, has been his most rewarding experience. And he has many to choose from.


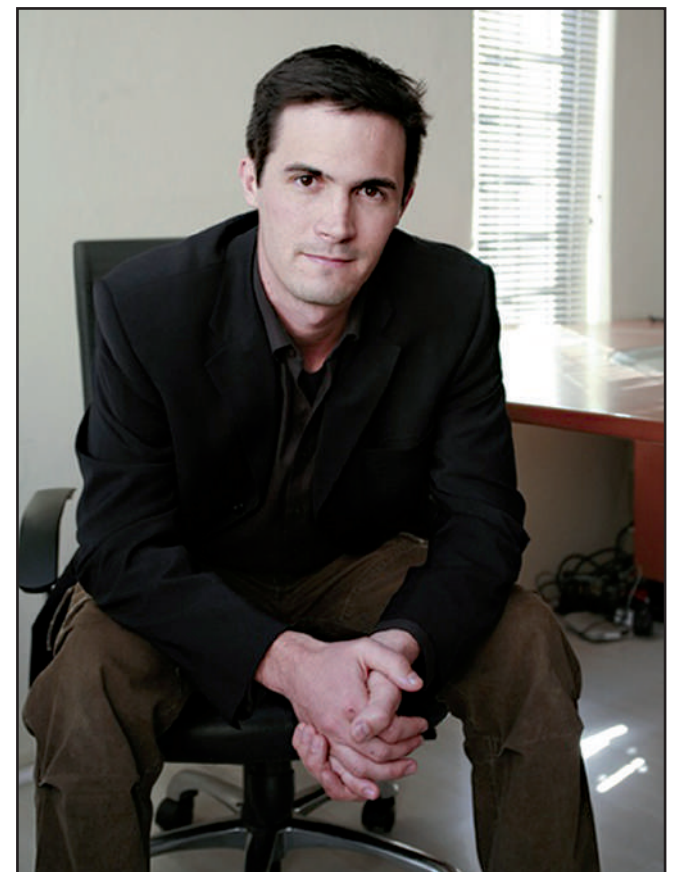
Farooqui's career began when he was a 12-year-old in love with the game of cricket. This led the young entrepreneur to create iCricketer.com, a website that showed realtime cricket scores and news. Six years later his website was recording more than three million hits a month and its content was syndicated to global media outlets.

At age 18 Farooqui started CII Holdings with two partners, becoming one of the youngest

CEOs in the country. CII Holdings is a multifaceted conglomerate focusing mainly on media, Islamic financial services, property development and the satellite radio station Channel Islam, one of the most popular English-language Muslim outlets in the world.

Last year CII opened the Coral International Hotel, Cape Town's first dry hotel, catering specifically for observant Muslim travellers. The hotel was recently taken over by the Hilton Group, making it their first venture in the Mother City and another groundbreaking achievement for Farooqui.

He may only be 29 but Farooqui is a man of old values and principles. He believes in surrounding himself with good people and doesn't see the value in chasing money. If anything, his success and failures have all taught him the same thing — that if you follow good ideas and real opportunities, money soon follows. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Website:** [ciibroadcasting.com](http://ciibroadcasting.com)
**Hanri Ehlers** PhD student: Medical law

**W**hen 25-year-old Hanri Ehlers was selected to participate in the prestigious Brightest Young Minds Summit last year she was ecstatic. Finding solutions to problems plaguing South Africa, such as a legal solution to eliminate hospital-acquired infections — the subject of her PhD — is one of her greatest passions.

It really bothers her that hospital infections could be avoided in Third World countries if better hygiene practices were applied. This is why when she goes into practice she intends to hold those responsible liable. Until then, Ehlers is happy to inspire future generations through her lectures in private law at Stellenbosch University.

She may sound like a classic academic but her stud-farm upbringing has instilled in her a great love for the outdoors, which is why she is currently setting up Kanabo Conservation Link, a non-profit organisation that will identify conservation projects in Botswana, Namibia and the Kalahari. We're glad she's on our side. — **Glynnis Underhill**

 **Facebook:** Hanri Ehlers


## 200 Young South Africans | Business &amp; Law



## Kali Ilunga

CEO: Spoken Ink Publishing

Entrepreneur Kali Ilunga always knew he would never survive in a nine-to-five job. His head was just too full of ideas.

As a teen he started a glossy magazine called *War Cry*, and he's been on the creative rampage ever since. Today the 24-year-old is CEO of Spoken Ink Publishing, which was named among the Top 40 Fast Growth Companies in South Africa by AllWorld Network. He also heads the EXP Digi Team and spends most of his time travelling between Kenya, Ghana and Johannesburg.

In 2010 he received a Harvard University Fellowship. Ilunga is excited about the power of digital media to transform lives. His mobile campaigns on Moomba.mobi have attracted 1.5-million downloads and he gets a kick out of using innovative technology to help young people to pass their driver's licence tests or matric exams.

"Principles are my magnetic north," he explains. "It is crucial to know what your values are." — **Sibongile Nkosi**

**Facebook:** Kali Ilunga  
**Twitter:** @Klunga

## Farah Fortune

Founder: African Star

Farah Fortune's secret weapon is her "vision board". Every January she fills it with reminders of what she hopes to achieve in the year ahead. At 31 Fortune is already living out her biggest dream. It's called African Star, the high-flying public relations and events company she started single-handedly in 2008, with just R1 000 in her pocket.

African Star's track record affirms her belief that "when you follow your passion, money follows". Gala dinners, birthday parties for President Zuma's daughter, handling the publicity for the Oscar-winning movie *Tsotsi* — Fortune has done it all. She's even accosted Clint Eastwood in a restaurant and persuaded him to attend one of her events.

Of course it's not all glamour and glitz. Fortune says she's had her share of battles and disappointments along the way but, with passion and perseverance on her side, she always manages to come out on top. Perhaps her surname is more prophetic than she realises.

— **Sibongile Nkosi**

**Website:** africanstar.co.za  
**Twitter:** @farahfortune



## Ernest Kekana Founder and CEO: K5 Aviation

When 34-year-old Ernest Kekana was growing up he didn't know any pilots. So every day after school, to feed his insatiable hunger for planes, he would spend hours reading aviation magazines at the local CNA. Once in a while he would get lucky and catch a ride to the airport, where he would watch the planes take off from the other side of the fence. Even then he thought to himself, "One day..."

Finally, at the age of 20, Kekana became one of South Africa's first self-trained black pilots, having spent his teenage years working at Edgars to save up for private licence training. Once certified he landed a job with a charter company where he soon became senior flight operations controller for the entire Gauteng region. But although he was living his dream he found the industry to be indifferent to nurturing and developing black pilots and managers. Kekana knew it was time for a change in flight plan.

Seven years later his K5 Aviation, a charter company with a fleet of 11 planes and three helicopters, employs

30 pilots, has 200 staff and operates under a rare international and domestic charter licence for "all category" aircrafts.

The company also has a social development programme in place to help those who cannot afford to pursue their dream of becoming pilots. But what really makes Kekana proud is what his achievements can do for others.

Recently a young man came up to him to thank him for speaking at his school a few years back. He told Kekana that his story made him realise that, as a young black man, he too could break into the aviation industry, something he had never believed possible. Today the man is studying aeronautical engineering at Wits, confirming Kekana's belief that "you just don't realise the real impact you can have". — **Eric Axelrod**

**Website:** k5aviation.com



## 200 Young South Africans | Business &amp; Law



## Jonathan Liebmann

Managing director: Property

There is a new cultural neighbourhood in Jo'burg and 27-year-old Jonathan Liebmann is its unofficial mayor. The recently renamed Maboneng (Sotho for "place of light") precinct is fast becoming a rainbow nation in its own right. Where once there were abandoned industrial complexes and rust there is now a diverse amalgam of people, businesses and public spaces, thanks to Liebmann and his property development firm, Property.

Liebmann turned his first property investment around at 18. He went on to own a mobile coffee shop and a chain of laundromats, which he grew from one to 17 shops in three years. But more important than the business itself was the doors it opened to a private equity financier who would eventually help Liebmann to make the initial purchase that would launch Maboneng.

Arts on Main, in a converted early 1900s warehouse, has become a centre of creative collaboration in Jo'burg. It offers a restaurant, rooftop bar, exhibition spaces and studio space for some of South Africa's most respected artists, among them

William Kentridge.

It was never Liebmann's dream to build a community solely focused on the arts. Main Street Life, which was the major development that followed, comprises apartments aimed at young and established professionals. It also features a boxing gym, dance and music rehearsal space and an independent cinema.

Liebmann's newest developments, The Main Change and Revolution House, offer affordable office space for aspiring entrepreneurs and small-business owners and a massive skate park that is open, free of charge, to the public.

Looking at the rapid and dynamic evolution of Maboneng, "community developer" seems to be a much more fitting title for Liebmann than "property developer".

"A lot of developers just build for the short term," he says. "But this is a place where people are progressing with their careers and passions for long-term growth."

— **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @mabonengevents



## Coenraad Bezuidenhout

Executive director for economic policy:  
Business Unity South Africa

Coenraad Bezuidenhout is like an image consultant for the South African economy. When all the emerging economies are lined up, flashing their best assets to attract foreign investors, it's his job to make sure South Africa has the most attractive policies in place. As executive director for economic policy at Business Unity South Africa his job is as important as his title.

By day he engages on policy and legislative issues with stakeholders, who include government, media and business. By night he constructs policy documents and opinion pieces he hopes will lead to real results, such as job creation.

At 33 Bezuidenhout is used to responsibility. In 2008 he served as chief of staff for the leader of the opposition and later led the Western Cape media campaign that helped secure victory for the Democratic Alliance in 2009. Right now he is focused on getting government to understand the requirements for growth and job creation. And he's not budging until he succeeds. — **Cat Pritchard**



**Blog:** [thoughtleader.co.za/coenraadbezuidenhout](http://thoughtleader.co.za/coenraadbezuidenhout)

**Twitter:** @CoenraadB

## Kayum Ahmed

CEO: South African  
Human Rights  
Commission

Kayum Ahmed is used to being the youngest person at the decision-making table. A former director of Parliament's international relations section, 35-year-old Ahmed is CEO of the South African Human Rights Commission — an institution created to monitor, uphold and protect the human rights of all South Africans.

It's not a small job, or one he takes lightly. Every day he witnesses the worst of humanity — something his master's in international human rights law didn't quite prepare him for. His experiences have taught him that "dealing with our past is more of an art than a science".

Whether he's implementing the commission's transformation objectives or accounting for the public purse, the buck stops with him. It may sound like youthful idealism but Ahmed knows that when he's sitting at the negotiating table, helping opposing parties to look each other in the eye, every question counts and reconciliation is possible. — **Cat Pritchard**



**Website:** [sahrc.org.za](http://sahrc.org.za)

## 200 Young South Africans | Business &amp; Law

## Abey Mokgwatsane CEO: VWV Group


If you don't know Abey Mokgwatsane by name you'll know him by the experiences he creates for his clients, Fifa being one of them. As CEO of the VWV Group, a global brand experience agency, Mokgwatsane fought off 30 international agencies to win the tender to produce the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

How he did this comes as no surprise to anyone in the industry. Even when he was just a few years out of advertising school Mokgwatsane headed Castle Loud, a young adult marketing initiative for Castle Lager, and launched Miller Genuine Draft into the South African market. Not surprisingly, he earned three managing director awards for marketing excellence at SAB.

In 2005 Mokgwatsane and two partners bought a majority stake in VWV, working hard to grow this Johannesburg-based agency into a global operation, with projects reaching into 26 countries. With Mokgwatsane at the helm VWV won its 12th Loerie Grand Prix for the World Cup closing ceremony and took the *Financial Mail* specialist agency of the year award in 2010.

Building an internationally recognised brand may be the ultimate goal for many CEOs, but Mokgwatsane is different. As a founding member of Young Business for South Africa, a non-profit networking organisation for young professionals, Mokgwatsane has been at the forefront of developing leadership for the past 12 years. It's the reason he helped set up the Experiential Association of South Africa, an industry body established to advance training, empowerment and delivery standards.

His latest project, Think Tank, is focused on raising the profile of young business leaders by giving them a voice and a platform on which to share their industry knowledge and experience. It's not hard to believe that this 33-year-old change agent grew up thinking he would one day be president. In many ways, he's already leading our country forward. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Blog:** abeymokgwatsane.com  
**Twitter:** @abeyphonogenic



## Peter Flynn

Co-founder: White Wall Web and Ramp Foundation

“Fortunately or unfortunately for me, I've got a lot of gut,” says 32-year-old Peter Flynn, managing director of White Wall Web. It's partly thanks to this “gut”, that his web application development company has become one of the best in the country.

Flynn was studying English at UCT when he decided to take a course called “writing for the internet”. This was the catalyst that gave him the confidence he needed to compete in the tech industry. Three years later Flynn and his partners moved into an office and today they have branches in Jo'burg, Cape Town and the UK.

Passionate about the industry, the group started the Ramp Foundation to nurture the careers of future techies. Last year 900 students and entrepreneurs attended their second Net Prophet conference. This year the Net Prophet bursary plans to support four technology students in their final year of university. No doubt Flynn will encourage them to take “writing for the internet”.

— **Eric Alexrod**

 **Twitter:** @pete\_flynn

## Lebo Malepa Founder: Lebo's Soweto Backpackers

When he was 19 and unemployed Lebo Malepa would watch tourists being bused in and out of Hector Pieterse Museum and wonder why people would want to experience culture from behind a glass barrier instead of smelling, tasting and experiencing it for themselves. It was this idea, coupled with his passion for his home town, that first got tourists out of their minivans and into his grandmother's house for a taste of the real Soweto.

In 2003 Malepa opened Soweto's first backpackers and started involving locals in all aspects of his business, from walking tours and music evenings to the laundry service.

He also offers work experience to local youths who are interested in the tourism industry.

Malepa may have won many awards for his innovative thinking and localised approach and even put his corner of Orlando West on the *Lonely Planet* map but he knows that hospitality is a community effort and empowerment is the ultimate reward. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** sowetobackpackers.com



200 Young South Africans | **Business & Law**

## Sindiso Mnisi Weeks

Senior researcher, law, race and gender unit at UCT

**S**indiso Mnisi Weeks cites her privileged Jozi upbringing as the reason why she has always felt compelled to give back to those who have not had the same opportunities she had. A natural negotiator with an enduring sense of social justice, Weeks decided during a gap year to pursue a career in law, which, although she is still young and her experience has been largely academic, has been quite brilliant.

A Rhodes scholar with a doctorate in law from the University of Oxford, Weeks clerked for the deputy chief justice of the Constitutional Court, Dikgang Moseneke, and has also volunteered at the Treatment Action Campaign.

She is currently a senior lecturer in the department of private law and a senior researcher at the law, race and gender unit at UCT. She is currently attached to the Rural Women's Action-Research project, which combines research and policy work on women, land and customary law — subjects on which she has published

numerous opinion pieces and academic articles.

Weeks considers herself not so much as a feminist as a believer in gender equality — with her primary aim being to get women's voices heard, particularly with regard to land rights and negotiation, where, in instances such as the loss of a spouse, women's voices are traditionally on "mute". Her ultimate goal is to see women participating in the democratic process — both at traditional and national levels — so they can protect themselves.

Weeks divides her time between Cape Town and New Hampshire and her future plans and those of her American husband are uncertain. But she doesn't deny that she wouldn't say no to an appointment to the Constitutional Court — something those who believe in this young lawyer feel she is destined for.

— **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [lrg.uct.ac.za](http://lrg.uct.ac.za)

## Justin Stanford

Founder, director & CEO:  
4D Innovations Group

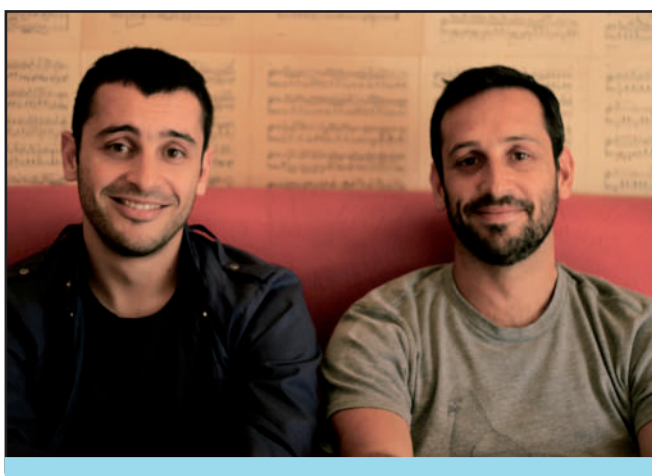
**A**t 27, and one of South Africa's most successful entrepreneurs, Justin Stanford defies all stereotypes of a high-school dropout — which he became when he left school in Std 9.

Inspired by Bill Gates and the young millionaires of the internet boom, Stanford ditched the textbook guide to life and made his own way to the top by starting his first company at 18. After two unsuccessful attempts, he discovered a genius piece of anti-virus software that propelled him to where he is today: sitting atop a multi-million-rand IT empire spanning five companies.

On any given day, he collaborates with Johann Rupert, explores venture capital opportunities, oversees his record company or simply takes one of his fast cars for a spin.

A believer in South Africa's potential to become a leading technology innovation hub, Stanford also co-founded the Silicon Cape Initiative, a non-profit, community-driven movement that aims to turn the fertile Cape into Africa's own Silicon Valley. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @justinstanford




## Berolsky Brothers Restaurateurs

**T**hanks to their restaurant, Royale, Sascha and Hugo Berolsky could be blamed for many a burger addiction in Cape Town. They could also be held responsible for hangovers suffered from parties at the Waiting Room or live music gigs at the Assembly. They are equally accountable for a new-found snobbery for authentic Mexican food, owing to the opening of El Burro, their fourth and latest city hot spot.

But we should go easy on the brothers because creating four iconic, successful spaces in nine years is

no small feat. The Berolskys puts it down to hard work coupled with the creation of comfortable, value-for-money places that they would want to go to.

Although they're not sure what will next bear their signature style, there's no doubt that the Berolsky brothers will be blamed for giving Capetonians yet another place they couldn't live without. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @Royale\_Eatery, @Assembly\_ct

## 200 Young South Africans | Business &amp; Law

## Walter Nqobile Bhengu

Candidate attorney: MacRobert Attorneys

Walter Nqobile Bhengu cites his parents, who have always believed in him, as his heroes. From humble beginnings in East London, Bhengu has risen above adversity, paying his own way to emerge as one of South Africa's most passionate and promising young lawyers.

Socially and politically conscious, 23-year-old Bhengu is currently completing his articles in Pretoria — an achievement he considers a “dream come true”. In 2010, after obtaining his LLB from Fort Hare, where he served as deputy president of the SRC and chairperson of the Law Student Council, he graduated with a masters in international trade law from Stellenbosch University. Considered a role model by many, Bhengu's list of achievements in such a short time is almost as impressive as the big-hearted, humble personality behind them. For his activism he was honoured with a number of awards at Fort Hare, including the 2008 student governance award and the 2006 commitment of service award. A keen debater, he was voted speaker of the year

by the Stellenbosch University Debating Union.

Bhengu, who is passionate about youth empowerment, is involved with the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, where he drives youth participation in policy development. He was also a member of the Black Management Forum, holding various leadership positions at branch and provincial level.

He believes in the importance of being able to discuss ideas and communicate opinions effectively, which is why his future plans include helping to train children in debating and starting his own consultancy firm in international trade law.

With his ability to articulate his thoughts clearly, give of himself passionately and continue to live his life by the adage that “life's biggest risk is not taking one”, it seems there's no limit to what this smart young lawyer can achieve. No doubt his parents are very proud. — **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [scribd.com/wbhengu/info](http://scribd.com/wbhengu/info)



## Stuart Wilson

Co-founder and director of litigation:  
Socioeconomic Rights Institute of  
South Africa (Seri)

Don't be fooled by Stuart Wilson's British accent or Oxford University education. He's about as grassroots as they come. As director of litigation at the Socioeconomic Rights Institute of South Africa, 31-year-old Wilson offers legal services to community-based organisations and advocates for better policies and practices on behalf of the poor. Occasionally he even gets to address the highest court in the land (the Constitutional Court) on behalf of its most vulnerable citizens, like the time he fought to have 450 people moved out of an unsafe building and into safe and affordable accommodation in the city centre. He won the case and the occupants won the legal right to call somewhere “home.” When Wilson is not drawing on every legal precedence to “persuade the unpersuadable”, you'll find him shaping legal minds as a visiting senior fellow and part-time lecturer at the Wits Law School. This is one man you want speaking legalese on your behalf. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** [seri-sa.org](http://seri-sa.org)

## Ricardo Rocha Founder: Etiket

Ricardo Rocha, the founder and creative director of Etiket advertising agency, is a force to be reckoned with, but you'd never guess it from his laid-back style.

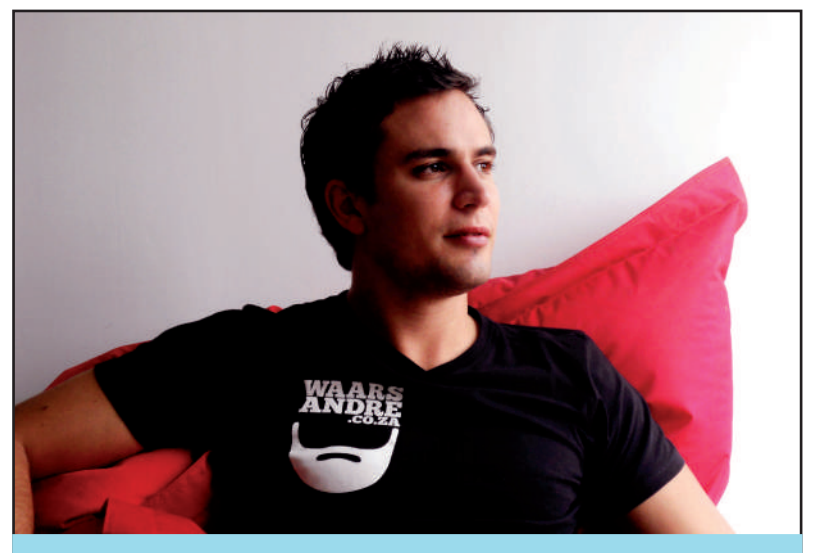
Rocha dropped out of his final year at Pretoria University, where he was studying information design, which only made him “more ambitious and hungry to prove a point”. In 2008 he founded Etiket, despite warnings from family and friends that he was “too young and rebellious”.

After 12 months the agency started reaping the rewards — thanks to a combination of fresh

creative energy and the economic recession, of all things. When Etiket proved it could offer a quicker turnaround time than its larger competitors, clients from FNB to Jesse Clegg came flocking.

In 2010 Etiket bagged its first Loerie and Pendergaw awards, a major achievement for such a young agency. “What drives me is the excitement of breaking conventional moulds and seeing the results,” says Rocha. — **Ngoako Matsha**

 **Twitter:** [@ricardorocha](https://twitter.com/ricardorocha)



200 Young South Africans | **Business & Law****Adrian Hewlett**

MD: Habari Group

**A**drian Hewlett thrives on responsibility. It took him six months to move from marketing manager to head of marketing and sales at Rugby365 and another year to head their e-commerce division in London.

Homesick for blue skies Hewlett leveraged off the weak rand in 2002, advising the 365 board to move all editorial and technical roles to South Africa. In six months he grew the business from 10 staff members to 60. He was 24 at the time.

Nine years later and Hewlett's 2005 start-up, Habari Media, is now the Habari Group, a national media and marketing business with 100 employees. In 2010 Habari Media won the contract to represent Facebook in Africa and took home the best media sales house award at the Bookmarks Awards 2010. Hewlett also won the award for "the greatest individual contribution to digital media and marketing" for his role as chairman of the Online Publishers Association, now DMMA. Not bad for a Zambian farm boy. — **Cat Pritchard**

**Website:** habarimedia.mobi  
**Twitter:** @adrianhewlett

**Paul Galatis** Marketing director: Yuppiechef

**T**hirty-year-old Paul Galatis is not the kind of person who sits around waiting for things to happen. From starting his first design consultancy while at UCT to winning a South African Music Award at the age of 21, Galatis has always been one to watch.

Standard Bank thought so too when they recruited him to overhaul their graduate development programme and literally write the rules for "over-20s" cricket in South Africa. After a five-year stint abroad, Paul packed up his consultancy in the UK and, taking a big leap of faith, returned home to help get Yuppiechef off the ground and online.

Proving his marketing prowess, Galatis has succeeded in taking the online kitchenware store to the cutting edge of e-commerce in the country. How? He simply uses the tools at his disposal — social media — to build a brand that is transparent, user-friendly and so service-orientated that even the once-sceptical South African consumer is not only choosing it over their trusted retailer but also clicking their mouse for more.

In three years the team at Yuppiechef has taken home all the online Oscars: three SA E-Commerce awards and two Bookmark awards. In 2010 they even won a Gold Loerie for an ingenious online campaign that brought Woolworths to its knees and raised R116 000 for charity at the same time.

As passionate about South Africa as he is about humanising brands, Galatis, a 2010 DA Young Leader, is hell-bent on building communities both in real life and online. In an attempt to address voter apathy he hosts political awareness talks to remind South Africans that, as citizens, we are responsible for our country's future — which means using our vote to take action against bad governance. It's a simple principle: if you won't stand for bad service as a consumer, why should you as a citizen? — **Lu Larché**

**Website:** yuppiechef.co.za  
**Twitter:** @paulgalatis

**Carly Barnes** Co-founder: Mood Mechanics

**N**ot every actress would kick-start her career with a one-woman musical called *There's a Pineapple in My Panties*. But Carly Barnes is far from ordinary. "I'm very arty and off-the-wall, but I'm logical," she says.

During her honours year at the South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance — better known as Afda — Barnes won the award for best musical performer. In 2003 she transformed her passion for acting into a business, co-founding Mood Mechanics, a company that creates corporate theatre and event entertainment.

Since then 26-year-old Barnes has produced educational road shows tackling issues such as breast cancer and has

handled promotions for major clients, including Standard Bank. "Performing is emotional," she says. "It's been challenging learning to separate the professional and the personal me."

Barnes is on a mission to make her company "a force to be reckoned with". With her combination of quirky creativity and streetwise business sense she's already on the way. — **Ayanda Sitole**

**Website:** moodmechanics.co.za  
**Facebook:** Carly Barnes

## 200 Young South Africans | Business &amp; Law



## Marco Broccardo CEO: Eurocom

Last year was a pinnacle year in Marco Broccardo's life. In May, at the African Access National Business Awards, he won the title of 2010 Top Young Entrepreneur in South Africa and in November the 31-year-old reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, completing the first step in his three-and-a-half year campaign to climb the highest mountains on all seven continents.

But if Broccardo is reaching great heights it's only because he hit rock bottom in 1999, when drug addiction all but destroyed his life. After two-and-a-half years in rehab he emerged with the vision of starting Mountain Heights, an organisation dedicated to spreading awareness about drug abuse and raising funds to build addiction rehab centres throughout South Africa.

In 2006 the vision began to become a reality when he opened Eurocom, a specialist mobile marketing and new media company created to fund Mountain Heights. Today, some of Mountain Heights's most outspoken supporters are also Eurocom clients, many of them media owners who help

to spread the organisation's message of hope.

In January 2012 Broccardo will be tackling yet another major venture. With a team of athletes and former addicts he will attempt to cross the Empty Quarter of the Arabian Desert, hoping to complete the first-ever unassisted walk across this 1 000km expanse.

With the unstinting support of his wife and two young boys Broccardo hopes to continue to show the world what recovered addicts are capable of.

"Addicts are tenacious when it comes to getting their drugs," he says. "If a person can come clean and continue to utilise those skills you end up with a relatively powerful and motivated individual who can achieve great things."

If you think this sounds like the subject for a bestseller you're not wrong. Broccardo is finishing his memoirs, entitled *From Gutter Depths to Mountain Heights*. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @marcobro


## Daniel Guasco CEO: Twangoo

If someone had told Daniel Guasco last year that his startup business, Twangoo, would soon become second only to Google in South Africa's online tech industry he would probably have laughed. But sure enough, since selling Twangoo to global "deal-of-the-day" company, Groupon, in January 2011 his business has grown from two to 40 employees in six months.

As a young boy the Capetonian's love of entrepreneurship dominated his time, at the expense of his schooling. He often struggled in the classroom, partly because of his mild dyslexia,

but that didn't stop him. By the end of his teenage years Guasco had already sold computer hardware, privatised his school's tuck shop and opened a cinema in Khayelitsha and a Steers in Athlone.

He might have sold Twangoo for an "undisclosed" chunk of change but you can bet that, as CEO, Guasco isn't wasting any time making Twangoo the market leader. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Website:** mycitydeal.co.za  
**Twitter:** @dguasco



## Brad Jansen MD: Havas Sports and Entertainment

Brad Jansen, multi award-winner for advertising, was once a six-year-old boy obsessed with soccer. Now he heads an internationally renowned sports events and communications company.

Armed with a BA in communications Jansen went from being a fan of Kaizer Chiefs and Manchester United to working on the Vodacom Challenge campaign, which saw those two teams clash in South Africa. That's when he met his idol, Sir Alex Ferguson.

By the age of 24, while working for Sail Sport and Entertainment, he was

managing all the Vodacom sports sponsorships in South Africa. A stream of awards followed: including gold, silver and bronze Loeries and a 2011 global leadership prize.

Now, 10 years since his first award, 34-year-old Jansen is managing director of Havas Sports and Entertainment. And when he wants to escape the frantic world of advertising, he patrols the riverbanks of Johannesburg as a member of the River Ranger Foundation. — **Aphiwe Deklerk**

 **Twitter:** @havas\_se\_sa



## Warren Baynes

Founder: No Standing Recycling

In 2008 Cape Town entrepreneur Warren Baynes was a worried man — recycling just wasn't happening in his community. He realised he could no longer "stand around" and wait for somebody to help. So he founded his own waste management company and called it No Standing Recycling.



He started with his 1982 Volkswagen Beetle and a trailer and a few clients in Table View. Today he recycles waste for major city companies, including First National Bank.

During the 2010 World Cup Baynes handled about 1 200 tons of waste. He had fun keeping the environment clean while other

people partied.

Baynes is now putting the "cycle" back into recycling. He's busy transforming vintage bicycles into sleek and sexy modes of urban transport. His latest project will make the planet healthier, too.

And what does he carry in his wallet? A one-million Zimbabwean dollar note, so that he will "never be broke". — **Sibongile Nkosi**

 **Website:** [nostanding.co.za](http://nostanding.co.za)  
 **Twitter:** @nostanding4



He had fun keeping the environment clean while other people partied

## Zukie Siyotula

Head of franchise development: Old Mutual

Twenty-seven-year-old qualified chartered accountant Zukie Siyotula believes excellence is the best defence against racism, sexism or ageism. Putting her belief into practice every day, she has ensured that her reputation as a dynamic black businesswoman, change-maker and future leader is rising at a rate faster than inflation.

In her work at Old Mutual, Siyotula is passionate about making a positive impact on people's lives. She also serves on numerous boards, including Graça Machel's New Faces New Voices Network and the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSP) executive committee.

Her astuteness and professionalism earned her the top emerging talent award at the 2009 ABSIP Financial Services Awards, a place in *Destiny* magazine's Top 40 Women under 40 in 2010 and an invitation to join the exclusive African Leadership Network.

Siyotula is inspired by powerful women such as Gill Marcus, Maria Ramos and Futhi Mtoba and it seems only a matter of time before she joins their league, leaving a legacy of excellence in her wake. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @Siyotula



## Judy Sikuza

Organisational development consultant: Absa

Judy Sikuza is a survivor. When she was just 12 she and her mother lost their home and all their possessions.

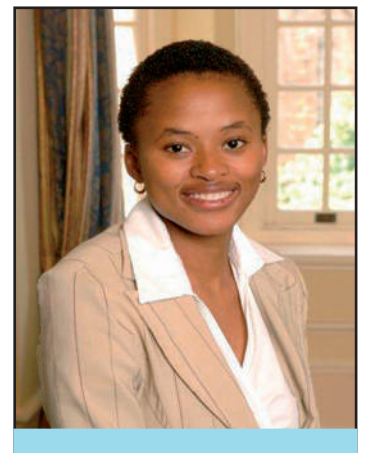
"The challenge of being homeless definitely taught me to be resilient," Sikuza recalls. "It also taught me not to be concerned with material things, or to be defined by my circumstances."

Today, the 25-year-old, from the former Transkei in the Eastern Cape, is Absa's youngest organisational development consultant. She's also a playwright and a keen cricket player.

Sikuza's potential was first recognised in 2007, when she became a Mandela Rhodes scholar. A year later she received a Fulbright scholarship and in 2010 she graduated with a master's degree in social-organisational psychology from Columbia University in New York.

Now she sees her mission as: "Creating a space for people to connect with themselves and their colleagues and to grow their own capacity." — **Ngoako Matsha**

 **Facebook:** Judy Sikuza



## 200 Young South Africans | Civil Society



## Tarisai Mchuchu-Ratshidi

Director: Young in Prison South Africa

It was a visit to Pollsmoor prison in 2007, while she was studying law at the University of Cape Town, that sparked 24-year-old Tarisai Mchuchu-Ratshidi's interest in young prisoners. She is now the director of Young in Prison South Africa (YIP), an NGO that does rehabilitation work with juveniles, teaching them life skills through art.

"In the last six months of their sentence we do mentorship, preparing them mentally for their release. Some of them have been in there for 10 years and life on the outside has changed." But the work doesn't stop there. YIP follows up with the former prisoners on the outside, providing them with much-needed support and guidance for six months after their release.

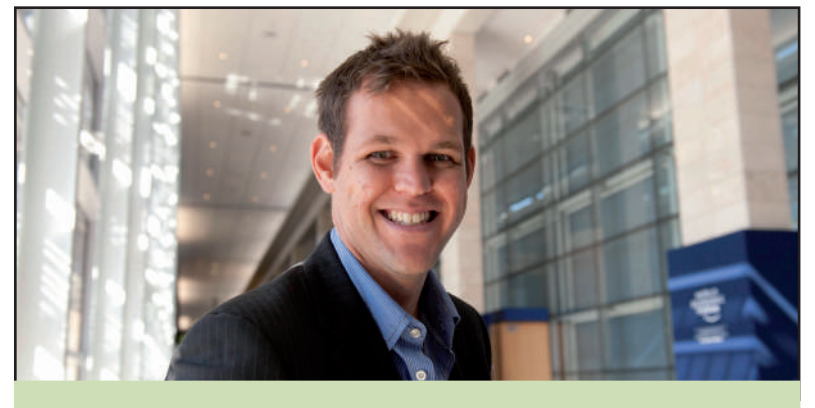
The organisation also produces a magazine called *Inside Out*, which shows the prisoners' artwork. The magazine is used as a tool to educate the public about prison and create awareness about the consequences

of committing crimes. It may seem strange to many but Mchuchu-Ratshidi says many children are only taught about morals and values for the first time while in jail, which is why the work YIP does both inside and outside the prison is of paramount importance to society as a whole.

She knows the task is enormous, but she also knows that for every young person YIP manages to rehabilitate there is one less criminal on the streets, which is key to reducing South Africa's high crime rate. It's tough work for a woman her age, but she believes it's her responsibility to help ensure that her generation gets it right. To her that means getting an education.

"We are the future of South Africa and if we are going to make a sustainable change we need education." — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Twitter:** @younginprison



## James Donald

Director of programmes: Grassroot Soccer

James Donald has always wanted to work *on* something, not *for* something. A 2002 Clinton Democracy Fellow and 2003 SRC President at Wits, Donald is passionate about programmes that combine youth and volunteerism in ways that develop individuals as well as their communities.

Grassroot Soccer, a volunteer-driven non-profit organisation that uses soccer to educate children about HIV prevention, is that kind of programme.

In 2008 Donald joined the team to put a soccer curriculum in place and helped launch the Khayelitsha Football for Hope Centre. Today he organises national programmes that are implemented by coaches from within the community, helping to encourage 50 000 children to make healthier lifestyle choices.

Donald's future goals involve getting off the soccer field and into city or government departments, where he would like to tackle more complex economic problems. With his determination, there's little doubt he'll score.

— **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [grassrootsoccer.org](http://grassrootsoccer.org)



## Jean Marie Nkurunziza

Project coordinator: Sonke Gender Justice League

His dreams are big, maybe too big. But given how far he has come, when Jean Marie Nkurunziza says that his 10-year goal is to end violence against women in South Africa, it's hard not to believe he will succeed. Nkurunziza grew up in Burundi with a physically abusive military father. After living through several wars, one of which claimed the lives of his parents, he managed to escape to South Africa.

Today Nkurunziza runs Sonke's flagship campaign, "One Man Can", which seeks to encourage men and boys to end domestic and sexual violence and to foster healthier relationships in their communities.

The World Health Organisation recently selected Nkurunziza to join a global team of 15 researchers to study gender-based violence in post-conflict countries. Looking back is hard, but these days Nkurunziza does so with a sense of redemption.

"If I could see my father now," he says, "I could change him."

— **Eric Axelrod**

 **Website:** [genderjustice.org.za](http://genderjustice.org.za)

200 Young South Africans | **Civil Society****Refiloe Seseane** Founder: 18twenty8

**R**efiloe Seseane is the real deal — she's got the face for television, the voice for radio and the brains for economics. And she's conquered them all.

By 28 she had an honours degree in economics, played a lead role in *Generations*, worked as a business analyst for a major bank and still found time to mentor young learners at the non-profit university, TSiBA.

But something didn't sit well. She knew she could do more, be more, give more. And then it came to her — mentorship. It was something she had wished for as an 18-year-old girl from Benoni, trying to find her way in the world. So, in 2008, Seseane started 18twenty8, a non-profit organisation that offers support and resources to high-potential young women, aged 18 to 28, exposing them to opportunities their socioeconomic constraints might never allow.

At the heart of the programme is the 18twenty8 Big Sister Network, a mentorship programme that matches a girl to a professional woman for added support,

exposure and growth. Seseane and her team also run workshops for Grade 11 and Grade 12 girls at disadvantaged community schools and assist their "Little Sisters" to apply for bursaries, scholarships and jobs.

It has enabled Seseane to combine her love for communication and economics. When she's not presenting and accepting awards like a trained television professional she is mapping out sustainable business models and trying to balance the ever-increasing demand for mentors against the limited supply her Gauteng-based operation allows for.

It's not hard to see why she walked away with the youth in philanthropy award at last year's Inyathelo Philanthropy Awards. Here's hoping she gets the support and resources she needs to take her vision global. Or at least national. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** 18twenty8.org

**Sithembile Mbete**

Political researcher:  
Institute for Democracy  
in Africa (Idasa)

**"Tatjarag"** (excitable) is how 26-year-old Sithembile Mbete describes herself, saying curiosity has brought her this far. Mbete is a political researcher at Idasa, an organisation focused on building a sustainable democratic society, and a leader of the Right2Know Campaign, which came about in response to the Protection of Information Bill. She loves the campaign because it encourages citizens to hold government accountable.

As a Steve Biko Fellow with a master's in international relations Mbete has always kept a close eye on South Africa's transition to democracy.

"I was six when the ANC was unbanned and my parents were very politically involved. I remember very vividly the debates and discussions before the 1994 elections — that period sparked my interest in South African politics."

Mbete believes the only way anything will get done in South Africa is if its citizens contribute actively to the country's development. It's time to put the freedoms of democracy to work. — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Twitter:** @sthembete

**Craig Ross** Innovations manager: RLabs

**E**ight years ago Craig Ross was on a highway to nowhere. Drugs and crime ruled his life. His dream of becoming a professional footballer had "gone up in smoke".

But 2007 was turnaround time. He took himself off to a rehabilitation centre and, as part of his recovery, did a course in social media for social change. That's how his love affair with social media began.

Ross subsequently joined RLabs, an organisation that empowers communities through social media. He started out as an ideas man, and later initiated their Social Media Factory project, which he now runs. It's his way of saying "sorry" to the people he once harmed.

Ross admits he still has a long way to go, but thanks God for giving him a second chance. His biggest lesson: "To do good. No one can harm you if you do good". — **Sibongile Nkosi**

 **Twitter:** @CraigRoss001

## 200 Young South Africans | Civil Society



## Xolile Madinda

Co-founder: Save our Schools and Community

**T**hirty-one-year-old Xolile Madinda is a busy man. He spends much of his time working with the Save our Schools and Community (Sosac) campaign, an organisation he helped found in 2008 and through which he and fellow hip-hop activists fight for “the transformation of the national education system”.

Sosac’s work focuses on townships in Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth, where it supports learners with tutoring, life-skills and after-school homework assistance. He loves hip-hop and, since 2000, has run hip-hop workshops for the youth of Grahamstown.

He is also a founding member of the Makana Arts Council, a community forum run by Grahamstown artists with the support of numerous international artists. Last year Makana released to radio stations around the country a compilation of hip-hop tracks, a “social justice mixtape”, in aid of the Khulumani Support Group, which calls for corporates that supported the apartheid regime to pay reparations. — *Ilham Rawoot*

**Website:** [sosac.org.za](http://sosac.org.za)  
**Facebook:** Save Our Schools & Community

## Angy Peter Chairperson: Social Justice Coalition

**R**aised in Carletonville, Angy Peter first settled in Cape Town when she began studying at the Royal Cape College. It was here that she began to live out her passion for activism, joining the South African National Civic Organisation and, later, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC).

“I have been interested in activism since I was a child,” she says, “but was not able to be active because I was from a strict Catholic family. My parents wanted me to become a nun, but I am not religious anymore.”

After some time as a peer educator in the TAC she was recruited to the Social Justice Coalition (SJC), which was formed in response to the xenophobic violence in 2008. As SJC chairperson and organiser Peter is at the forefront of several campaigns to alleviate the dangers associated with living in Khayelitsha. Among these are Winter Safe workshops, which aim to minimise shack fires, and a toilet queue campaign, which highlights the lack of access to adequate sanitation.

“I grew up in a township, but Khayelitsha was scary,” she says. “I was staying in RR section [one of the areas most affected by inadequate sanitation] where no one was monitoring the toilets and cleaning was not frequent. With more than 10 people to a toilet the problem was not easy to manage.”

Peter also follows up on court cases heard in Khayelitsha that have been left to go cold in a pressured justice system.

At home, Peter is a single mother of three, undaunted by the challenges of raising children alone in the township. “It is not safe, but it’s a good environment for me to teach them about life,” she says. “I make the rules and nobody tells me what to do. At least they have to take orders from only one person.”

— *Kwanele Sosibo*

**Website:** [sjc.org.za](http://sjc.org.za)  
**Facebook:** Social Justice Coalition



## Zdena Mtetwa Access to information manager: Khulumani Support Group

**W**orking with underprivileged groups is close to Zdena Mtetwa’s heart.

The Mandela-Rhodes scholar fell in love with community upliftment after joining the Khulumani Support Group in 2009.

Writing is another of her passions, and Mtetwa found an outlet for her creative talent at Khulumani, where she worked with communities to produce booklets on oral history, helping to reclaim stories that had been lost during the apartheid era.

Now she tells people about the Promotion of Access to Information Act and how they can use it to hold government accountable. She also works for gender equity through

Khulumani’s victim empowerment programme.

Although she has an honours degree in organisational psychology from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Mtetwa is sceptical about encouraging over-reliance on experts. “People know what they want, and they know what’s good for them. They don’t want to live on grants. They want sustainable development, and they want education.”

— *Aphiwe Deklerk*

**Facebook:** Zdena Mtetwa

200 Young South Africans | **Civil Society****Mzwanele Zulu**

Spokesperson: Joe Slovo Task Team, vice-chairperson: Informal Settlement Network

**M**zwanele Zulu's leadership skills were cultivated quite early on. In the Nineties, as a high-school student at Cendani's Maboboti High School in the Eastern Cape, he was chairperson of the SRC for a few years and challenged his teachers about their use of corporal punishment.

After a few nominal jobs he attended Cape Tech while living in the Joe Slovo informal settlement.

"When I arrived in Joe Slovo in 2002 there were no services at all, but soon roads were formalised," he recalls. He remained active, attending community meetings, but was reluctant to contribute his leadership skills to committee structures because members frequently turned violently on one another. In 2006 a fire gutted 60 shacks in the settlement, which led to the formation of the Joe Slovo Task Team, for which he is spokesperson.

Today he is also active in the Informal Settlement Network, which grew out of Joe Slovo residents' protests against proposed mass evictions and lack of consultation about development. What sprang from civil disobedience is now a network active in five

cities, with support from the Community Organisation Resource Centre and Shack Dwellers International.

The network's philosophy includes "working with communities who are ready to help themselves and by doing so breaking the culture of entitlement and dependency on government and leaders". It also builds on "internal capacities as the basis for drawing in external support".

Some of its goals include "building a national urban network of the poor for learning and lobbying so that community-level initiatives drive citywide agendas" and "changing the way cities are planned and developed so that people are directly and actively involved". The primary campaign is for "land and the right to the city", with strategies that include surveying and registering all informal structures in the city and developing the capacity of communities (through exposure to pilot projects) to plan and implement upgrading projects. — **Kwanele Sosibo**

**Website:** [courc.co.za](http://courc.co.za)  
**Facebook:** Mzwanele Zulu

**Sophia Welz**

Chief operations officer: South African National Youth Orchestra Foundation

**S**ophia Welz has two main passions: music and people; more specifically, the ability of music to empower people.

For Welz, music, through its ability to communicate nuances of emotion, helps us not only to understand each other better but also to listen more carefully. She witnessed this first hand in Iraq where, as manager of the National Youth Orchestra, she saw children from opposing sides speaking through music, overcoming many imposed cultural, language and religious barriers.

Today, Welz is chief operations officer of the South African National Youth Orchestra Foundation where, through high-quality "booster shot" courses, she helps historically disadvantaged music students to become top musicians in classical orchestras.

Believing that well-rounded musicians become well-rounded people, her ambition is to create a South Africa that offers equal access to high-quality music education. In this way she hopes we will learn to understand and listen to each other by using this universal, unifying language. — **Lu Larché**

**Twitter:** @sophiawelz



ERIC UYS



LEILA STAASI

**Joy Olivier** Co-founder & executive director: IkamvaYouth

**W**hen it comes to education in South Africa, all are not equal. That is why, when a young Joy Olivier first learned of the shocking pass rate among black matriculants, she started tutoring students in Khayelitsha on Saturdays to help them pass matric. Her plan? To help them get into university and out of poverty by giving them access to quality education.

Today, IkamvaYouth, the township-based non-profit organisation Olivier co-founded in 2003, helps more than 500 learners a year in three provinces to pass matric. To ensure greater impact Olivier launched TEACH South Africa in the Western Cape and recently completed her

master's in education.

In 2008 Olivier was awarded a YouthActionNet Fellowship for providing a low-cost, high-impact model that proves that "by youth for youth" transformation is possible. Having dedicated the past decade to redressing inequality in education, Olivier, simply by doing something, has proven that one person truly can make a difference. — **Lu Larché**

**Website:** [ikamvayouth.org](http://ikamvayouth.org)  
**Twitter:** @joyolivier

## 200 Young South Africans | Civil Society

## Braam Hanekom

Founder: People against Suffering, Oppression and Poverty

This is how Braam Hanekom views community struggles in relation to refugee rights:

"Organisations like the ANC Youth League, Abahlali and the Social Justice Coalition are important to recognise because, whether we like it or not, the safety of foreign nationals is dependent on community leaders."

Born in Harare in 1984, Hanekom came to South Africa with his family when he was 17. His uncle, Derek Hanekom, and aunt, Trish, were both ANC activists. As the founder and chairman of People against Suffering, Oppression and Poverty, an organisation that works for refugee rights, Hanekom has seen a lot of abuse directed at foreigners. At a detention centre in Musina, he saw refugees being given unsliced loaves of bread, forcing them to grab frantically at whatever chunks they could get at through the bars.

"They were deporting people twice a day and not even documenting the process properly. They were just taking people's names down."

For Hanekom, documentation (as opposed to deportation) and a more assertive foreign policy

are viable solutions to South Africa's immigration problems. He cites the time when the South African government knew about a cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe and simply denied that there was any crisis.

"At the time, they deported around 250 000 Zimbabweans a year, one of the highest rates of deportation anywhere. Since then things have changed dramatically but South Africa needs to behave like the superpower that it is in Africa by demanding that human rights are respected in the SADC region and on the continent."

More immediately, though, Hanekom believes that levels of service in refugee reception centres must be improved. He also actively seeks out partnerships with unions because he believes they have a role to play in the effective integration of foreigners into the South African labour mainstream. — **Kwanele Sosibo**



Website: [passop.co.za](http://passop.co.za)

Twitter: [@braam\\_hanekom](https://twitter.com/braam_hanekom)



## Wendy Pekeur

General secretary: Sikhula Sonke

Thirty-one-year-old Wendy Pekeur knows what it's like to be powerless. Having endured poverty and abuse throughout her childhood, Pekeur later experienced exploitation and human rights abuses as a worker on fruit farms. But instead of breaking her, these experiences only encouraged this single mother to help form Sikhula Sonke — the first women-focused trade union in South Africa. "Women farmers earn the lowest wages in South Africa, and it is grimly ironic that what they produce feeds the nation and brings profits [while] they live in the direst poverty." By applying the trade union model to a farm worker situation, the 5 000-member Sikhula Sonke has managed to set a minimum wage standard for farm workers, secure childcare services on farms and even ensure better hours and working conditions. With innovative thinking driving her every move, it's no surprise that the Women's World Summit Foundation awarded her a prize for "women's creativity in rural life" last year. — **Cat Pritchard**



Website: [wfp.org.za/sikhula-sonke](http://wfp.org.za/sikhula-sonke)

## Sandiso Sinaze Founding member: Rainbow Arts Organisation

Sandiso Sinaze, 25, is a musician and humanitarian. In 2006 he helped set up the Rainbow Arts Organisation, a non-profit organisation that uses performing arts, including music, to teach young people about diversity, cross-cultural understanding and HIV/ Aids.

Working out of Delft, the 50 members use drama, dance, poetry and song as a way to keep young people away from the crime, drug abuse and gangsterism that are rife in this Cape Flats community.

Sinaze believes strongly in the power of art, having

witnessed at first hand how it can bring children off the streets and away from a potential life of crime. He loves working with children and plans to start a children's home with a national reach.

When he's not using his diploma in music to help young people find their inner voice, Sinaze can be found pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming a solo musician. — **Ilham Rawoot**



Website: [rainbowarts.net46.net](http://rainbowarts.net46.net)

Facebook: [Sandiso Sinaze](https://www.facebook.com/SandisoSinaze)



200 Young South Africans | **Civil Society****Misha Teasdale** Founder: Greenpop

**M**isha Teasdale doesn't merely plant trees, he grows platforms that encourage people to think more sustainably about life so communities can bring about social change from within. It's about shifting mindsets, not tilling soil.


As the founder of Greenpop, a Cape Town-based NGO that brings volunteers, companies and communities together to plant indigenous trees in under-greened areas, Teasdale knows first hand the sense of pride that trees bring to every school, crèche, orphanage and community centre they beautify.

The trees also seed new opportunities. In addition to the many educational platforms and workshops Greenpop facilitates to sustain its programmes, the team is now looking at establishing micro-nurseries that will create employment opportunities through agro-enterprises in township communities. It's all part of a long-term vision, one that helped Greenpop win the 2010 social entrepreneurship business plan competition hosted by the department of economic development and tourism and the International Labour Organisation.

The irony is that Greenpop doesn't have the seed capital to buy its own bakkie. Instead it relies on more renewable resources, such as friends and companies, to help transport the trees in the hope that, one day, Greenpop will serve as a valuable resource to them.

Helping to connect these like-minded people to bring about social change is just a part of what Teasdale does, a part of who he chooses to be. In 2008 he completed "Love to Africa", an expedition from Cape Town to London, which profiled over 60 community-based organisations and NGOs, making the information available to corporate social investment and "voluntourism" internationally.

He also produces the popular charity event, "Night of 1 000 Drawings", which helps to raise money and awareness by selling drawings created by professional and amateur artists. Because that's the kind of guy this 29-year-old photographer, designer and social activist is — "a human doing, not a human being", to quote a friend. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** greenpop.org  
**Twitter:** @greenpop\_CPT

**Lesley Donna Williams**

Co-founder/  
director: Hub  
Johannesburg




**L**esley Donna Williams has a role to play in society. Her grandmother told her so. It's her goal to create physical and mental spaces that help people realise their full potential. She's a connector, a community builder and the co-founder of Hub Johannesburg, a creative space in which social innovators can work and collaborate on ideas.

In 2009 she was one of 60 international participants selected to go on a BP climate change expedition to Antarctica. Then, aged 29, she asked more questions than all the learned scientists combined.

At the Gordon Institute for Business Science she worked under Gill Marcus to create the Young Professionals Forum, while also serving on the national steering committee of Young South African Women in Dialogue, founded by Zanele Mbeki.

It doesn't matter what the project is — she could be setting up a rural hub with the Masai people or getting people to engage with Johannesburg's spaces through her "Amazing Race" game. It only matters that she follows her grandmother's example and makes a positive difference to society.

— **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** johannesburg.the-hub.net  
**Twitter:** @lesleydw

**Ben Bradlow**

Research and documentation officer:  
Shack/Slum Dwellers International

**U**rban poverty — it's not the first thing most 25-year-olds think about when they wake up. But that's where Ben Bradlow feels privileged. He gets to learn from "some of the most imaginative people in some of the most unlikely places".


As one of the largest global networks

uniting the urban poor, Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI) helps the poor speak, organise and negotiate for themselves. As SDI's research and documentation officer, Bradlow negotiates with the powers that be, compiles strategic reports and manages the NGO's communications arm.

Most recently he supported a team of informal settlement-based writers to produce uTshani Buyakhuluma, a regular national newspaper with a current circulation of 4 000 copies. If only government and society could see what Bradlow sees every day — the specialised knowledge and experience within these communities that could help them to solve their own developmental challenges. "Nothing for us, without us" that's his creed.

— **Cat Pritchard**



 **Blog:** iflose.wordpress.com  
**Twitter:** @iflose

## 200 Young South Africans | Civil Society



## Jonathan Whittall

Humanitarian advisor: Médecins sans Frontières

Jonathan Whittall wants to make it clear that he does not encourage what he calls “bleeding heart liberalism”. He wants South Africans to be active in their fight against social injustice.

Whittall, who hails from and lives in Johannesburg, is humanitarian advisor for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders). This means that he works on advocacy and analysis in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Ethiopia, among other countries, to which he travels regularly.

He has been with the organisation since 2008, during which time he has been head of the programmes unit of MSF South Africa and head of mission in South Sudan and Pakistan. He was also a member of the emergency team that responded to the xenophobic violence in South Africa in 2008, the floods in Pakistan in 2011 and the military crackdown in Bahrain, where he was when this profile was written.

Whittall has a master's in humanitarian studies from the

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in England. He first experienced humanitarian work after the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia and since then hasn't looked back. His advocacy work has included lobbying the United Nations and several governments about Zimbabweans seeking refugee status in South Africa, and the manipulation of aid to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He has written articles for the *Mail & Guardian* and for academic journals on topics including Darfur and Palestine and has worked with humanitarian organisations in Darfur and Uganda.

With so much to fight for, Whittall thinks it's important that people in South Africa recognise the need for activism on an individual level. “I want others to also do something and not out of ‘charity’ but out of a deep anger at injustice and inequality,” he says. — **Ilham Rawoot**

**Website:** [msf.org.za](http://msf.org.za)  
**Twitter:** @MSF\_southafrica



## Natasha Vally

Project manager: Soul City Institute

Twenty-five-year-old Natasha Vally is a young activist with a strong humanitarian spirit and a passion for human rights and social justice. Her areas of focus are women's and immigrant rights and Palestinian solidarity. As a student, she was a founding member of the University of Witwatersrand Palestine Solidarity Committee and she continues to help organise the international Israeli Apartheid Week.

She has also worked for the Freedom of Expression Institute, mapping protest action in South Africa, and as communications officer for the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, focusing on making connections between homophobia, patriarchy, heteronormativity,

capitalism and racism.

Last year she was a core member of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Working Group, a South African non-profit organisation dedicated to furthering the global movement to boycott Israel. Today she works as a project manager at Soul City institute for health and development, where she helps this non-profit organisation communicate its health message through the mass media, especially television. — **Ilham Rawoot**

**Website:** [soulcity.org.za](http://soulcity.org.za)  
**Facebook:** Natasha Vally

## Humairah Jassat

Founder: Pink Hijab Day

When Humairah Jassat was in Grade 11 she realised that a significant number of women in her community, Azaadville, south of Johannesburg, had died of breast cancer in recent years. To raise awareness, she asked the principal of her Muslim school to allow the girls to wear pink hijabs on a specific date.

When she got permission she called all the Muslim schools in the country, asking them to do the same. And so began Pink Hijab Day. Women who wear pink scarves are also asked to donate R2 to the Cancer Association of SA.

For this initiative 20-year-old Jassat won the 2010 African Leadership Academy Innovation Prize. She is currently studying journalism at Varsity College and hosts a radio show, *Women's Weekly*, on Radio Islam every Tuesday, focusing on women's rights and empowerment.

— **Ilham Rawoot**

**Website:** [teen-speakers.com/humairahjassat.html](http://teen-speakers.com/humairahjassat.html)  
**Blog:** [teen-speakers.com/fromragstoriches.html](http://teen-speakers.com/fromragstoriches.html)  
**Twitter:** @humairahjassat



## 200 Young South Africans | Environment



## Wendy Tsotetsi

Founder: Youth Agricultural Ambassadors

Growing up in Ncise, Mthatha, in the Eastern Cape without brothers, Youth Agricultural Ambassadors (YAA) founder Wendy Tsotetsi had to figure out livestock herding and food gardening for herself. Today, as she plans to extend the success of her Gauteng-based organisation to her home province, these skills stand her in good stead.

"There are quite a few challenges associated with establishing [sustainable] food gardens in the Eastern Cape, but there is a great need, because the youth are aimless and, as a result, turn to drugs," she says.

"People are not aware that through the extended public works programme they can actually start agriculture programmes and pay other volunteers stipends. So far, I have identified three schools that we can work with to build gardens. The aim is to teach them to maintain them so that when they leave they can teach other young people to do it."

YAA was started in 2008 after Tsotetsi quit her job as a paralegal and began teaching agriculture and leadership skills to grade fives and sixes at the Chief

Bhambatha Primary School. Under the YAA banner she has facilitated over 30 food projects in Evaton and encourages the managers of each project to ensure that each is registered as a legal entity.

She has also lobbied for the improvement of school-based feeding schemes, which she found to be grossly lacking in nutrition. Tsotetsi is an all-round educator, whose message of sustainable agriculture, environmental responsibility and climate change go hand in hand with issues of gender equality and HIV/Aids awareness. She also works tirelessly to promote social cohesion.

Each project, once up and running, is encouraged to donate some of its produce to school feeding schemes and the needy. When not travelling the world to demystify climate change Tsotetsi focuses on her next big project, which is a solar geyser installation company she is starting with four partners. — **Kwanele Sosibo**

 **Off the grid**

## Bianca McKelvey

Conservation Manager: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal region)

With considerable experience in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem processes, and the sustainable use of these assets, 30-year-old Bianca McKelvey is an authority on environmental issues, frequently quoted in newspapers and on television.

After completing a BSc in agriculture at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, McKelvey went on to study environmental law and project management, giving her the legal edge she needed to fight for a protected environment.

Feisty and committed, McKelvey is well practised in the art of diplomatic negotiations and is the first to go into battle when issues of ecological or environmental sustainability are at stake. When she's not actively fighting in the field she's coordinating responses to environmental impact assessments, waste management and water-use licences, mining and planning applications.

A friend to the public and an enemy of greedy developers, McKelvey is Erin Brokovich and Diane Fossey rolled into one. And thank goodness for that.

— **Glynnis Underhill**

 **Website:** [wessa.org.za](http://wessa.org.za)



## Gareth Morgan

DA spokesperson: water and environmental affairs

Gareth Morgan has a political agenda. It involves raising issues in Parliament about fracking, getting reports on acid mine drainage released to the public and helping issues of water quality to seep into the government's consciousness. It's a good thing he has an MSc in environmental change and management from Oxford to draw on when he takes on big corporations such as Shell.

"The government still compartmentalises the environment into a subsection of the economy, when actually the economy is a subsection of the environment," he says. At 34 Morgan is almost a political veteran.

A student activist for the Democratic Alliance at 18, he went on to serve as the party's media officer in KwaZulu-Natal before being elected to Parliament at 27.

Part activist, part public servant, Morgan is 100% environmentally conscious. He audits his own carbon footprint, plants indigenous trees at schools and educates learners about climate change. Where he finds the time to run ultra-marathons is only nature's guess. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Twitter:** @gareth\_morgan

## 200 Young South Africans | Environment



## Melita Steele

Climate & energy campaigner: Greenpeace

It must feel good to wake up in the morning knowing you're doing something to change the world.

Melita Steele does. She goes to work every day and puts her energy into campaigning for the planet's biggest environmental crisis: climate change. Her task? To mobilise Greenpeace Africa's "energy (r)evolution"; convincing government, business and ordinary citizens that renewable energy — not coal or nuclear power — must be the cornerstone of our energy systems. Before it's too late.

It's been two years since Greenpeace

launched in South Africa but already Steele is starting to see changes at a community level. Successes like the Solar Fan Park — from which they beamed the World Cup matches into a township using screens powered by the sun — prove to her that it can be done. It comes as no surprise that Steele, a lover of the great outdoors, spends most of her down-time in nature, savouring the same things she works so hard to protect. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @Melita\_Steele

## Gaathier Mahed

PhD student: water resource specialist

Twenty-seven-year-old Gaathier Mahed's achievements reads like those of somebody a decade older. Currently completing his PhD in water scarcity at the University of Cape Town, Mahed has been honoured with numerous academic awards for his research in hydrogeology, a field that has taken him to Germany and Denmark and secured him a seat at the 2010 Brightest Young Minds Conference in South Africa.

But, as executive board member of Awqaf South Africa, his real passion lies in charitable endowments and specifically in the intersections between water and good corporate governance. This inspired his plan for the future: to align his passions strategically by forming a research facility that can practically implement research in terms of water resource management.

It's hard to imagine someone immersed in

such serious issues taking anything lightly but, remarkably, charismatic Mahed is also a stand-up comic — just another accomplishment to add to his impressive CV. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @gaathierm



## Nazeer Jamal

Assistant director: Strategic administrative enforcement, department of environmental affairs

Nazeer Jamal is a crime-fighter. He may not bust down doors but he does bust South African companies that violate environmental laws. Jamal is a control officer with the department of environmental affairs or, as some like to call them, the Green Scorpions. Companies that think they can dump sewage into rivers or destroy natural habitats to increase their bottom line can expect a call from him. When they, predictably, plead ignorance, he proves their negligence.

Much of the 25-year-old's inspiration for helping the environment comes from his Islamic faith. "Every day that I take care of the environment," he says, "I am taking care of God's creations." He was president of the Muslim Student Association at the University of KwaZulu-Natal when he first became active in ecosystem conservation.

Following the gruesome killing of Nkululeko the hippo in 2008 Jamal co-founded the animal rights and environmental protection group, Pact (People Acting Caring Thinking). His outstanding work earned him the title Muslim Leader of Tomorrow from the American Society of Muslim Advancement after he represented South Africa at the society's annual conference in 2009.

Like many crime-fighters Jamal has a second identity. To the followers of his popular show on Radio Al Ansaar and the fans of Waahid, the music group he founded in 2006, he is known as Nazjam. At age 13 his first job at the radio station was cleaning the bins but several years later he became the presenter and DJ of his own show, *The Nasheed Jam*, which played Islamic music from around the world and was on air every Saturday and Sunday for the four years of his university career. He is the rapper in Waahid, the only Nasheed band in South Africa, spitting rhymes in English, Arabic and Urdu. The group is currently making its fourth album.

— **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @nazjam




## Kabir Bavikatte

Co-founder: Natural Justice in South Africa

Thirty-five-year-old Kabir Bavikatte is slowly becoming the change he wants to see in the world. He may not be as radical as his hero and fellow lawyer, Ghandi, but he's every bit as passionate about grassroots issues such as community rights and biodiversity. As co-founder of the legal non-profit organisation Natural Justice in South Africa, Bavikatte helps communities use their collective power and reminds governmental bodies not to abuse theirs. It's not an issue that is especially unique to South Africa, which is why Natural Justice has a team of law practitioners who work in Africa, Asia and Latin America to ensure that when environmental laws are drawn up, local communities have been part of the entire process. Bavikatte also works with the ABS Capacity Building Initiative for Africa and advises the African Group within the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing.

A Shuttleworth Fellow and PhD student, Bavikatte cut his teeth as a community-based lawyer working on issues ranging from labour and gender to sexuality rights. He also worked with community-based organisations on the interface between human rights and religion before joining a UK-based trust working on community rights to traditional knowledge. Today he's the middleman fighting to find a sustainable use for the environment on behalf of communities, in keeping with the laws of both nature and humans.

It's no surprise then that, if he could have given free rein of laws existing, Bavikatte would ensure that "people are taught skills and provided with opportunities to produce what they need for their wellbeing rather than be completely dependant on wage labour to purchase goods and services". Bavikatte's focus may have shifted in the past six years, but his heart is still in the same place, looking for ways to strengthen the collective by evoking the spirit of the law. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** [naturaljustice.org](http://naturaljustice.org)  
**Blog:** [natural-justice.blogspot.com](http://natural-justice.blogspot.com)



## Khanyiswa Zangqa


Chairperson and communication manager: Beyond Expectation Environmental Project

Khanyiswa Zangqa first learnt about taking responsibility for the environment from her mother, who worked as a cleaner at her school.

At 24 Zangqa is chairperson and communication manager of Beyond Expectation Environmental Project, an NGO that encourages a healthy respect for nature through exposure to it. It is her job, and her passion, to take primary-school children out of their township environment and into nature, using a two-day camp on Table Mountain to teach them about the natural world.

One of Zangqa's favourite spots is a place she calls Empilisweni or "place of healing".

"We take a silent walk to that place and when we get there we lie on the rocks and we let Mother Nature heal us." It is here that Zangqa advises the youths to seek purpose in life, not just pleasure. "Our passion should be what's leading us, not material things, and I think that way we'll all become better citizens." — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Website:** [beep.org.za](http://beep.org.za)  
**Facebook:** Khanyiswa Zangqa

## Claire Janisch Co-founder: The Genius Lab

Most people wouldn't see a natural connection between fighting carbon dioxide emissions and designing information systems. Claire Janisch does. As one of the first crop of graduates from the US-based Biomimicry Institute, Janisch knows that every manmade problem has a common solution — nature.

"All the challenges we face regarding sustainability or organisation has been solved by one or more of the 30-million species in nature." Helping to solve these problems by harnessing nature's genius is the reason Janisch started Biomimicry SA — a network of local professionals, from biologists and engineers to designers and sustainability specialists, who consult and educate on the efficacy of biomimicry. Janisch also helps run the Genius Lab — an education lab initially set up to help children make these interdisciplinary connections but which now helps to educate and inspire business

people to think differently about problems from whatever angle you choose to look at it, Janisch is at the forefront of a new science based on an old principle — Mother Nature knows best. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** [geniuslab.co.za](http://geniuslab.co.za)



## 200 Young South Africans | Environment

## Tristan Dickerson Leopard conservationist

When Tristan Dickerson landed his dream job of working as a leopard conservationist for Panthera at Phinda, he didn't think it would lead him to a career in fashion. But fashion, or at least fake fur, is the only way Dickerson believes he can save South Africa's remaining 4 000 leopards from being killed for their skins.

Once the reserve of royalty, leopard skins have become customary ceremonial attire for the Shembe church and its four million followers. Unwittingly, their admiration for the regal creature is fuelling an illicit skin trade that, with strong cultural ties in a country with a culturally sensitive climate, is beyond the control of law.


Dickerson came to understand the gravity of the threat to the dwindling leopard population from increased poaching, even in protected areas, when he was invited to attend a gathering of the Shembe church in Durban. In one sitting he spotted 600 skins.

But he also noticed something else — that real leopard fur, costing up to R6 000 for a full skin, is beyond the means of many Shembe followers, who

resort to dressing themselves and their children in cheap Chinese knock-offs. This inspired his crafty, diplomatic plan. If he could make high-quality, affordable fake fur accessible to Shembe followers, surely he could reduce their need for the real deal while keeping the animals they most admire alive?

So began his year-long foray into fashion design — exploring the feasibility of printing on either impala skins or synthetics, as well as coming up with a potentially perfect solution in silver knitting. Dickerson's journey towards saving endangered leopards with fake fur is now the subject of a documentary, *To Skin a Cat*, which highlights the plight of the leopard and the work of this lone crusader.

With his first furs due in July, time will tell whether Dickerson can convince the Shembe church and its followers to change their spots. — **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [toskinacat.org](http://toskinacat.org)  
**YouTube:** Tristan Dickerson



## Simon Max Bannister

Waste artist

Simon Bannister's mantra is simple: reduce, reuse, recycle. Then transform the waste into something beautiful.


Bannister spent three years as a graphic designer, but abandoned the corporate world for a more creative life. Then his love for the sea generated a new form of artistic expression – he uses the rubbish that pollutes the oceans as his inspiration.

In 2010 he joined the 5 Gyres Institute, a non-profit organisation dedicated to understanding plastic pollution. This took him to Uruguay to study marine plastic pollution.

One of his most successful exhibitions, *Plastikos*, is housed in the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town and consists of huge plastic sculptures that conjure up the battle against the “dragon of man-made pollution”.

“I have made it my mission to transform the waste that I find into an art form, giving these objects new value and meaning and making them the story of my journey,” he says.

— **Sibongile Nkosi**

 **Blog:** [Simontothemax.blogspot.com](http://Simontothemax.blogspot.com)  
**Twitter:** @simontothemax

## Luzann Isaacs

Operational manager: Edith Stephens Wetlands Park


Luzann Isaacs believes in balance, whether it's splitting her time between stomping through wetlands in her wellies, sitting behind a desk trying to attract funders, or making time to engage with communities in breaks from her landscaping work. As operational manager at the Edith Stephens Wetlands Park on the Cape Flats, her job entails all these things.

Isaacs studied nature conservation at the Cape Peninsula Technikon. Since her first job, working for a community group in Somerset West, she has known that bridging the gap between community and environment is what makes her tick.

For Isaacs, caring for the community is just as important as caring for nature. In addition to managing

a nature reserve that borders on poverty-stricken urban communities, among them Hanover Park and Gugulethu, she develops environmental awareness and skills development programmes targeted at the surrounding communities.

“Developing environmental awareness in a community can only be done through conversation, debate and building one-on-one relationships with people,” she says. — **Faranaaz Parker**

 **Website:** [openafrica.org/participant/edith-stephens-wetland-park](http://openafrica.org/participant/edith-stephens-wetland-park)  
**YouTube:** Luzann Isaacs speaks



200 Young South Africans | **Environment**

## Dr Tobias Barnard

Head: Water and health research unit, University of Johannesburg

When it comes to water research there are few people in South Africa with greater knowledge than Dr Tobias Barnard. The 33-year-old scientist heads the first department in the country devoted to using the PCR method for testing the bacteria in water — a process that has become critical in assisting the government during outbreaks of diarrhoea.

A founding member of the Southern African Young Water Professionals, Dr Barnard is passionate about water conservation and education. He knows that, with South Africa

being among the 30 driest countries in the world, we each have a role to play in keeping this precious resource safe.

As part of his ongoing research, in the coming years Dr Barnard hopes to assist his students in setting up small businesses catering for specific needs in the water sector. In some ways, the future of South Africa depends on it. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Website:** [wisa.org.za/ywp](http://wisa.org.za/ywp)

## Lee Swan

Manager, sustainability and climate change consulting: Deloitte

Lee Swan was incommunicado when we first tried to interview her. She wasn't just "out of the office", she was trekking through the North Pole, on skis and on foot, towing a supply-laden 80kg sledge behind her — the first African-born woman to compete in the Polar Race to the North Pole. She made it.

Her motivation for participating in one of the world's toughest races was to raise awareness about climate change and the need for sustainable living and sustainable business. She also saw the event as an opportunity to raise money for local charities dedicated to maths and science development in schools.

As manager of Deloitte's sustainability and climate change consulting team Swan helps companies to find ways to incorporate sustainability into their business strategies.

She has an honours degree in town and regional planning from Wits University and a master's degree in development economics and sustainability from the University of Reading. — **Faranaaz Parker**

 **LinkedIn:** Lee Swan



## Dr Inga Jacobs

Global president: International Water Association's Young Water Professionals programme

Short legs and growing up in a big family on the Cape Flats didn't stop Inga Jacobs. It just gave her the skills to run around obstacles.

Though she describes herself as an "ordinary coloured girl" her educational achievements read like a round-the-world tour: study in Hong Kong, BA in America, an MA at Stellenbosch and a PhD at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. But even with a scholarship she had to work three jobs at a time to make ends meet.

Jacobs's research on cooperative water governance shaped her future agenda: to push for shared water sources around the world. Her enthusiastic approach to water politics is now making a huge impact locally.

As a result this "water missionary" was voted global president of the International Water Association's Young Water Professionals programme in 2010, a position that will, she believes, allow her to generate the kind of debate that will make a "real and positive difference to ordinary South Africans". — **Sipho McDermott**

 **Twitter:** @iwaywp



But even with a scholarship, she had to work three jobs to make ends meet

## 200 Young South Africans | Education



## Braimoh Bello

Lecturer, author and founder:  
Beyond Tomorrow

When Nina Simone sang “Oh [to be] young, gifted and black” she might have been thinking about Braimoh Bello, an accomplished medical scientist, motivational speaker, author and poet.

Bello obtained his master’s in medical microbiology from Wits, capping it with a PhD in occupational reproductive health from Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

Despite his busy schedule as a lecturer at Wits Bello, through his brainchild initiative Beyond Tomorrow, finds the time to motivate and inspire high-school learners and postgraduate students to achieve academic excellence.

“My situation was no different from that of any other African student when I was growing up. But I never allowed this to stand in my way and I believe students who come from similar backgrounds can push the boundaries and achieve their goals,” he says.

That is why he hosts workshops and visits schools around the country to share tools and tips that may help students and learners to overcome academic obstacles. Beyond Tomorrow enables him to give practical effect to his vision. He recently published a book, *Beyond Tomorrow: Fundamental Principles for Achieving Academic Excellence*, as part of the initiative.

“I do what I do because I believe there is potential in every one of us,” he says. Bello believes most students fail not because they do not have the potential to reach their goals but because they lack focus and appropriate role models.

His slogan is: “We can change our future if we really try and aspire to acquire our desires, which we admire. Do not retire even when you feel tired but refire to acquire your desire.”

— **Thabo Mohlala**

 Website: braimohbello.com

## Shaheen Seedat

DPhil student: Oxford

Shaheen Seedat has already achieved more than most people could ever imagine. But he’s still a young man with big dreams.

The 21-year-old Wits graduate and all-round whizz kid won the university’s chancellor’s gold medal for most distinguished graduate of his year. He also won the postgraduate Nedbank and Old Mutual budget speech competition in 2010 and received a Goldman Sachs global leaders award. He has a bachelor of economic science from Wits and completed a double honours in economic science and mathematics in 2010.

In October this year Seedat is off to Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, to study for a DPhil in financial economics at Said Business School.

Intimidating? Perhaps. But Seedat is modest about his achievements. “I never wanted to win awards,” he explains, “but just to make a positive contribution to other people.”

The younger generation is particularly close to his heart, and his dream is to “see more kids gaining access to education”.

He has already made an impressive start through his

work with the Targeting Talent Programme (TTP): an education-based community project, under the auspices of the department of science and technology, aimed at providing opportunities and holistic support to talented high-school students from disadvantaged backgrounds. He is also head of volunteerism at the Wits Student Equity and Talent Management Unit.

Seedat is saddened by South Africa’s inequalities: “A huge number of people don’t have access to education and skills,” he says.

A sound national economic policy is the key to transformation, he says. And he hopes to help shape just such a policy when he returns from Oxford.

When he has time to relax Seedat makes for the cricket pitch. He was awarded national and provincial colours when he was a teenager and is still passionate about the game. Let’s hope rain won’t stop play while he’s at Oxford.

— **Ngoako Matsha**

 Twitter: @sseedat



## Alice Wamundiya

Vice-chairperson: Unity for Tertiary Refugee Students

Alice Wamundiya wants to see Africa “reclaim its past glory”. Originally from Rwanda, she fled to South Africa after the civil war that tore through her motherland.



Upon her arrival in South Africa she became involved in various social activities, including taking up the cause of refugee students.

She founded Unity for Tertiary Refugee Students to promote the rights and wellbeing of refugees and asylum-seekers at tertiary institutions in South Africa. As its head, she has intervened on behalf of thousands of students who have struggled to get funding for their studies.

A prolific writer, Wamundiya has edited several campus-based publications and magazines. She is a celebrated public speaker who has addressed a number of high-profile local and overseas conferences. She is currently studying for a master’s degree in social sciences at UCT and is writing a memoir chronicling her experience of the Rwandan genocide. — **Thabo Mohlala**

 Website: utrs-africa.org

## 200 Young South Africans | Education



## Dr Andile Dube

Director: Youth programmes, loveLife

**A**ndile Dube has always been driven by one question: "How do we break the cycle of poverty?" When she considered how she broke her own cycle, she realised it was through education.

After completing a BEd, a BEd and an MA in environment and development Dube obtained her PhD in 2011 with a thesis on "Primary School Drop-Outs and Their Re-Entry into School".

Her interest in youth development started in 1995 when she volunteered as a tutor and mentor at a home for former street children. Today, as director for youth programmes at loveLife, Dube understands that "the youth make up 50% of our population, but many of them never make the transition from childhood to adulthood".

In her experience, integrated youth development programmes are the only way to help them to become contributing members of society. After all, if she was able to break the cycle, why can't others do the same? — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Twitter:** @andiledube

## Mark Horner Project manager: Siyavula

**H**ow many nuclear physicists do you know who made it all the way through their PhD only to decide to change careers? In Mark Horner's case, it was a bold but easy decision. Time and again when speaking to students at science fairs he was struck by how few of them had textbooks. Simply put, not enough children could afford them and not enough schools managed the books they purchased responsibly. Horner's mission became clear: to provide South African students with open-licence textbooks that are affordable to print and free to access through the internet and other mobile devices.

In 2002, together with Sam Halliday, Horner started the Free High School Science Texts project. With a pool of volunteers they produced maths and physical science books for grades 10 to 12. In 2007, when he finished his studies, Horner was approached by the Shuttleworth Foundation and asked to expand the project to include every major subject in every grade from R to 9. So it was that Siyavula (Nguni for "we are opening") was born, with

the result that today all these books are available free online in both English and Afrikaans. More importantly, the millions of cellphone users who don't have access to the internet can get them through their cellphones.

The positive response to the project has been overwhelming. Siyavula is changing the way educators and learners access the information they need to be successful. In the absence of royalties Siyavula can sell the open-licence books for as little as the printing costs. On average, that comes to a third of the price of textbooks sold by traditional publishers. It's no wonder that, in 2011, Siyavula expects to have its books placed on the government approval list, so schools throughout the country can access more information than ever before.

— **Eric Axelrod**
 **Twitter:** @marknewlyn


If she was able to break the cycle, can't others do the same?



## Dave Duarte

Managing director: Huddlemind and the Ogilvy Digital Marketing Academy

**H**is short career in education has taken Dave Duarte to some pretty interesting places. Shortly before the revolution in Egypt he was teaching at Cairo University and also advising the Egyptian national media. It was a strange experience because his students wanted to know how to use technology to bring about social change, whereas the government wanted to know how technology could help them retain the status quo.

Duarte's skills are in high demand because he is something of an educational visionary. The 28-year-old specialises in integrating technology, digital networks

and group learning into a process that enables continued development, both personal and professional.

In addition to heading the digital culture incubator Huddlemind and the learner-centric Ogilvy Digital Marketing Academy, Duarte lectures at UCT's Graduate School of Business and the Gordon Institute of Business Science. This is one man who knows that educated masses+technology=revolution. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @DaveDuarte

## 200 Young South Africans | Education

## Julia De Kadt

PhD fellow, Developmental Pathways to Health Research Unit: University of the Witwatersrand

One of reasons Julia de Kadt founded the Durban branch of IkamvaYouth, a township-based, non-profit organisation that helps scholars pass matric, is her core belief that every young person is full of potential and that education is the key to unlocking that potential.

Guided by two subjects that fascinate her — learning and policies that shape human wellbeing in society — De Kadt is currently completing her PhD on learner mobility in an effort to understand how and to what extent children in South Africa travel every day in search of the best possible education they can access and afford.

With an impressive academic career, including an undergraduate degree in brain and cognitive sciences from MIT and a masters in politics and public policy from Princeton, De Kadt aims, to create the knowledge required to inform new policies that will facilitate equal access to high-quality education for all South African children, regardless of their background. — **Lu Larché**

**Website:** ikamvayouth.org  
**Twitter:** @IkamvaYouth



## Buhle Zuma

Social psychology PhD candidate: University of Cape Town and St Andrews University

Buhle Zuma does not believe he can change the world, but he does believe he can help by understanding it. His yearning to learn about the world began when he learned to read and it is what drove him to escape a life of adversity and uncertainty, succeed in becoming a Mandela Rhodes Scholar and — through his research — emerge as a facilitator in developing a uniquely South African understanding of our society.

Zuma's frustration with American theories applied to uniquely South African situations, as well as with problems blamed on race alone, inspired his current research — "informal segregation" in university residences. Framed by the events that took place at the University of the Free State, his research aims to understand the conditions that make it either possible or impossible for friendships to form across racial lines.

It's a topic that hits close to home for Zuma, whose childhood background was a far cry from a leafy white middle-class institution such as UCT.

But since childhood he has proved he is no ordinary

young man. In addition to putting himself and his siblings through school through a multitude of jobs, Zuma found the time to start a library, support his mother's HIV/Aids group and get involved with youth development programmes — all while he was at high school.

Today he's no different. Beyond his PhD, Zuma is involved in developing educational resources that are sensitive to cultural diversity for pre-primary and primary-school learners. He was previously chair of the Mandela Rhodes Scholars Alumni body and is currently chairperson of the student division of the Psychological Society of South Africa.

With a deep interest in helping talented young South Africans to realise their potential, Zuma lives by the belief that, whether through academia, research or social work, if he imparts what he learns and knows lovingly and creatively, the world will be the better for it. — **Lu Larché**

**Facebook:** Buhle Zuma

## Ingrid Mostert

Programme coordinator,  
ACE Mathematics:  
Stellenbosch University

One of the reasons Ingrid Mostert loves maths is that it simply makes sense. Putting her honours degree in maths and masters in education to good use, Mostert created a smart and sensible method for supporting a large group of geographically dispersed teachers studying (and struggling) to improve their maths skills — by connecting them through their cellphones.

Now, in addition to face-to-face training twice a year, telematic broadcasts and online forums for those who have internet access, teachers enrolled in the two-year Advanced Certification in Education (ACE) course offered by Stellenbosch University no longer need to feel isolated or alone when it comes to solving tricky problems. Instead, information is at their fingertips. They can ask, answer and access questions left by fellow learners by using something as simple as SMS — even after the course has been completed.

By integrating education with mobile technology, Mostert has helped to make thinking about maths — and teaching it — as easy as 1, 2, 3. — **Lu Larché**

**Twitter:** @ingridmostert



## 200 Young South Africans | Education

## Kyla Davis

Director: Well Worn Theatre company

**"O**nly when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realise that we cannot eat money." Kyla Davis is not waiting for this prophesy to come true; she's taking action now.


As an educator, climate activist and director of the Well Worn Theatre company, a non-profit organisation that uses physical theatre techniques to create educational plays about climate change, social justice and "eco-consciousness", Davis knows how to get her message across to the Facebook generation.

A gifted storyteller who honed her physical skills at the School of Physical Theatre in London, 30-year-old Davis employs masks, clowning, acrobatics, mime, movement and voice to capture her audiences' imaginations and, hopefully, their hearts. *Pollution revolution* is the catchy title of the educational play she and her company are taking to 150 primary schools in Gauteng, as part of the climate-change action programme.

Whether she's helping children to realise that littering leads to more than just a dirty street or to learn how global warming can raise sea levels, Davis is out there, every day, putting her heart and eco-message on the line. "I hope to instil in the population, especially our youth, an understanding of our part in the bigger ecology picture of the planet; how we fit in and what sort of behaviour is expected of us as loving and socially ecologically responsible citizens."

Because Davis, a recipient of the Arts and Culture Trust impACT award for theatre in 2010, wants to create "a world where common sense, thoughtfulness and love of people and planet overcome selfishness, destruction and corporate greed", she works closely with like-minded organisations such as the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project, Artists Project Earth and the GreenHouse.

As she teaches through her plays: every action has a direct consequence. Her actions might just change the world. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** wellworn.org.za  
**Twitter:** @wellworn



## Leigh Meinert

Co-founder: Tertiary School in Business Administration

**B**y the age of 15 Leigh Meinert was already a visionary. To prove it, she started a youth NGO. As if that wasn't enough, 10 years later she co-founded a university.

The Tertiary School in Business Administration, based in Pinelands, Cape Town, caters for students who wouldn't normally have access to tertiary education. Its acronym, TSiBA, is apt: in isiXhosa, *tsiba* means "to jump".

When Meinert started TSiBA in 2004 she was armed with only a BA in value and policy studies from Stellenbosch. Currently she's studying for a master's in higher education. "I started a university, and now I have to go back and study how I should have done it. I did things the wrong way around," she jokes.

Meinert, who feels lucky to be working with the country's "future leaders", says her own role model is academic, businesswoman and medical doctor Mamphela Ramphele. — **Aphiwe Deklerk**

 **Twitter:** @LeighMeinert

## Siphokazi Magadla

Lecturer: Rhodes University

**W**hen 24-year-old international relations specialist Siphokazi Magadla won a Fulbright Scholarship to complete her master's degree in the United States she certainly followed her motto: "Come in and just devastate!"

In 2009 the outspoken Magadla, who hails from Nqeleni near Mthatha, was elected vice-president of the Ohio University African Students Union, the second-largest student organisation on campus. She also won a graduate student award from the US's National Association of Black Political Scientists.

On her return to South Africa she worked as a research consultant for the Institute for Security Studies, where she focused on the role of women in conflict resolution. Now Magadla lectures at Rhodes University in African security and development and plans to embark on a PhD later this year.

"I grew up very shy, but I had to break out because I realised that if you don't speak up, things don't change," she says. — **Ngoako Matsha**

 **Facebook:** Siphokazi Magadla



## 200 Young South Africans | Education

## Sizwe Thandukwazi Nxumalo

Founder: Enke: Making a Mark

**T**wenty-one-year-old Sizwe Nxumalo is not happy merely to get a good education himself; he wants others to do the same. Currently in his second year of study towards an honours degree in economic science at Wits, Nxumalo is also developing an IT start-up to make tertiary education accessible to young South Africans.

Why? Because he believes in the power of education, which is the reason he founded an initiative called Enke: Making a Mark, which helps to empower high-school and tertiary students from impoverished backgrounds to cope with academic challenges and

realise their full academic potential.

"I believe I have been able to achieve a lot through the quality of education that I received," says Nxumalo. In 2010, when teachers downed tools in schools a few months before matric exams, Nxumalo mobilised his fellow Wits students to help tutor matriculants in Katlehong. After all, you don't have to be a teacher to help others to learn.

— **Thabo Mohlala**

 **Facebook:** Sizwe Nxumalo



## Mogomotsi Motsielwa

Director of planning and monitoring: Phokeng in Education

**M**ogomotsi Motsielwa, a qualified animal scientist, is director of planning and monitoring at Phokeng in Education (PhiE), a centre based in Rustenburg, in North West province.

The centre provides skills and IT training for deaf and blind people in the area, enabling them to acquire the appropriate technical ability to be self-sufficient and take part in the mainstream economy.

The 29-year-old joined the organisation in 2008 as a part-time consultant and was employed permanently the following year. One of his main tasks is to ensure the centre is adequately resourced and has a clear operational plan to enable it to accomplish its mission.

Among his priorities is to align the organisation's programmes with the national qualifications framework and the relevant education training and accreditation bodies as well as to find suitably qualified Braille and sign-language teachers.

His interest in working with the disabled originated within his family, which has always been involved in

projects aimed at disabled communities. It was a family tradition I could not detract from," he says.

One of the biggest challenges he faces is addressing the negative perceptions and stigmatisation of disabled people, which he does through an active community outreach initiative. The centre's successful programmes attract record numbers of applicants, making funding another challenge he must address. This year the Royal Bafokeng Institute stepped in and is sponsoring training for 51 of the 110 students.

Knocking at various companies' doors is by no means an enviable task, but it is one Motsielwa has embraced gracefully because he knows that doing so may ensure that the dreams and aspirations of many disabled people can be fulfilled in an environment in which many still treat them with disdain. — **Thabo Mohlala**

 **Facebook:** Phokeng in Education




## Vashna Jagarnath

History lecturer: Rhodes University

**T**hirty-two-year-old Vashna Jagarnath is a history buff. It's a fascination she first developed when she was young and one she intends to take into old age. During her early academic career she studied the history of Indian film in South Africa and the "social construction of race" in the coloured community of Sydenham, Durban, during apartheid. Last year she was awarded a prestigious Kresge Lectureship by her university for her focus on "subaltern or bottom-up history" — history that reflects the perspectives of ordinary people.

She is now studying the "intellectual development of Mahatma Gandhi while in South Africa" and draws on contemporary South Asian history because of its striking parallels with present-day South Africa.

Jagarnath is a member of Cliehres, an association of historians from European Union countries. because of her interest in film, has contributed a chapter to an academic book on Indian films she has also adjudicated at the Durban International Festival in 2009. — **Thabo Mohlala**

 **Blog:** indenturedindian.wordpress.com/author/vashna

200 Young South Africans | **Health****Carly Tanur**

Founder and director:  
Mamelani Projects

**C**arly Tanur sees people for who they are: equal human beings, each with unique potential, all deserving of respect, and every single one requiring some kind of support.

When she ended her studies at Michaelis School of Art in 2003 to start a non-profit organisation, Mamelani Projects, Tanur had a clear vision: she wanted to help people from marginalised communities to help themselves. How? Through programmes that, by sharing knowledge and support, help people to realise their own power. From youth development and community-based health education to income-generating projects Tanur and her team have, for the past eight years, been teaching people how to live healthier, more productive and fulfilling lives and, in a pay-it-forward approach, teach their communities too.

Intent on fostering real meaning in people's lives through sustainable, holistic and healthy programmes, Tanur sees her future firmly rooted where her heart is — at Mamelani Projects, to give people a fighting chance. — **Lu Larché**



**Website:** [mamelani.org.za](http://mamelani.org.za)  
**Twitter:** @Mamelani

**Ntobeko Ntusi**

Cardiology specialist

**D**r Ntobeko Ntusi is at the cutting edge of research in a highly specialised area of medicine — using cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging and ultrasonography to study the development of inflammatory heart disease and testing potential treatments for the disease.

Originally from Mthatha, Ntusi left the country as a teenager when his mother chose to pursue a PhD at an American university. During his undergraduate degree at Haverford College, Pennsylvania, he majored in molecular and cell biology and graduated with honours.

He returned to South Africa in 1999 to study medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Although his early interests were obstetrics and geriatric care, he eventually chose to specialise in cardiovascular medicine.

Ntusi, who last year was awarded a prestigious Nuffield research fellowship and is pursuing a DPhil in cardiovascular medicine at the University of Oxford, is also completing both an MMed in internal medicine and an MD in cardiology through UCT. — **Faranaaz Parker**



**Twitter:** @ntobekon

**Lunga Sidzumo**

Community project coordinator:  
Grassroot Soccer

**G**rowing up in Khayelitsha surrounded by gangsters, drugs and crime, it is easy to give up on your dreams. But “giving up” is not part of Lunga Sidzumo's vocabulary. “I knew there was more to life than what was in front of me. All I needed to do was search for it,” he says.

Sidzumo's love of soccer proved to be the key. When he completed Grade 12 in 2001 he became a volunteer coach for Grassroot Soccer (GRS), a non-profit organisation that uses the power of the Beautiful Game to stem the tide of HIV by educating young people about their responsibilities and choices. Being a volunteer coach for the “11 for Health” pilot programme Sidzumo became a Grassroot Soccer coach and eventually secured a full-time position as a community project coordinator.

In 2009 Sidzumo, together with other GRS members, co-founded Ragball International, a groundbreaking income-generation project that gives young people entrepreneurial skills by teaching them to make soccer balls from recycled rubbish. The project's slogan proclaims: “One man's trash is another kid's future.”

He is proud that the project has transformed the lives of so many young people in his township. “It has enabled them to feel a sense of independence,” he explains. “Some have registered for school with the money they make.”

In 2010 his work was recognised when he was awarded the prestigious MAC Aids Leadership Initiative Fellowship. The year-long training, which aims to cultivate emerging leaders in the field of HIV education, helped him to develop his HIV and gender awareness programmes at township schools and at the Khayelitsha Football for Hope centre.

Today, Sidzumo is famous in his community. He's in demand as an MC for weddings and funerals and is a much-loved mentor to hundreds of teenagers. But he still never misses a chance to cheer his local soccer team to victory. — **Sibongile Nkosi**

**Facebook:** Lunga Sidzumo  
**Twitter:** @lsidzumo

## 200 Young South Africans | Health

**Dr Lara Fairall** Senior scientist: Knowledge Translation Unit

Imagine creating something you know will help thousands of local nurses and healthcare workers to provide better care for patients with lung problems and HIV/Aids. Dr Lara Fairall did.

She spent years developing a set of locally relevant clinical guidelines that help nurses in their day-to-day work. Having proved so effective in enabling better care, her guidelines are currently being adapted for use in Malawi and she will be expanding them to address other key healthcare concerns, including mental health and antenatal care.

A founder of the UCT Lung Institute's Knowledge

Translation Unit, Fairall completed her medical degree at the University of Cape Town, with a distinction in clinical examinations.

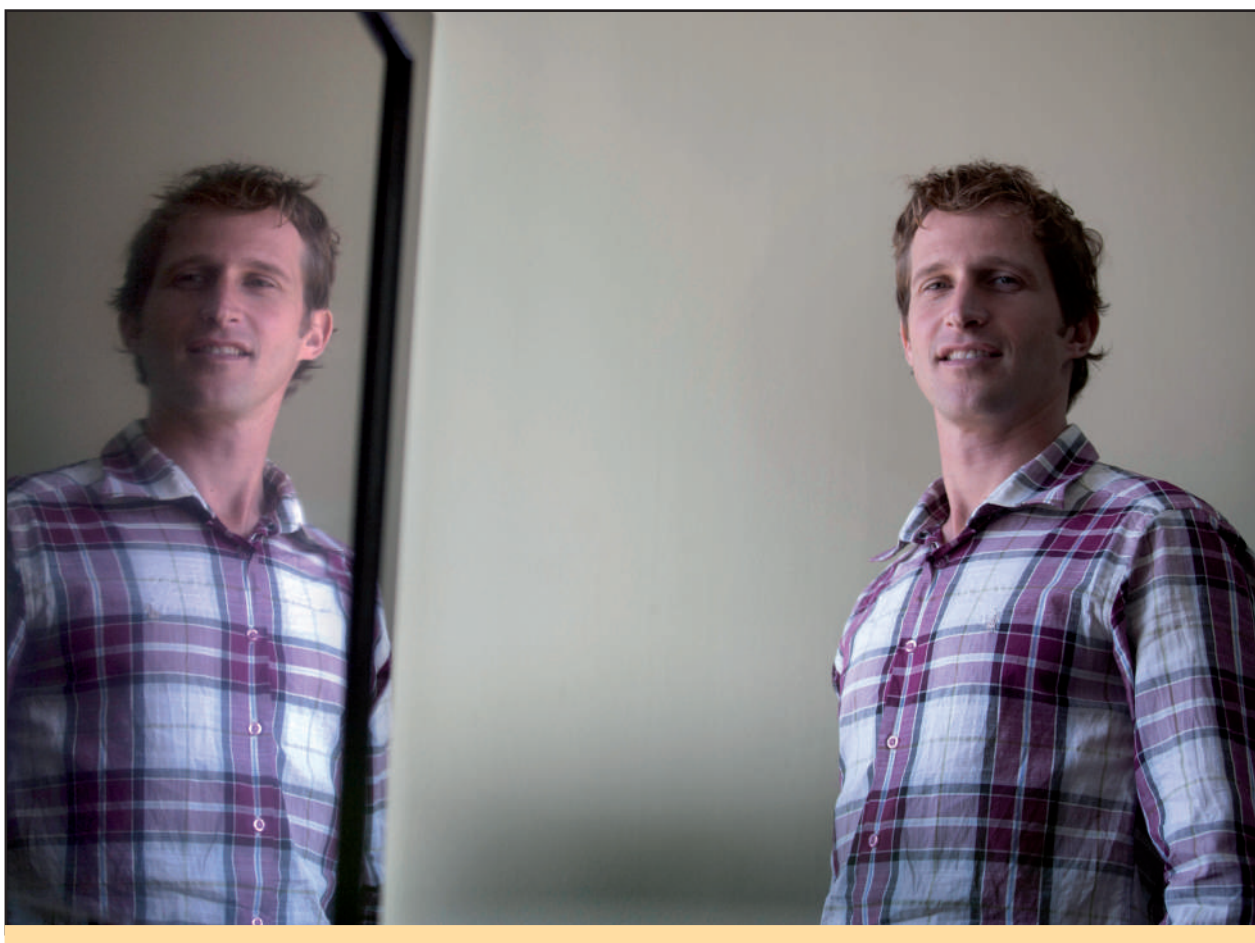
To share her medical knowledge, she has written reviews for the *British Medical Journal* and for *Social Science and Medicine*, and is also a member of the World Health Organisation's expert advisory panel on clinical practice guidelines and research methods and ethics.

— **Faranaaz Parker**



**Website:** [knowledgetranslation.uct.ac.za](http://knowledgetranslation.uct.ac.za)

**Facebook:** Lara Fairall

**Emile Engel**

MSc student: Supramolecular Modification of Selected Antiretroviral Drugs Project

Twenty-four-year-old Emile Engel lives a double life, following his two passions — science and youth development — with equal enthusiasm.

A Mandela-Rhodes scholar, Engel uses his post-graduate degree in chemistry to help to improve the solubility and melting points of existing antiretroviral drugs for an important University of Cape Town project.

The project could have far-reaching effects. "Because the existing ARVs are big and insoluble, much of their contents does not enter the blood stream. If you improve solubility you might be able to take a smaller dose and reduce the cost," explains Engel.

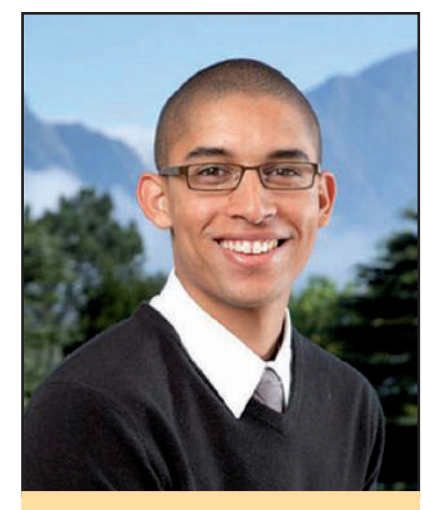
Putting his post-graduate degree in development studies to good use Engel started Re.Think Leadership, an NGO that promotes dialogue across boundaries and encourages youth leadership. He believes science is important for development. "I think South Africa needs to produce more quality research. Currently what we are doing now is purchasing technology and knowledge and we need to get out of that cycle."

— **Vuvu Vena**



**Twitter:** @chocolatemunkee

**LinkIn:** Emile Engel

**Saul Kornik** Chief executive: Africa Health Placements

When you come across a natural leader with a head for business, an altruistic outlook and an appetite for adventure, you can be sure it's someone remarkable, like Saul Kornik. A believer in creating new and improved ways toward a better society, he is leading by example in his professional approach by creating equal access to healthcare — for all.

A six-month trip along the east coast of Africa in a traditional dhow made Kornik, a chartered accountant and financial analyst, decide he no longer wanted to work to make the shareholders of Goldman Sachs richer but rather to enrich the lives of people surviving at the lower end of the scale.

He found an opportunity to do this in rural health — by applying his commercial mind to placing foreign doctors in underserved hospitals in Southern Africa. So, at 28, with no medical or leadership experience, Kornik founded Africa Health Placements (AHP) in 2005.

A "social-profit" organisation, AHP is run like a business and, with a professional recruitment team and smart marketing strategy, has placed 2 000 health workers in

Southern Africa in five years. Partnering with the South African, Lesotho and Swazi governments, it has sutured holes in the system, streamlined bureaucratic processes and even advised on policy.

A 2008 Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellow, Kornik considers creating and leading his unified team to be one of his greatest achievements — along with surviving "Life 2 The Limit", the 30-day desert island challenge which he competed to raise funds for AHP. Kornik emerged 13kg lighter as one of only two of the original ten who stuck it out.

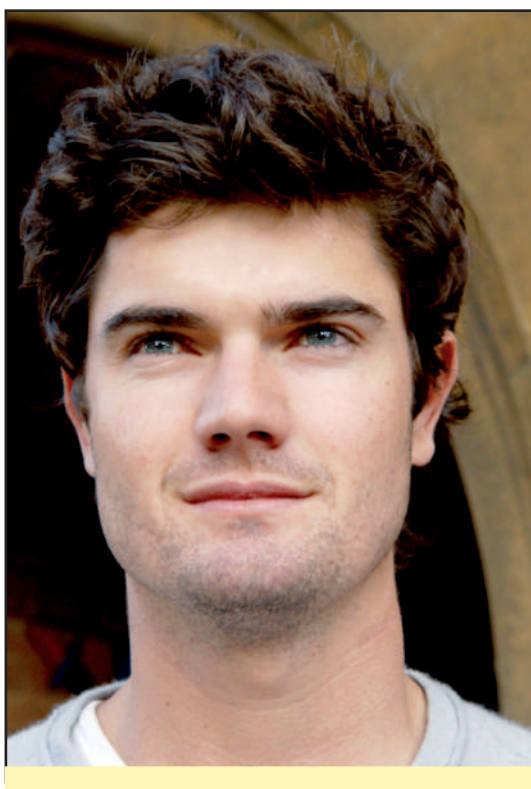
A nature lover at heart, Kornik's plans once he's tended to social ills in healthcare include possibly turning his mind to greener issues. Considering the way he approaches everything he does, we can be sure the planet will benefit.

— **Lu Larché**



**Website:** [ahp.org.za](http://ahp.org.za)

**Twitter:** @AfricaDoctors

200 Young South Africans | **Health****Thomas Brennan**

DPhil student: Oxford University

Rhodes scholar Thomas Brennan already has a PhD from Oxford University. Now he's working on his DPhil in biomedical information engineering — also at Oxford.

But Brennan's focus is more grassroots than ivory tower. He says he wants to find low-cost solutions to community health problems. "It's time for all of us to pull up our socks and start being creative, innovative and proactive," he says.

When he was growing up the UCT graduate was inspired by his mother's idealism and his father's passion. He counts Apple's Steve Jobs as one of his role models.

Brennan loves Oxford for its vibrancy and multi-disciplinary approach. But Cape Town will always be home. He says he feels "humbled" by fellow South Africans who have had to overcome "tremendous hurdles" to transform their lives. He recognises that he has been luckier than most, and constantly reminds himself that "from those to whom much has been given, much is expected".

— **Sipho McDermott**
 **Twitter:** @tombombadl
**Nokhwezi Hoboyi**

District coordinator: Ekurhuleni branch, Treatment Action Campaign

Thirty-one-year-old Nokhwezi Hoboyi is living proof that an HIV-positive status does not equal a death sentence to one's dreams. She doesn't think the sky is the limit; she thinks one should reach beyond it. Living by the adage that what doesn't break you makes you stronger and that perseverance is paramount, she is striving — through professional and personal growth — to be a leader in her community, in her country and for her cause.

Hoboyi was a croupier before becoming a full-time Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) activist in 2004. As a treatment literacy practitioner, her gift for communicating — being able to explain complex scientific jargon in simple terms — contributed to her appointment as editor of the TAC's national magazine, *Equal Treatment*, in 2005.

Moving on from the magazine to policy communications and research, Hoboyi has worked her way up to district coordinator of the TAC's Ekurhuleni branch, a demanding role that keeps her days full and allows her to make changes in her own community, in Vosloorus. Apart from coordinating programmes, partnering with civil society

organisations, contributing to policy discussions and advocating for essential improvements in the health care system, she also sits on several boards.

An ardent defender of human rights — particularly those of women — Hoboyi is frequently involved in cases of hate crime and violence and played a big part in helping to construct the case against Matthias Rath, who was convicted for selling fake Aids drugs. One of the most rewarding parts of her job is seeing people stand up for their rights and, by continuing with treatment, their lives. She is heartbroken to see people bedridden in 2011, the sadness on their families' faces and how HIV/Aids breaks families apart.

To escape the emotional weight and demands of her activism Hoboyi spends Saturdays with her son and, as a trained traditional healer, focuses on a different kind of healing — for others and for herself. — **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [tac.org.za](http://tac.org.za)
**Nokubonga Yawa** HIV/Aids and education activist

In 2003 Nokubonga Yawa was 15, pregnant and living with HIV. She had dropped out of school and was helping her mother sell "runaways" (chicken feet) in the streets of her neighbourhood.

Flash forward to 2011 and her life couldn't be more different. She's a presenter on *Siyanquoba Beat It!*, a popular TV show about HIV and Aids awareness, and she's big sister to thousands of young South Africans who see her as their role model. She's also a proud parent and an equal education activist.

Yawa has used challenges to kick-start her career, and

urges other young people to do the same — especially if they come from poor communities. "As long as you have a mind, you are able to do something with your life," she says.

She dreams of producing her own TV reality show — but first she wants to go back to school to write her matric. — **Ayanda Sitole**

 **Facebook:** Nokubonga Yawa


## 200 Young South Africans | Health



## Melissa Meyer

Project coordinator: HIV/Aids and the Media Project

**T**wenty-five-year-old Melissa Meyer has a tough job. The HIV/Aids epidemic is still an issue of national importance, but news coverage is waning.

As coordinator of the HIV/Aids and the Media Project, managed jointly by the Anova Health Institute and the journalism and media studies programme at Wits, Meyer wants to put HIV/Aids under the spotlight, even if it isn't "breaking news". Luckily, this is where the dynamic Meyer really comes into her own. Having studied journalism, politics and graphic design, she is able to encourage journalists to provide consistent, critical, informed and accurate coverage.

Meyer's sharp mind and racy writing style compel readers to follow *journAids*, the website she maintains. She also influences storylines on local soap operas through her discussion forums. In addition, her book, *The Politics of Aids Denialism: South Africa's failure to respond*, which she wrote with Pieter Fourie, forces South Africans to find their voice. — **Glynnis Underhill**

 **Website:** [journAids.org](http://journAids.org)

## Marije Versteeg

Project manager: Rural Health Advocacy Project

**M**arije Versteeg speaks fast, her vocabulary laced with medical jargon, in an accent that falls somewhere between the Netherlands and South Africa. But despite her textbook-speak it is clear that "rural-proofing" is something she knows a great deal about and lobbies for resiliently.

Rural-proofing, a process of reviewing policies for their impact on rural healthcare, is one of the primary functions of the Rural Health Advocacy Project (RHAP), which she joined in 2009 when it was established.

"South Africa has a high health budget, but some countries with lower ones have better outcomes because we are not deploying our human resources to areas where they are needed the most," she says. Rural areas, home to 43.6% of the population, are served by only 12% of South Africa's doctors and 19% of its nurses.

A key strategic partner in balancing out this discrepancy is the Rural Doctors Association of

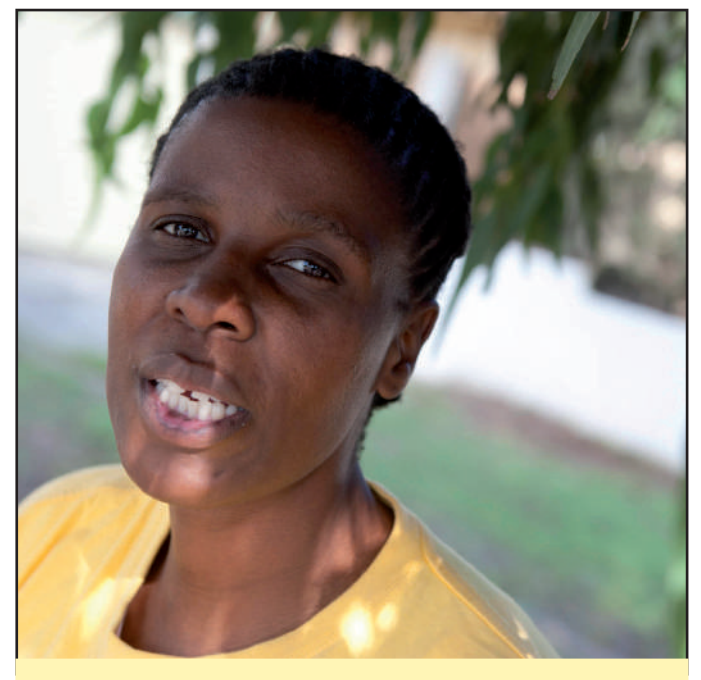
Southern Africa, which strives for staffing by appropriately skilled medical staff. A good way of achieving this equilibrium, Versteeg believes, would be to strike a balance between individual freedom and the needs of the population as a whole so that well-meaning policies actually solve rural problems.

Versteeg fell in love with South Africa in 2002, when she arrived to do research on Aids in the workplace. She spent four years at the Madibeng Centre for Research in the rural northwest, working as a researcher in rural health issues.

Today, she holds a master's degree in organisational anthropology and social sciences, is a permanent resident and the proud mother of a nine-year-old boy born in South Africa.

— **Kwanele Sosibo**

 **Website:** [rhap.org.za](http://rhap.org.za)



## Busiswe Beko

Drug-resistant TB counsellor, Khayelitsha: Médecins sans Frontières

**D**espite having survived drug-resistant TB, Busiswe Beko continues to live, breathe and fight the disease every day. In the clinics, hospitals, homes and lives of more than 500 patients in Khayelitsha, Beko campaigns tirelessly for and assists patients to endure what can be a difficult and tiresome treatment programme that can save their lives and remove the myth that "TB can't be cured".

With her first-hand experience Beko offers the education, counselling and care she didn't receive when she was diagnosed with the disease in 2005. Because she understands the importance of family support and acceptance, her work extends beyond reminding patients to take their medication and into their families and broader social issues. She is on call 24/7, talks about TB on local radio and works with NGOs to provide training.

Through her spirit and selfless dedication, this 35-year-old HIV-positive TB survivor is a beacon of hope for TB patients in Khayelitsha and beyond. — **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [msf.org.za](http://msf.org.za)

## Dr Patrick Rogers

Chief medical officer in maternity: Tonga Hospital

There are local doctors, and then there are passionate community doctors, such as Dr Patrick Rogers. A man of medicine he may be but he is also a man on a mission to promote his rural hospital and its constant need for new staff, new equipment and good old-fashioned funding. So he decided to set up a Facebook group called "Tonga Hospital Enthusiasts".

It's not as though, as chief medical officer in maternity, he has much time to upload pictures or post updates like "nursery still awaiting medical chair". But if he doesn't, Tonga Hospital might never have reopened its neonatal unit in May 2011 after 12 years of closure — a huge victory for a district hospital that was delivering 4 000 babies a year without a CTG machine (to monitor the foetal heartbeat) or ultrasound. He even managed to secure R250 000 from the Discovery Foundation to put towards a ventilator for the high-care unit he hopes to open this year.

It may not be in his job description but Dr Rogers

knows that without this critical equipment his patients may die. So he needs to make a plan. It's hopeful to see that, whether he's raising the hospital's profile through websites like Mbendi or raising funds to buy a CPAP machine to assist babies with impaired respiration, his efforts are paying off.

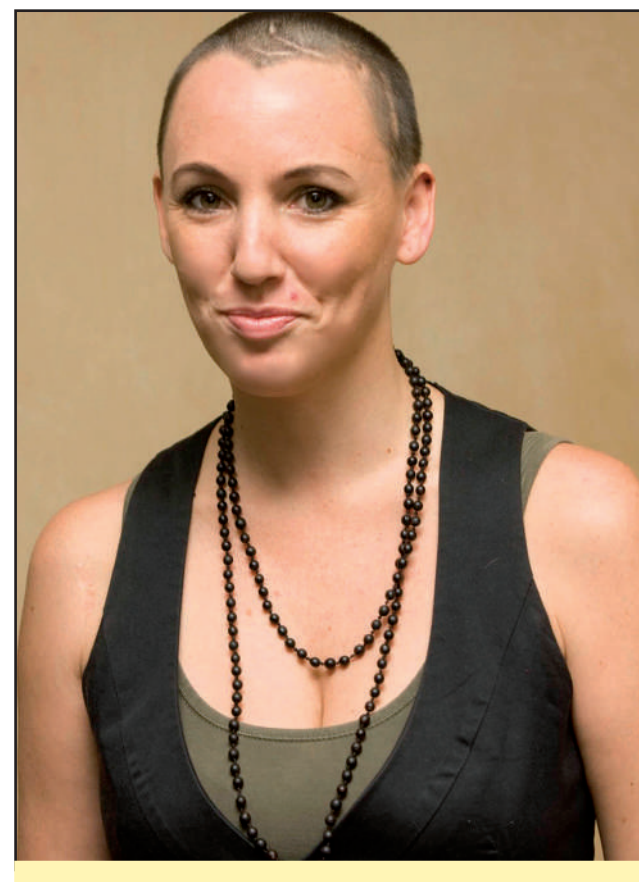
In 2008, when he first arrived at the hospital, Tonga hosted one elective student. In 2010, this 160-bed hospital south of the Kruger National Park recruited 17 local students and four doctors from Europe. Perhaps it's because when he's not thinking about the wellbeing of his patients he's considering the comfort of his staff.

He recently raised funds to equip the unused doctors' tearoom with furniture, appliances and computers to allow internet access for doctors and visiting students. Now that's a true Tonga Hospital enthusiast. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Facebook:** Tonga Hospital Enthusiasts



MARC SHOUL FOR DISCOVERY FOUNDATION



## Elizabeth Mills PhD student

Social anthropologist Elizabeth Mills will never forget the words of a woman she interviewed while doing research for her master's degree at the University of Cape Town. "I fought in the streets for this government, and now they are not giving me medicine for my dying daughter," the woman said.

Now 30-year-old Mills is completing her PhD at Sussex University. Her topic? The effects of HIV and Aids drugs on women's lives.

Mills did an honours degree at Oxford before becoming deputy director of the aids and society research unit at UCT until 2009. She says her greatest satisfaction comes when a research subject sees her as a person, not just as an academic. "It brings the concept of *ubuntu* alive for me, because we are all human beings," she explains.

Mills, who names Nozizwe Madlala Routledge (former deputy minister of health) as her inspiration, says she hopes to bridge the gap between academia and activism.

— **Aphiwe Deklerk**

 **Website:** [cssr.uct.ac.za/asru/research/mills](http://cssr.uct.ac.za/asru/research/mills)

## Dr Frans Skosana Head of lung function laboratory: Olivedale Clinic

Frans Skosana was always determined to become a doctor — even though he had to study by candlelight to make his dream come true. But his mother's loving strength banished the word "disadvantaged" from his vocabulary.

In 1994, aged 18, Skosana left his village to attend medical school at the University of Cape Town. Now he heads the lung function laboratory at the Olivedale Clinic in Sandton. He has a string of qualifications: physician, pulmonologist and HIV specialist. But, with characteristic modesty, he downplays his success: "I haven't won a Nobel Prize in medicine, nor have I done groundbreaking

research. I am just an ordinary guy that helps people to live," he says.

He laughs when he's described as "intelligent" and says that with "hard work and focus" anyone can follow in his footsteps.

Skosana did his internship in a rural area of North West province. One day he hopes to return there, to share his skills with a new generation of doctors. — **Sibongile Nkosi**

 **Facebook:** Frans Skosana



## 200 Young South Africans | Media

## Simon Dingle Technology pundit

Don't call Simon Dingle a journalist; it doesn't do justice to his 24/7 love affair with all things techno. Describe him as a "technology pundit" and he's happy.

The former Tuks FM station manager travels the country — and the world — seeking out the latest gadgets. "I'm passionate about the potential of technology to change peoples' lives, especially in Africa," he says.

It's exhausting just reading Dingle's work schedule: on Monday he produces the *ZA Tech Show* podcast, Tuesday sees him at *Finweek* magazine and on Thursday he's behind the microphone at 5FM. In between he contributes to *Live Out Loud* and *Fin.24.com*. And if there's any time left he enjoys hosting techno events where he can encourage others to "have fun and games" with the newest apps available.

"Things grew organically. My career has taken shape around my passions," he says.

Radio was certainly one of those passions — especially while he was at university, where it kept him "sane through the inanity of academia". Music was — and is — another lifeline and he was arts

and entertainment editor for *SL Magazine* before technology finally seduced him.

A Linux user since he was a teenager, Dingle still loves its "flexibility". No wonder he jumped at the chance to write a chapter about Mark Shuttleworth for the book *South Africa's Greatest Entrepreneurs*.

Dingle loves South Africa ("my dream country: there is nowhere else I would rather live") but also feels like a citizen of the world. He's excited that the *ZA Tech Show* has an increasingly international audience.

In his whirlwind existence there is one certainty: his children. They're an "inexhaustible source" of energy and when he finds himself at home he loves cooking for them. And when they're tucked up in bed? He jumps into his Alfa Romeo GT to sample some Jo'burg nightlife. — **Sipho McDermott**



**Facebook:** Tech Journo  
**Twitter:** @simondingle



MICHAEL HAMMOND, PHOTO24

## Ainsley Moos

Editor: *Volksblad*

Ainsley Moos made a name for himself spearheading the turnaround of a small regional newspaper at a time when even the largest papers were experiencing a decline in sales.

Within a few months of Moos taking over as editor-in-chief of the Free State daily *Volksblad* and 12 community newspapers, *Volksblad* experienced a radical turnaround in circulation and won the McCall Trophy for newspaper excellence.

Moos studied psychology and sociology at Stellenbosch University and holds an honours degree in journalism, a master's degree in anthropology and an MBA. As a young journalist he scooped his first front-page lead within five weeks of joining *Beeld* newspaper. Later he made the agriculture beat his own. From there he moved to *Landbouweekblad*, where he advanced to senior reporter and then editor.

Moos takes no credit for the turnaround. He maintains that *Volksblad's* success is a team effort centred on the idea of producing the most relevant regional news for readers. — **Faranaaz Parker**



**Facebook:** Ainsley Moos  
**LinkedIn:** Ainsley Moos  
**Twitter:** @Moos115



He made a name for himself spearheading the turnaround of a small regional newspaper

200 Young South Africans | **Media**

JAKE REINDERS


**Sam Reinders**

Photojournalist

If Sam Reinders had a flashback of her 33 years on planet earth, it would resemble something from LIFE magazine: George Bush kicking back on Air Force One, a 28-car cavalcade snaking through Washington DC, pensioners, punk rockers, shack dwellers and urban princesses, whatever her eyes have seen her Canon has captured. Just about.

As a freelance photojournalist focusing on long-term reportage Reinders has won a Mondi Award, for her Open Society Foundation Media Fellowship on acid mine drainage, worked with World Press Photo and taken photographs for a *National Geographic* travel guide.

If her work is as varied as her clientele the one commonality is her passion for the human condition. It's a skill she learnt at Rhodes University, crafted during her masters in visual communication at Ohio University, and only really confronted during her internship at *US News & World Report*. Part photographer, part journalist, Reinders is always a full-time humanitarian. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** samreinders.com  
**Twitter:** @samreinders

Her Canon has captured punk rockers, shack dwellers and urban princesses

**Khadija Patel** Writer

How do you distinguish yourself in a noisy media landscape of wannabe writers? Invent your own platform if you can't get anyone to publish you and keep writing.

That's what worked for Khadija Patel, blogger, Muslim community magazine editor and tweeter of note.

The 27-year-old has made a name for herself as the go-to girl for the latest news on the Arab uprisings, using social-media tools.

Not a journalist by training, Patel majored in English and Arabic. It was a significant choice: her ability to translate the Arab world — in more ways than one — would create a niche for her as a young writer years later.

Now she is quoted by the likes of big-business honcho Bobby Godsell, receives invitations to talk about the Arab Spring at conferences and on radio and has her own column on the *Daily Maverick*.

"I want to continue working hard, staying honest and pushing the boundaries. I really just want to write." — **Verashni Pillay**



**Website:** khadijapatel.com

**Blog:** thoughtleader.co.za/khadijapatel

**Sipho Hlongwane** Staff writer: Daily Maverick

Wordsmith. Columnist. Counter-revolutionary. Thus reads the Twitter bio of the UCT dropout turned social-media starlet.

The 22-year-old's story is a metonym for the burgeoning power of social networking in South Africa. An avid online media consumer, Hlongwane first tried his hand at blogging on the *Mail & Guardian's* Thoughtleader platform in late 2009. But it was his grasp of working the social-media crowd that saw him shoot to prominence in March 2010.

The then law student convinced a number of high-profile bloggers to publish the same complaint against the ANC Youth League for their assault on journalists, becoming the ultimate "desktop activist", as youth league spokesperson Floyd Shivambu contemptuously described him. From there it was a hop and a cheeky email away from becoming a fully fledged opinionista on likewise cheeky news website the *Daily Maverick*.

Since August 2009, Hlongwane has become something of a celebrated columnist. Given his age and lack of experience his takes on South African and international

politics attract a remarkable amount of attention from a who's who of South African tweeters. And it's on that social-networking platform that Hlongwane, or @ComradeSipho, his ironic Twitter handle, has made arguably the biggest impact, with 3 532 followers at the time of writing.

It may not mean much to traditional media professionals, but it's been his backdoor entry to attaining the profile in the industry that many hacks don't normally win even after years of work.

"Social media has been virtually everything," he says. But though he insists he has "nothing to prove" to critics who slam his lack of journalism credentials, the wannabe media star acknowledges he has a lot to learn. His career lowlight? "Every time I sit down to write a story and I realise I don't know enough to write to the best of my ability."

— **Verashni Pillay**



**Website:** thedailymaverick.co.za

**Twitter:** @comradesipho



## 200 Young South Africans | Media

## Mandy Wiener

Radio journalist and author

By the time you read this, Mandy Wiener will have well over 8 000 followers on Twitter, and probably quite a few more in real life. The fact is, people care about what 28-year-old Wiener sees, thinks and reports.

Whether she's signing off as a reporter for *Eyewitness News* or signing her debut book, *Killing Kebble*, Wiener has a way of making you feel part of history. You could say she feels a deep responsibility to keep the public informed. Her reasons for putting herself under pressure (and potentially in danger) to write about the Brett Kebble murder are proof of this.

"I felt that the story was quite disjointed for the public and that there needed to be a holistic take on it. I also knew that there was an incredible amount of behind-the-scenes detail and information the public was not privy to," she says.

After five years of following every thread and detail of the Kebble case Wiener not only had a complex story to which few other journalists had access, but also the perspective needed to turn it into a riveting bestseller that would be both insightful and accessible.

Of course, good instincts come with experience, which is something this 2007 CNN African Journalist of the Year for Radio has plenty of. Unlike Kebble, Wiener hasn't taken short cuts or made any wrong turns. She started off writing the traffic report for Highveld Stereo before working her way into the corridors of power, where she has reported on everything from the rise of President Jacob Zuma to the fall of Jackie Selebi.

Her coverage of the historic 2008 US elections reminded South Africans how far we have come as a country but how much further we could go as a nation. With her award-winning combination of professionalism and passion it's not surprising Wiener has converted thousands of listeners into loyal followers. — **Cat Pritchard**



 **Twitter:** @MandyWiener

## Jason Elk CEO: Zoopy

Thirty-three-year old Elk can deliver the world in 90 seconds. Test him. Download one of Zoopy's high-quality videos, which are made specifically for mobile users, and start the clock.

It's a brave man who makes videos for web and mobile platforms in South Africa. Most brands won't touch them, choosing instead to stick with tried-and-tested banner campaigns. Elk's answer — "Why not?"



He must be doing something right because, in 2008, Vodacom invested in Zoopy, eventually buying the business out. Then Nokia selected Zoopy as its regional imaging partner in South Africa — a feat only a handful of media companies worldwide, among them Flickr in the US, have managed.

Last year Zoopy took the Best Corporate award at Highway Africa 2010. And there's plenty more to come. If Elk had his way, access to broadband would be provided by the state and listed in the Bill of Rights. Why not?

— **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** zoopy.com  
 **Blog:** jasonelk.com  
 **Twitter:** @jasonzoopy

## Hlelo &amp; Ntando Masina Radio/TV presenters and co-founders: Campaign for Girls

One brand, two very different personalities. That's Yfm's favourite twin act — Hlelo and Ntando Masina. "The Tweenz" may share Yfm's weekend airwaves, but each has her own loyal fans. They'd like to star in a TV reality show to prove how unique they really are.

"When it comes to relationships, we never take each other's advice," jokes Ntando.

Hlelo wants her own range of hair products; Ntando's been checking out the club scene in Zanzibar to start her own entertainment bar/lounge. Hlelo's the "wimp"; Ntando's the "daredevil".

Their proudest achievement? The Campaign for Girls, a project that partners successful women with girls who want to follow in their footsteps. The campaign, which started in 2009, involves three-day "leadership" camps twice a year.

Eight thousand girls have benefited so far and some have received bursaries. "We didn't have this experience when we were younger, so we wanted to do it for someone else," says Hlelo. — **Ayanda Sitole**



 **Twitter:** @The\_Yfm\_tweenz

200 Young South Africans | **Media****Sarah Wild**

Science and technology correspondent:  
*Business Day*

**B**usiness Day's science and technology correspondent, Sarah Wild, believes science is cool — and she's on a mission to prove it.


Wild, who won a Siemens Profile merit award in 2009, says it's all about demystifying the jargon and finding a human angle. "I could study a star for the rest of my life," she explains, "but I'd rather tell people about science."

Wild joined *Business Day* as a sub-editor in 2007. Just two years later, after a stint at the *Sunday Times*, at just 24, she was appointed deputy news editor, her "biggest challenge ever".

In 2011 she returned to the newsroom's science desk. Since then she has focused on a range of topics: from acid mine drainage to the fate of South Africa's first satellite.

The Rhodes graduate is currently studying for her master's in English. But, as her surname suggests, she enjoys a walk on the wild side. Her dream? To climb Tongariro volcano in New Zealand this year. — **Aphiwe Deklerk**



 **Twitter:** @sarahemilywild

**Siki Mgabadeli**

Radio and television presenter

**W**hat is Siki Mgabadeli's favourite thing? Talking. That's why she feels she's got the "best job in the world".

The 31-year-old Rhodes graduate presents SAfm's *Morning Talk with Siki* every weekday morning. "As a nation, we are hungry for information and I think that's healthy — it certainly helps the debates I'm able to have on radio," she says.

She also co-hosts *Africa Inc* — a show about black economic empowerment — on SABC 3. Her commitment to "removing the jargon" from economic news coverage won her Sanlam's financial journalist of the year award in 2006, and she hasn't looked back since.

Mgabadeli's love of media is in her blood. Her grandmother was a trailblazer, who wrote radio dramas in isiXhosa: one of the first women of her generation to do so. Mgabadeli needed that same spirit when she entered the world of financial journalism — especially when CEOs talked to her "like a two-year-old" during interviews.

They don't do that now. — **Sipho McDermott**



 **Twitter:** @sikimgabadeli

**Mpumelelo Mkhabela**

Editor: *The Daily Dispatch*

**N**ext to Mpumelelo Mkhabela's desk is a photograph of schoolboys with brooms in their hands. Returning to school after a few rainy days in January to a classroom with no roof, they spent their first day cleaning instead of learning. Stories like these are the reason Mkhabela comes to work every day — in the hope that if they are told, situations will change.

At 33, and the newly appointed editor of *The Daily Dispatch*, Mkhabela is in an advantageous position to expose and champion the struggles, causes, celebrations and developments of everyday life in the Eastern Cape — a province rich in such stories.

A razor-sharp journalist who earned respect through his exposés, in-depth articles and shrewd political analysis at *City Press* and the *Sunday Times* and as deputy editor of *The Sunday Independent*, Mkhabela took over the editorial reins of the highly respected *Dispatch* at a time when, owing to the recession, newspapers faced declining circulation figures. Yet expansion — in print, online and on weekends — is at the top of his agenda. Upholding excellence in investigative and civil journalism is part of his strategy to deliver groundbreaking news from the Eastern Cape to readers around the country.

Hard work, good people skills, knowledge of the trade, commitment to the profession, courage and a thick skin are some of the qualities Mkhabela believes make a good editor great. He also lists reading widely — which is something he does when he's not working. One thing he does forget to list, however, is heart — which comes across in his love for his job and his passion for telling stories that uphold and defend the rights of ordinary people, making him an editor who is contributing to making our country a better place. — **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [dispatch.co.za](http://dispatch.co.za)

**He hopes by telling stories,  
some things will change**

## 200 Young South Africans | Media

## Lucas Ledwaba Writer

If he's lucky enough to live until he is 60, Lucas Ledwaba wants to feel as though he has done his best to tell the African story, like his heroes Can Themba and Alf Kumalo.


Growing up on a diet of *Dum* magazine, *Bona* and *City Press*, the last of which he writes for today, Ledwaba became fascinated from an early age with the written word and its power to effect change. Combining his passion for writing with an innate desire to serve humanity, he became a journalist in 1996.

From the *Sunday Times* to *Sunday World*, *Sunday Sun* to *ThisDay*, *Drum* to *City Press*, Ledwaba's work is rooted in the old-school code of the calling: that true reward lies not in the glory of the by-line but in the telling of the untold story, in giving a voice to the voiceless and in championing the cause of the underdog, creating awareness and commanding change.

Chronicling the struggles of ordinary people battling with HIV/Aids for *Drum* earned Ledwaba the coveted CNN African Journalist Award in 2010. But it is the readers' recognition of his stories and their relevance that Ledwaba considers the greatest honour. After all, he writes about the people, for the people.

His works of fiction, published in *Drum* and *Botsotso* and on *Litnet*, are similarly grounded in the every-day, as are non-fiction works like those published in Jürgen Schadeberg's *Voices from the Land*, capturing the plight of farm workers.

Believing that the real African story is yet to be heard and should be told by Africans, Ledwaba dreams of turning the media agency he founded, Mukurukuru Media, into the Reuters of Africa, an international multimedia hub that shares with the world the untold tales of the continent — stories of hope, celebration and rediscovery. In doing so he hopes to capture the true spirit of Africa. — **Lu Larché**

 **LinkedIn:** Lucas Ledwaba

Adriaan Basson Assistant editor: *City Press*

He's tough on criminals, but as gentle as a lamb when it comes to protecting the voiceless, downtrodden and those with no hope.

It was his indestructible sense of justice that drew Adriaan Basson to journalism and, in his quest for justice, he has reached the top of his game in record time. Basson, now assistant editor of *City Press*, started his career at the Afrikaans daily *Beeld*, where his exposé of the denial of justice to a four-year-old rape victim won him accolades.

He went on to win several industry awards, including the coveted Taco Kuiper award for investigative journalism. During his three-year stint as investigative reporter for the *Mail & Guardian* he became a household name in government and criminal-justice circles and his book, *Finish and Klaar*, which traces the fall of disgraced former police commissioner Jackie Selebi, is seen as an important contribution to the public discourse. — **Mandy Rossouw**

 **Twitter:** @AdriaanBasson

## Julie Cunningham Website editor: SA — The Good News


It's been "the year of the laptop" for Julie Cunningham. SA — *The Good News's* website editor is online 24/7 because that's what it takes to counter "negative stereotyping" about South Africa, she says.

Cunningham was still in primary school when she caught the journalism bug from her grandmother. They would read the *Sunday Times* together and drive around Pretoria, looking for the girls kidnapped by paedophile Gert van Rooyen.

Much later, when CNN ignored her emails, Cunningham jumped on a plane to London to convince them to give her an internship. Soon she was hobnobbing with Christiane Amanpour and covering Paris Fashion Week.

Returning to Jo'burg in 2006 Cunningham became the youngest-ever producer for Carte Blanche, winning an award for her series on international adoptions. A two-year stint at eNews followed.

Her next challenge? To explore how to use social media for nation-building. "Without knowledge, people are stuck in racism and prejudice," she says. — **Sipho McDermott**

 **Website:** sagoodnews.co.za  
**Blog:** juliecunningham.co.za  
**Twitter:** @sagoodnews



200 Young South Africans | **Media****Milisuthando Bongela**

Fashion writer

**F**ashionista, opinionista. Both words describe multitalented Milisuthando Bongela. After joining the fashion circuit in 2007 as a fashion assistant and writer for *Cosmopolitan* this Rhodes journalism graduate began doing PR for local labels and trend analysis for Dion Chang's agency, Flux Trends.

In 2009 Bongela joined AAW!, a specialist project management company that works in the arts and creative industries, as an assistant project manager, and helped to bring local outdoor art installations such as Mary Sibanda's *Long Live the Dead Queen* to central Jo'burg.

While continuing to freelance as a fashion writer, which won her a Sanlam fashion journalism award in 2008, Bongela travelled to New York and interned with Fashion TV. She recently became co-owner of Jozi's first branch of the renowned fashion boutique. Mememe, after successfully testing the waters with her series of pop-up shops, which stocked local designers, under the label Pulchritude. — **Lynley Donnelly**

**Blog:** [missmillib.blogspot.com](http://missmillib.blogspot.com)  
**Twitter:** @missmillib

**Bonang Matheba** Radio and TV personality

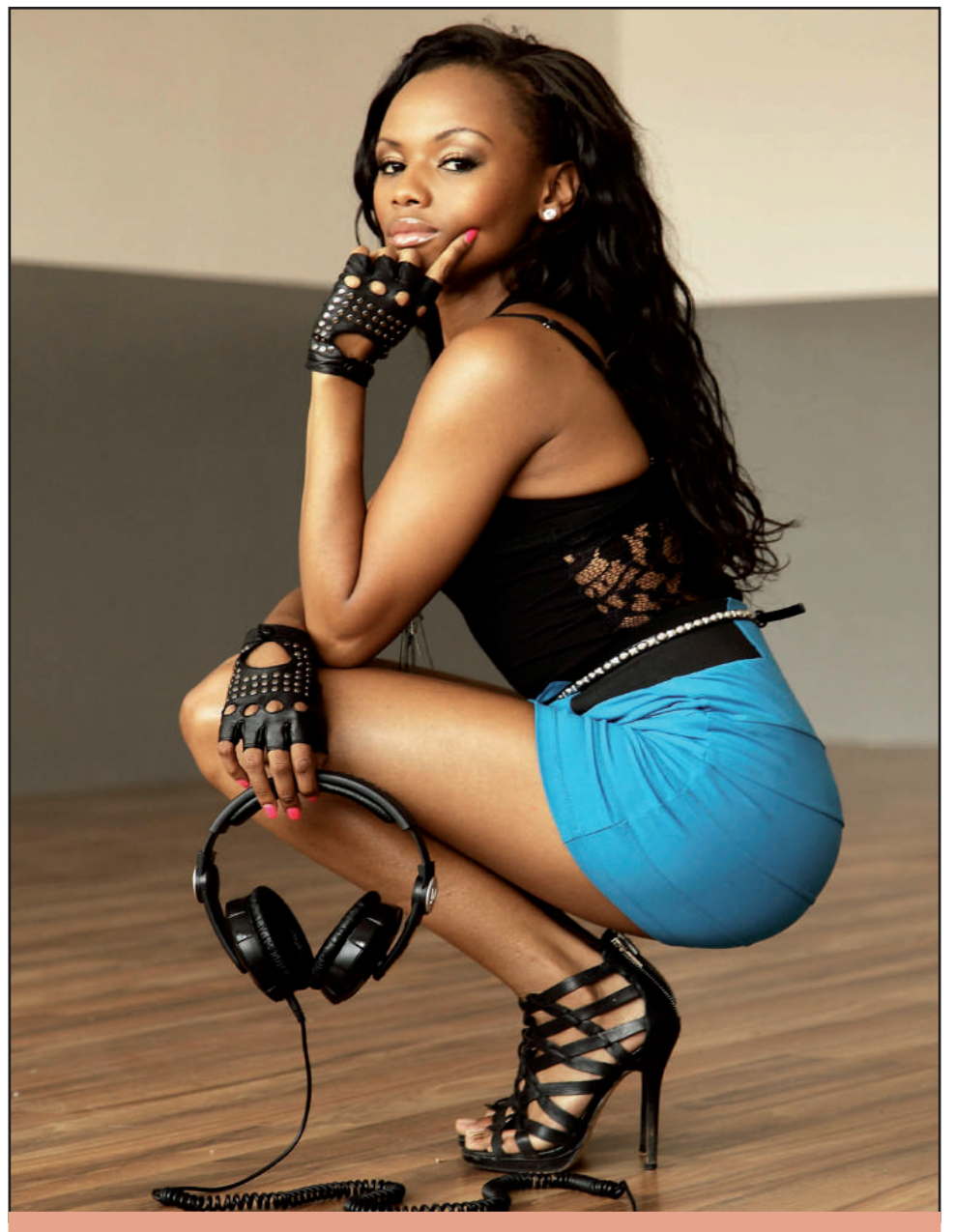
**B**onang Matheba was just 15 when she made her TV debut. Since then she has taken the industry by storm. "At first, I was just doing it for fun," she laughs.

Matheba, known to her fans as "Your Girl B", shot to fame when she presented *Live*, SABC 1's popular entertainment show. Soon she was doing what other girls her age could only dream about: hosting a hip-hop show on Yfm, modelling and being an MC for corporate events. Now she even has her own fashion label, Baby Star.

Not bad for the daughter of two

academics. But 23-year-old Matheba is quick to point out that her life is not all glitz and glamour. "To survive in show biz you really need a thick skin," she says. For her, fame and responsibility go hand in hand: "There are many young girls looking at me. Everything I do is a message. It's really humbling." — **Sibongile Nkosi**

**Website:** [bonangmatheba.co.za](http://bonangmatheba.co.za)  
**Facebook:** Bonang Matheba  
**Twitter:** @b\_matheba

**Lungi Langa** Reporter: Independent Newspapers

**N**ot many journalists choose to become the subject of their own stories, but that's what Lungi Langa decided to do.

In 2009 Langa joined Health-e news service as an intern. The same year she was diagnosed with tuberculosis and decided to go public about her experiences. "I wanted to highlight the stigma associated with TB," she explains. "By telling my story I wanted to give a face to people living with the disease."

She did more than that. Her courageous reporting won her first prize in an international journalism competition

run by the World Health Organisation, under the auspices of its Stop TB Partnership.

"I never believed I'd win. When I got the email I thought it was a hoax!" she says.

An activist at heart, 23-year-old Langa now works at Independent Newspapers. She no longer focuses only on health issues but continues to write stories that "will make a difference in people's lives". — **Sibongile Nkosi**

**Facebook:** Lungi Langa

## 200 Young South Africans | Media



## Natasha Joseph


News editor: *Cape Argus*

When news of Chris Hani's death broke in the *Sunday Times* newsroom Natasha Joseph was there. The time Joseph spent in her journalist father's office fuelled a fascination with the pulse and impact of news — making her certain that journalism was the only career for her.

As news editor of the *Cape Argus* Joseph sees the real stories of Cape Town — the good, the bad and the ugly — land on her desk. Luckily her razor-sharp wit (fellow students at Rhodes will remember her as an outstanding stand-up comic) helps her to withstand the weight of her work; a job she's so good at she won the 2010 1st for Women Insurance Women in the Media "Rising Star" award.

Believing in the enduring relevance of newspapers, she'll fight to keep them going and to work on them and will, undoubtedly, one day, join the ranks of her media heroes: her father Ray Joseph, Redi Thlabi and Ferial Haffajee.

— **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @VampyreJourno

## Rose Ramsay

Group executive producer: eNews, eSat TV

When Rose Ramsay's kindergarten teacher tried to explain to her that the only profession for girls was nursing, she decided to be a fighter pilot when she grew up. Today, although she may work at a different altitude, with bulletins replacing bullets, Ramsay's role as group executive producer for eNews puts her in the daily firing line of news from around the country, continent and world.



Her cockpit is the control room, and through she admits to occasionally having to fly by the seat of her pants when things are falling down around her, her aim is to broadcast the highest-quality news possible, a service she considers pivotal to democracy.

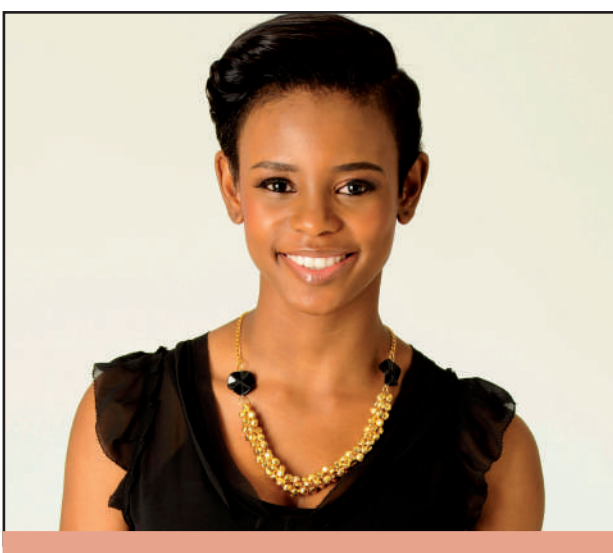
Although she started as a lowly intern at eTV, Ramsay's fighting spirit, tenacity and willingness to work extremely hard fuelled her ascent to group executive producer by the age of 31. Among the highlights of an exciting career have been producing stories from the field on the terror attacks in Mumbai, being a member of the team that broadcast eNews's first 24-hour news bulletin and being highly

recommended at the 2010 CNN Africa Journalist of the Year awards for her reporting from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ramsay strives to continue to raise the standards of 24-hour broadcasting in South Africa and to bring about easier, faster and cheaper ways to broadcast. She simultaneously strives to show young people that hard work and passion can get you everywhere — even at a young age — as she has proven.

Although she can no longer play classical guitar because a finger bone was replaced with titanium after a somewhat rough soccer game, she takes time out from the blitzkrieg of the newsroom to spend as much quiet time as she can on yachts, in the bush, or taking pictures and updating the blog she shares with her sister. — **Lu Larché**

 **Blog:** quigleysculture.blogspot.com  
 **Twitter:** @roseramsay



## Ntokozo Maseko

Editor: *Bona*



The youngest person to become editor of *Bona* is passionate about her work — and she can tell you about it in four different languages. *Bona* is published in Zulu, English, Sesotho and isiXhosa and Ntokozo Maseko is equally at home in all of them, a facility that won her the first Theta Masombuka award for multilingualism in media.

Her next challenge, she says, is to "kill the perception that *Bona* is old-fashioned".

Maseko is no stranger to challenge. She became pregnant in her first year at the University of Johannesburg and, determined not to drop out,

completed her degree in record time. Her sources of inspiration? Khanyi Dhlomo and *True Love* editor Sbu Mpungose.

In 2007 Maseko moved to Cape Town as a feature writer for *Move* magazine. She was surprised — but not fazed — when she was offered the editor's chair at *Bona*. "Age can be a stumbling block, but I was ready to take over," she says. — **Ngoako Matsha**

 **Facebook:** Ntokozo Maseko  
 **Twitter:** @ntokozomaseko

200 Young South Africans | **Politics & Government****Buti Kgwaredi Manamela**

National secretary: Young Communist League of South Africa

**M**anamela's political star continues to shine, both in the politics of his party, the South African Communist Party (SACP), and in the National Assembly, where he serves as an ANC member of Parliament.

Limpopo-born Manamela has led the Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA) since its launch in 2003. Proving his popularity, the 31-year-old was re-elected to the position of national secretary for a third term in December, a move political analysts see as a negative sign for democratic politics within the Communist Party, but definitely positive for the young politician's confidence.

He should be confident. Effectively, the position makes him head of the organisation. In addition he serves on the politburo of the SACP, the party's highest decision-making body.

Though numerically smaller than its ANC counterpart, the ANC Youth League (ANCYL), the league's power should not be underestimated. It carries more weight than its numbers might suggest, as its members are also members of the ANC and the South African Students Congress,

another ally of the ANCYL.

In addition to party politics, Manamela is a member of the ANC's strategy committee in Parliament, which is responsible for the strategic planning of the ruling party's work in the National Assembly. He was also appointed a whip of Parliament's committee on labour earlier this year.

On Nelson Mandela Day 2010 Manamela was a "Volunteer in Chief", chairing the special projects committee that oversaw the former president's birthday celebrations. One of the youngest active advocates of socialism, a movement that does not fare well in political circles, he insists that he would rather live the "socialism dream" than be trapped in the "capitalism nightmare". When he addresses issues that affect young people, most of them controversial, Manamela handles them with characteristic maturity and dignity, something generally missing from today's youth politics.

— **Mmanaledi Mataboge**

 **Twitter:** @ButiManamela

**Aalia Ismail**

Deputy director: Ministry of Public Enterprises

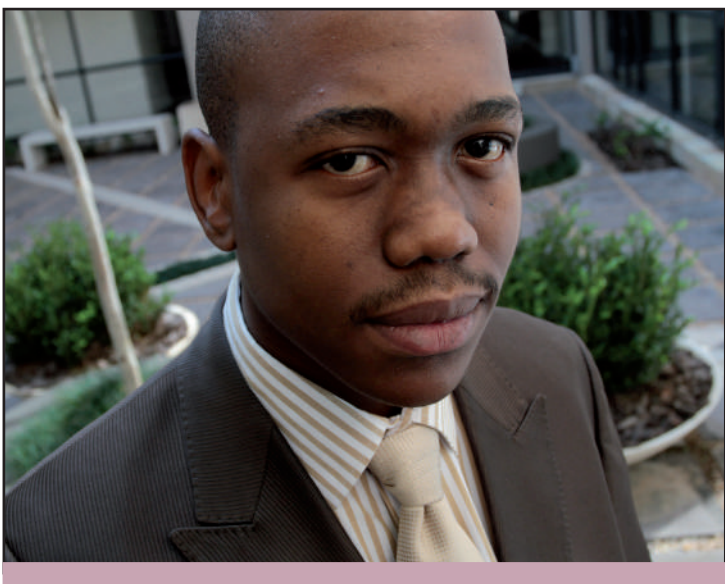
**F**rom the national planning commission in the Presidency to the ministry of public enterprise, Aalia Ismail contributes to government's cutting-edge policy formulation while keeping abreast with international trends.

A former member of the secretariat of the planning commission, 25-year-old Ismail is researcher and policy analyst for the ministry of public enterprises, where she serves as the research liaison between the ministry and the department of public enterprises.

Her job demands that she stay on top of international benchmarking, by which South Africa's state-owned enterprise (SOE) governance is checked against international best-practice and investigating tools for the most effective ways to balance commercial versus national interests within SOEs.

A Mandela Rhodes scholar, Ismail holds an honours degree in public policy, a master's in political science and is currently studying towards a PhD in political science. It's no surprise that she is often asked to address young audiences, especially women, to inspire them with her passion and professionalism. — **Mmanaledi Mataboge**

 **Facebook:** Alia Ismail

**Chief Tebogo Motheo Mamogale**

Traditional leader: Bakwena Ba Mogopa in the North West

**A**t 22 Kgosi Mamogale leads a tribe that's spread across 14 villages in North West province and is linked to government through the traditional leaders' supervisory office.

The chief works with a traditional council, 40% of which is elected by the community. Bakwena Ba Mogopa has interests in mining projects such as Xstrata's vanadium mine in Bethanie and platinum mine Afplats.

His community is prioritised for job opportunities in the mines. "If we don't have certain skills we outsource, but at the same time we train community

members so that the skill can remain here."

The community is a shareholder and also benefits from the mining companies' social responsibility programmes. "Depending on our agreement we either meet each other halfway or they build a school and hand it over to the community," Mamogale says. He also meets regularly with other chiefs to share ideas about community upliftment projects.

— **Mmanaledi Mataboge**

 **Facebook:** Tebogo Mamogale

## 200 Young South Africans | Politics &amp; Government



## Ayanda Kasa-Ntsobi

Gauteng ANC Youth League provincial secretary

Recently appointed Gauteng ANC Youth League (ANCYL) provincial secretary Ayanda Kasa-Ntsobi describes her involvement in politics as sheer chance. Born in a small village in the Eastern Cape, her passion has always been community development and HIV/Aids.

Until 2004, when she was elected regional treasurer of the ANCYL, Kasa-Ntsobi never thought of herself as being a leading political player. She was only persuaded to accept nomination by friends, who cited her 12 years as a community HIV/Aids activist, motivational speaker and writer as valid reasons to throw her name into the ring.

Although her political career appears to have taken a positive turn since she was elected last year to her current position, Kasa-Ntsobi says she is only prepared to serve one term. After that it's back to doing what she loves best — motivating and developing communities to take ownership of their issues, such as HIV/Aids. — **Matuma Letsoalo**



Facebook: Ayanda Kasa-Ntsobi

## Liezil Cerf

Director: GCIS, parliamentary and media liaison

Liezil Cerf likes a good challenge. When she was 12 years old she was told she would never be on TV. Twenty years later, armed with a journalism diploma from Damelin College, she walked into a job as an assistant producer at eTV. By 2008 she was a prime-time news anchor and parliamentary reporter for the broadcaster, as well as deputy news editor in Cape Town. First challenge met.

Today this mother of two is a director at the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), responsible for liaison between the media and Parliament and various state departments.

She does not regret the crossover from the fourth estate to government, saying she had “capped the ceiling” in her journalism career and was ready for a new challenge. With the GCIS she gets to see the inner workings of government and its systems and to communicate its plans of action in the parliamentary setting.

— **Lynley Donnelly**



Facebook: Liezil Cerf

## Stella Ndabeni Member of Parliament

“Gudmrng beautiful ppl of da ANC. I woke up in a beautiful dream dat left a msg dat said ‘evryting iz possible in da ANC u just hv 2 b patient n do wht iz ryt constitutionally.’”

This Facebook message is typical of avid social networker and parliamentarian Stella Ndabeni. Appointed to Parliament in 2009 she served as a whip on the portfolio committee on defence and military veterans until this year, when she was appointed as a whip to the portfolio committee on communications.

Taking politics to her ever-growing group of friends on Facebook, says Ndabeni, has become a way for her to canvass opinion about issues she is working on in Parliament. Although her constituency is Mthatha, Ndabeni hails from Sakhela, in the Qunu administrative area, where Nelson Mandela has his ancestral home. The link to Madiba and the history of the area helped to shape her political awareness.

Ndabeni was a member of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) regional executive committee for Mthatha from 1999 to 2001 and became

a member of the ANCYL provincial executive committee in the Eastern Cape in 2008. She also served on the organisation’s national working committee as well as its national executive committee until last year, when she was one of those axed from the league’s top structure in what was widely reported as a purge of those opposed to Julius Malema.

Ndabeni still sees herself as very much a part of the organisation. “It’s always been Stella and ANC and Youth League.” Prior to working as an MP Ndabeni worked for the Eastern Cape Socioeconomic Consultative Council as a project manager for local municipality support programmes on HIV and Aids. Campaigning against the disease remains close to her heart and she was elected to represent Southern Africa on the steering committee of the World Youth Summit on HIV & Aids in Mali in April.

— **Lynley Donnelly**



Facebook: Stella Ndabeni



200 Young South Africans | **Politics & Government****Avril Halstead** Chief director: National Treasury

**Y**ou can't miss Avril Halstead in a crowd. Her curly red hair and bright smile make her seem a long way away from the hard-nosed treasury official she is.

At 34, Halstead is chief director in the department that keeps South Africa solvent, which means she is only two steps below the director general of the treasury. She is responsible for arranging the financing of South Africa's state-owned enterprises, including Eskom. When South Africa was in the dark about where the electricity utility would get the money to bail us out of a lifetime of load-shedding, Halstead was crunching the numbers behind the scenes. And now it seems Eskom will be able to sort out its own woes, without help from the public purse.

The former Zimbabwean left her country of birth at the age of six and grew up in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal. Her academic career took her through several universities, including City University London, where she completed a master's degree in organisational consulting.

Halstead defies the image of a typical government

official. Perhaps because she has worked at international companies such as McKinsey and esteemed organisations such as the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Old Mutual she does not see government as a place where clever people come to take it easy, and considers her 11-hour workdays as necessary to the provision of better service.

Whereas most government departments are rife with infighting and political tugs of war, the treasury is a well-run, mostly apolitical institution where you don't need to show a ruling-party membership card to get ahead.

But Halstead is not all work, no play. She is the former 1 500m South African track champion and still runs for recreation and sometimes competitively. She was selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader and is a trustee of the National Empowerment Fund.

— **Mandy Rossouw**

 **LinkedIn:** Avril Halstead

**Chief Moefi Edward Mabalane**

Leader: Baphiring Ba Mabalane

**M**oefi Mabalane was just 26 when he became chief of Baphiring Ba Mabalane in Mabaastad, a small village in North West province 30 km from Sun City. As chief, Mabalane leads the traditional council and its 14 elders and oversees the community's five farms and the revenue they generate for the village. He is currently fighting a courtcase to reclaim a piece of land that is being mined for slate.

In the two years of his reign Mabalane has introduced democratic processes into traditional systems, encouraging a more inclusive approach to governance. He is an executive member of the local house of traditional leaders, a councillor in the Bojanala district municipality and sits on the Bojanala anti-corruption forum.

As a young man himself Mabalane is focused on empowering the youth in his community and often calls on the National Youth Development Agency to advise the community about entrepreneurship and offer opportunities for skills development.

— **Mmanaledi Mataboge**

 **Website:** [nwphltiqov.za](http://nwphltiqov.za)

**Kabelo Mataboge** ANC Secretary: North West

**A**t 33 Kabelo Mataboge is currently the youngest provincial ANC secretary in the country. His elevation to the highest office in the province came when factions in North West managed to reach an agreement after the political infighting that saw the ANC national executive committee disband the provincial executive committee almost two years ago.

Mataboge's political awareness started at a very early age. His father was a member of the ANC's Umkhonthe weSizwe and his mother was a trade unionist. At 14 Mataboge was elected regional leader of the Congress

of South African Students. Since then he has served as provincial secretary of the ANC Youth League, as a national executive committee member of the South African Youth Council and also as provincial chairperson of the National Youth Commission. He served as a member of Parliament from 2009 until he received his current appointment.

— **Matuma Letsoalo**

 **Facebook:** Kabelo Mataboge My ANC

## 200 Young South Africans | Politics &amp; Government

## Timothy Nast

Mayor : Midvaal municipality

It is easy to see why 29-year-old Timothy Nast was considered mayoral material. He arrives for appointments an hour ahead of time, he works and studies simultaneously, and he doesn't take a break to campaign for the local government elections during working hours because "there is work to be done". In fact, the only guilty pleasure he allows himself is the occasional cream-topped cappuccino.

Nast, executive mayor of Midvaal municipality 60km south of Johannesburg, home to 100 000 residents, is one of the bright young minds the Democratic Alliance (DA) has put into a powerful mayoral position to show that the party has a reach beyond the Western Cape.

His career in politics was born out of his personal slogan — "here's an opportunity, take it" — rather than out of a long-held dream of becoming a public representative. After matriculating with distinction from Riverside High School in Vereeniging Nast became one of the youngest DA councillors when he was elected to the Midvaal council in 2000, aged 19. At the same time he was articled to local accounting firm JPK Incorporated.

After the 2009 national elections Nast's predecessor as mayor left for Parliament and he was offered the top job. But the mayoral chain is not an easy burden to bear. Being the only DA mayor in an ANC-majority province keeps Nast on his toes. Every mistake is exploited and every victory ignored.

Even in his own party being made mayor has not necessarily won him friends. Nast had to convince his fellow DA councillors that he's up for the task. But now that the municipality boasts the title of "best-run municipality in Gauteng", with the best quality of life in the province, he has less to worry about. — **Mandy Rossouw**

 **Website:** midvaal.gov.za



## Lebogang Maile

Gauteng MEC: Sports, recreation, arts and culture

Becoming a provincial minister at the tender age of 30 may come as a shock to some, but not to Lebogang Maile, whose future in politics was always secure. He grew up as a child of the ANC, putting up campaign posters for his political elders, who include Gauteng ANC chairperson Paul Mashatile and the other Alexandra strongmen who rule the province.

Born into a family for whom police raids were commonplace Maile knew from an early age that politics was his passion. He experienced privilege for the first time at Crawford College, where he finished his high-school education. From there his jobs were always political — first as Gauteng Youth Commission chairperson and later as Gauteng Youth League chairperson, which is the position that landed him the prized job as provincial minister.

Now he has thrown his hat into the ring to take on the controversial Julius Malema as ANC Youth League president — a contest that will test all his skills and influence his future. — **Mandy Rossouw**

 **Facebook:** Lebogang Maile

## Mbali Ntuli

Federal chairperson: DA Youth

This bubbly and well-spoken graduate of Rhodes University is a prime example of what Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Helen Zille calls "growing our own timber".

In 2008 Ntuli graduated from the DA's Young Leadership programme, which serves as a finishing school for the best and brightest the party can find. Two years later 23-year-old Ntuli was elected to the party's youth leadership — the second in charge to be exact.

It was an easy choice. As head girl of Wykeham Collegiate, a private school in Pietermaritzburg, Ntuli won accolades for public speaking and leadership and went on to win the local mock junior presidential election in 2004.

While studying politics, psychology and sociology Ntuli founded the DA Student Organisation in Grahamstown and, soon afterwards, became DA youth chairperson in KwaZulu-Natal. She is also a debating trainer for loveLife and was chosen as the Investec Young Women in Finance Graduate in 2009. — **Mandy Rossouw**



 **Twitter:** @mbalimcdust

## Mpho Motloun


Youth development officer: Nquthu Youth Advisory Centre

**M**pho Motloun is the 29-year-old youth development officer in the rural municipality of Nquthu, her home town, situated between Dundee and Vryheid, deep in northern KwaZulu-Natal. The Wits University BA graduate could have chosen to stay and work in Johannesburg after her studies, but a visit to a friend back in Nquthu changed her mind.

A local high-school principal told her that his school had received computers but was unable to use them because no one on his staff had the appropriate expertise. She needed no persuasion to respond to his request to teach at the school as she had long wanted to prepare local youngsters for a life beyond Nquthu.

"I remembered how much I suffered with expressing myself in English when I arrived in university. My vision was that I did not want any other kids to suffer the same way I had," says Motloun. A pioneer in her community, she got down to teaching computers to community members and worked as a part-time lecturer at Umthashana FET College (Mgazi campus). She also started organising debating societies as part of her plan to improve English in the area.

In 2009 the Nquthu municipality employed her as their youth development officer, charged with helping young people to develop in all facets of their lives, most importantly, education, HIV issues and career choices. She has won several competitions as the supervisor of local debating teams. Besides cultivating in others a love of learning and debating, Motloun holds a green belt in karate. — **Rapule Tabane**

 **Facebook:** Nquthu Youth Advisory Centre



## Zeenat Adam

Director responsible for diplomacy: Department of International Relations and Cooperation


**T**hirty-four-year-old Zeenat Adam is one of the finest unknown bureaucrats in South Africa.

Having developed an interest in politics at an early age, Adam chose to direct her energies at public service. Armed with a master's degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, she served as South Africa's deputy ambassador to Qatar between 2005 and 2009.

A human rights activist in her own right, her current responsibilities in government include providing direction on the political dynamics in Sudan, Somalia, Madagascar and countries in East Africa, as well as the facilitation of South

Africa's relations with these countries.

Adam has also played a significant role in civil society: she took part in the World Conference against Racism and the World Summit on Sustainable Development and was invited to the International Youth Conference in Iraq, before the invasion by the US. She was also chosen to attend the United Nations Leadership Programme in Jordan and monitored the elections in Palestine and the referendum in Juba. — **Matuma Letsoalo**

 **Twitter:** @ZeenatAdamZA

## Themba Masondo

Chairman: South African Students Congress, Gauteng

**I**n his teens, in a small village in Giyani, Limpopo, his peers worried about fancy clothes and girls but Themba Masondo was preoccupied with his studies. Since then he has emerged as a top scholar, avid politician and leader, with the will to contribute positively to the community.

At Wits Masondo was appointed by the Society, Work and Development Institute as a team leader for a Cosatu survey in Gauteng in 2008. The 24-year-old former Wits SRC president is passionate about working-class struggles and has published a number of insightful papers on unions and other labour-

related issues.

He recently led a march of 300 students to the ministry of higher education in Pretoria to demand the implementation of free education. In 2010 he was awarded a scholarship by the International Centre for Development and Decent Work funded by the German Academic Exchange Service to work towards a PhD. — **Ngoako Matsha**

 **Facebook:** Themba Masondo



200 Young South Africans | **Science & Technology****Traci Reddy**


PhD candidate, chemical engineering; UCT national conference director; SAWomEng

**T**raci Reddy loves the way engineering can be implemented to effect positive change. She used it to tackle an issue of deep interest to her — water. Her doctoral research on using eutectic freeze crystallisation as an energy-efficient, environmentally friendly alternative to clean industrial waste water is so significant and has such an impact that it earned her a water research award for outstanding young researcher.

After completing her PhD, Reddy aims to inspire future generations of female engineers either through a career in academia or through her role as national conference director of the non-profit organisation SAWomEng.

Because she believes that researchers need to speak up and inform politicians about the implications of processes such as fracking, she's determined to continue her research work and — through her love of engineering and its technology — implement it to effect positive change.

— **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** [sawomeng.org.za/page-traci.htm](http://sawomeng.org.za/page-traci.htm)

**Major Catherine Labuschagne** Gripen pilot: SA Air Force

**D**etermination, bravery and dedication are just some of the words that describe Major Catherine Labuschagne, the world's only female pilot of frontline fighter aircraft. She was trained by the South African Air Force and made aviation history last year when she became the first female pilot in the world to fly solo in a Gripen. The 31-year-old had earlier made aviation history as the first woman to fly in the rear seat of a two-seater Gripen during the Africa Aerospace and Defence show in 2004.

Labuschagne, code-named Siren, boasted 1 900 flying hours by October last year, 1 000 of them in military jets. She previously flew an Impala and the Hawk lead-in fighter in preparation for the transition to South Africa's frontline fighter. She admits the training was "tough", but worth all the effort. "It was quite a big thing for me because it made history. It was also rewarding because I have been in the frontline since 2003. It's been a long road."

Flying a Gripen requires a high level of mental and physical fitness because of the speed at which the aircraft flies, a maximum of Mach 2 — twice the speed of sound, or about 2 400km/h. Pilots are also required to accumulate about 430 hours on the Hawk and pass several courses before they are allowed even to sit behind the controls of a Gripen.

Labuschagne is one of several female pilots in the air force but the only one who has flown in the fighting line or as a member of its Elite 2 Squadron, which flies the single- and dual-seat Gripens. She continues to undergo further training at the 85 Combat Flying School in Makhado, Limpopo, which operates under the motto *Detrimeto sumus* (Destruction is our business).

— **Mmanaledi Mataboge**

 **Website:** [af.mil.za](http://af.mil.za)

**Nasi Rwigema** Lead engineer: Solafrica

**N**asi Rwigema started his career designing and researching military aircraft but, ethically speaking, the job never suited him. So when Solafrica came knocking on his door he jumped at the opportunity to work for a company that is focused on building South Africa's first solar thermal power plant.

As the lead engineer at Solafrica Rwigema is leading a brand-new industry that is vital to solving South Africa's growing energy needs and lack of renewable energy technology.

Thankfully, the weight of his responsibility does not seem to faze this 25-year-old, whose calm, methodical approach and remarkable scientific intuition have been key to his success. The mere fact that Solafrica is willing to invest millions of its own money in a government proposal that Rwigema is largely responsible for creating is testament to his abilities. Where Rwigema still finds the energy to finish his master's in aeronautical engineering is anybody's guess. Perhaps the energy is renewable. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @Nasi\_R



200 Young South Africans | **Science & Technology****Eran Eyal**

Co-founder: Springleap.com and Evly.com

**E**ran Eyal is a proudly South African entrepreneur. He didn't finish his second degree because he was too busy designing cellphones. Then he travelled the world to persuade the international market to buy his designs.

In 2008 Eyal co-founded Springleap and later co-founded Evly.com. Springleap is an online platform that hosts design enthusiasts, and Evly is a crowd-sourcing social-networking site.

"I would definitely say that building Springleap and Evly has been the greatest challenge of my life," he says. "I am blessed to have a co-founder and friend like Eric Edelstein."

What drives him? "A wide variety of cars. I usually get a different one to review each week," he jokes. Eyal is also a technology and motoring journalist, who once had a show on Radio 702.

Always a free spirit, Eyal believes in focusing on the present rather than the future. "Don't build castles in the sky," he advises. — **Aphiwe Deklerk**

**Website:** springleap.com  
**Twitter:** @EranEyal

**Hema Vallabh** Process engineer: Sasol

**C**hemical engineer Hema Vallabh literally bubbles with passion, enthusiasm and an energetic desire to make a difference. Over and above her full-time post at Sasol, Vallabh has created a clever way to combine her two defining passions — engineering and giving back — by directing GirlEng.

An offshoot of the non-profit organisation SAWomEng, GirlEng was founded in 2009 as a grassroots initiative aimed at encouraging high-potential female maths and science students to pursue a career in engineering — a traditionally male-dominated industry that is often glossed over or simply not discovered by girls.

Vallabh, who went to school in Lenasia, stumbled into the profession and her passion by chance. That is why, in addition to her belief that women can add an invaluable dimension to the industry, she's determined to ensure that schoolgirls have the right information to enable them to make an informed decision.

Because knowledge is power, GirlEng facilitates

workshops around the country in an effort to educate girls in grades 10 to 12 about the opportunities afforded by engineering. University engineering students are enlisted and developed as mentors to provide support and real-life examples to high-potential students.

Vallabh, who has received hugely positive feedback on the impact of her work, has not only been invited as a motivational speaker to events that empower young women and encourage students to reach their goals, but also won an outstanding achievement award from UCT for her work at GirlEng — all this before she has even turned 30.

Her hope for the future is to engineer a post that allows her to pursue her two passions on a full-time and permanent basis. — **Lu Larché**

**Website:** girleng.sawomeng.org.za  
**Twitter:** @HemsVallabh

**Zama Katamzi**

Researcher: Hermanus Magnetic Observatory (HMO)

**A**stro-scientist Zama Katamzi is star-struck. Her dream is to go into space, "not as a tourist, but to do experiments".

The 28-year-old researcher from Claremont, Durban, is based at the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory (HMO) in the Western Cape, which she describes as "a vibrant place of knowledge". The HMO is part of a worldwide network that monitors the Earth's magnetic field. Katamzi's research focuses on the ionosphere: a layer of the atmosphere that affects radio communications.

Katamzi completed her BSc in physics at the University of Cape Town before winning a scholarship that took her to Bath University in the UK. She'll obtain her doctorate in radio astronomy from Bath later this year.

"I am driven by challenges," she says. "Men should not feel they're entitled to certain disciplines. I love to prove that I can also do it!" Future plans? For Katamzi, the sky's the limit. — **Ngoako Matsha**

**Facebook:** Zama Katamzi

## 200 Young South Africans | Science &amp; Technology



## Khalid Manjoo

Team leader: SunSpace

As a child Khalid Manjoo's favourite toy was Luke Skywalker's light sabre. Today, as team leader for assembly and testing at SunSpace, a Stellenbosch-based satellite manufacturing company, he builds space satellites.

But his career is not only about science; there's also a spiritual dimension. Looking into space helps him to "recognise the Almighty and His grandeurs in the kaleidoscope of creation, within and beyond our known world".

Manjoo's work involves interesting terrestrial travel, too. In 2009 the UCT engineering graduate visited Baikonur, the famous Russian cosmodrome from which Yuri Gagarin journeyed into space. He helped launch South Africa's second satellite, SumbandilaSat, from the same site.

SumbandilaSat now roves the heavens, taking high-resolution pictures of South Africa. The data, Manjoo says, will assist disaster management experts to monitor floods, fires and desertification. "There is nothing more rewarding than being able to shape a better future for humanity," he says. — **Sipho McDermott**



**Blog:** [khalidmanjoo.wordpress.com](http://khalidmanjoo.wordpress.com)

**Twitter:** @KhalidManjoo

## Simon Botes

Founder: AppCRAFT

Simon Botes is not a techie. He's just a family guy who likes to bring good ideas and technology together on a mobile platform.

It all started when he pitched his mobile snake guide to the Nokia Ovi store in 2009. They awarded him fourth prize in their *Nokia Calling All Innovators Africa* competition. In 2010 his eLiteracy application, which teaches early literacy through games, took top honours globally.

Little did this tech community know that AppCRAFT was just a small start-up based in a valley outside Plettenberg Bay. That's mobile technology for you. Already more than 75 000 people in 178 countries have downloaded one of AppCRAFT's many free educational applications, including sign language and Morse code.

Just imagine the power it has to bring free education to the most remote and rural areas of South Africa. It's all part of Botes's greater plan: to prove to the world that more good can come out of South Africa. — **Cat Pritchard**



**Website:** [store.ovi.com/publisher/AppCRAFT](http://store.ovi.com/publisher/AppCRAFT)

**Blog:** [simonb.co.za](http://simonb.co.za)



## Rebecca Kahn

MA student in digital asset management: King's College London

"History is written by the victors." But even these wise words from Winston Churchill might not be taken into the digital future. It depends on who's in charge.

The question of who will take our culture into the digital age is the subject of 32-year-old Rebecca Kahn's master's dissertation at King's College London. More specifically, she is looking at how national libraries in transitional societies like South Africa go about digitising their archives and how this will affect the national identity.

In Kahn's digital laboratory it's "the cultural version of the human genome project". Her current focus is on the past, but she is hyper-aware of what this information means to the digital future. "Twitter didn't power the Egyptian revolution; it was a tool used by very smart people who understand how communities operate, how information flows and how to talk to each other."

Connecting people and information is also key to Kahn's work on the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, a project that aims to create the first unified space in which researchers, teachers and

policymakers can share their material on the Holocaust.

But it's not really the size or scope of the project that makes Kahn excited to be working in the digital space; it's the passion. Like the morning she observed a group of volunteers build Afrikaans Wikipedia or the work she does as a community manager for Peer 2 Peer University, a grassroots open-education project that leverages free educational materials to enable high-quality education in any subject, including cyberpunk literature and programming in Python.

If she can make information accessible to ordinary citizens, teachers and policymakers, she's happy. But what she really wants to do is make government take hold of South Africa's digital future, before big corporations like McDonald's own the rights to our history and culture™.

— **Cat Pritchard**



**Website:** [p2pu.org](http://p2pu.org); [ehri-project.eu](http://ehri-project.eu)

**Blog:** [kahnage.wordpress.com](http://kahnage.wordpress.com)

**Twitter:** @rebamex

200 Young South Africans | **Science & Technology****Bruce Spottiswoode**

Director: The Cape Universities  
Brain Imaging Centre

**B**ruce Spottiswoode has a very important scanner at work. It's the only one of its kind on the continent. As director of the Cape Universities Brain Imaging Centre (Cubic), a research facility that finds improved ways of scanning the brain to better assess diseases, Spottiswoode oversees this unique MRI scanner and the studies it enables.

The scanner does fun things such as measure chemicals in the brain, but it also does important things like look at how HIV affects the brain at different stages, which leads to better education and treatment in the long run.

Spottiswoode knows that his unit is more than just a research lab, it's an opportunity for Africa to make a meaningful contribution to the global neuroscience community. The fact that, as a biomedical engineer, he gets to work on the most spectacular engineering feat known to mankind, the human brain, is just his good fortune.

— **Cat Pritchard**



**Website:** [sun.ac.za/cubic](http://sun.ac.za/cubic)

**Twitter:** @bspotty

**His unit is more than just a lab — it's a chance for Africa to make a contribution to neuroscience**

**Umeshree Govender** MSc student: UCT

**S**cientist Umeshree Govender has a favourite motto: "Don't be afraid to have a good 'booty-shake' in a lab coat!"

The 24-year-old Govender, who has always dreamed of "saving the world", has made an impressive start. Using groundbreaking techniques she is battling against a silent killer: bilharzia.

The water-borne disease is caused by a worm that lurks inside the body. It can be fatal. In South Africa alone, more than five million people are infected.

Govender is currently an MSc student in the division of

immunology at the University of Cape Town. To say she's passionate about her work is an understatement: "I spent my last birthday sleeping under my desk," she laughs.

Somehow she still finds time to tutor kids from Khayelitsha and in refugee communities. She has also contributed to a series of open-source science text books.

"Intelligence is not a privilege; it's a gift," she says — quoting a villain in a *Spiderman* movie. — **Ayanda Sitole**



**Facebook:** Umeshree Govender

**Neil Blakey-Milner**

Application operations engineer:  
Facebook

**I**f they made a South African version of *Social Network* 32-year-old Capetonian Neil Blakey-Milner could star in it.

The Rhodes graduate is currently working at Facebook's headquarters in California as an application operations engineer.

After obtaining his BSc in information science he worked for several start-up technology companies, including Yola, a website-builder and hosting service for small businesses. But working with Facebook, under his idol Mark Zuckerberg, might be his biggest achievement yet.

"I am soaking up a lot of Silicon Valley know-how in building teams and companies. I believe I can bring that back to South Africa," he says.

When he's not online he enjoys watching TV and is a Joss Whedon addict. "I've watched every episode of every TV series and movie he has been involved with. I don't know how I am going to wait until 2012 to see *The Avengers*," he says. — **Aphiwe Deklerk**



**Facebook:** Neil Blakey-Milner

**Twitter:** @nxsy



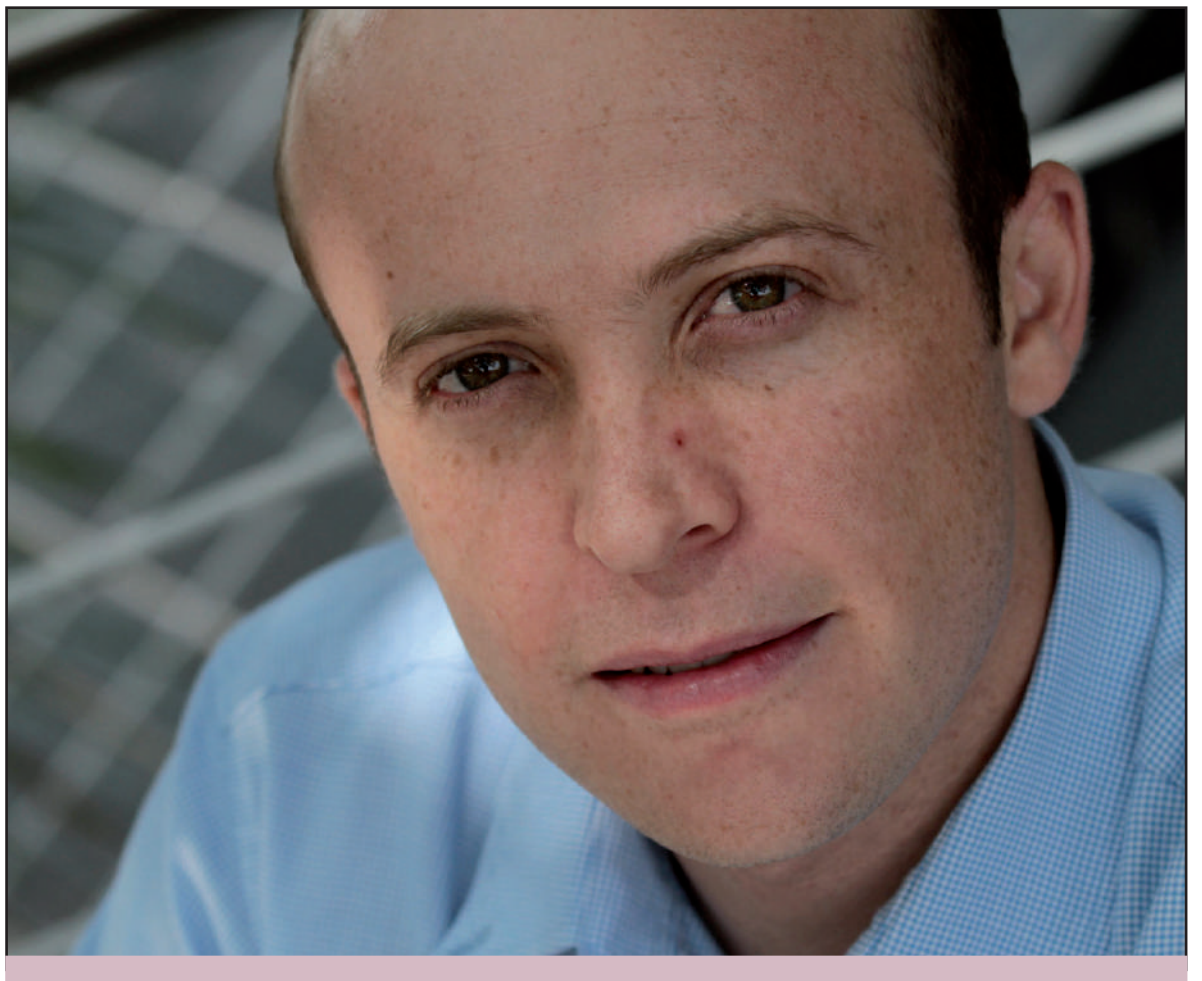
200 Young South Africans | **Science & Technology****Sam Wilson**

Digital storyteller

If brevity truly is the soul of wit Sam Wilson, South Africa's first award-winning "mobilst", may just claim the crown as the wittiest Wombat (the character he assumes at animation studio Clockwork Zoo) in the land.

Cleverly condensing action-packed adventure into screen-sized bytes, Wilson's mobile fiction — including the bilingual *Kontax* series he wrote for the Shuttleworth Foundation's M4Lit literacy project — has turned tens of thousands of teens' cellphones into on-hand portals to a wildly alternative world.

With self-confessed attention deficit disorder and techno-junkie tendencies, Wilson is a gutsy digital fiction frontier explorer. Testing the limits of both technology and his imagination, he writes 140-character "genre stories" on Twitter, screams tweets atop mountains and streams it on YouTube, produces book trailers, writes computer games and is busy completing his first novel, *Commedia*, all of which fall outside his day job as a scriptwriter. But, as Wilson continues to prove, he's quite brilliant at fitting everything in. — **Lu Larché**

 **Twitter:** @WombatSam
**Charl van Heerden** PhD student

Charl van Heerden is a computer geek, mountain climber and sportsman. Just call him a multi-talented young South African.

Van Heerden was lucky to have three stints as a summer intern at Google. Now 27, he is studying for his PhD in computer engineering at the University of the North West.

His first term at Google was in 2007. The following year he was given the chance to work on one of the search engine's most innovative projects — Voice Search in English. But it was only fitting that, as a South African, he also worked on the Afrikaans and isiZulu versions of the application, which is available on smart mobile phones. The application enables users to search for information using speech, instead of typing in their questions.

Now back in South Africa, he says the only downside of working in New York was not being able to speak Afrikaans, his home language.

Van Heerden has a black belt in karate to prove he is not just another geek. At school he was a chess player,

trumpeter and debater. He also achieved excellent academic results — six matric distinctions and an overall average of 97% — an early sign of his brilliance.

Now, under the inspiring guidance of his supervisor, Etienne Barnard, at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the organisation that has employed him while funding his PhD, he plans more ambitious projects. He wants to work on developing speech recognition across all 11 South African languages.

"People can use their cell-phones, and it would be a great way to give access to information to rural areas," he says.

Despite his office-bound career Van Heerden is a big outdoors fan. He loves road cycling, scuba diving, canoeing and mountain hiking. He's also taken the plunge 16 times — as a skydiver. — **Aphiwe Deklerk**

 **Twitter:** @cvheerden
**Kevin Govender**

Director: International Astronomical Union's Global Office of Astronomy for Development

Thirty-two-year-old Kevin Govender has long observed how science changes lives. And now, as the first director of the International Astronomical Union's Global Office of Astronomy for Development, Govender finally has the mandate to make things happen for developing nations.

That's a very big deal. It's the first office in the world for development in the field of astronomy. Take into account all the education outreach projects Govender helped during his five years at National Energy South Africa, add

the socioeconomic benefits he enabled during his time as manager of the Southern African Large Telescope's (SALT)'s collateral benefits division and multiply it by the 800-million people he and his team reached through lobbying for the International Year of Astronomy and you might get an idea of how Govender feels about his new developmental role — over the moon. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Twitter:** @govender


## Khotso Godfrey Mokoena

### Athlete

**K**hotso Godfrey Mokoena is a rare breed of sports person. His love for his community ties for first place with his athletics career.

The 26-year-old South African record holder in long and triple jump is also a charismatic motivational speaker. He recently started the *I Motivate You* project, which aims to empower youngsters in Heidelberg, his hometown.

"I have been blessed with a special talent to jump, and I am using that to touch the lives of other people," he says.

The results speak for themselves: a silver medal at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games, a gold medal at the 2010 World Championships in Spain and another at the 2010 African Championships.

Now Mokoena is training to boost his power and speed. He wants a new world long-jump record, and dreams of achieving 18 meters in the triple jump. "People say it's impossible, but I believe I can do it." — **Ngoako Matsha**

 **Facebook:** Khotso Godfrey Mokoena Fan Page



## Burry Stander

### Mountain biker



**A**ccording to Burry Stander talent goes a long way towards helping someone to become a world-class mountain biker. But it needs to be supplemented with a protein shake of other vital ingredients — such as hard work, good health, mental strength and a strong support network of family, friends and teammates.

It's a recipe that evidently works for Stander. Since first getting into the saddle at age 10, he soon began to race, win and, through the years, work his way up to his current spot as one of the three best mountain bikers in the world.

At 12, Stander scooped his first South African and African titles. By 17, he was racing across continents before being crowned under-23 World Champion in 2009. He went on to represent South Africa at the Beijing Olympic Games, finishing 15th. Undaunted, he has his sights set on gold at next year's Olympics. If his latest victory — in the gruelling Absa Cape Epic — is

anything to go by, this goal is not out of his reach. In April Stander became the first South African to win the eight-day 707km race. Although he lists this triumph as a career highlight he admits that it didn't take long before he started thinking about the next race.

Standers will to be the best and his craving for competition — ultimately against himself — is what keeps him racing, and it goes hand in hand with his pure love for the sport. Even though racing only allows him six weeks downtime a year and demanding 30 hours of dedication a week and months away from his Umtentweni home, he couldn't live without it. No. If Stander has his way he'll be on his bike 10 years from now — racing against himself and the clock, until he's forced to stop. — **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** burrystander.co.za  
 **Twitter:** @africanmtbkid

## Lee-Anne Pace

### Golfer

**L**ast year was a dream year for 30-year-old golfer Lee-Anne Pace. She won five international opens, was awarded Players' Player of the Year and became the first South African woman to win the Order of Merit for the Ladies European Tour. Not bad for someone who wanted to be a guitarist.

Pace has received accolades from some of the world's greatest golfers, including her idol, Ernie Els. "I've only played against the boys," she laughs, explaining why all her role models are male. "Els is a great guy. He really looks like

he enjoys himself."

But it's not all fun out there on the greens. Pace puts herself through a punishing training regime so that she can maintain her super-fit physique. Her outlook on golf is simple: "You're in a lion fight. Just because you didn't win, it doesn't mean you don't know how to roar," she says.

— **Ayanda Sitole**

 **Twitter:** @LeeAnnePace

You're in a lion fight. Just because you didn't win, it doesn't mean you don't know how to roar



## 200 Young South Africans | Sport



## Charl Schwartzel

Golfer

It's the second consecutive year that a young, relatively unknown South African golfer has won a major championship. Following in the footsteps of Louis Oosthuizen, who last year won the 2010 British Open, 26-year-old Charl Schwartzel came away with the coveted green jacket at Augusta in April 2011. The two golfers were close friends growing up and Oosthuizen's victory last year inspired Schwartzel to believe he could also win a major. Boy, did he pick a good one. His victory at the Masters came almost 50 years to the day since fellow South African Gary Player became the first foreign player to win the American tournament. It must have been Schwartzel's unassuming temperament, moulded by his farm-boy upbringing, that kicked in when he entered the final four holes and became the first person to win the tournament by scoring four straight birdies. — **Eric Axelrod**

 **Twitter:** @C\_Schwartzel

## Chad le Clos

Swimmer

If his breakthrough performances in 2010 are anything to go by, the possibility that 19-year-old Chad le Clos will be the next Michael Phelps is not just a pipe dream for this down-to-earth Durban dynamo.

Coinciding with his matric year at Westville Boys High School, Le Clos's debut year on the international swimming circuit saw him not only wearing his passport thin, but also returning home overweight with gold medals.

Le Clos, who has trained with Graham Hill since he was 11, gave up his first love — soccer — to give swimming his all.

Competing in Singapore, India and Dubai, Le Clos emerged victorious as the Youth Olympic's, Commonwealth Games and short-course world champion in 200m butterfly. Now he is gearing up for gold at London 2012. When he's not training he's either on the beach or vicariously winning Fifa tournaments with his friends on PS3. — **Lu Larché**



 **Facebook:** Chad le Clos  
**Twitter:** @LeClos\_Swim



## Ryan Sandes

Ultra-marathon trail runner

When Ryan Sandes entered the Knysna marathon as an excuse to party at the Knysna Oyster Festival, he had no idea it would kick-start a passion that would see him compete in the most physically challenging and punishing trail marathons on Earth, let alone win them.

At 29, Sandes is the first person to have won all stages of "the Four Deserts" — four self-supporting desert races, each lasting seven days and 250km, spanning some of the world's most inhospitable deserts. After shattering expectations by winning his first ultra-marathon — the Gobi March — at 26, Sandes went on to break the record at Atacama Crossing, crossed the finish line first in the Sahara and, through blizzards, on ice and in below-freezing temperatures, conquer the final summit in Antarctica.


But "Sandman" Sandes doesn't stop at deserts. In 2009 he also broke the record in the Jungle Marathon — a 200km run through bug-infested marshes and forests in the Amazon.

With dreams of winning these challenges now checked off his bucket list, Sandes has his sights set on 100-milers around the world, including the Alps and Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc 2011. Spanning France, Italy and Switzerland, the Blanc is notorious for being the toughest foot race in Europe.

So what does it take for a qualified quantity surveyor from Hout Bay to race around the world in the most gruelling conditions for no money? Insane mental strength, a drive to live a beyond-average life and the pure reward of proving the impossible possible.

With a training regime totalling 28 hours a week, a diet fuelled by ProNutro and Red Bull and a mantra of living each day as his last, Sandes has dedicated his life to testing his limits — and proving to all that the greatest muscle truly is the mind.

— **Lu Larché**

 **Website:** ryansandes.com  
**Twitter:** @ryansandes

## AB de Villiers

Protea batsman and wicketkeeper

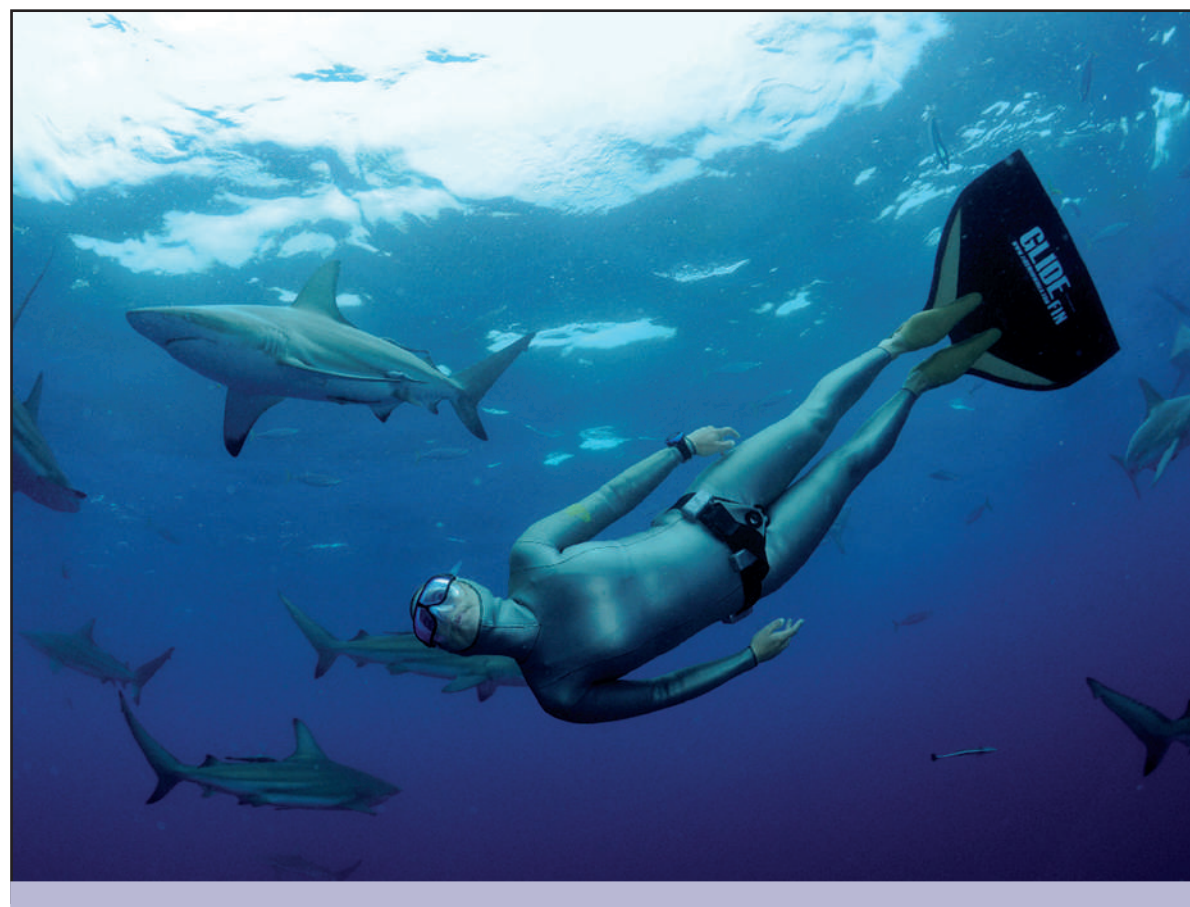
**A**B de Villiers has earned his reputation as “the golden boy of South African cricket”, having represented the Proteas in 58 consecutive test matches, batting in every place from number one to number seven, apart from the specialist number three position.

Not only has he been responsible since his test debut in 2004 against England for some of the most memorable innings, he is also the Proteas’ standout fielder and has kept wicket a number of times too, especially in one-day games, where he has earned 96 caps.

In 2011 De Villiers became the first South African and the fifth batsman in the world to score two centuries in a single World Cup. With nine test centuries and six one-day centuries to his name and an incredible series of performances during the 2011 Cricket World Cup in India, this 27-year-old from Pretoria is well on his way to becoming a South African cricketing legend.

— **Lloyd Gedy**

 **Website:** titans.co.za



THOMAS P. PESCHAK

## Hanli Prinsloo

Freediver and conservationist

**B**ig Blue. That’s the movie most people reference when they hear the word freediver. That is until they meet Hanli Prinsloo — 11 times South African freediving record holder, marine conservationist and professional storyteller.

In the movie of her life Prinsloo’s love affair with freediving starts in Sweden, aged 19, while she is completing a two-year master class in film and cultural project management. Enamoured, but not yet ready to settle down with her new love, she works briefly as an actor in Sweden before making her way behind the camera, first as a stringer for news channels and later as a filmmaker, shooting on the frontlines of sociopolitical conflicts in Burundi, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Fast forward to 2006 and Prinsloo returns home, eager to embrace her country and the oceans in all their depth, complexity and beauty. Today, at 32, Prinsloo still competes internationally, gives courses, is a motivational speaker and writes articles, mainly about her first love — the ocean.

She has trained many of South Africa’s top athletes and her work with some of the world’s leading

big-wave surfers has won her international acclaim.

As the founder of the Water Ocean Conservation Trust, a programme that aims to foster ocean conservation through human experience, Prinsloo gets to share stories about her ocean adventures with people who wouldn’t normally have access to the oceans’ vast reaches.

It’s not always easy being the poster girl for minority sports and issues without any guidelines or support. But she’s not complaining. For her efforts she has been nominated for *Cosmo* Awesome Women of the Year, *Outthere* Adventurer of the Year, *Gsport* Women in Sport and the Johnnie Walker Celebrating Strides Awards.

And if you’re wondering how long she can hold her breath, while floating face down in the water, the answer is sure to leave you gasping — five minutes, 39 seconds. It’s the South African record. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** iamwater.co.za  
**Blog:** hanliprinsloo.com  
**Twitter:** @hanliprinsloo

## James Cunnama

Triathlete

**“S**trive every day to be both the best you’ve ever been and the worst you’ll ever be.” It’s good advice from the world’s number-one long-distance triathlete, James Cunnama.


Of course, “striving” for this 27-year-old means following a strict daily regime. He trains four to seven hours a day, often in all three disciplines. An average week will see him swimming 20-25km, cycling 500-700km and running 80-120km. Because that’s what it takes to win one of the toughest single-day endurance events in the world — the Ironman.

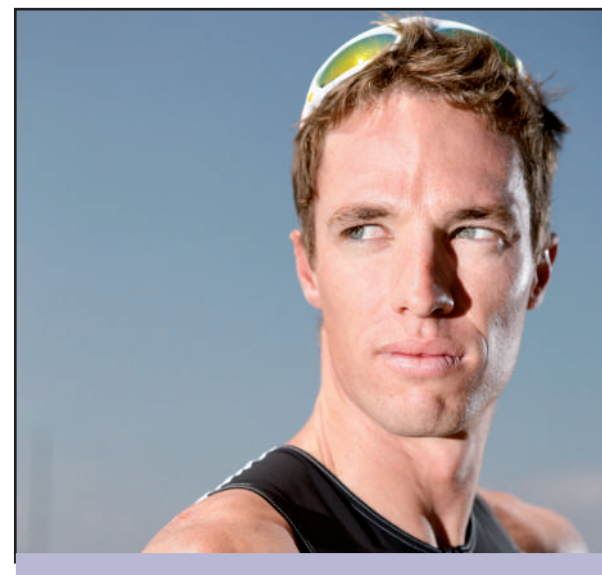
Luckily, his passion and endurance have paid off. In 2010 James won the Ironman Florida Championship and the

Ironman 70.3 Austin Championship and made it into the top 10 in the Ironman world rankings.

Not bad going for a long-distance athlete who only ran his first Ironman in 2007. His ultimate goal is to win the Ironman World Championships but, until then, he’s happy to fly the South African flag with pride.

— **Cat Pritchard**

 **Website:** jamescunnama.com  
**Blog:** blogs.teamtbb.com/jamescunnama  
**Twitter:** @jamescunnama



## 200 Young South Africans | Sport


## Lwazi Mvovo Springbok and Sharks winger

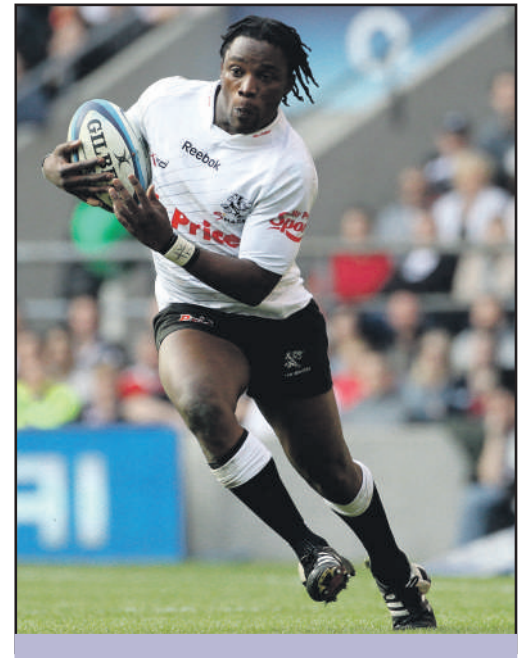
When Springbok wingers J P Pietersen and Odwa Ndungane left the Sharks to fulfil their national duties in 2009 they opened up a spot for a 24-year-old winger from the Eastern Cape named Lwazi Mvovo. Mvovo never looked back, soon establishing himself in the Sharks team with some electrifying finishes, ending up as the second-highest try scorer in the 2010 Currie Cup.

Mvovo is blessed with oodles of speed and a real gift for spotting a gap and slicing through it. His try-scoring efforts earned him a spot in the Springbok squad for the 2010

end-of-year tour, where once, again, he excelled.

In 2011 he no longer plays second fiddle to Pietersen and Ndungane, often playing ahead of the two more established stars in the Sharks team, and many predict that he will be heading to New Zealand later this year as one of the Springbok wingers. — **Lloyd Gedy**

 **Website:** sharksrugby.co.za  
**Twitter:** @lwazimvovo



Mvovo is blessed with oodles of speed and a real gift for spotting a gap and slicing through it


## Patrick Lambie

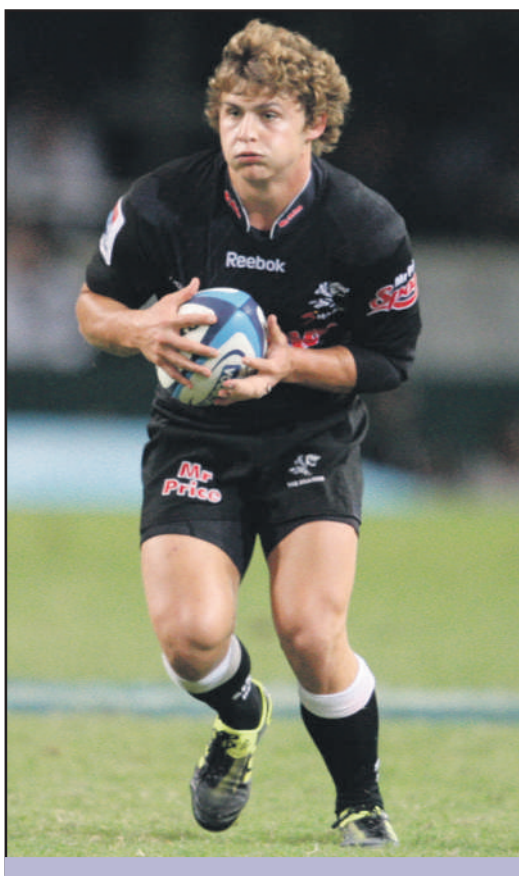
Springbok and Sharks flyhalf

When Patrick Lambie took to the field for the Sharks rugby team in the 2010 Super 14 rugby tournament he was a 19-year-old kid. Few would have expected that, come November 2010, this baby-faced assassin would be playing flyhalf for the Springboks during their end-of-year tour.

However meteoric Lambie's rise to the top has been no one can deny that he deserves it, as his "man of the match" performance in the 2010 Currie Cup final proved. In 2011 Lambie has once again shown his immense talents and when he directs play at flyhalf the Sharks are one of the best teams in South Africa.

Although Morne Steyn is the current Springbok flyhalf many will be surprised if Lambie does not feature on Pieter de Villiers's World Cup squad list this year. — **Lloyd Gedy**

 **Website:** sharksrugby.co.za



## Hashim Amla Protea batsman

Twenty-ten was the year that Hashim Amla made good on his potential as a top-order batsman for the Proteas, with a series of stellar performances that catapulted him to number two in the ICC test rankings. It began with his career-best 253 not out in the first test against India, at Nagpur, which was soon followed with centuries in each innings in the second test, at Eden Gardens.


Born in Durban in 1983 Hash, as he is affectionately called by his teammates and fans, paid his dues at the Nashua Dolphins before breaking into the Proteas' test team in 2004 during the tour of India. He has since notched up a whopping 43 test caps, to become South Africa's number-one batsman.

Initially some believed Amla was only a test batsman and would not make it in the one-day arena. But, his performances have proved his detractors wrong and he is now considered to be an integral member of the Proteas'

one-day team, winning 23 caps since his debut against Bangladesh in 2008.

Amla's popularity with the team was acknowledged when his teammates selected him to replace outgoing one-day captain Graeme Smith. In true Amla style he politely declined the honour, choosing instead to concentrate on his batting.

Both his humble demeanour and his beard have become a huge hit with fans, many of whom can be seen parading around cricket grounds sporting fake Amla beards as a sign of respect. Known for his impeccable manners both on and off the field, Amla is living proof that cricket can still be considered a gentleman's game. — **Lloyd Gedy**

 **Website:** dolphinscricket.co.za  
**Twitter:** @Hashim\_Amla

## 200 Young South Africans | Sport



## Lucas Sithole

 Wheelchair tennis player

**W**heelchairs and tennis: an unlikely combination? Not if your name is Lucas Sithole. In 1998 Sithole, then 12 years old, fell under a train and his world changed forever. But with quiet courage and the loving support of his mother he managed to transform tragedy into triumph. Now he is South Africa's top quadriplegic wheelchair tennis champion. In 2007 he won the Melbourne Open in Australia, competing against top players from around the world. He went on to become runner-up in another tournament, in Sydney. Today, 24-year-old Sithole juggles his time between training for the 2012 Paralympics, and studying for a diploma in sports management at the University of Johannesburg. He also writes music and sings uMaskandi. Always looking to the future, he dreams of opening his own sports centre for people with disabilities. "I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me," he says. "I'm living my life to the fullest." — **Ayanda Sitole**



**Facebook:** Lucas Sithole

## Jemma Grobbelaar

 Professional kite surfer

**W**hen the Southeaster blows in Cape Town most people sprint indoors. Not Jemma Grobbelaar. A top international kite surfer, 20-year-old Grobbelaar is one of those people who makes the best of any situation. It's her positive attitude as much as her physical strength and technical skills that resulted in Grobbelaar being crowned European Kite Speed Champion in 2009 and British Champion in 2008, 2009 and 2010, after only a few years in the sport.

She embraces life and every opportunity with it, which is why when she tore her knee ligaments and had to stay out of the water for eight months Grobbelaar focused on her recovery and played her violin. Even today, as she recovers from a knee operation, she is making the most of her downtime, growing chillies and herbs, taking up painting and even blogging about her latest medical "adventure". She is talented, beautiful and, as a plus-size model, not someone who will change her body or mind to please others. No wonder she is fast becoming the poster girl for women in this male-dominated sport.

Grobbelaar has represented South Africa at the Dakhla Music and Watersports Festival in Morocco, helping to raise awareness about women's rights in that country, and has worked with the Seychelles Tourism Board to promote the islands through kite surfing.

When she was invited to kite surf across the English Channel with Sir Richard Branson and his family to celebrate his 60th birthday Grobbelaar jumped at the opportunity to join her hero on one of his many adrenalin-fuelled adventures.

Although she is definitely a highflyer Grobbelaar is also a grounded *Vystaat meisie* who likes nothing better than to promote her home country. "I've been all over the world and there's no beach like Strand, no wind like the Southeaster, no people as friendly and no country better than South Africa." We're glad she thinks that.

— **Cat Pritchard**



**Website:** jemmag.com

**Blog:** jemmag.tumblr.com

**Twitter:** @Jemmasa



## Lonwabo Tsotsobe

 Cricketer

**C**ricketer Lonwabo "Lopsy" Tsotsobe, 27, seems to shine whenever he dons the sought-after Proteas jersey.

He scooped a man of the match award in his only ICC Cricket World Cup game in India recently. Before that, he had Sachin Tendulkar's number during India's tour of South Africa.

Tsotsobe started his cricketing career at school. He later made it into the Eastern Province eleven. Then he played for the Chevrolet Warriors team that swept up major domestic trophies two seasons ago.

After his performance at the 2011 World Cup Tsotsobe was signed up to play for English county side Essex until mid-June.

But the best from the Port Elizabeth-born lad is yet to come. At least, that's what he says: "Success drives me. I was taught from a young age by my mother that no one remembers the second and third guys on the podium." — **Aphiwe Deklerk**



**Twitter:** @LonwaboTsotsobe

## 200 Young South Africans | Sport



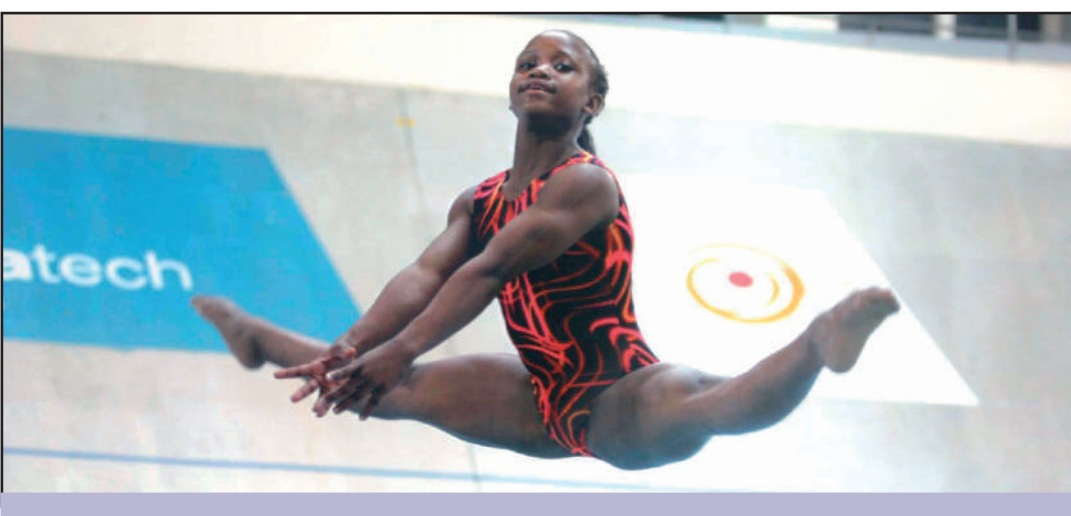
## Gurthrö Steenkamp Rugby player

It is his 125kg of muscle that allow rugby prop Gurthrö Steenkamp to dominate any match. The 29-year-old smashes through the opposition's lines like a tank. In the scrum he crouches at the front and crashes into the opposition when the ref shouts "Engage!"

Since his 2004 debut for the Springboks against Scotland, Steenkamp's career has been blighted by injuries. So his place in the squad has hardly been secure. But when he's on fire any team benefits from his raw power and boundless energy.

Steenkamp, the heart of the Blue Bulls scrum, participated in their phenomenal winning campaigns in the Super Rugby League in 2009 and 2010. Last year he was South African Player of the Year. Then, in 2011, he broke his arm and had to watch the Bulls' campaign on TV. But his success has attracted the interest of French side Toulouse and he'll be joining them after the World Cup. — **Sipho McDermott**

**Twitter:** @gurthro



## Jennifer Khwela Gymnast

She has the grace of a ballerina and the raw strength of a rugby prop. Nineteen-year-old gymnast Jennifer Khwela has plenty of gutsy determination, too.

In 2010 Khwela won South Africa's first gold medal in an international artistic gymnastics competition when she vaulted into top position at the Doha World Cup. She also grabbed silver at the Commonwealth Games: the only able-bodied black South African gymnast ever to win an individual medal.

But it hasn't been easy. Khwela, who hails from

Umbilo near Durban, was already nine years old when she began her career. She's had to work hard to catch up. "I don't have many friends," she says, "and there's no time for holidays."

Khwela is currently nursing a wrist injury, but she is adamant that it won't keep her grounded for long. She has her sights set on the World Cup in Korea in July and nothing short of gold will do.

— **Ngoako Matsha**

**Facebook:** Jennifer Khwela Fan Page  
**Twitter:** @jenkhwela

## Bianca Buitendag Surfer

When she's not in South Africa, the Australian coast is Bianca Buitendag's playground. The 17-year-old surfer from the Western Cape has been honing her skills on the big breaks down under. Buitendag comes from a surfing family. She got her first board when she was seven years old, joining her brothers in the crashing seas of False Bay. Recently she's been making waves on the international surfing circuit. In 2011 she won the prestigious Billabong ASP Women's World Junior Championships. "It's the best result of my life. I'm stoked!" she says.

Buitendag already has a string of awards: the Billabong under-20 girls finals when she was 13, and every junior surfing championship in South Africa.

But she doesn't neglect her academic life. She achieved full academic colours in 2009 and emphasises that the world is "bigger than surfing". Her biggest supporter is the man who watches from the beach — her dad. "Without him, nothing would be possible," she says. — **Ngoako Matsha**

**Website:** biancabuitendag.com



Her biggest supporter is the man who watches from the beach — her dad

## Andile Jali

Midfielder: Orlando Pirates

**A**ndile Jali is emerging as a 21-year-old with the footballing brain, and vision, of a grizzled veteran to go with his incredible lungs, good first touch, composure and rasping long-range shooting.

The deep-lying central midfielder was voted South African Football Association Youth Footballer in 2010 — his debut season as a professional — and has been tipped to play for one of the European giants, such as Real Madrid, by no less a talent-spotter than Bafana Bafana's African Nations Cup-winning coach, Clive Barker.

Born in Matatiele in the Eastern Cape, Jali played football for several amateur clubs before Barker gave him his big break three years ago, after watching the precocious youngster at the Coca-Cola Football Stars tournament in Port Elizabeth.

A bursary to complete his matric at the Pretoria Centre became a stepping stone to South Africa's under-20 team and to Bafana's 30-man World Cup squad before a cardiovascular ailment was detected. Fortunately tests revealed minor issues that are unlikely to stall Jali's meteoric rise. — **Niren Tolsi**

 **Website:** orlandopiratesfc.com



## Bongani Khumalo Defender: Tottenham Hotspurs

**E**rudite and thoughtful, Bongani Khumalo, with his middle-class upbringing, Model-C accent and love of reading, might appear to be the antithesis of your stereotypical, hard-living, kasi-nurtured footballer. But when the towering central defender does his talking on the football pitch there is no doubt about his credentials and why he has been tipped as a future Bafana Bafana captain.

The lanky 24-year-old has already captained Supersport United to successive Premier Soccer League titles and was a Bafana stalwart during the 2010 World Cup. He scored the opening goal in South Africa's final group-stage match against France with a thundering header, ensuring that the hosts salvaged some pride from the tournament. The goal also meant that South Africa beat the European giants (2-1) for the first time.

But Khumalo is an equally cool character when it comes to preventing goals: he is commanding in the air, quick and an intelligent reader of the game. His composed performances for Bafana secured a £1.5-million (R17-million) move to English Premier

League club Tottenham Hotspurs during the January 2011 transfer window.

His career in England has been slow in taking off. He was loaned out to first-division club Preston North End, and a run of six games in the team coincided with an upsurge in the club's fortunes. But Khumalo recently suffered a metatarsal fracture in a game against Millwall that ended the rest of his season.

He is likely to be fit in time for pre-season training and, with Spur's defenders prone to lapses, has opportunities to cement a first-team place at the North London club next season.

Khumalo, who was born in Swaziland — where his mother was studying — is the third footballer born outside South Africa to play for Bafana Bafana. He spent his formative years as a junior in the Arcadia Shepherds academy before signing up for the University of Pretoria in 2005. — **Niren Tolsi**

 **Website:** tottenhamhotspur.com

## Itumeleng Khune Goalkeeper: Kaizer Chiefs

**T**he Amakhosi and national team goalkeeper was once described by former Bafana Bafana coach Carlos Alberto Parreira as "a warrior who goes into battle for you with a smile on his face". Apt for a player who is fearless, has a good command of his penalty area and is well equipped with razor-sharp reflexes and good distribution.

Khune, who hails from Ventersdorp, owes his burgeoning success to a good dollop of fortune. Initially an avid cricket fan who idolised Nicky Boje, Khune attended trials at Kaizer Chiefs in 1999 as a defender. Chest problems in a junior

match meant he was relegated to ball boy behind one of the goals and his acrobatics in hoovering up loose shots soon caught the eye of the scouts.

Khune made his PSL debut against Jomo Cosmos in 2007 and became only the second goalkeeper to be sent off in a World Cup Final match, during Bafana's defeat by Uruguay in 2010. — **Niren Tolsi**

 **Website:** kaizerchiefs.com



## 200 Young South Africans | Sport

## Jordy Smith Surfer

**T**wenty-four-year-old Durbanite Jordy Smith hit the headlines in 2010 when victory in the Billabong J-Bay competition in Jeffrey's Bay saw the youngster become the number-one-ranked surfer competing in the World Championship Tour — he ended the year at number two in the international rankings.


This was a follow-up to his 2007 victory in the World Qualifying Series — the surfing world's second tier. He also won the 2006 ASP Junior Championships and Van's Rookie of the Year award. He has won 10 national

championship titles.

Smith, an old boy of Glenwood High School, started surfing at the age of six. He is famous for surfing manoeuvres, including the rodeo flip, full rotation alley-oops and backhand airs.

He has, lately, appeared in surf videos, including Taylor Steele's *Stranger than Fiction*.

— **Niren Tolsi**

 **Website:** jordy-smith.co.za  
**Twitter:** @jordysmith88



## Sunette Viljoen Javelin thrower

**S**unette Viljoen is Jo'burg's true golden girl, and she has a cabinet full of medals to prove it. In 2010, 27-year-old Viljoen took top honours at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, having taken gold in Melbourne in 2006. She is the current and three-time African champion and is among the top ten women javelin throwers in the world.

Last year was one of Viljoen's most consistent seasons, with throws beyond 63m a regular feature. She competed in 15 meets, winning nine, and broke her own African record at the Josef Odložil Memorial in Prague.

It's safe to say that Viljoen, a mother, wife and postgraduate student, who has represented South Africa in women's indoor and outdoor cricket and played netball at a provincial level, is a natural sportswoman. Who knows what stopped her from pursuing her childhood dream, but South Africa can be grateful that she did not decide to become a police-woman after all. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Facebook:** Sunette Viljoen



## Noko Matlou

Footballer

**N**oko Matlou is not called "Beep Beep" for nothing. With speed, accuracy and a killer boot, nothing stops Matlou from getting the football in the net, almost every time. The star striker of Banyana Banyana, 25-year-old Matlou has scored 43 goals in 56 international games for the South African women's soccer squad. With too many hat tricks to count, her attacking game and ferocious talent help to seal the national team's triumphs, which include qualifying for the 2011 All African Games and, with any luck, the 2012 Olympics.

Naturally athletic, Matlou started playing soccer at primary school in Limpopo and, beyond her studies, has lived and breathed the beautiful game ever since. She's been playing for her provincial team, the *Brazilian Ladies Football Club*, since 2002 and for her country since 2007. At the 2008 Cosafa Cup, her hat-trick in the final led the national team to victory and her tally of 14 goals in the tournament's five matches earned her the coveted Golden Boot Award. In 2010, as a tribute to her talent and consistent goal-scoring performance, Matlou became the first South African football player, male or female, to be honoured with the African Football Confederation's *African Player of the Year*.

Currently completing her studies in transportation management at the University of Johannesburg, Matlou has to fend off offers to play overseas until she has her degree in hand. Right now she is passionately focused on representing her country. She hopes that women's soccer in South Africa will be taken more seriously will be better supported through the creation of a professional league. In this way, stars like Matlou will be able to pursue soccer as a fully fledged career, just like their male counterparts. Perhaps then they will receive the recognition, kudos and applause they truly deserve. — **Lu Larché**

 **Facebook:** Banyana Banyana

# *Top dogs!*



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