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sacrifice, forgiveness and dedication to upholding justice, as well as his commitment to a democratic South Africa.



Sachs doesn't see the loss of his arm - an injury he sustained when his anti-Apartheid activities saw him became a victim of a car bomb attack as a disability. To the contrary, in an intimate conversation with Steirn: "Losing my arm was part of a journey that brought great happiness to me ... and led to a world where my seven-yearold son won't have to fight the way we had to fight."

For Sachs, growing up in a home where both parents were politically active, fighting was perhaps inevitable - although he's quick to say

that his fight was never against racism; rather, it was for human beings. "My mother was a typist for Moses Kutani, a leader in the African community. She used to say to an Timer

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us, 'tidy up, tidy up, Uncle Moses is coming'. And it wasn't Moses Cohen or Moses Rabinowitz, it was Moses Kutani. So the respect for the African man was strong, it was there right from the beginning. So was the sense that if the world and the society in which we grew up didn't acknowledge that ordinary respect, there was something wrong with that society. It had to change. From my earliest days, it was about respecting human beings for what they are." Sachs adds that, as a child, his parents wrote him a letter encouraging him to commit to the struggle; an incident that went on to shape his life.

In the short film, he recalls that when he was very young when he became aware that if you wish for a world better than the one you're living in, something is very wrong. Not that the world he grew up in was a bad one: he has wonderful memories of growing up near Cape Town's beaches, and of being surrounded by a vibrant, loving community - all of whom happened to be staunchly anti-Apartheid.



Nonetheless, it was only when Sachs was in his second year at the University of Cape Town that he put his ideologies to action. Until then, he admits to being entirely apolitical: "I didn't even know who to vote for in the student elections". He spent his time playing cricket, climbing mountains and writing poetry - until the day his mother told him he should attend a lecture by poet Uys Krige. "People always ask me why I bought culture into politics ... actually, it was the other way around."

Sachs explains that, after being introduced by Krige to the works of Lorca and Neruda, everything came together for him. "I was ready for action ... and a few months later I was sitting on a bench marked 'non-whites only' as Sachs' anti-Apartheid activities saw him imprisoned in solitary confinement twice like fellow ICONS, Nelson Mandela and Ahmed Kathrada of Season I series, and ultimately exiled, first in London and then Mozambique.



And then, in 1988, came the car bomb that would change his life. In addition to his arm, the bomb took the sight in one eye - and yet, Sachs insists that the event "brought back an energy and vitality and rightness", and that even if he could, he wouldn't return to the way he was. Nor does he resent the people who tortured him: his philosophy is that living with rade eats you up.

"You live with a sense of transcendence, of getting beyond, of transformation and it elevates you, and it makes it possible for you to live with a sense, not of immunity, but with a sense of dignity and pride. And you're not waiting for retaliation, you're not in the world of hit and hit back. We are in the world of looking in the eyes of the other and seeing the possibilities that human beings have, of bringing about real change," Sachs says.

He brought this spirit to life as one of the authors of the Constitution and a Constitutional Court judge; a role he says "was part of dreams, of our destiny, of our life, of our thinking".

Although he balks at the idea of iconoclasm, there's no doubt that he is a global icon for human rights: the recent recipient of Taiwan's inaugural Tang Prize for rule of law, he also holds the Academy of Achievement Golden Plate Award and the Reconciliation Award. An acclaimed author and two-time recipient of the Alan Paton Award, Sachs is also a patron of the arts, having selected the art for the Constitutional Court.

Season two of 21 ICONS South Africa is proudly sponsored by Mercedes-Benz South Africa, Momentum Asset Management, Nikon, Deloitte and the Department of Arts and Culture.

Former Constitutional Court judge and anti-Apartheid activist, Albie Sachs, talks to filmmaker Adrian Steirn during a portrait sitting about the meaning of fairness and democracy, as well as his role in ensuring these values 21 ICONS South Africa is an annual collection of photographs and short films of South Africans who have

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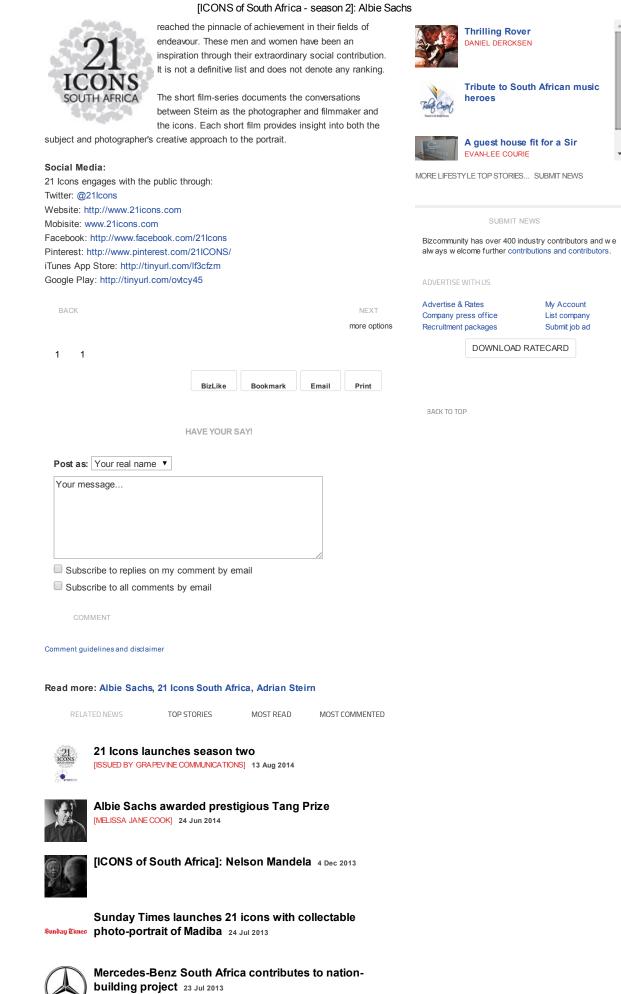
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