



Weather  
10 | 27°C



Local news

# 21 Icons reveals its 18th icon

**JOHANNESBURG** – The incredible short film and portrait series, 21 Icons South Africa Season III, The Future of a Nation, will showcase Kopano Matlwa Mabaso, a South African medical doctor pursuing a PhD in Public Health at the University of Oxford.

about 1 hour ago



Photo: Andy Ellis SETTING UP: Garrin Bowden sets up as Gary Van Wyk photographs Kopano Matlwa Mabaso at Platinum Studios in Cape Town for 21 Icons South Africa.

SHARE

More by City Reporter

Learning Local  
about artists  
others announced  
for One  
Way  
Traffic

Roxette Tragic Back-  
and fall to-  
WatersHedves school  
sell out mom safety  
TicketPrand tips  
Dome daughter  
dead

The 30-year-old is also the author of the critically-acclaimed novels Coconut and Spilt Milk.

“My discomfort provoked me to write. Growing up in post-apartheid South Africa as a black, young South African, I was grappling with my sense of identity in a very complicated country. So I wrote about this discomfort,” said Matlwa Mabaso.

She was chosen to appear in 21 Icons as a voice for the next generation of South Africans who are dealing with issues such as race, poverty and gender as well as coming to grips with their sense of identity. Mabaso has also been acknowledged for her role in making healthcare more equally accessible and for establishing educational support programmes.

Mabaso is a University of Cape Town (UCT) and Rhodes scholar and holds an MBChB from UCT and an MSc in Global Health Science from the University of Oxford. She also co-founded Waiting Room Education by Medical Students, a health promotion organisation educating patients and their families on common health conditions in the waiting rooms of mobile clinics.



“I could never choose between medicine and writing. Anton Chekhov said, ‘Medicine is my wife, and writing my mistress’, and that makes complete sense to me. I love them both.”

Born in Pretoria, Mabaso was only nine years old when South Africa birthed its democracy in 1994. Her debut novel, *Coconut*, was published in 2006 and explains her experience growing up as a young black girl in the new South Africa and the complexities associated with finding a sense of belonging.

“Coconut began when I was in high school, trying to figure out my own identity, and often what was considered to be good was everything white, and the challenge of finding a place and meaning as a black young South African.”

Her portrait, captured by principal photographer for the project, Gary Van Wyk, is titled *Imagined Reality*.

“Using various props, a colourful ‘wonderland’ is constructed which echoes Mabaso’s love for discovering characters, health solutions and deconstructing embedded cultural ideas, such as ‘coconut’ and ‘the rainbow nation’. Seated among multiple palm tree leaves wearing a rainbow charm necklace – a severed coconut to her left and milk spilling to her right – she is imagined as the conjurer of a fantasy world which breaks boundaries through creativity,” Van Wyk explained.

Mabaso’s short film will be aired on SABC 3 at 7.27pm and will be repeated the next day at 5.57pm on the same channel.

Details: @21Icons; [www.21Icons.com](http://www.21Icons.com)

---

Do you read the City Buzz newspaper?

Yes

No

---

## LATEST NEWS

---

- Taking back the power of childbirth
- 21 Icons reveals its 18th icon
- Sparrow’s gaffe should kick-start honest self-examination – NEASA exec
- Calling music video makers
- How To Stretch Your Groceries To Last Longer
- Never argue with a police officer, urges JMPD
- Vice-Chancellors call for smooth start
- SA needs local teachers
- Sport and heritage come together
- PSL appoints head of legal division

- Cook called up to Proteas Test squad
- Wacky Wednesday : Blast from the past
- Parkview Golf Club to host guided bird walk
- World religions visited
- UPDATE: No reports of spiked oranges on Joburg roads

## COMMENTS

0 Comments

Sort by Oldest



Add a comment...



Facebook Comments Plugin

**Review** FOURWAYS

*midrand*  
**Reporter**

**ALEX**  
**NEWS**

**Tribune** NORTH EASTERN

ROSEBANK MILLERNEY  
**Gazette**

**Sandton**  
**Chronicle**

**GET IT**

look**local**   
my community. my choice.

**autodealer**  
all things cars **.co.za**

HOME

NEWS

VOICES OF  
JOBURG

GALLERIES

OPINIONLIFESTYLE

DIRECTORY

About Us

Previous  
publications

Local news

Municipal

Motoring

EcoMobility

Month

National

News

EntertainmentBlogs

Videos

Letters

Best of Joburg View

EntertainmentDirectories

Events

International



Copyright © 2016 Caxton & CTP Printers and Publishers Ltd.

[www.caxton.co.za](http://www.caxton.co.za) | [www.localnewsnetwork.co.za](http://www.localnewsnetwork.co.za)