

Thulani Madondo: Social Entrepreneur, Community Activist, Educator – 21 Icons

★ www.dontparty.co.za/people/thulani-madondo-social-entrepreneur-community-activist-educator-21-icons/

8:56 am

21 Icons Season 3 – Episode 3: Thulani Madondo



“People need to be reminded that they are powerful and they can still achieve whatever they want to achieve because at the end of the day you are what you think you are.”

Social entrepreneur, Community activist and recipient of multiple international humanitarian accolades, Thulani Madondo is a living example of the spirit of ubuntu, striving to make young people aware of their potential while shedding light on the possibilities through education.

“When you come from a family where there is no success background it’s always very challenging to believe that you can succeed and I wanted to be that example within the community”

Growing up in a one-bedroom shack void of water and electricity, shared with seven siblings and supported by a single mother, Madondo understood that his life began as soon as he rejected the cycle of poverty and placed the utmost respect and importance on education. In order to put himself through school, Madondo washed cars and traded with Spazza shops, sourcing bulk goods for re-sale.

In 2001 Madonda was the first member of his family to matriculate, but his belief in education did not stop there, He went on to study community development and furthermore received certificates from WITS as a community development practitioner and from UJ in community development.

He completed the Strategic Perspective in Nonprofit Management at the Harvard Business School in July 2013.



His co-founded [Kliptown youth programme](#) is an NPO that is currently providing education and extra-curriculum activities to more than 400 young pupils through arts and culture, athletics and tutoring. Funded solely on donations and volunteer work, KYP provides a hopeful life to the children of Kliptown that is not based on survival, but by the ability to be active community members, to succeed.

To date 27 students have finished school and are attending university.

As a result of the programme's success Madondo has been honoured by featuring in CNN's top 10 heroes in 2012 from a pool of 45 000 nominations coming from 100 countries. He also received Humanitarian of the Year Award from Turkey Worldwide Visibility and Feather Awards Role Model of the Year in 2013.

Portrait: 'Africa Rising'

Wearing the gumboots Madonda uses to teach Kliptown children traditional gumboot dancing, Madonda is pictured leaping above the roof of a shack, emphasising his humble beginnings and his tenacity to rise out of poverty – a feat he believes is possible for anyone through education.



“Human dignity is one of the most important things and once you start compromising it you are never going to be strong on whatever ground you are standing in”

Experience more Icons

21 Icons behind the scenes is on SABC every Sunday from 6 September at 19:27. Alternatively follow their movements on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

If you would like to help the Kliptown programme you can get involved [here](#).

Or check out the [21 Icons Dont Party feature](#).

- [About](#)
- [Latest Posts](#)

Follow Me

Jordan Coetsee

Jordan is Joburg based student currently studying at WITS. In his free time loves to socialize, screenprint and dabble in music.

"Life isn't about finding yourself, its about creating yourself"



Follow Me

Latest posts by Jordan Coetsee ([see all](#))

