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by [Paigh dos Santos](http://www.elle.co.za/author/paigh/) (<http://www.elle.co.za/author/paigh/>) on December 1, 2015

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## 21 ICONS SA: JOLYNN MINNAAR

(<https://www.elle.co.za/2015/12/20/jolynn-minnaar-featured-in-21-icons-2015>)

Jolynn Minnaar is the 13<sup>th</sup> icon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> season of 21 ICONS. Minnaar is an award winning documentary filmmaker and anti-fracking activist.



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The short film showcased depicts how a young girl from the Karoo became the writer and director of a groundbreaking film *Unearthed*. The purpose of the film is to unite South Africans against the exploitation of the Karoo by multinational companies interested in a shale gas reserve.

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Filed by Minnaar the film takes you on a journey from documenting the events to changing them through her direct involvement. As Minnaar explains, 'The Karoo is a very rural area with low literacy levels, and fracking is such a complex issue. I made the commitment to *Unearthed* to ensure that I could empower people with information.'

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Minnaar initially gained attention at the Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival and went on to win a Green AwarK for her work. She explains the responsibilities that come with being a documentary filmmaker, 'It's a powerful medium, and very persuasive. You have to work with integrity. I will always be a filmmaker who will have sleepless nights if I know I didn't spend that day committed to the truth.'

Minnaar uses film as a mouthpiece for social causes and says, 'Never before has a generation been so empowered. Our access to information is huge. Already we're seeing the power of social media. I think it's amazing we can actually use those tools for the good as well.'

Watch the short film *21 Icons : Jolynn Minnaar* below

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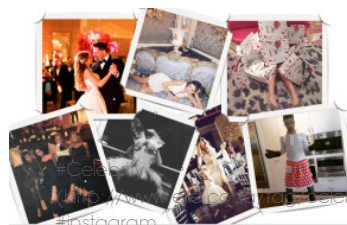


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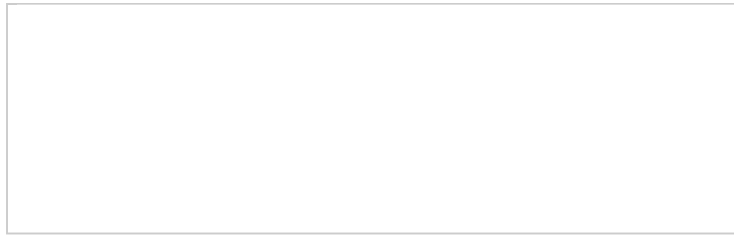
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