

# 21 ICONS SA: MICHAELA MYCROFT

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 [www.elle.co.za/21-icons-sa-michaela-mycroft/](http://www.elle.co.za/21-icons-sa-michaela-mycroft/)

The ninth icon of the 21 ICONS SA series, a 21-part mini documentary series that airs every Sunday on SABC 3, is 21-year-old Michaela 'Chaeli' Mycroft, the founder of the Chaeli Campaign and winner of the Future of a Nation: Ability Activist Award.

Inspired by Nelson Mandela, 21 Icons showcases short films and photographic portraits captured by local photographer Gary Van Wyk, documenting the stories of key figures in South Africa's recent history, a continuation of the successful first season that included Nelson Mandela, former president FW de Klerk and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. For the third season, focus is shifted to shedding the spotlight on our country's future, the young leaders that are making a difference today. A major departure from previous seasons, which featured fine arts portraits in black and white, is the vibrant coloured portraits of the icons, capturing their energy and drive that inspires a positive future for South Africa.

At the age of 16, Mycroft won the 2011 International Children's Peace Prize, and the following year, the Nobel Peace Laureates' Medal for Activism. Through her project, she has also received numerous awards for her commitment to the rights of children with disabilities in South Africa. Earlier this year, she became the first female quadriplegic to summit Mount Kilimanjaro after undergoing extensive training to prepare for the ascent.

In the 9th episode, airing on the 1st of November, Mycroft talks to Van Wyk in a hall in Camps Bay High school, Cape Town. They discuss the importance of empowering the disabled youth by focusing on enhancing what they are capable of and of her commitment to the rights of disabled children with her constant effort and campaign for their support, an initiative that has garnered international acclaim for her work.

She seeks to create a global community that accepts and embraces disabilities; on her selection as an icon she says, "A lot of people refer to me as a disability activist, but I don't see myself that way. I focus on the ability. I concentrate on potential and empower people to see their own greatness."

Catch Michaela's inspirational story this Sunday, the 1st November on SABC 3 at 19:27