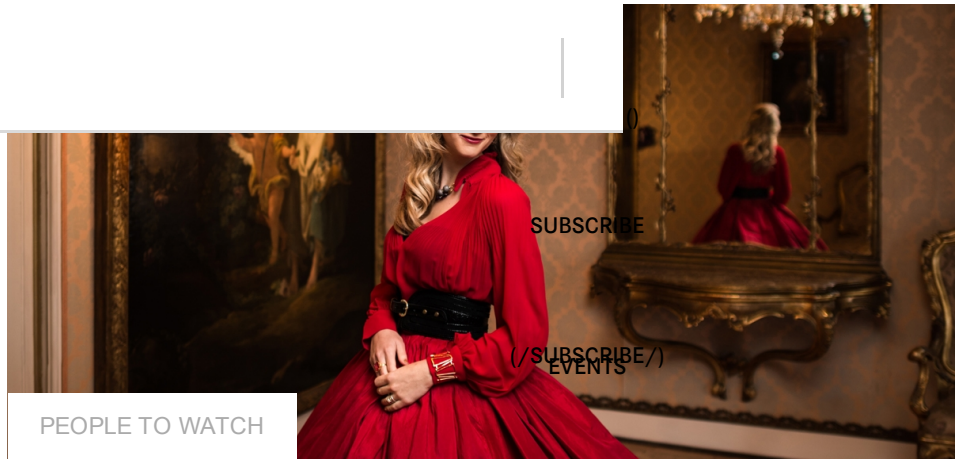


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Jes Foord Portrait

21 Icons Season III photographer Gary Van Wyk conceptualised and shot this arresting portrait.

"Don't let something like this damage you. I haven't let what happened to me define me. I've let it help me in my future. It's taken me on a different path, but I haven't let it destroy me. I've let it empower me."

Jes Foord is pictured at the Natalia Labia Museum in Muizenburg, Cape Town as part of photographer and filmmaker Adrian Steirn's 21 Icons South Africa series. During the portrait sitting, Jes, who survived a gang rape six years ago, described how she

resolved to speak out rather than hide away in shame. She also explained how she chose to transform her appallingly negative experience into a positive one with the establishment of the Jes Foord Foundation. Jes formed the Foundation to help restore lives after rape by way of a number of initiatives and activities designed to change rape victims into rape survivors. She intends to educate the public and help them realise that there is life after rape.

On the future of South Africa, Jes says, "Let's stand up as South Africans, let's stand together as the rainbow nation and fight for our country. There is so much opportunity! I think individually we can all make a difference but we need to come together to make a change."

Gary describes the thinking process behind the portrait 'Cinderella Story'. "Drawing inspiration from one of the Jes Foord Foundation's initiatives - The Cinderella Project, which provides underprivileged girls with dresses to wear to their matric dance - Jes is photographed in a striking red ball gown. She stares directly into the camera: dignified, free of shame, and beautiful."

Watch her interview [here](#)

(<http://www.mblife.co.za/People-to-Watch/21-Icons-Jes-Foord>) .



Jes Foord, shot by Gary Van Wyk



22 SEP 2014

Dylan
Culhane's



14 SEP 2015

21 Icons:
Jes



07 SEP 2015

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