



SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

# CELEBRATING WOMEN DURING 16

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# SAWUBONA BLOG



Megan Whittington

7:23 am | 8th December 2015

TRAVEL MULTIMEDIA LIFESTYLE EVENTS PROMOTIONS



TRAVEL GUIDE

*In Prayers and Protest* – Sophia Williams de Bruyn, photographed in the gardens of The Union Buildings, Pretoria as part of photographer and filmmaker Adrian Steirn’s *21 Icons South Africa* series.

## SAA NEWS

[SAA appoints interim Chief Financial Officer](#)

30th November 2015 | 4:34 pm

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25th November 2015 | 7:58 am

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23rd November 2015 | 8:37 am

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Each year the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign aims to raise awareness and works toward eradicating these actions.



At this time, we acknowledge the need to promote the

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**SAWUBONA BLOG** celebrate

some of the South African women who've paved the way



for subsequent generations, as well as those who're creating a more positive future. We've created a list of women to inspire you, based on some of the women honoured by the *21 Icons* series.

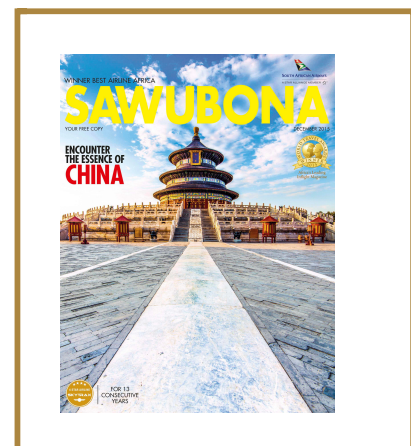
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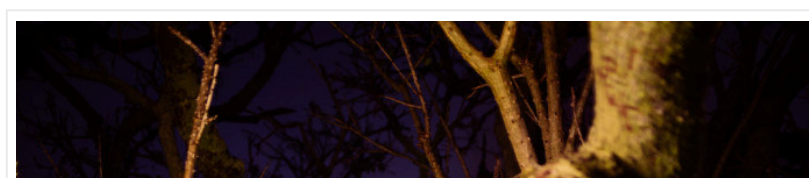
21 Icons is a visual tribute to South Africans who've contributed to making the country and world a better place. This year, three seasons of visionaries were recognised by the project through powerful images, texts and videos. Adrian Steirn, photographer and filmmaker – together with photographer Gary van Wyk – provides a unique insight into these icons.

### Sophia Williams de Bruyn

Sophia Williams de Bruyn (*above*) was just 18 years old when she, together with Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph and Adelaide Tambo, led over 20 thousand women to the Union Buildings in 1956. These activists protested against the pass laws developed by the apartheid regime, which were a gross violation of dignity, and were to be extended to women. [*In South Africa, we celebrate Women's Day on 9 August each year – the anniversary of the Women's March – as a result of these actions*]. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).



### Thato Kgatlanye

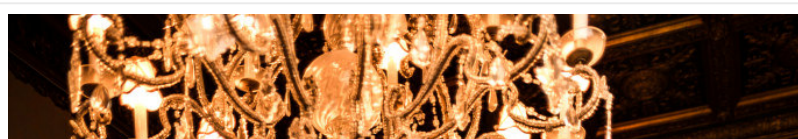




Bright Spark – Image by Gary van Wyk.

22-year-old social entrepreneur, Thato Kgathanye is co-founder of Rethaka Trading and the Repurpose Schoolbags innovation. The concept emerged from a university project where the decision was made to make a schoolbag from recycled plastic. Each bag is fitted with solar technology, which allows children without electricity to have a light to use for night-time studies. The bags – which are waterproof and fitted with retro-reflective material – insure safety and durability. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).

### Jes Foord



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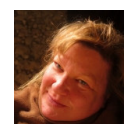
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## OUR CONTRIBUTORS



Linda Markinova



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Jim Freeman

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*Cinderella Story* – Image by Gary van Wyk.

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Richard Holmes | Eugene Yiga

Tony Mills | Chris Marais

Kojo Baffoe | Bridget Hilton-Barber

Heather Mason | Dawn Jorgensen

The epitome of women’s strength, Jes Foord has become a role model to many South Africans. After being brutally gang raped by four men in 2008, Foord embodied perseverance and vowed not to let the act of violence destroy her. She created The Jes Foord Foundation to help other rape survivors take back their lives. The foundation aims to provide counselling, empowerment and education. Through this initiative, Foord took an act of extreme hatred and found a way to promote love and solidarity. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).

### Pregs Govender



**TOP RATED**

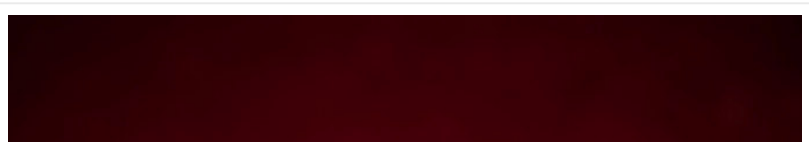
**HOT TOPICS**  
**Interview with international wealth coach - JT Foxx**  
 19th June 2015 | 4:31 am

**Magic tricks**



Gender and human rights activist Pregs Govender has spent over 30 years dedicated to promoting gender and class equality. She is celebrated for her contributions at a time when Indian women were severely undermined in the country. Govender – who serves on the South African Human Rights Commission – continues to strive towards irradicating poverty, racism, injustice and gender inequality. She is hopeful that South Africa’s future will be a bright one. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).

**Phindile Sithole-Spong**



18th November 2015 | 11:01 a



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**Rhinos without Borders** 🔍

26th November 2015 | 12:48 pm

**City Guide: Brazzaville**

30th November 2015 | 8:54 am

**The 'Reuben Invites' series at One&Only Cape Town**

24th June 2015 | 1:59 pm

**Slow Sedgfield**

5th May 2015 | 11:09 am

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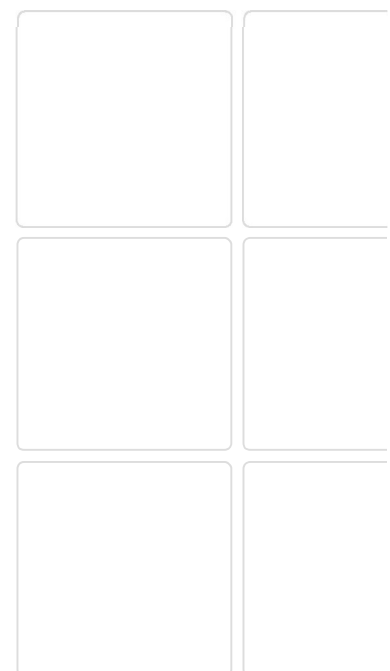
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Phindile Sithole-Spong is challenging stereotypes linked to HIV through education in an attempt to create an “HIV aware generation”. She found that the basis of much of the discrimination surrounding HIV is caused by misinformation and hopes to change this. Sithole-Spong has become known, both locally and internationally, for her promotion of information on HIV and sexual health. Through her initiative, Rebranding HIV, Sithole-Spong provides organisations and companies with programmes and products, which help to create an HIV and sexual health strategy. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).

**Michaela Mycroft**





*Full Potential* – Image by Gary Van Wyk.

21-year-old Michaela “Chaeli” Mycroft is a student and ability activist and co-founder of the Chaeli Campaign. The campaign aims to “mobilise the minds and bodies of children with disabilities”. The non-profit has provided over 3 000 children with wheelchairs, hearing aids and food supplements, among other items. Mycroft, who has cerebal palsy, was the first female quadriplegic to summit climb Mount Kilimanjaro. She’s also a competitive wheelchair ballroom dancer. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).

**Miriam Tlali**





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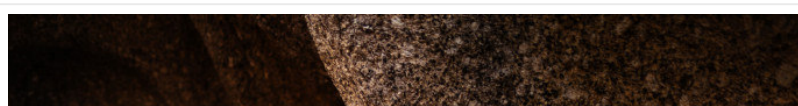
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*Her Story* – Image by Adrian Steirn.



The first black South African woman to publish a novel, Miriam Tlali developed a passion for reading at a young age. She soon transitioned into writing and *Muriel at Metropolitan* was published in 1975, shortly followed by *Amandla* in 1980. The apartheid government banned her first novel, but when it was published internationally, the world was able to get a glimpse into what it was like to be a black woman living in South Africa at that time. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).

**Catherine Constantinides**

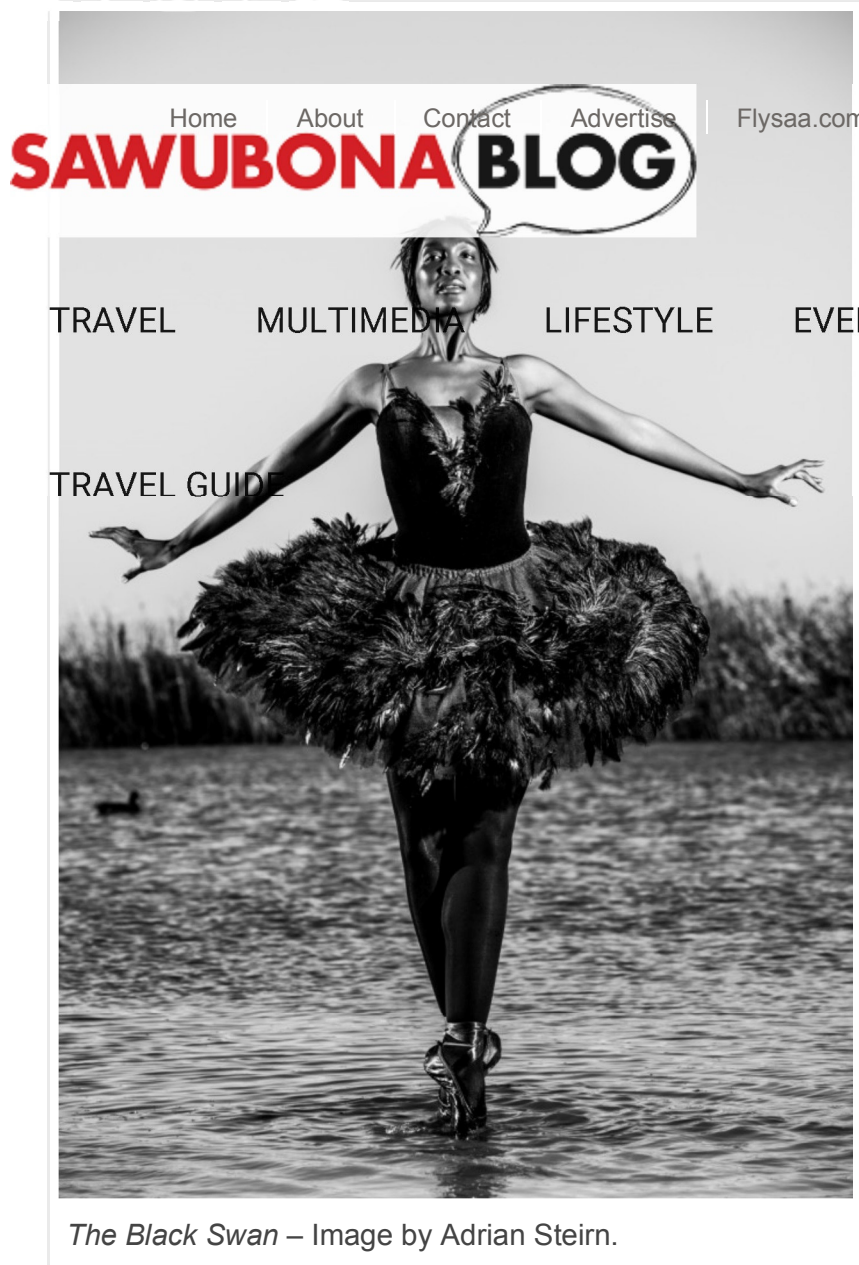






Executive director of Miss Earth South Africa leadership programme, Catherine Constantinides is an advocate of sustainable community development and creating environmental consciousness. The programme is aimed at empowering South African women and combating the degradation of the country’s natural resources and heritage. She is co-founder of Generation Earth, which is an international youth leadership initiative that promotes discussion surrounding environmental issues among students. She aims to help to educate future generations in order to preserve the history attached to the natural elements of South Africa. See the *21 Icons* video [here](#).

Kitty Phetla



Kitty Phetla – award-winning ballerina, model and choreographer – is well known for her performance of the iconic ballet role The Dying Swan. She broke conventions when she performed this piece in a black tutu, tights and shoes rather than the traditional pink gear associated with the industry. Phetla works with the Joburg Ballet in the hopes of being able to help black children stand out in the world of ballet. “Ballet has always been seen as a Westernised art, but we’re slowly breaking that stigma. Ballet and the arts are for our people and there’s a hunger

for them in our communities,” she says. See the 21 .cor s video [here](#).



Zubeida Jaffer

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*The Full Report* – Image by Adrian Steirn.

Journalist of over 30 years, Zubeida Jaffer is acclaimed for her anti-apartheid activism and determination to report the truth. She ensured that the brutal actions of the apartheid government were exposed. As a result of her brave actions, she was arrested, beaten and tortured. Jaffer’s work in the field of journalism has won her a number of awards on both a local and international scale.

She believes that citizens must continue to hold government accountable and value the truth. See the 21 Icons video [here](#).



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festive season. Get it here.



Images and video supplied by the 21 Icons Project.

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Leave a Comment

arts & culture 16 days of activism, 21 icons, activism, activist Adrian Steirn, Catherine Constantinides, icons, Jes Foord, Kitty Phetla, Michaela Mycroft, Miriam Tlali, Phindile Sithole-Spong, Pregis Govender, Sophie Williams De Bruyn, strength, Thato Kgathlanye, woman, Women, Zubeida Jaffer

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