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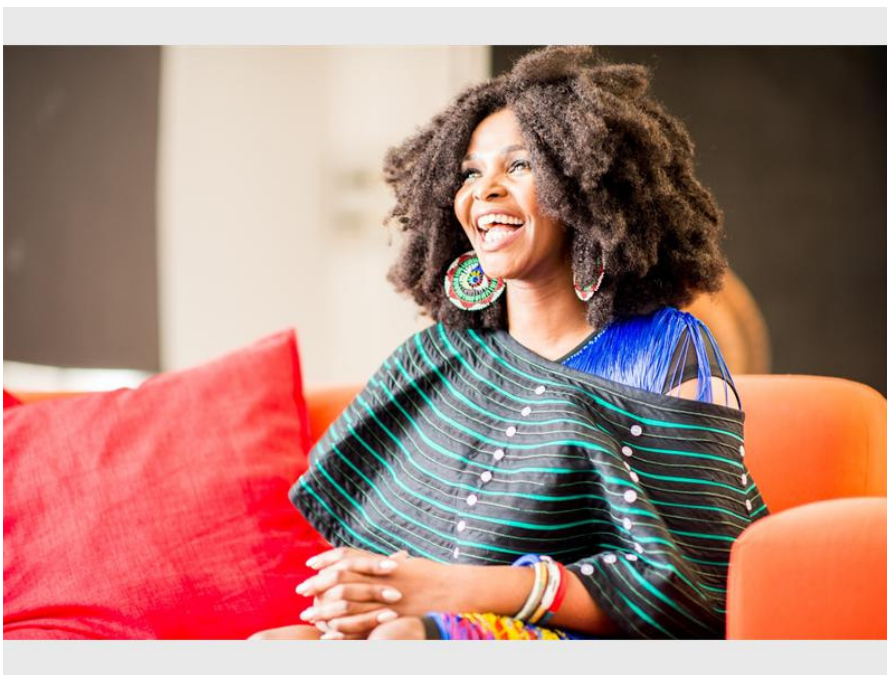
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21 Icons reveals its 21st icon

JOHANNESBURG – The 21st icon for 21 Icons South Africa Season III, The Future of a Nation is award-winning Afro-soul and Xhosa jazz songstress, Simphiwe Dana.

3 hours ago



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The songstress was selected to take part in the 21 Icons project because of her ability to use music to address a number of social issues in South Africa. She voices her opinions on socio-political challenges, increasingly making her black consciousness and feminist views clearly known. She is also the first African ambassador for the human rights initiative, Amnesty International.

More by City Reporter

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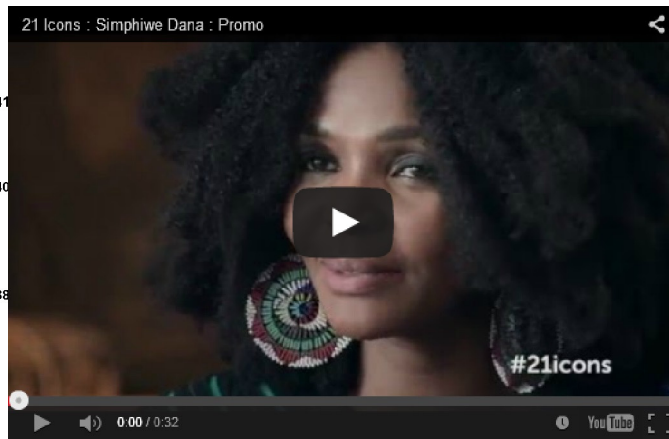
[See Dana's short film preview here:](#)

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MTV Base reveals its hottest newcomers
(<http://sandtonchronicle.co.za/1438/base-reveals-its-hottest-newcomers/>)



"I don't shy away from including social messages in my music," she said.

"I'm an activist at heart. I'm very passionate about the continent and about justice, so my work is very much in that space at all times."

The daughter of a preacher, she stated that her music drew strongly on her upbringing in the church. She cited the powerful singing of her mother as an inspiration for her and a key motivator in her resolve to pursue her musical career. Dana has performed at a number of events including Arts Alive, the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, and the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz.

In 2004, she released her debut album, Zandisile, which made a huge impact on the South African music scene, achieving platinum status, and claiming the number one spot on the Billboard Chart. "My first album blew up so much that I was thrust into a world of which I had only dreamed. I think what kept me humble and focused is the fact that I'm a village girl. Nothing can ever make me feel outside of who I am," she said.

Her second recording, The One Love Movement on the Bantu Biko Street, won her numerous South African Music Awards, including Female Artist of the Year. She explained to principal photographer, Gary Van Wyk how she used Steve Biko as an inspiration while working on the album and creating a dialogue for identity politics in South Africa.

"We did not introduce black consciousness, which is what Steve Biko preached a lot. When he said that the first thing that we need to do is to infuse back dignity and life into the empty husk of the black person because over hundreds of years we have been so dehumanised, that even ourselves we are ashamed of being black," she explained.

Van Wyk spoke about the visual elements behind her portrait titled Royal Performance. "Dressed in Xhosa-inspired garments and draped in traditional beadwork, Dana is imagined as a regal South African queen," he said.

"A reference to both her culture and her position and success in the South African music industry, she is photographed while seated upright in a wicker chair – her pose strong, her gaze to camera fierce and unwavering."

Dana's short film and portrait was revealed on SABC 3 on 14 February at 7.27pm, with a repeat being aired on Monday, 15 February 2016 at 5.57pm.

Details: www.21icons.com (<http://www.21icons.com>)

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- 21 Icons reveals its 21st icon
(<http://sandtonchronicle.co.za/144317/21-icons-reveals-its-21st-icon/>)
- Did Zuma get his #SONA2016 facts straight?
(<http://sandtonchronicle.co.za/144318/did-zuma-get-his-sona2016-facts-straight/>)
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BREAKING NEWS: One dead in Doonside shooting

(<http://southcoastsun.co.za/72092/breaking-news-one-dead-in-doonside-shooting/>)

South Coast Sun
(<http://southcoastsun.co.za/>)

Man found dead outside restaurant
(<http://rekordmoot.co.za/65061/man-found-dead-outside-restaurant/>)

Rekord Moot (<http://rekordmoot.co.za/>)

Day 10 of Lily Mine disaster: Rescue halted pending safety audit
(<http://barbertontimes.co.za/217571/day-10-of-lily-mine-disaster-rescue-halted-pending-safety-audit/>)

Barberton Times
(<http://barbertontimes.co.za/>)

N4 closed due to protest
(<http://lowvelder.co.za/314795/n4-closed-due-to-protest/>)

Lowvelder (<http://lowvelder.co.za/>)

Thousands pay tribute to M4 cyclists
(<http://northglennnews.co.za/75603/thousands-pay-tribute-to-m4-cyclists/>)

Northglenn News
(<http://northglennnews.co.za/>)

Girl found dead in Mamelodi
(<http://rekordeast.co.za/81946/girl-found-dead-in-mamelodi/>)

Rekord East (<http://rekordeast.co.za/>)

UPDATE: Gupta's 'illegally' built Saxonwold mansion unlikely to be demolished
(<http://rosebankkillarneygazette.co.za/180786/saxonwold-mansion-built-illegally/>)

Rosebank Killarney Gazette
(<http://rosebankkillarneygazette.co.za/>)

- Not everyone has a heart of gold (<http://sandtonchronicle.co.za/144351/not-everyone-has-a-heart-of-gold/>)
- What people want for SA this year (<http://sandtonchronicle.co.za/144277/what-people-want-for-sa-this-year/>)
- On This Day in South African History (<http://sandtonchronicle.co.za/144277/on-this-day-in-south-african-history/>)

Two dead, five injured in Glenmore crash (<http://southcoastherald.co.za/127958/two-dead-five-injured-in-glenmore-crash/>)

South Coast Herald
(<http://southcoastherald.co.za/>)

Dangerous criminals escape in Brits (<http://kormorant.co.za/19563/dangerous-criminals-escape-in-brits/>)

Kormorant (<http://kormorant.co.za/>)

Residents bothered by unmaintained Oddi Stadium (<http://rekordnorth.co.za/66858/residents-bothered-by-unmaintained-oddi-stadium/>)

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Singh Choudhary

Please forgive me for those this hurts but one that never appreciates, never has someone to give them, this Lady my hero helped me a lot and moved me from the pit i was in. I am called Singh, the life that i had lived for so many years was miserable. I worked but never got promoted, my mother was home suffering from cancer and looking at me as her only hope for financial aid sending her all my earnings for treatment, i have two boys and my wife a stay home mother, the salary i was paid was not enough for the responsibilities i had. I was listening to the radio and i had one woman that was than... [See More](#)

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