

The other side of Trevor Gumbi

CONTROVERSIAL funny man Trevor Gumbi will be in the spotlight at 6.30 pm tomorrow night in *Rolling With ... Trevor Gumbi* on e.tv.

The comic, actor and television presenter has had his fair share of ups and downs in the entertainment industry. A recovering addict, a doting husband and a father to two boys, he has a new respect for his responsibilities, and a fun outlook on life.

On *Rolling With ... Trevor Gumbi* he spends his days with family and his crew of “funemployed” friends, while developing his career in writing and performance.

The second episode in *21 Icons South Africa*, which airs on SABC3 tomorrow at 8.27 pm, focuses on Imtiaz Sooliman, the founder of the Pietermaritzburg-based humanitarian aid organisation Gift of the Givers.

Sooliman talks about his life as a humanitarian and the courage it takes to lead in disaster situations.

He also discusses the importance of innovation in his work, and the idea that shared humanity is more important than anything else: class, race, language and religion.

Something else his work has taught him is that, as a South African, there is so much to be grateful for. “Every visit to another country makes me miss South Africa, especially the peace we enjoy in this country, and how we all get on together, irrespective of our pasts,” he says.

“The fact that we are so compassionate towards each other, so caring, I think that the *ubuntu* spirit and the feeling of togetherness is the best I’ve seen, anywhere in the world.”

That’s why Sooliman insists that South Africa’s future is a great one. Yes, he says, there are political issues — but he maintains that the willingness of the people, and their skill, outweigh all our problems and difficulties.



21 Icons crew member Layla Walters (far left) and creative director Harriet Pratten (back, centre) set up prior to Dr Imtiaz Sooliman’s (second right) portrait shoot in Huggovale, Cape Town.

PHOTO: GARY VAN WYK

Over on Discovery Science, viewers can watch *Saturday Nights with Stephen Hawking* from 8 pm tonight.

Perhaps the greatest scientific mind of a generation, Hawking’s impact on the way we see reality is far-reaching and ground-breaking. The *Stephen Hawking Biography* tells the story of the man’s disability and how he still came to lead an extraordinary life.

Stem Cell Universe with Stephen Hawking explores one of the most contentious areas in science, and poses some serious ethical questions. To showcase the man’s genius-level knowledge in all things cosmic, there are the shows, *Stephen Hawking’s Universe* and *Stephen Hawking’s Grand Design*.

On BBC World News (DStv channel 400) viewers can watch *The Ottomans:*

Europe’s Muslim Emperors at 11.10 am and 11.10 pm today, and 5.10 pm tomorrow. It was the world’s last Islamic empire — a superpower of a million square miles. From its capital in Istanbul it matched the glories of Ancient Rome. And after six centuries in power it collapsed less than 100 years ago.

In this three-part series, Rageh Omaar, who has reported from across this former empire, sets out to discover why the Ottomans have vanished from our understanding of the history of Europe. Why so few realise the importance of Ottoman history in today’s Middle East. And why you have to know the Ottoman story to understand the roots of many of today’s trouble spots, from Palestine, Iraq and Israel to Libya, Syria, Egypt, Bosnia and Kosovo.

— Arts Editor.