

I live in the past,
I live in the
present, I live
in the future
– Albie Sachs

REMARKABLE: South African icon Albie Sachs laughs with the audience at the launch and premiere of the second season of 21 Icons South Africa held at Constitution Hill in Braamfontein, where he was a guest of honour. PICTURES: BONGIWE MCHUNU

Celebrating great South Africans

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TWENTY-ONE Icons is a platform to share stories. Now in its second season, the successful project of portraits and short films about South Africans doing extraordinary things has become a global sensation with a following of 150 million people.

The man behind the project, Adrian Steirn, fell in love with South Africa when he moved here seven years ago from Australia. Steirn decided to show people across the world what South Africa was all about – community.

“The people don’t think they’re incredible, their stories are incredible,” he said about the subjects he has featured in the series. “There is empathy with every smile, every hello... we don’t have a problem

with happiness, we have a problem with inequality,” he said.

Yesterday, the premiere of the second season took place at Constitution Hill in Braamfontein.

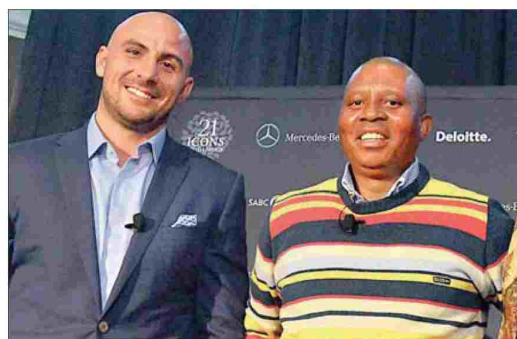
Former Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs and businessman Herman Mashaba, who both feature in the project, spoke about how they felt about living in South Africa today.

“I live in the past, I live in the present, I live in the future,” said Sachs.

In the world he lived in back then, he wanted people to be able to dream without imposing his own dreams on anyone else.

“Part of my dream was to free everyone’s imagination,” he said.

Sachs said he viewed the series as the use of contemporary technology to inspire hope and express diversity.



SPECIAL:
Film-maker and photographer Adrian Steirn with icon Herman Mashaba at the media launch and premiere of the second season of 21 Icons South Africa held at Constitution Hill in Braamfontein.

Sachs said the strongest factor that made South Africa so different to other countries was the spirit of Ubuntu.

“The leaders articulated this culture,” he said.

Mashaba said as a young South African growing up during apartheid, he thought he would

never see freedom.

“We’re in a good space. We do have problems and challenges but we need all citizens to take an active role,” he said.

The project will launch on SABC3 on Sunday and will air for 21 weeks, featuring a different icon every week.