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21 Icons: Michaela Mycroft.

The ninth short film in the multimedia series 21 Icons Season III celebrates "ability activist" and the founder of the Chaeli Campaign.

Having conquered setbacks and adversity, Michaela Mycroft highlights the potential of disabled people, using various international platforms to spread her message and create an inclusive society.

"A lot of people refer to me as a disability activist, but I don't see myself that way," she says. "I focus on ability. I concentrate on potential and empower people to see their own greatness."

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At 11 months old, Michaela was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, a neural brain condition that restricts movement and confined her to a wheelchair. When she was nine years old, she teamed up with her sister and three friends to raise R20 000 for her own motorised wheelchair.

Following the success of this small fundraising project, the determined youngster realised more needed to be done to help others in her position. Since then, her non-profit organisation, the Chaeli Campaign, has assisted over 3 000 children to receive wheelchairs, hearing aids and food supplements.

She uses her story of courage and hope to motivate the disabled and to educate the able-bodied about what it means to live with a disability. And nothing seems impossible for her. Michaela recently celebrated her 21st birthday while summiting Kilimanjaro and is a competitive wheelchair ballroom dancer in her spare time.

She firmly believes people need other people to get the big things done. You don't always have to be the leader to play an important role, everyone has something to contribute, Michaela believes.

Catch 21 Icons Season III every Sunday on SABC 3 at 19h27.

Watch Michaela's video here.



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21 Icons: Behind the Scenes with Michaela Mycroft (/People-to-Watch/21-Icons-Behind-the-Sceneswith-Michaela-Mycroft/)



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Michaela Mycroft: Portrait (/People-to-Watch/Michaela-Mycroft-Portrait/)



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Ludwick Marishane: Portrait (/People-to-Watch/Ludwick-Marishane-Portrait/)

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