

Time Out

YOUR WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

KGOMOTSO BRINGS SEXY BACK TO TV

Matsunyane's talk show sizzles

Bonginkosi Tiwane

ONE of the smallest women in stature in the entertainment industry, Kgomotso Matsunyane commands such a huge presence.

It could be her deep voice or just her strong personality that radiates from her eyes and smile once you locate her in a crowded room.

Over the years, Matsunyane has weathered the storms of the industry and always rises in some new form or shape.

The 43-year-old is now back in Johannesburg, after a stint in Cape Town, sans her trademark dreads and with a new TV show.

The feisty and funny woman, who was the founding editor of *O Magazine* South Africa, is a respected producer, writer, director, industry commentator and hosted Kaya FM's *Good Morning Gauteng with Kgomotso* breakfast show in 2009 after Phat Joe was fired.

Matsunyane is one of the co-hosts of *Rise*, the new talk show on SABCI. She shares the presenting sofa with outspoken Lebo Ramatoko and two youngsters, Khanyisile Mazibuko, 19, and Nyiko Shikwambane, 23.

Speaking to *Time Out* about her new venture, Matsunyane reveals that chemistry was not instant when the women first met. They attended workshops and training that allowed them time to bond.

"You can only really know people well after spending time with them.

Then there was the age gap to contend with – as you know, in our culture, elders have more to say and can basically shut you up.

"We had to really work hard with the young women to get them to speak freely without fear of offending the 'elders'."

Matsunyane sits at the helm as the executive producer of the show, with her production company, *One Man And His Dog Films*, as the creators.

The show has a similar format to US talk show *The View* which

LIFESTYLE FOCUS: Kgomotso Matsunyane returns to TV in a show that highlights issues of life, love and sexuality

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



also has women discussing a variety of issues.

The show is touted as inter-generational with a lifestyle focus. It aims to positively influence young black women's attitudes and behaviour when it comes to issues of life, love, and sexuality.

"We have a serious educational imperative as this show is an important initiative of The Soul City Institute in conjunction with the 900 Rise Young Women's Clubs set up all around the country," she says.

Rise isn't the only thing Matsunyane is busy with. She is also pulling the strings at BET channels. "I've been brought in as a consultant for BET by Viacom to oversee the two channels, BET and BET2."

Some of the shows in her bouquet are *Top Actor SA*, a talent search for actors approaching its final episode soon.

While she has relocated up north, Matsunyane still has strong ties with the Mother City. "I go to my apartment in Cape Town to unwind. Even though I'm a fire sign [Aries] I'm a water baby, being by the ocean takes my blood pressure down."

Being in the industry for nearly 25 years allows her the liberty to give her opinion of where the industry is, especially for women, and she sees a shift from when she started.

"Absolutely, if you're talking about behind the scenes and in charge of productions.

"It's getting better and I hope the industry will be much easier for my nieces [who] are actresses," she said.

Matsunyane is also working on a documentary feature called *Bantu Nighthogals: A History of Black Nurses in South Africa*.

"It's inspired by and co-produced by my mom, Ethel Lesolang, a retired nurse who is also the chairperson of the Gauteng Retired Nurses Forum.

"Their motto is hilarious but apt: 'Retired, but not tired, and certainly not expired.' Those women are a force to reckon with and inspire me every day," she says. The documentary will be completed in 2017.

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RIISING STAR



GOING UP: Mr. Majo is steadily making his mark as a stand-up comedian

ROBERT NETSHINDA

PHOTO

Glacier Nkhwashi

LIMPOPO stand-up comedian and entertainer Mr. Majo is rapidly building a fan base wherever he performs in the country.

The funny man from Venda uses his sense of humour to heal troubled souls while also sending subtle messages of hope.

Mr. Majo is known for his mesmerising and captivating storytelling ability which comes with the funniest punch lines.

Sky the limit for 'Almost Famous' Mr. Majo

Born Mukovhe Peter Magwedze, he is the second-born son of Apos-the Magwedze. He grew up in a family fond of laughter "and this humour was nurtured and increased by my love of stand-up comedy and TV sitcoms".

Mr. Majo enrolled for a BA in Film and TV Production at the University of Cape Town in 2008. He started his career as a comedian when he was asked to be MC at a wedding after he was invited by a local pastor.

"After that I started writing my own material and have been performing in various places across the country ever since," he said.

His performances saw him getting the title of "Almost Famous" from people who saw his potential.

Mr. Majo's energetic and hilarious sets are delivered in most South African languages. The bulk of his material is based on his family, childhood experiences, current affairs and his funny observation of the goings-on at local churches.