MEDIA REPORT: NOMFUSI (2008-2013)

TV HIGHLIGHTS:

- Noleen SABC 1 2012
- Expresso Morning Talk Oct 2012
- ETV Showbiz Report Nov 2011: counted under the top 10 rising stars of 2011
- "My World" 45 minute documentary on SABC1, July 2011 (with three repeats) seen by 12 million viewers
- "Street Talk" documentary on CTV May 2011, praised by Island Records founder Chris Blackwell.
- Talk SA, SABC2: 20 minute feature, Nov 2011
- Hectic Nine 9, SABC2: two live appearances in 2011 (May and Nov)
- Performance/interview on *Late Night with Kgomotso*, SABC2, 30 Oct 2010
- Oct 2010: Soweto TV: 1 hour feature on "Who's Who"
- Sep 2009: Afrocafe (Performance & interview)
- All Access (Mzansi Magic): 5 minute profile, June 2011
- Spirit Sundae: Performance and interview, March 2010
- "Three Talk with Noeleen," May 2011: interview of SAMA nomination and live performance
- Expresso, SABC3, live performance/interview about SAMA nomination, March 2011
- DRUM cooking show, Mzansi Magic, ("Cooking with Siba") Feb 2011
- YOU Spectacular, duet with Proverb, M-Net, 29 July 2010
- Morning Live: 3 songs live and interview on 18 July 2010
- Talk SA, SABC2: live performance (23/03/10)

- Huisgenoot Skouspel, M-Net (May 2011)
- 180 degrees, SABC2: interview (27/11/09)
- SABC3 Breakfast News: interview (26/11/09)
- Morning Live: Live performance (25/11/09)
- SHIFT, SABC1, premiere of music video and live performance, Wed 7 Oct 2009.
- Top Billing: chosen as the main act for Top Billing's Wedding of The Year, filmed 6 November and featured every week for 8 weeks from Thurs 17 Sep 09
- ETV Frenzy: profile and interview broadcast 28 July 2009
- Top Billing, 23 April 09: One & Only Hotel launch: appears with international stars Bebe Wynans, Jonathan Butler and Hugh Masekela.
- SABC2: Artchar: Interview screened Wed 11 Feb 22h00.
- SABC3: The Power Within: Nomfusi made her TV debut with a 12-minute profile filmed on her life and music screened on 13 December 2008.

International

- City TV, Calgary, Aug 2010: live performance and interview
- Mondomix, Montreal, July 2010: live performance and interview
- RTV (Rotterdam TV), May 2010: live performance and interview
- SABC News International: Interviewed by Richard Nwamba on Showbiz Live (viewership 18 million world wide) 5 October 2009
- City TV, Calgary, Aug 2009: live performance and interview

PRESS

- Cosmopolitan SA Jan 2013
- Rolling Stones Magazin SA April 2012
- Drum Magazine Feb 2012:
- Khasi Life Nov 2011: 2 page feature
- The Star: "Gig of the week" 18 Nov 2011
- Cover article: Mango Airline's magazine "Mango Juice" October 2011 ("making of" broadcast on Top Billing Oct 2011)
- MOVE! Sep 2011: two-page feature
- Soul Magazine July 2011: Two page feature
- Sueddeutsche Zeitung Germany June 2011
- Sowetan: 25 May 2009; 21 Jan 2011; 20 March 2011
- Real Magazine: two page feature March 2011
- Drum Magazine, Jan 2011: Two-page feature
- Destiny Magazine: Nov 2010: featured as one of 40 of S.A.'s most influential women
- High Flyers, Dec 2010: Cover article
- Fair Lady: Oct 2010: Full page feature
- O Magazine, (August 2010): "Aha moment!" Feature
- Cape Times: 3 June 2010 (World Cup)
- UNCUT (June 2010): Centre fold article
- Destiny Magazine, May 2010: "Young and Powerful" feature
- Mail and Guardian: Review of Kwazibani 24 April 2010

- Independent Newspapers (Argus, Star, IOL, Daily News and Pretoria News): Jan 09 – feature in Tonight section
- Glamour Magazine: December 09 (“My favourite things”)
- P.E. Express: full page article, Nov 09
- Cover shoot: My Week magazine (July edition)
- Aboutime (1 time Airlines): two page feature
- Marie Claire: photo shoot and “local hero” feature in July 09 issue.
- Mango Juice (Mango Airline’s In-flight magazine): Article in June 09 edition
- Cosmopolitan Magazine May 2009 edition: Hot Talent page
- SAWUBONA: 3 page feature, Feb 2009
- Dec-Jan 2008: O Brigado: pictorial

REVIEWS

- ALBUM OF THE MONTH: Drum Magazine (receives 5 stars *****)
- Mail & Guardian: album review on 16 Dec 09
- THE NEXT 48 HOURS: Feb 2009
- ROLLING STONE FEB 2013

RADIO: INTERVIEWS ON ALL NATIONAL STATIONS INCLUDING:

- Metro FM
- Kaya FM
- SAFM
- Radio 2000
- Umhlobo Wenene FM
- Jozi FM
- Good Hope FM
- Various other community radio stations
- Bay FM
- Radio Zibonele (two interviews)
- Taxi Radio
- UCT Radio
- South Cape Stereo

International radio:

- Montreal
- CBC Canada
- CKUA (Alberta)
- FUNKHAUS EUROPA WDR
- ON3 BR
- RADIO HOLLAN

PICTORIALS: O BRIGADO, JAN 09

little voice

EVAN MILTON DISCOVERS WHY AFRO-SOUL SINGER NOMFUSI HAS WOWED AUDIENCES AT ZIMFEST, THE INAUGURAL KHAYELITSHA FESTIVAL AND HER INTIMATE 'LIVE AT OBZ CAFÉ' SHOWS

No 'superpower' quips here; Nomfusi Gotyana is the real deal, a self-made songwriter and performer who has overcome adversity to carve out a niche for herself as an in-demand working musician and a rising star. Now living in Khayelitsha, she was raised in the townships of Port Elizabeth by her single mother, a sangoma who sang gospel and traditional songs. When Nomfusi was 12, her mother died of Aids and songs in the singer's repertoire reflect this loss: the ballad 'Uthando' ('Love') and 'Vuma', a tune her mother taught her and for which she penned the lyrics. She cites the late Miriam Makeba as a defining influence, along with Siphokazi, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston and Tina Turner.

Playing at ZimFest was an eye-opener for the 22-year-old singer. 'It was a different crowd for me,' she says, her gentle voice and slim frame belying the vocal power and engaging performances she unleashes on stage. 'I guess I needed that, so I could see which people enjoyed more of my songs, and to have a chance to share the stage with big groups'. But, she says, 'I am never really nervous before I sing – I love what I am doing and I love performing, so it is what I have always wanted. Why should I be nervous?'

Of her songs she says, 'I think people enjoy them because I have so much to say. I have a story to tell, not just because I am a black person, but as a human being who experienced so much at an early age. It is what inspires me; it is what is in my heart.'

More on www.nomfusi.com.

Dress by Ambre Babzoe from Carnival, R6 660; and Lance Mirror Gold shoes by Jimmy Choo, R7 500.

DESTINY SEP 09

D INSPIRATION • AGAINST ALL ODDS
AS TOLD TO LYNNE GIDISH

Against all Odds

From as early as she can remember, Nomfusi Gotyana (23) spent weekends singing and dancing at the side of her adored mother Kwazibani, a musically gifted *sangoma*. But when Gotyana was just 12, her mother died of Aids-related pneumonia – and her world fell apart

"It was terrifying when it dawned on me that my mother had gone. There was no-one left to care for me and my two elder siblings. We had no father or grandparents, and we weren't close enough to our extended family to rely on them.

"Eventually, one of our aunts offered to take me and my sister Siphokazi, who was 17, to live with her. My brother Rethulie, who was already 23, was at university in Cape Town.

"We really didn't know our aunt's family well, so it was a huge wrench to leave our home and go and live with virtual strangers. I felt completely isolated and lonely – I only had Siphokazi to turn to. I couldn't concentrate, so my school grades fell. Added to my misery was the shock of learning that my mother had been HIV-positive. I'd never suspected it. In fact, I'd never understood what the virus really was. I knew it was a disease that killed and that there was a stigma attached to it – but I never dreamed it could affect me or my family.

"Accepting the label of 'Aids orphan' wasn't easy. For a long time I simply existed, missing out on all the fun and activities of my teenage years. I went to school each day, came back and did my chores, but I never socialised: the only recreation I had was listening to music and leading the Lord's Prayer at school assemblies. I'd wake up early and rush off to do this.

"I remained locked in a dark place inside myself through all those years, but my siblings were very supportive. I remember Rethulie telling me that I had a choice: I could either sit around waiting for people to pity me, or get up and make something of my life – and that was what I finally did.

"Accepting the label of 'Aids orphan' wasn't easy. For a long time I simply existed, missing out on all the fun and activities of my teenage years."

"When you grow up in an Eastern Cape township, you have very few resources. Musical instruments and lessons simply weren't accessible. So I took baby steps: first I completed my matric and then moved out of that place, which was slowly killing me.

"Rethulie paid for my bus fare to Cape Town in 2004 and I applied to study accounting at the Cape Technikon. I also began working as a waitress at a restaurant. When I heard that they also needed a singer, I auditioned – and got the job!

"That was when my life really began. For the first time in many years, I felt complete and joyful. Best of all, I had no label attached to me. No-one knew about my background – and no-one cared, either. I was simply appreciated for who I was and the talent I had.

"Since then my singing career has taken off. I now have a manager, I'm busy recording my first album and I've been privileged to sing on stage with artists like Judith Sephuma and Sibongile Khumalo. Music and time have healed me.

"At last, I'm truly alive and loving my journey to fulfilling my destiny!" D

Nomfusi Gotyana wins three coaching sessions worth R400 each with Gauteng-based executive and life coach Refilwe Marathe *(right)*, who teaches clients how to use their natural inner talents and strengths. Have you overcome a setback and emerged positive and successful? If you'd like to share your story, send a synopsis of no more than 100 words to: info@mydestinymag.com with the subject line "Against All Odds". Readers whose stories are published will need to be photographed.

PHOTOGRAPHER: ADAM LETCH. MAKE UP, HAIR & PROPS: SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE ALBERT HALL, CAPE TOWN

MARIE CLAIRE 2009

SING OUT, SISTER

Nomfusi Gotyana proves that dynamite comes in small packages – her powerful voice is causing a sensation in the local music industry

Age and occupation 23, singer and songwriter

Hails from Port Elizabeth

Growing pains Sometimes dreams do come true: as a girl living in the Port Elizabeth township KwaZakhele, Nomfusi fantasized about singing in front of thousands of people – and that's exactly what she's doing today. She says her first taste of performing was watching her mom in her role as a musical sangoma: 'I knew I wanted to perform one day too.' After her mother passed away from HIV/AIDS, Nomfusi moved to Cape Town and at 18 she started working at a theatre restaurant, singing to entertain patrons. She also joined her church's worship band, where she was spotted and offered a sponsorship to study music.

Music to your ears Nomfusi's first major gig was a fundraising event for the Home of Hope. Her voice helped raise over R30 000 for abandoned babies and she says, 'It was one of my most personal performances; to know that my talent helped those kids will forever be with me.' Since then, Nomfusi has shared the stage with Judith Sephuma, Freshlyground and the late Stompie Mavi. Besides her mighty voice, Nomfusi has penned 13 songs, her favourite being 'Nontsokolo', which deals with 'poverty of the mind' and encourages people to live out their dreams. She hopes this message will specifically reach young girls who grew up in the townships.

Simply the best With an album on the way and having performed at Hugh Masekela's 70th birthday party at Spier Wine Estate in April, Nomfusi is a star in the making, but she says she's 'just happy to be able to live my dream.' One dream she hasn't yet fulfilled is to perform with Tina Turner: 'She has so much energy and always brings something out of the crowd.' Watch this space.

NOMFUSI'S FIVE FAVOURITE SONGS TO PERFORM

- **'The Money Song', written by me** This song makes me feel like Tina Turner on stage – wild and free!
- **'Uyingcwele', written by me** I'm a spiritual person and this song speaks of that.
- **'I Will Always Love You' by Whitney Houston** I'm a sucker for anything romantic.
- **'Nontsokolo', written by me** It addresses the problem of poverty of the mind, from which I had to liberate myself before I could see my dreams and goals achieved.
- **'Say A Little Prayer' by Aretha Franklin** It's a light, playful song, and I adore the woman who sings it.

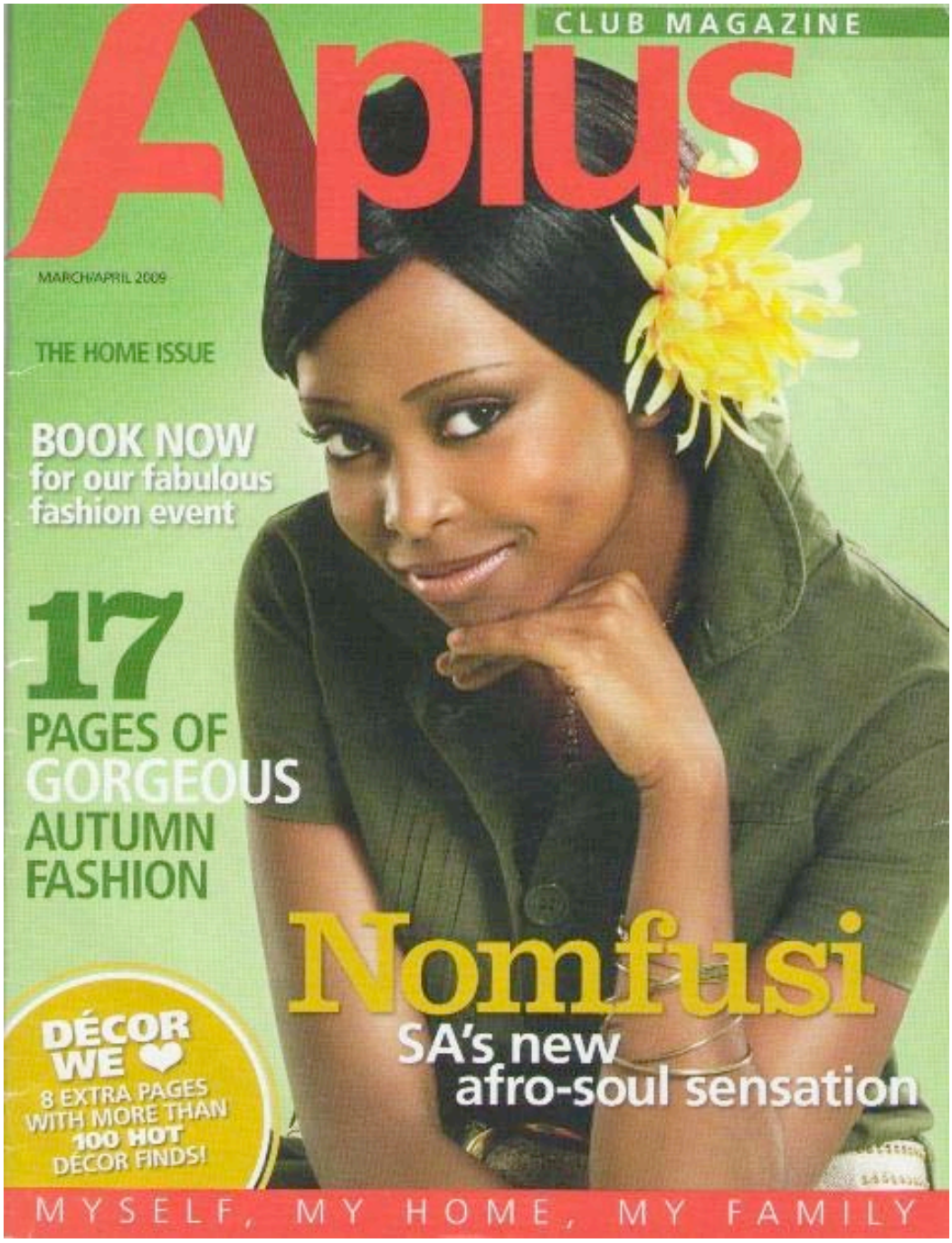
WORDS EULOGIA REEDER PHOTOGRAPH IGOR/INFDELS HAIR AND MAKE-UP LIZ OLIVIER/MONOPOLE

MAGAZINE COVERS

MANGO JUICE:

CITY VIEWS: APRIL 2009

A PLUS MAGAZINE



OTHER FEATURES:

CAPE ARGUS (CT JAZZ FESTIVAL 2009)

:

Love, loss on singer's road to success

ESTHER LEWIS
Staff Reporter

RISING star Nomfusi performs at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival's free concert at Green Market Square tonight, but the road to success has been filled with heartache, hard work, and a few strokes of luck.

The 23-year-old singer from Khayelitsha was born in Kwa-Zakele, Port Elizabeth.

Nomfusi was exposed to song and dance at a young age.

But tragedy struck in 1998.

"When I was 12 years old, my mother died," said Nomfusi. Her mother was HIV positive and had contracted double pneumonia. That is when Nomfusi wrote her first song, Uthando, meaning love.

She was sent to live with her aunt.

"When I was in Grade 11, my aunt also died of HIV. After that, I had to come to Cape Town to live with my brother."

After completing her matric, Nomfusi studied accounting at Cape University of Technology. She found a part-time job as a singer and waitress.

"A woman heard me sing, came up to me and asked if I wanted to make a record. That is where things started changing for me."

Nomfusi is now working on her debut album, named after her mother, Kwazibeni (Who Knows).

The free concert is from 5pm to 10pm in Greenmarket Square.

Nomfusi, who uses only one name on stage, is to sing at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival's free concert in Greenmarket Square today. PICTURE: ANDRE VAN ZYL

CAPE TIMES (2010 WORLD CUP)

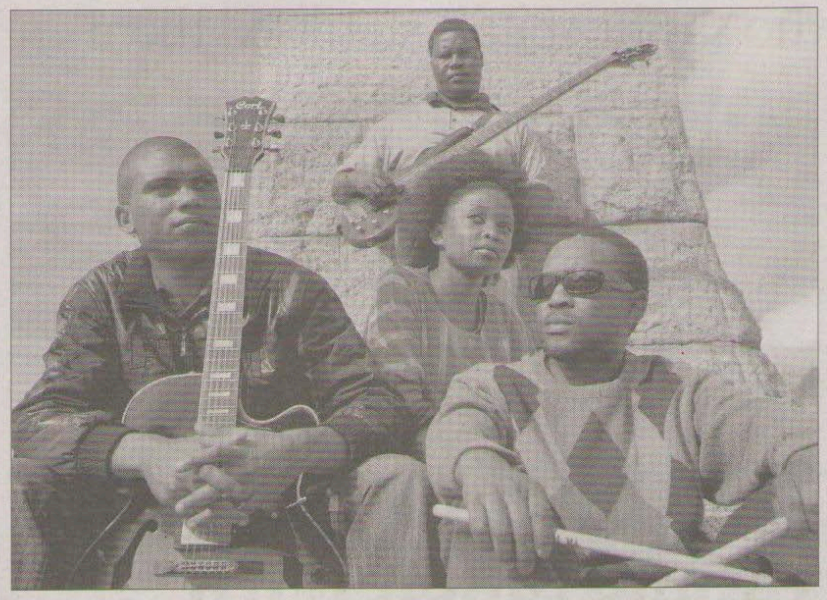
Nomfusi's band set to charm World Cup

GEORGE THOMSON

NOMFUSI GOTYANA, singer with Cape Flats-based afro-soul band Nomfusi and the Lucky Charms, says performing to World Cup crowds will be a dream come true.

Gotyana moved to Cape Town from Port Elizabeth to gain exposure for her music and the chance to perform during the World Cup validated her decision. The band was one of over 160 acts the City of Cape Town chose to perform at either the Fifa Fan Fest on the Grand Parade, the Fan Walk between Cape Town station and Cape Town Stadium, or one of the four fan jols in Bellville, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Athlone. Every act would perform at least once.

Rock bands, choirs, dancers, comedians and poets were among the acts chosen. Over 3 000 performers had applied, and six weeks of auditions had whittled the number to 162.



CHARMED: Mark Williams, Nomfusi Gotyana, Godfrey Dyantyi and Colin Gontsana of Nomfusi and the Lucky Charms are set to entertain fans at World Cup events. *Picture: JEROEN BOS*

Gotyana praised the open auditions, saying the process "did justice" to local artists.

"I think the tourists will feel they are in South Africa, they will feel the vibe," she said.

"The balance is right, there's everything from rock to Afro-soul. It's really diverse."

She was more excited about performing to local people who may not usually be able to pay for concert tickets or CDs, than foreign tourists.

george.thomson@inl.co.za

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

DRUM MAGAZINE JAN 2010:

SHORT AND SWEET!

Nomfusi Tini certainly lives up to her surname, but there's nothing small about her voice – or her heart. Here she tells us where her passion comes from

WE'VE seen her picture all over newspapers and magazines and watched her Sophiatown-inspired music videos on YouTube. She has such a big voice and so much presence we imagine she must be quite a formidable person in the flesh – but we're in for a shock. Nomfusi Tini is short. Really short.

"Hah!" she laughs when we comment on her size. "You're not the first to say that. People never recognise me on the street because they don't expect me to be so short!"

It's this kind of disarming honesty that makes the rising star from Khayelitsha, Cape Town, so likeable. She's currently riding the crest of a wave, having recently been nominated for two Metro FM awards – Best Female Artist and Best African Pop Album for her debut, Kwazibani.

And it seems there's no stopping her now. The diminutive 24-year old is making waves in North America and Europe too, after touring there extensively. Soon she'll be jetting off again to play at music festivals in New York, Chicago and Montreal, Canada.

"It's been a beautiful journey," she tells us as she sits down on the sofa in the living room of her small but stylish Khayelitsha flat and examines her perfect nails. "I can't believe my childhood dream is coming true."

Beside her in her two-roomed flat is a wall unit stacked with CDs and photos of her wedding day and her live performances. She's very photogenic and each picture captures her larger-than-life personality – yet behind that warm grin and those smiling eyes lies a sadness brought by great loss.

Aids has claimed several of her loved ones, including her beloved mother, whom Nomfusi lost when she was just 12 years old.

Her smile disappears the moment she begins speaking about her mom, Kwazibani. She made a living as a domestic worker and as a gobela who enrolled and trained people to become sangomas.

"I know I'm not the only one who's lost a mother like this," she says. "But it's still hard to speak about her passing – she was such a strong influence. My mother and amathwasa [sangoma trainees] would always dance and invite me to join them, and that's how I started singing at the age of about five."

It was in her home township of New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, that the foundations of Nomfusi's life as a musician were laid. She recalls her childhood as if it were yesterday: ceremonies with rooms full of dust from the dancing as she sang her lungs out to the ululation of those gathered around.

"Later, while I was at the Seventh Day Adventist School in New Brighton, we used to sing harmonies without musical instruments. I guess I started like that and just grew up loving music."

The songbird takes a deep breath before she continues. "I draw strength from talking about the things I grew up with and the things I learnt from my mother," she says.

"There is nothing shameful about me losing my mother to Aids. Speaking about it makes me stronger. When she died I didn't know anything about the disease – I just knew she was sick. Losing her was a double blow because my father had just been sent to jail for 21 years," she says.

Nomfusi refuses to talk more about her dad, saying what he did was a long time ago and she wants to put it behind her. But she's determined to keep her mother's legacy alive – which is why it's only fitting that the album that has won her so many fans is named after the woman who taught and inspired her.

AFTER the death of her mom she and her siblings, Siphokazi and Rethuli (now 34), were taken in by their aunt in Cape Town. But three years later her aunt also died of Aids and then, just as Nomfusi had moved on, the disease claimed her sister, Siphokazi, who was then 28.

"I knew right then that I had a choice to make – I could cry myself to death or pull myself together and face life again," she says.

This devout Christian chose life and became strong enough to bounce back – even after she was forced to drop out of her accountancy studies at the Cape Town University of Technology in 2005. Unable to pay her fees, she had to let her dream of financial independence go and decided instead to follow her real passion and study music part time, a course she could afford.

In 2007 her singing talent was recognised at her Khayelitsha church and she was offered a scholarship at Vivacious Voice, a singing and song-writing academy in Cape Town.

LEFT: She may be tiny, but this girl's got soul! ABOVE: With her husband, Mike Tini. ABOVE RIGHT: Nomfusi is inspired by her family. RIGHT: Her debut album, which was nominated for two Metro FM awards.

FAIR LADY:

FLY [first up!]

COMPILED BY ANNA RICH
afro.optimist@fairlady.com

afro OPTIMIST

Why South Africa is the best country for you to be in, right now!

SINGING FOR BETTER TOMORROWS

Ross Cullum, producer of stars such as Elton John and Enya, was so blown away by singer-songwriter Nomfusi Gotyana's performance during a visit to SA that he proceeded to mix her debut album, *Kwazibani*. Backed by her six-piece band, The Lucky Charms, Nomfusi sings most of the jazzy and Motown-influenced songs in isiXhosa – she says she can express herself more fully in her mother tongue. She has been performing for as long as she can remember, as an escape from her harsh circumstances. 'One of my earliest memories is of my mum playing the drum for me. I loved performing for the crowds. I was such a show-off.'

With a group of friends, Gotyana also started up a book club called the G Spot (girls' spot) in their township, to inspire young girls to read. 'We chose the name to make sure they don't think it's another boring trip to the library, but that it's something fun and sexy to do.' – **Refiloe Serai**

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

GLAMOUR MAGAZINE:

GLAM ALERT

YOUR HOTTEST ROCKS, READS, MOVIES...

MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

Afro-soul singer **Nomfusi Gotyana** talks tours, *Titanic* and Tina Turner.

... **THE LUCKY CHARMS** are my backing band. They truly bring me luck!

... **M·A·C.** I don't go anywhere without my makeup kit. I love their **Viva Glam** lipstick (R145) and what's great is that they donate 100% of the proceeds to children living with HIV/Aids. I also love the smell of **MV2 by M·A·C** (R260).

M·A·C Viva Glam lipstick R145

... ***TITANIC*** is right at the top of my movies list. I'm such a sucker for romance! The best film I've seen recently is *White Wedding* – it pokes fun at our crazy SA culture.

... **TINA TURNER.** I admire her style, guts and great legs – she's wild!

Tina Turner (middle) on her comeback tour in January

"I love my pewter lace stilettos from Luella. They give me extra height on stage and fit me perfectly."

The idyllic harbour in Risor, Norway

... **SA** is my favourite place because it will always be home. I also liked Risor in the south of Norway, where we recently opened a photo festival. It's got lots of cute white houses perched against hills, and fishermen's boats float in the harbour.

SIDNEY POITIER

... **THE MEASURE OF A MAN** by Sidney Poitier (Harper Collins, R153). I love books about people who've overcome difficulties.

... **TOURING.** I've just finished my second tour to Norway. It was a brilliant collaboration between Latin American and African musicians called AmeF. Now I'm back in SA and gearing up to perform at Cape Town's Suid-Ooster Fees with my band in Jan.

Text: Gina Beretta; Photography: Gallo Images/Getty Images, Matti Bernitz/Innovation Norway

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

MAIL & GUARDIAN

LISTINGS

Fire and ambition

"Without adversity, a diva is just a singer. It's the back story, the tale of struggle and tenacity, that draws audiences to read more than musicianship into her performances," wrote the *New York Time's* Jon Pareles in a recent Whitney Houston review.

Pareles's point is simple: what sets Whitney apart from the current crop of soulless neo-soul princesses is that her music comes with a history that's both deeply personal and intrinsically communal. Using these criteria, it's fair to say that Khayelitsha-based singer **Nomfusi** emerges with full diva qualifications on her debut album *Kwazibani* (*Who knows?*).

She's certainly faced a lion's share of adversity. Born in KwaZhakele in Port Elizabeth, Nomfusi was orphaned at age 12 after her mother died of HIV/Aids. Like many Eastern Cape youths, she subsequently travelled alone to Cape Town to find her fortune. Her big break came last year when her sizzling voice captivated the producer of BBC programme *Cooked*. TV appearances and more performances followed and it wasn't long before Nomfusi was the next big thing.

Considering the hype, it would have been easy for her to jump on the neo-soul bandwagon, but Nomfusi was after something more immediate and tangible than retro nostalgia or empty catharsis. Betraying youthful vulnerability while at the same time projecting strength, confidence, and uncanny insight for a 23-year-old, the diminutive singer-songwriter stands tall in defiance of pop-fashion expectations.

Kwazibani is a classic soul record, a collection of sleek, often spunky love songs filled with a deep, funky sensuality and a social expansiveness, a fire and ambition to say something important to and for a community. Blending Sophiatown, African gospel, R&B and Motown, it features 13 original tracks in isiXhosa and English that recount an emotional and spiritual coming of age.

Despite its lyrical bent, most of *Kwazibani*'s revelations aren't verbal; they're in the husky, vehement sound of her voice. Add feisty homegrown funk grooves from her six-piece band, The Lucky Charms, and a globe-trotting roster of acclaimed producers what you get is an album that is soulful enough for R&B audiences, but smooth enough for adult contemporary; deep enough for old jazz cats, but feisty enough for young pop fans; strong enough in the face of heartbreak to appeal to all women, but saucy enough to nab the *majitas* (the gents). Starts at 8.30pm. Admission is R40. — *Miles Keylock*

Soul sister: Nomfusi

At the Alliance Française on April 29

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

MANGO JUICE:

VOICE of a nation

Songbird **Nomfusi Gotyana**'s fusion of traditional African jazz, gospel, R&B, '60s rock and Motown sound produces a new Afro-soul. Discovered barely two years ago at a church gathering, the 23-year-old songstress, born in the township of KwaZhakele near Port Elizabeth, got an early start by showcasing her musical talent at school and church.

Her mother, Kwazibani, a musically gifted sangoma, was an early influence and inspired her with traditional African songs and melodies from the rural areas. Tragedy struck when Nomfusi was 12 – her mother died of Aids. "Her funeral was over in less than a day and we were left with no one," Nomfusi recalls. It was at this time that she wrote her first song, *Uthando*, which means "love" in Xhosa.

Tough years ensued. She moved to Cape Town with her siblings and studied accounting by day and waitressed by night. Then she landed a voice-training and songwriting scholarship at Vivacious Voice, run by Philip de Villiers, who has since then become her manager.

Her performances include a 60-minute set at the opening of Parliament, Zimfest 2008 (supporting Freshlyground) and at the Spier Harvest Festival Legends Concert. "A highlight for me was singing *Nontsokolo*, which speaks of the poverty of the mind, at the Khayelitsha Festival. When I reflect on where I'm at, it inspires me to press on."

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

PORT ELIZABETH
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Editor: Bettie Gilliomee

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KwaZakhele born singer releases debut album

HER mother died when she was a young girl and her father spent 21 years in prison.

Then she moved to Cape Town to break away from the family's physical and emotional abuse, but could hardly speak any English.

This is the life story of Nomfusi Gotyana (23), origanally from KwaZakhele in Port Elizabeth. But, despite all the troubles and heartache, she did not give up hope and pursued her life-long dream of becoming a singer and recently released her debut album, *Kwazibani*.

The album was named after her late mother, a sangoma from KwaZakhele, who died of HIV/Aids in 1998, when Nomfusi was only 12.

Released by Universal Music, Kwazibani contains 13 original tracks, mostly penned by Nomfusi. Ninety percent of the album is written in Xhosa, and ten percent in English.

Artcha, Morning Live and SABC3's The Power Within.

Nomfusi was born in KwaZhakele in Port Elizabeth. She and her siblings were raised by Kwazibani – a single mother. She worked as a domestic, but was also a musically gifted sangoma.

Nomfusi would accompany her mother over weekends to sangoma rituals (Intlombe) where they would dance and sing for hours.

They soon noticed that, just as Kwazibani had special gifts for healing, this little girl had her own special gift – for singing!

"I was a very hyper kid, loved the stage and I enjoyed people watching me."

They could not take their eyes off the little performer, and encouraged her with raucous applause. Her mother inspired her with traditional African songs from the rural areas, and also came up with her own melodies.

But even Kwazibani's special them for four years, but she later also died of Aids. Her niece looked after them, but the situation was unbearable.

"We still stayed in the same house with our aunt's daughter, and it was a living hell being told every day to go because you are not wanted."

Nomfusi told her brother Rithulie that she couldn't stand the verbal and physical abuse anymore. He paid for her bus fare to Cape Town, where she moved in with him in his shack in Khayelitsha.

She waitressed in the evenings for four years to also support her sister Siphokazi, who followed her from the Eastern Cape.

Nomfusi got her first paid gig as a performing artist, when an organisation, Home of Hope, did a fundraiser for abused and abandoned babies in June 2008. Nomfusi sang Christina Aguilera's "Who's gonna stop the rain" during an audiovisual presentation.

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

REAL MAGAZINE:

Nomfusi is a successful singer who has been compared to Miriam Makeba.

LIVING HER MUSICAL DREAMS

Growing up an orphan, Nomfusi Gotyana (25) has overcome many challenges, as she tells **Mpumi Zulu**.

My dreams of success started when I was 15. We were living with my aunt's daughter. We weren't blood relatives; we were only related because my uncle married her mother. She was abusive towards my sister and me. We tolerated the verbal and emotional abuse because we needed a roof over our heads.

It was a tough life. As a coping mechanism I learnt to shut down. I would dream of myself in different corners of the world, where I was happy and famous. The dreams felt so real. I felt that it was the life I was destined for.

MY MUSIC SUCCESS

Today I'm a professional singer. My first album, *Kwazibani*, which was my mother's name, has taken me to different corners of the world. Last year, together with my band, The Lucky Charms, I went on my second tour of America where we played to huge crowds. During the World Cup we performed at fan parks. Last year, I was nominated in the Metro FM Awards and got great reviews in the media.

I'm currently working on my second album but I'm still digesting what is happening. I feel I have more potential. It's like I'm reliving those dreams I had in my aunt's house, where I would dream of the crowds screaming while I performed.

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF BORN TO BE FAMOUS.

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

SAWUBONA MAGAZINE FEB 2009:

...CONT. NEXT PAGE

SOWETAN:

Fassie's music to come alive

PLEASED: Afro-soul singer Nomfusi Gotyana will perform at the Cultures of Cape Town concert tomorrow. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Patience Bambalele

BRENDA Fassie's throat-catching music will be brought to life during the Gay Pride Festival in Cape Town by Afro-soul-jazz singer Nomfusi Gotyana.

Gotyana always admired the late pop singer Fassie but never thought she would be asked to pay tribute to her one day.

The Eastern Cape singer could not believe it when she was asked to remember Fassie during the Uniting the Cultures of Cape Town concert.

GOTYANA WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO SINGER

The concert will be staged as part of the Gay Pride Festival at Cape Town Stadium tomorrow.

"I feel honoured to have been chosen to do this. I am exited and look forward to tomorrow's show. I have been given 20 minutes to do that before doing my usual set."

Though Fassie was open about being a lesbian and led a controversial life of drug abuse, Gotyana feels that she was one of the rare gems that the country has produced.

"I'm not at all condoning what she did with her life, but she was talented and her music spoke to the masses. She was proud of her African heritage and made brilliant music.

"I just wish she could have done it all without the drugs.

"I always say we must be thankful that we have a Constitution that allows us to be in the same space – that is white, black, yellow, brown, pink, green – without attacking one another.

"It is important that we carry this message throughout Africa, where so much intolerance still prevails."

Gotyana and her six-piece band, The Lucky Charms will perform Fassie's songs such as *Weekend Special*, *Promises* and *Vulindlela* before switching to her set.

Based in Cape Town, the singer has been invited to perform at the Montreal Jazz Festival in Canada on July 3.

Nomfusi making waves abroad

Edward Tsumele

IGNORED at home but increasingly lauded by the rest of the world, talented South African Afro jazz and soul artist Nomfusi Gotyana is currently quietly making waves abroad.

SOUL ARTIST: Singer Nomfusi Gotyana

Originally from Khayelitsha in Cape Town but soon to move to Johannesburg, she continues to receive invitations to perform abroad while back home the interest from promoters is absent.

Just on Wednesday the Afro jazz-soul singer was invited to perform in Vienna and Praque in August.

Nominated in two categories of the 2010 Metro FM Awards, including Best Female Artist, this latest invitation follows a confirmation for dates this week in the Hague in July, to perform with a 60-piece orchestra at the Festival Mundial.

The show will include orchestrations of nine original works from her debut, *Kwazibani*.

This will be her seventh international tour.

Not bad for an artist who launched her debut album just over a year ago.

"It is such an honour," she said excitedly.

"It is the second time I will be singing with a full orchestra. It's just great that this time around I will be performing a full-length show with 80 percent of my own material."

Doors have opened after her invitation last year to Womad in England, with more opportunities from Portugal, Austria and Norway.

She is writing material for her new album, which Universal Music commissioned recently, but also looking forward to co-writing with other composers.

The globe-trotting diva and her band will soon make the move to Johannesburg where her manager and producer Philip de Villiers is now based.

Nomfusi gets close

Edward Tsumele

A LITTLE-known South African musician is about to hit gold in Canada at a Miriam Makeba tribute concert – and will headline the show ahead of better-known names.

The Afrikadey Festival in Calgary has chosen Nomfusi Gotyana, *pictured*, of Khayelitsha in Cape Town to anchor their Miriam Makeba tribute in August.

The festival, which is in its 18th year, has featured international music heavyweights such as Salif Keita and Angelique Kidjo.

Festival director Tendu Dawodu says: "We were researching possible candidates and found this dynamic little lady on You Tube. She embodies Mama Afrika's spirit. It is evident that she is cut out for international stardom."

The festival organisers are also setting up a mini tour of Canada, which will include shows in Vancouver and at the Roots and in British Columbia.

Nomfusi, who is still sharing a one-bedroom house without running water with her two siblings in Khayelitsha, says: "I have always dreamt of seeing many countries and being a world legend. I guess this is one step closer to that dream.

"Mama Makeba formed the foundation of my musical make-up. I'm proud to be an ambassador for her legacy," she said.

Locally she had the audience in the palm of her hand on February 21 when she performed Makeba's classics with a 40-piece orchestra at Spier.

It was met with a standing ovation lasting a minute.

Nomfusi and her six-piece township band, The Lucky Charms, will head for Joburg on May 28 to a do a grand showcase.

Nomfusi © Lais Pereira

Quem ouviu a sul-africana **Nomfusi** teve, num primeiro impacto, dificuldade em acreditar que tal voz era mesmo daquela menina de metro e meio que saltitava alegremente pelo palco. Dotada de um vozeirão poderoso e tão agudo, que ainda aqui ecoa nos ouvidos, a jovem que venceu com um sorriso contagiante a pobreza e uma história de vida complicada, procura incorporar uma mistura de **Tina Turner** com **Miriam Makeba**. A influência norte-americana é tal que às vezes faz lembrar os clássicos da Motown e a homenagem à sua inspiração sul-africana é tão mais explícita que o concerto acabou a fazer toda a gente dançar ao som do clássico *Pata-Pata*, que já na noite anterior tinha sido evocado por **Blitz, The Ambassador** – uma espécie de trunfo indispensável para quem quer animar as hostes.

Nomfusi © Lais Pereira

FMM SINES 2011

Afroputtel

Nomfusi in der Kongress Bar

München – Er klingt so fröhlich und mitreißend, der Song „Kwazibani" der südafrikanischen Sängerin Nomfusi. Ganz unbeschwert genießen kann ihn indessen nur, wer kein Xhosa (eine der elf Amtssprachen Südafrikas) spricht. „Das Schöne an afrikanischer Musik ist, dass man ernste Themen ganz leicht erzählen kann", sagt Nomfusi. Sie ist selbst das beste Beispiel dafür: In „Kwasibani" geht es um ihre Mutter, die an Aids starb, als Nomfusi zwölf war. Auch sonst war die Kindheit im Township KwaZhakele alles andere als unbeschwert: Sie wächst in ärmlichsten Verhältnissen auf, der Vater sitzt im Gefängnis. Die Tante stirbt an Aids. Die Pflegefamilie erweist sich als gewalttätig und abweisend.

Doch Nomfusi besitzt zwei Eigenschaften, mit denen sie Unglück und Armut entkommt: Der unbändige Wille, ihr Leben selbst zu gestalten, und eine großartige Stimme. „Solange ich denken kann, habe ich gesungen, im Hof, in der Schule und im Kirchenchor." Wer sie singen sieht und hört, ist der zierlichen kleinen Schönheit verfallen: Zuerst die Musikschulleiterin, die sie in der Kirche entdeckt und ihr ein Stipendium gibt; dann der Musiklehrer und -produzent Phillip de Villiers, der sich bald ausschließlich auf ihr Management konzentriert; danach das heimische Publikum, das sie inzwischen als Nachfolgerin von Miriam Makeba oder Branda Fassie feiert.

Nun kommt Europa an die Reihe, die auratische 25-Jährige zu entdecken: ihre mächtige Stimme, ihre ausschließlich nach Gehör selbst komponierten Songs, ihre furiose Mischung aus Motown und Sophiatown, aus Aretha Franklin und

Kleines Persönchen, große Stimme: die Südafrikanerin Nomfusi. Foto: oh

Miriam Makeba, und ihre exzellente Band *The Lucky Charms*. Am Donnerstag stellt sich Nomfusi noch im kleinen Kreis vor. Wenn sie im November wiederkommt, wird der Rahmen sicher bereits ein größerer sein. *Oliver Hochkeppel*

Nomfusi, Donnerstag, 23.6., 21 Uhr, Kongress Bar der Alten Messe

Süddeutsche Zeitung Juni 2011

DER SAMSTAG 26.11.11

Gospel statt Gewalt

Ein Come-Together der Kulturen verpackt in ganz viel Soul – das ist „Music for Goals" in der Tonhalle.

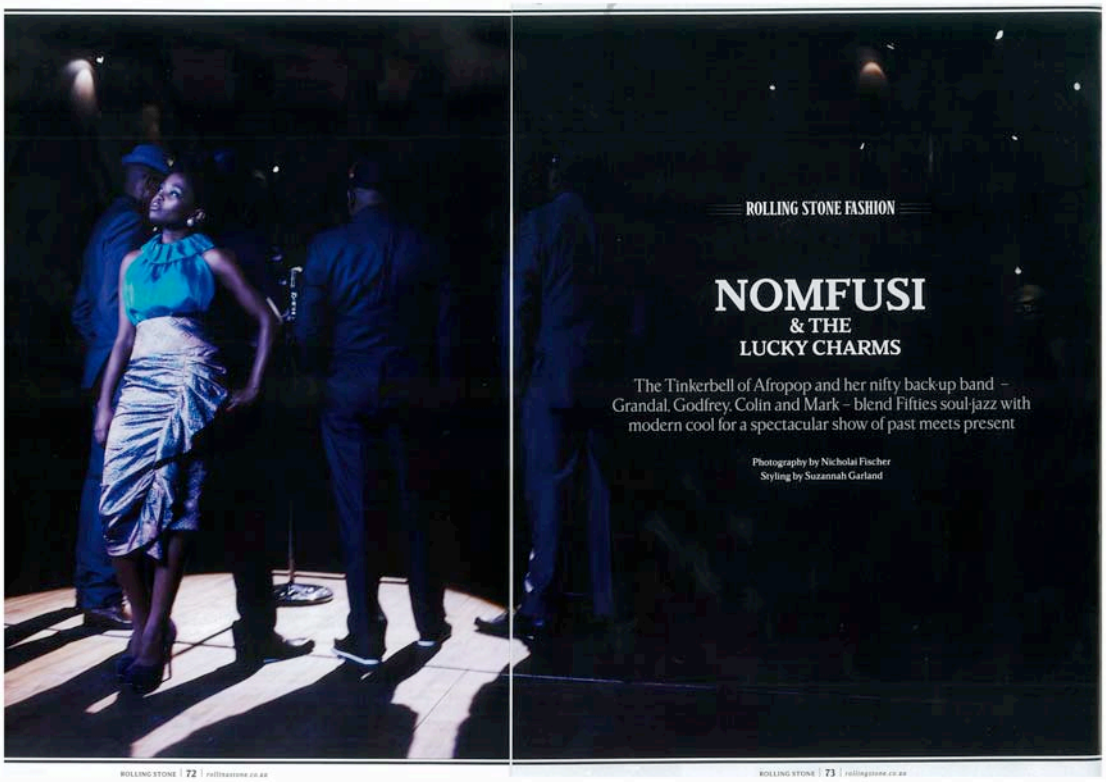
Zum vierten Mal findet „**Music for Goals**", ein Konzert für Toleranz, Integration und Respekt, in München statt. Die ersten drei Auflagen mit internationalen Künstlern und prominenten Schirmherren waren immer ausverkauft. Diesmal geht's in die Tonhalle, und musikalisch haben sich die international bekannte Soul-Stimme Nomfusi (Foto) aus Südafrika sowie die stimmgewaltige Mariama aus Köln angesagt. Ihnen zur Seite stehen 80 Sänger von Münchens populärstem Gospel-Chor „Gospels at Heaven" sowie Adriano Prestel und Jelena Lovric mit ihrer Band Club Society. Soul- und Gospelfans kommen also voll auf ihre Kosten. Veranstaltet wird der Abend vom jüdischen Sportverein TSV Maccabi, der damit ein Zeichen gegen Rassismus, Fremdenfeindlichkeit und Antisemitismus im Fußball und in der Gesellschaft setzen möchte. Als Schirmherren konnten unter anderem Michael Käfer und der Bayern-Star Rafinha gewonnen werden. Eine gute Sache, und ein beinahe noch besserer Musikgenuss. **lit**

Music for Goals
Tonhalle, Grafinger Straße 6, S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof, Beginn ist um 20 Uhr, Einlass ab 19.30 Uhr, Karten für 20 Euro (zzgl. Geb.) unter Telefon (0180) 54 81 81 81

Verlosung
Hallo Weekend verlost 3x2 Karten für Music for Goals. Schreiben Sie eine e-Mail mit Telefonnummer an aktion@hallo-weekend.de oder eine Postkarte an Hallo Weekend, Dessauerstraße 10, 80992 München. Einsendeschluss ist der 23. November. Stichwort: **Goals**

HALLO MUENCHEN NOV 2011

Rolling Stone April 2012



ROLLING STONE FASHION

NOMFUSI
& THE LUCKY CHARMS

The Tinkerbell of Afropop and her nifty back-up band – Grandal, Godfrey, Colin and Mark – blend Fifties soul-jazz with modern cool for a spectacular show of past meets present

Photography by Nicholai Fischer
Styling by Suzannah Garland

Nomfusi's dress R2 300, GOSH, earrings R95, Second Time Around; shoes R499, I Love Shoes at YDE. Colin's shirt R680, Diner Collar White Collar; trousers (part of suit) R1 950, Paul Smith; hat R250, Pringle; spectacles R2 850, Oliver Peoples at Extreme Eyewear; bow tie R98 and braces R998, both Second Time Around. Godfrey's shirt R680, Diner Collar White Collar; trousers R320, Cignal at Markham; cardigan R1 799, Ben Sherman; hat R450, Pringle; sunglasses R2 749, Prada at Luxottica. Grandal's shirt R699, Pringle; trousers R 380, Cignal at Markham; bow tie R250 and waistcoat R750, both Robert Daniel; spectacles R2 500, I A Eyeworks at Extreme Eyewear. Mark's shirt R1 050, Ben Sherman trousers (part of suit) R3 570, Paul Smith; sunglasses R5 950, Ray-Ban at Luxottica; bow tie R175 and braces R49, both Second Time Around; shoes R999, Aldo

"The more you perform, the more you grow. That's the road I've been on."
– *Nomfusi*

Rolling Stone

Rolling Stone

LUCK BE A LADY

"I never want to stop climbing. I never want to get to the top," says Nomfusi Gotyana of Nomfusi & The Lucky Charms. With nine international tours under their belt and a new album in the works, it seems the petite songstress will get her wish. Right now, the band is bringing its blend of Sophiatown jazz and Motown soul back home by playing for South African audiences across the country

BY ZANE HENRY

When I spoke to Nomfusi Gotyana about two years ago, she was unfailingly polite and very well manicured, and her conscientious manager was standing by. She was also nervous and careful about what she said, and there was a rather endearing air of slight bewilderment about her. She was shiny and fragile, like a piece of crystal you had to handle carefully. Or perhaps I was just projecting the frayed edges of my hungover subconscious onto her.

Meeting her now, while she's in the throes of recording her second album – produced by Ringo Madlingozi, *nogal* – she seems calmer. More confident. More secure. More given to laughing suddenly and thrillingly. Still short as hell, though.

"Not much has changed in the last couple of years," she says. "When you first enter this industry, you're very vulnerable. Very ignorant. And then you learn so much, so quickly. You learn that there's no black and white, just lots of grey lines. And the more you perform, the more you grow. So that's the road I've been on. And no, I don't mind doing interviews that much, but from reading articles about other people, I've seen how they can be misinterpreted. So I'm kind of careful about what I say."

If you haven't heard of Nomfusi & The Lucky Charms yet, you could be forgiven as, right now, the band's international profile is larger than its local one. They have an album, *Kwanibusi* (named after Nomfusi's mother), under their belts, and have played festivals like WOMAD in the U.K., Afro-Latino Festival in Belgium, Lake of Stars in Malawi, Festival Músicas do Mundo in Portugal and Roots 'n Blues in Canada. In a few months, they're heading off for another tour of Canada, proselytising foreign multitudes with their sound – an Afro-jazz-soul-pop hybrid found at the nexus between Sophiatown and Motown.

"I don't think we planned it that way," says Nomfusi. "It just kind of happened. Someone from overseas saw us on YouTube and got in touch. My manager has been doing a lot of work, organising contacts with overseas festivals and conferences. People have been very receptive to me on that side. It's weird how it's worked out. What we're trying to do now is break through in the South African market. It's tricky because South Africans know what they want and move very quickly from trend to trend. You can be big today; tomorrow it's someone else. As much as I want to break through to that market, I want to create a space where I know that the sustainability of my career won't depend on it. One of the most frustrating parts of being a South African musician is getting out there. It's like there's this huge wall you need to break through in order to make it. You need to know someone or be associated with something. The beauty is that once you break that wall, things start flowing for you. You become a brand. It's this combination of hard work and luck."

If you *have* heard of Nomfusi, chances are you've also heard her life story. It's kind of a humdinger. The sort of story Hollywood is bound to snap up, with Oprah being cast somewhere, somehow. She was born in the township of KwaZhakele in the Eastern Cape to a single mother, Kwazibani, who raised her and her siblings while their father was in jail for 21 years. Her mother was a domestic worker by day and a sangoma by night. Nomfusi would accompany her mom to weekly rituals where they would dance and sing for hours. When Nomfusi was 12, Kwazibani died of Aids. Nomfusi's aunt took them in, but she died of the same disease three years later. A while later, Nomfusi's sister also died of Aids. Somehow, she managed to surmount the pile-up of tragedies and carve out her place in the world. The story being what it is, it's no surprise that it tends to dog her.

"I'm not sure whether this will come out right," she worries. "The way my story is told out there, I feel it's overshadowing me. It should be a past just like everyone else's. I hate that it's being used to sell me. I just think that there's so much more to me than that story. I have a life apart from that. That's what happened to my mom, to my dad, to my family. I am building my own life now. Initially, I wanted to share my story so I could raise awareness around the fact that my story wasn't all that special. That there were other people who had similar problems. Or even worse ones. I wanted to show that there was hope. Maybe inspire people to see that your past doesn't have to determine your future. I know that people identify with the story and maybe find strength in it, but I don't pity myself or regret where I come from. So how am I going to escape my story? My only choice is to shift the focus from my story to my talent. I need South Africa to see me as a performer so that they're blown away by what I do on stage instead of what happened in my past. The beauty of a story is often in the end, not the beginning. In the triumph."

"How am I going to escape my story? ... The beauty of a story is often in the end, not the beginning. In the triumph."

It's tempting to see her past as a galvanising agent in her resolution to be successful. She doesn't take much for granted and is determined to ensure the sustainability of her career. She has recently enrolled for a degree in music studies.

"If you take what you do seriously and you are passionate about it, you owe it to yourself to be the best you can be at it," she says. "I would've loved to have done nothing but music from an early age, but unfortunately I didn't have the opportunity. Now that I can make that kind of decision for myself, I owe it to myself and to my fans to grow musically as much as I can."

She is also coming to grips with the non-musical side of the music business. "As artists, we love what we do so much that it's easy sometimes not to even think about the money," she says. "I've tried to keep my eyes open to the dangers of that. This is who I am. This is what I love to do. How do I sustain a living from it? There's nothing wrong with trying to make a living. Even church is a business."

She believes her new album will be just another step on the road she's mapping out for herself. "I am searching for a sound that will be a layered foundation but will still allow me to play around," she says. "I want to be able to jazz it up or rap when I want to. I don't want to confine myself to one sound. Like, I love the edgy sound of electric guitars. I get a rush from that sound. I'm not going to stop till I get that sound that I'm after. I never want to stop climbing. I never want to get to the top. I don't want to limit myself with ideas of 'the top'. What if there's more? I want to keep going. I will die if I have to do the same thing over and over. I will kill myself."

Opposite: dress R3 600, KSIA/CGDT; earrings R3 850 and ring R2 550, both Louis Vuitton; shoes R799, Aldo. For stockists see page 71.

Rolling Stone April 2012

'Life is about choices'

Nomfusi,
26, Afro-soul singer.
With 10 international tours under her belt, this SAMA and Metro FM Award nominee has performed to crowds from Cape Town to Canada. She says, 'An awesome woman is beautiful both inside and out.' Who would have imagined that a little girl from a township in the Eastern Cape, who was raised by a single mom because her father was in jail for 21 years, and then orphaned at age 12, would end up playing a role in *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom* – which, according to producer Anant Singh, is the largest South African production ever mounted. She recently released her second album, *Take Me Home*, which features some of the industry's most innovative producers, from Ringo Madlingozi (who co-wrote and produced the bulk of it) to M'Jakes, Robbie Malinga and DJ Clock. **Career highlight** 'Playing the role of Miriam Makeba in *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom* (to be released later this year).'

5 MINUTES WITH... *Nomfusi*

Singer-songwriter Nomfusi Gatyana is making waves on the international music scene.

TEXT **LUYANDA SIBISI**

Port Elizabeth-born Nomfusi has carved a powerful niche for herself on the music scene, and she doesn't plan to let life's ups and downs stop her from getting where she wants to go. She has already travelled the world doing what she loves most – performing her music – and her album's coming out soon (Ringo Madlingozi worked on it with her). She's also studying music full-time. This busy artist tells us what keeps her strong in the face of adversity – of which she's had her share.

IT'S WORLD AIDS DAY ON 1 DECEMBER – HOW HAS THIS DISEASE AFFECTED YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

I lost my mom to HIV/AIDS, and when something like that happens you realise that HIV/AIDS is not just a physical disease – it is one that affects people financially, emotionally and spiritually. It made me realise that even though people are being educated about it, there are still millions of people dying from AIDS, so I think it's a disease that needs to be understood on a much deeper level.

WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING IN LIFE?

Being on stage. I find that being on stage and performing is where the truth is. It surpasses being in the studio or any other part of the musical process. That's where you tell your story and people get to understand who you are.

PHOTOGRAPH: JON COTTAM

Jet Club and Nomfusi are giving away five signed copies of *Take Me Home*. To stand a chance of winning one, use 'nomfusi' and see how to enter Jet Club competitions on page 105.

Respekt

Zum fünften Mal tritt „Musik For Goals" an, um für Integration und Toleranz zu werben

VON OLIVER HOCHKEPPEL

Starke Stimmen für eine gute Sache, das ist seit nun fünf Jahren das Motto von „Music For Goals". Es ist schon oft beschrieben worden, wie alles anfing, gehört aber immer wieder in Erinnerung gerufen: Wie der Manager des jüdischen, aber für jeden offenen Fußballklubs TSV Maccabi München, Maurice Schreibmann, 2007 eine Prügelei zwischen türkischen und griechischen Amateurfußballern miterlebte; wie der Sohn eines Holocaust-Überlebenden und einer aus Polen stammenden Französin daraufhin einfach etwas machen musste; wie er seine zwei großen Leidenschaften Fußball und Musik zusammenführte, um Versöhnung zu stiften; wie vor fünf Jahren das „Konzert für Toleranz, Integration und Respekt" zugleich zum musikalisch überzeugenden Stelldichein hochkarätiger Interpreten, zur bunten Party und zum – im vergangenen Jahr vom von der Bundesregierung getragenen „Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz" preisgekrönten – bewegenden Non-Profit-Projekt wurde.

Die brasilianischen Bayern-Profis Rafinha und Dante trommelten vorab im Radio für das Ereignis

Am kommenden Sonntag ist es als Auftakt der „Internationalen Woche gegen Rassismus" wieder soweit, und zum kleinen Jubiläum geht es nicht nur zurück ins alte Zuhause Muffathalle, man kann auch das bislang eindrucksvollste und professionellste Line-up erleben. Alte Bekannte sind Adriano Prestel, der immer noch unterschätzte Soul-Sänger aus München, und die Südafrikanerin Nomfusi, die nicht nur gemessen an der Körpergröße über eine eindrucksvolle Stimme verfügt und Motown- mit Afro-Soul mixt. Auch Headliner Nneka, inzwischen weltweit erfolgreiche – ein Auftritt in der David-Letterman-Show beispielsweise können wohl nur wenige deutsche Musiker vorweisen – nigerianische Soul-Lady, Hip-Hopperin und Songwriterin aus Hamburg, war 2009 schon mal dabei.

Erstmals mit von der Partie sind die Münchner Edel-Rapper Boshi San und Roger Rekless, die unter anderem die Ergebnisse der Workshops präsentieren, die sie vorab an Münchner Brennpunktschulen gaben. Ebenso wie ihr Kollege Keno übrigens, woraus der Kenner bereits ableiten kann, dass Moop Mama ebenfalls zum ersten Mal auf der „Music For Goals"-Bühne stehen wird. Vom Zusammentreffen der Münchner Guerilla-Bläser und Shooting Stars auf die stimmgewaltigen Kollegen darf man sich einiges erwarten.

Wie die Künstler, so stellen sich auch ebenso viele und vielfältige Schirmherren in den Dienst der Sache. Zu Sportmoderator Marcel Reif, Gastronom Michael Käfer, Konzertveranstalter Mario Mendrzycki und Rainer Koch, dem Präsidenten des Bayerischen Fußballverbandes, sind diesmal auch die brasilianischen Bayern-Profis Rafinha und Dante gestoßen. Schon im Vorfeld trommelten sie im Radio für das Ereignis, in der für sie so schweren deutschen Sprache. Wenn das nicht Integration ist. Respekt.

Music For Goals: Sonntag, 10. März, 20 Uhr, Muffathalle, Zellstraße 4

Die stimmgewaltige Südafrikanerin Nomfusi FOTO: OH

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Nomfusi for Music for Goals March 2013

Sueddeutsche Zeitung

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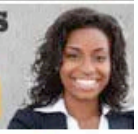

Nomfusi's life in music

DATE: 11 April 2013
BY: Thanduxolo Buti

Gefällt mir 5 Tweet 4 Share

1 COMMENTS

Afro pop/soul singer Nomfusi Gotyana is fast carving a name for herself internationally with her earth-shattering voice and, with her new album, "Take Me Home", she plans to finally penetrate the local market.

Gotyana is slowly blazing a trail internationally with her riveting high-pitched voice. She has been sharing the stage with heavyweights like Nneka, Angelique Kidjo and Hugh Masekela, bewitching international audiences with her energy-charged performances. The rather short singer can easily get lost in the crowd but when she sings she becomes larger than life and is able to hold her own on any stage. "I'm quite short and petite and people usually miss me," she laughs. "I realised quite early in life that as soon as I sing everyone stops and takes notice. Since then I've always used my voice as a tool to make sure that I'm seen and heard".

The young singer hails from the rich soil of the Eastern Cape that has blessed the world with singers like Zolani Mohola, Simphiwe Dana and Zonke. Ever since she can remember, music has always been the only thing that brought her immense joy. She says even though she was born in a province that's rich with talent, she knew she had to leave in order to make a name for herself. Eastern Cape is one of the most economically challenged areas in the country and unfortunately for Gotyana and her family they fell to the end of the economic ladder.

The singer admits that growing up, life wasn't easy and losing her mother to **HIV/Aids** was quite a painful experience. "She died on a Sunday and as soon as I came back from church, I went to the hospital to see her but my brother wouldn't let me," she remembers. "When I arrived home, I found a lot of people and I just knew that she was gone. I cried, and from that incident I wrote a song called *Uthando*, which is based on a scripture that was shared at church on that day".

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Despite a rough childhood, Gotyana landed a contract with major music label Universal. Unlike other musicians, the singer didn't accept any advances. Instead, the music label only paid for her recording. "Before I was signed, I did two years in accountancy and that really opened my eyes in terms of business," she states. Because of her choice to refuse an advance she says that all the money she makes touring helps to maintain her career and makes sure that her brand grows. Even though the singer seems to be on the right track career-wise, she worries that she still hasn't penetrated the local market yet. She explains: "The music industry is not just about art and talent, it's also quite business driven. Just like any market, it's quite hard to pierce through because the music industry here at home is quite competitive."

Her debut album failed to make a dent in the local market but the singer is confident that her new record, ***Take Me Home***, will fare much better. This time she worked with local producers like Ringo Madlingozi, Robbie Malinga and DJ Clock, giving her music a fresh South African flavour. "With this album I wanted to redefine Gotyana as a singer and re-introduce her to the local market which is why it's titled *Take Me Home*," says the singer. "It was hard with the first album to even get a show here but recently I did a show at the State Theatre and the reception was just amazing". Gotyana admits that she has a deep love for being on stage, which is why she yearns for more performances here at home. She is confident that she and her band always put on a show that's unforgettable. "I am one person who believes that a band is not supposed to play to accommodate you. Each person on stage should be a star and if I can't shine through their talent then I don't deserve to be on that stage," she says.

Gotyana is well on her way to truly redefining her career. The young singer also scored a part in the movie ***Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*** as a young Miriam Makeba. Even though she says it's not a big part, she is still proud of having landed the role. When I ask her what her schedule looks like for the year, she modestly says, "It's not much" before divulging a string of international tour dates. "I'll be performing in Switzerland and then France with the legendary Bra Hugh and I'm quite excited about that. I also have my own show in Germany sometime in June and later I plan to resume my Kasi tour," she concludes.

The bubbly singer doesn't leave anything to chance and with her tenacity her star will continue to shine brightly.

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