

Mzansi Star in the making

Story by Kamogelo Phala



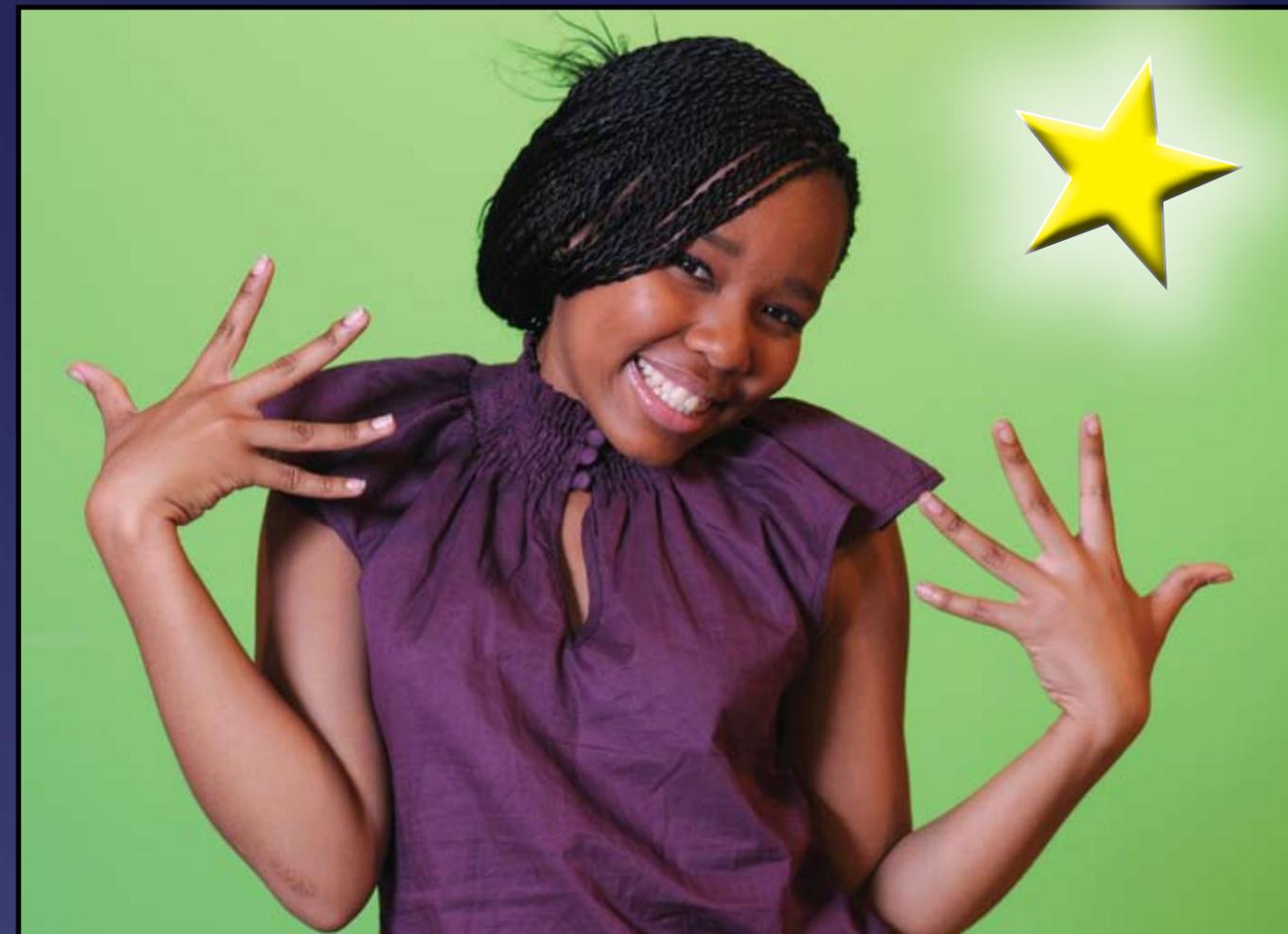
Ivana Morailane is a name known by many teens across the country. You may know her as the vibrant Yo-TV presenter but there's way more to this young starlet than just her on-screen personality. I recently got to hang out with this dynamic young lady to talk about her life in showbiz and future plans.

How have the past 3 years of your life been - being on TV and in the public eye?

The Shield Teens and Yo-TV Presenter Search has changed my life completely! The past 3 years have been amazing, challenging and a huge blessing from God. Not only have I learnt more about the tough industry I work in but I have also learnt more about myself in the process.

Would you advise any teens out there to enter the entertainment world at a young age like you did?

There are pros and cons but if you have a passion for this industry, then why not? The entertainment world is very demanding and it's difficult to retain your position since there's ALWAYS someone better than you. You're also exposed to a working environment at a young age so you 'grow faster' because you have more responsibilities than your peers. Parents must ensure that they provide their children with a great support system. Though besides that, presenting/acting at a young age is pretty awesome. By the time you're older, you will have gained much experience and be established in the 'game'.



How do you balance life between school and work?

I treat my presenting job as an extramural activity. When my classmates are playing netball and soccer, I'm at the studio rehearsing. When they get home, I'm on their TV screens. At first, it was challenging because I sometimes had to leave school early, get home late and even work on weekends. But it's all really about prioritizing and tapping into your responsibility. I work hard to assure that my grades aren't affected.

What do you enjoy most about presenting?

The thrill of being live on air and knowing that thousands of people are watching you. Another thing is meeting your favourite celebrities - any teen would love that.

I love having people approach me and tell me that they love my work or that I inspire them. That makes it all worthwhile.

Any regrets about entering the entertainment world?

NONE AT ALL! I believe that God makes everything happen for a reason. This industry has made me much stronger, appreciate my family more, and know who my true friends are. One thing I'm grateful for is how my job has made me much more confident.

What would you say has been the highlight of your career thus far?

I have a number of moments: Winning the Shield Teens Presenter Search and having one of my greatest dreams fulfilled is a huge highlight, being nominated as one of

the three finalists of "The Next Big Thing" for the Seventeen Magazine Top Achiever Awards and reaching the pivotal moment where I'm starting to find myself, my hopes and dreams. I've grown to accept who Ivana Katleho Morailane is, flaws and all.

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

I would love to pursue a career in acting, especially theatrical acting - one of my greatest passions. I hope to establish my own charity organisation and hold workshops to uplift and motivate young girls. I would also love to get into journalism and work for an inspiring magazine for young women. More than anything, I just want to continue living, pleasing Jehovah God and just being content with life!