

## Prime Zulu Profile



Prime Zulu is a humble musical giant from a small Township called KwaMashu famously known as Is'nqawunqawu , A place where a good number of talented individuals immerge from, such as the legendary Siphon Gumede, Leleti Khumalo, Deborah Frazer and countless other TV sensations.

Prime inherited the nature of art/ music from his father (Muziwakhwe Petros Zulu). He can Boldly say he thanks his late father for the unbelievable sense of sound and musical translation he has today. He knew from childhood that he had a calling for music, he began singing everything and anything he landed his voice on and developed a special ear for music in 2007, keeping it a secret from everyone in the family until he was persuaded to enter Idols SA in 2009.

His talent couldn't be kept secret anymore as it became the talk of the town, he couldn't believe the outcome of the event when he made the cut and had to travel to Sun City with his raw talent. This is when the fruits of his name given by his late father "Prime" came in handy. Things started making sense for him as he progressed in the competition, he discovered something about himself and his number one instrument his voice.

Each day sung is an education and an exploration of possibilities. Throughout the years he has searched for his key signature to represent Prime Zulu not just as a singer but as a brand, he never had to search any further as he began to embrace his low register to his octave vocal range. The Voice competition in 2016 made Prime understand what the industry demands of an artist.

Prime was raised alongside five siblings, his name holds a deep powerful meaning, given to him by his late father after a tragic birth delivered in the 11<sup>th</sup> month through a manual contraction. His

**PRIME ZULU**

parents were informed he would need to undergo an operation in 6 months from his birth date as he had a single kidney function that would fail after 5 years, his mother was told the newly born Prime will die at the age of 6 if surgical procedures were not performed, an operation that meant he wouldn't be able to urinate or handle any private business in a normal nature. He would have to undergo an operation to be inserted pipes and containers to handle such, as a grownup he wouldn't bare kids of his own but to date we all know it's a miracle having to survive such without either of the above taking place with that said, he has lived a whole lot more years past the 6 years he was estimated to die at. Knowing this history, he finds pride and good pressure to work hard, live up to his name with his craft. He always said, "I'm Prime a boy born as a man". He's naturally helped in supporting his family from the age of 10 years every weekend at supermarkets and assisting vendors.

"My artistic life gained momentum when I entered the field of theatre at the "Ekhaya multi Art Centre" known as K. Cap situated KwaMashu, theatre teaches you to act now and get it right as you do it and as much as much as you can, since there is neither rewind, fast forward nor cuts involved we only press play".

His musical experience has afforded him opportunities to associate with a couple of celebrated names of South Africa like performing alongside the four Grammy award winning Lady Smith Mambazo leading their famous song Homeless, Black Coffee, Oskido and had one of the best Mentors for his musical journey such as the likes of Kahn Mobbee from the famous SA musical band The Parlotones and Vick Simpson of my African Queen legendary heat song.....In his life's chained of hustles he got to collaborate and work with Mshoza, AB Crazy and Fifi cooper.

### **Prime's Style of music**

In his own words "I just simplify it to Afro Pop or Soul as it holds a lot of those elements but being honest to the nature of music I'd say it's Raindbow Soul or Universal music. I found my sound through all the music I've listened to from the times of Mahlathini and the Mohtela Queens, Brenda Fassie, to our current legends like uBab Ringo Madlingozi, Jabu Khanyile, combined with what I bring to fill in the missing puzzle pieces and set trends like those who are doing very well in the market."

"The main inspiration to my music is my late father (Muziwakhe Petros Zulu). I don't think I would have such drive, faith, hope and determination if it wasn't from seeing my father hustle for his family and on the side still feed his soul with music that brought him peace"