

Our Library Week STARS

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Publications and Promotions

Time is running out and Library Week 2007 (19-24 March) is fast approaching. As mentioned in the article introducing the 2007 campaign (CL November/ December 2006, pages 40-41) background and biographical information on the stars featured for Library Week is published in this issue to assist librarians in their build up to the most important week on the library calendar.

Performer par excellence... *Leleti Khumalo*

In 1985 Leleti successfully auditioned for a part in Mbongeni Ngema's new musical, which was to become the international blockbuster **Sarafina**. Leleti thrilled audiences in South Africa and in New York where she was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Actress. **Sarafina** performed for two years on Broadway before embarking on a worldwide tour. In 1987 in Los Angeles she received an NAACP Image Award for Best Stage Actress.

In 1991 Leleti co-starred with Whoopie Goldberg in the film **Sarafina**. She subsequently starred in another two of Ngema's productions, **Mama** which toured Europe and Australia, and **Sarafina 2** in 1997.

A change in her career occurred when she starred in the drama **Koze Kuse** at the Market Theatre, followed by a role in **The Zulu** (1999), a story about King Cetshwayo and the battle of Isandlwane, during the Anglo Zulu War.

In 1998 she was featured in the motion picture **Cry the beloved country** and also in a drama series **The African skies**.

In 2003 she starred in the Oscar Nominated Foreign Film **Yesterday** (directed by Darryl Roodt). More of her acting performance can be seen in **Hotel Rwanda**, as well as in the film **Faith's Corner**, in which she stars in the title role. She is probably best known to the South African public for her leading role in the popular local television series **Generations**.

Pure gold... *Ryk Neethling*

Ryk was born and raised in Bloemfontein and underwent all of his schooling at Grey College in South Africa - the third generation of Neethlings to attend. At the age of six, he started taking water safety lessons after a near fatal drowning incident at a neighbour's house, and immediately took to the water. He quickly became a national force in his age groups. In 1995, at the age of 17, several colleges began recruiting him for swimming scholarships. He soon committed to the University of Arizona and enrolled in the fall of 1996, immediately following the Atlanta Olympic Games.

During his studies at Arizona, Ryk's success in athletics was unparalleled. He was a nine-time NCAA National Champion (second most in history). He was voted Arizona Athlete of the Year and PAC-10 Swimmer of the Year for four consecutive years. In 1999, the NCAA named him the Swimmer of the Year, the highest honour in intercollegiate swimming. He also earned other Arizona honours such as the Sapphire Award Winner in 2000. But the most prestigious award he received during his collegiate career was the University of Arizona Athlete of the Century Award.

Ryk began participating in international competition for South Africa in 1993 and continued throughout his studies at Arizona. Since, Ryk has held over 20 junior national records and 22 South African national titles. He has represented South Africa and medalled in three Commonwealth Games, the most in South African history. He has also been a five-time finalist in the Olympics and the World Championships, participating in the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games.

In the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Ryk participated as a member of the South African 4x100 Freestyle Relay, anchoring the team to a Gold Medal and World Record (3:13.17) performance. He also made the finals in the 100m Freestyle, placed fourth overall. During the 2004/2005 FINA World Cup Series Ryk continued his success in the pool by dominating the 200m Freestyle and 100m Individual Medley with record-breaking performances.

He is currently based in Johannesburg. He continues to travel to international competitions to represent South Africa and in 2004 he competed in the World Championships in Montreal and the FINA World Cup 2005/6 series in Durban, Sydney and Korea. Ryk continues his training and has his eyes set on the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Master of innovation... *Mark Shuttleworth*

Mark Shuttleworth is an African entrepreneur with a love of technology, innovation and space flight and was born in the dusty gold-mining town of Welkom in South Africa. He grew up in beautiful Cape Town. While studying towards a Business Science degree in Finance and Information Systems at the University of Cape Town (UCT) he first encountered the Internet, and quickly became intrigued by the changes it would bring in business and society. In 1995, his final year at UCT, Mark founded Thawte, as an Internet consulting business. The focus of the company quickly shifted to Internet security for electronic commerce. Thawte was one of the first companies to be recognised



by both Netscape and Microsoft as a trusted third party for web site certification, and it quickly established a leadership position helping businesses around the world accept secure transactions over the web. By 1999 Thawte was the fastest-growing Internet certificate authority, and was the leading certificate authority outside of the United States of America (USA). Mark sold Thawte to VeriSign in December 1999 and began to look for new challenges.

He formed a new venture capital team called HBD. The name is a reference to the phrase *Here be dragons*, which legend has that it was used to describe uncharted territory on early maps. HBD seeks to invest in innovative companies that are based in South Africa but that have the potential to serve a global marketplace. Mark has also created a non-profit organisation that supports social innovation in education in Africa. The Shuttleworth Foundation funds projects that have the potential to bring about dramatic improvements to some aspects of the education system and hopes to improve both the quality and the level of education in Africa.

He moved to London in 2001 and in April 2002 Mark realised a lifelong dream to fly into space. He spent a year working on the project, including seven months of formal training at Star City in Russia, and almost as much time in medical testing, science programme development and negotiations. He was a member of the crew of Soyuz TM-34, launched from Baikonur in Kazakhstan and docked with the International Space Station two days later. The mission included eight days working on the ISS, conducting a programme of South African science experiments and enjoying the extraordinary environment of weightlessness before coming back to earth.

In between projects Mark tends to focus on catching up with the world of technology, particularly software and the web, in the search for new ideas and opportunities. In early 2004, Mark founded the *Ubuntu* project, which aims to produce a high quality desktop and server operating system that is freely available all over the world.

Queen of talk... Noeleen Maholwana-Sangqu

Born and raised in Umtata, Noeleen's entrée to broadcast media was on Radio Transkei in 1986. Moving to Johannesburg in 1994, she applied for a job on 702 and started out at the bottom of the ladder again - as a junior reporter before landing a co-hosting job. Her career advancement at the station was dramatic as listeners warmed to her generous, spirited style, first as a newsreader and then news editor. From 2001, she served on the Primedia Board and hosted her own daily show before leaving the company at the end of 2002. In recognition for her work she was awarded a Global Population Institute Prize for Best Programme of the Year (which she received at an event in Cuba).

Ready for a new challenge, Noeleen became the host of the television show **3 Talk** that has never stopped growing in popularity. With more than fifteen years of experience in the

journalism, public speaking and marketing arena, she is able to identify interesting and relevant issues to address on screen.

She is also a consultant in marketing, public relations and strategy and is a personal executive development consultant to key government ministers. Her areas of expertise are public speaking, marketing oneself and dealing with the media. As a director of the HIRS Women's Development Consultancy Noeleen strongly believes that in order for women to claim their rightful positions at the top of the corporate ladder - they have to unlock their potential. Noeleen loves spending time with her family (she is married with twin girls aged two and an eight-year-old boy), cooking and enjoying the finer things in life.

Fresh and sassy... Zuraida Jardine

Having completed her school years in Johannesburg, Zuraida was accepted to study broadcasting journalism in Santa Monica in the United States. Undeterred at her visa being turned down a couple of days before she was due to leave, Zuraida simply stepped onto another plane and landed in Australia and from there, on to Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. On her return, she graduated with a Diploma in Journalism and a further two international diplomas from the New York Business Institute - one in journalism and the other in business communication.

Whilst taking drama classes, she went on holiday to Cape Town. A dream from an early age to be on radio, Zuraida auditioned for Good Hope FM, and has never looked back. During her five years at Good Hope, she has also been a newsreader for the television show **Cape @ Six** as well as reported on the television breakfast show, **AM Today**, presented the **TV Licence Supercard** show and **Mr South Africa**.

She was, however, lured back to Johannesburg by 5FM. Since 1999 her fun-loving and down-to-earth nature was a winning formula at the radio station. She continued working for television and featured as a presenter on SABC, M-NET and e.tv. Zuraida added an element of fun to **Woza Weekend** and **Big Brother II**.

Getting a taste for acting in the CNN drama documentary **WaterWorld 2020**, **Die lied van die lappop** on SABC, the M-NET short film **Black sushi**, and, most recently, the powerfully-moving and internationally-acclaimed stage production of the **Vagina monologues**, we can expect more from this talented livewire.

Before leaving 5FM at the end of June 2006 for an extended road trip across the United States of America with husband Josh Lindberg, she was the winner of the **Strictly come dancing** reality television show. Said Zuraida, 'The last few years have been incredible for me and it is hard giving all this up. But actually it is easy when you realise that this is the only chance we are going to get to do something like this - we are young, unencumbered and there is a lot to see out there.'

It should be obvious that our chosen stars are more than qualified to inspire readers and potential readers with their achievements.

But remember the first step to becoming a star is to learn and use the ABC at the library. Have you prepared yourself and your staff for the influx of potential stars during Library Week?



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