

# INFLIGHT

FOR THE LOVE OF FLYING

12/18

**FlySafair**  
For the love of flying

Taking Art to the Streets

PETS ON HOLIDAY

YOUR COPY TO KEEP

# FREE YOURSELF

Despite our different backgrounds, there is a potential change agent in all of us. This is something which photographer Isabel Corthier discovered in the township of Vrygrond in the Western Cape.

✕ The fifth anniversary of the death of Nelson Mandela will be commemorated on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December this year.

For more than a year, photographer Isabel Corthier, originally from Belgium, regularly visited Vrygrond, one of the oldest townships in the Western Cape. The township is situated near Muizenberg, on the False Bay coast about 20 km from central Cape Town.

Isabel was touched by the numerous small initiatives run by members of the community as well as by the individuals who uplift their community from within, following the principles of Nelson Mandela.

## THE REALITY OF LIFE

With the portrait series *Free Yourself*, she focuses on the young generation, born in the 1990s. This generation grew up with hopeful anticipation for a better life, and with more opportunities than those available to their parents.

In reality, they are the victims of corrupt governance and a difficult life in a township where unemployment, crime, and drug abuse is high. While Apartheid may have ended in 1994, its consequences are still part of daily life.

## INSPIRING ROLE MODELS

In this series, the photographer shows young people who fight against their circumstances, according to the principles of Mandela: "Free yourself, free others, serve every day." By developing their talents, they are lifting themselves out of poverty. They have become role models for the youngsters in their community and make a positive contribution to society.

Some have started social projects to keep youngsters off the street. Others have started a fashion brand promoting African authenticity. There is a boxer who won the African Featherweight title and returned to Vrygrond to set an example for the youth in his community through boxing. These young people are change agents.

Although they play an important role in the community, their talents and achievements often remain under the radar. This is often due to the living conditions in Vrygrond and the lack of access to networks.

Through these photographs, Isabel let them briefly stand on a stage that rises up from the unpolished background of the township. Each of the people featured in these images is strong, proud, and self-confident in a unique and authentic way. These young people are the future of South Africa and they are making a change. They might even be an inspiration to all of us.

In a time when South Africa faces another pivotal moment in its history, now more than ever, the stories of a new generation of heroes are necessary.

## ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Isabel Corthier, born in 1977, is a Belgian photographer and nomad. She currently resides in Muizenberg, Cape Town. She works as a freelance photographer for different humanitarian organisations, as well as for Doctors Without Borders as a health promoter and logistician. She is an official Fujifilm X-ambassador.



### Linamandla Delive

Age: 25 years

From: Born in Cape Town, moved to the Eastern Cape and came back to Cape Town. In Vrygrond since 2012.

Quote: "Don't worry about the things you cannot change, worry about the things you can change. Groom young people and make them role models for other youngsters."

Bio: Even though young himself, Linamandla has worked for many years to uplift up young people in Vrygrond. For five years he ran the Computer Lab, where he taught computer and presentation skills to help young people to find employment. He shares his expertise in leadership and debating at Vrygrond Young Minds. In 2016, he co-founded the AfroSoul Beauty Pageant to raise self-esteem amongst local youngsters. He is the former Speaker for the Youth in the Western Cape parliament and is currently doing his internship at the City of Cape Town as a bursary office intern.



### Avela Magagasi

Age: 28 years

From: Originally from Mount Frere, Eastern Cape. Living in Vrygrond since 2007.

Quote: "It's dangerous if you don't have anything to do in the township, because drugs and alcohol are everywhere. After training I teach the young players about relationships and the danger of HIV. That's how I keep them away from the street."

Bio: Avela became a mother when she was only 15 years old. She now makes beaded jewellery which she sells locally. She is also a clothing designer specialising in traditional styles, and started a netball team in Vrygrond in order to give youngsters something healthy and constructive to do in their spare time.



### Litha Sam-Sam

Age: 19 years

From: Originally from Khayelitsha. Living in Vrygrond since 2016.

Quote: "You don't need a lot of money to look beautiful. Follow your passion and think out of the box. Always show respect to people who have made choices that are different from yours, and at the same time show them the other options they may have."

Bio: Even though Litha lives in a shack, he makes sure he always looks good. When his favourite pair of trousers became worn out, he became creative in repairing them with different fabric. The idea of Ubuntu Trends, a clothing brand that he started this year with some friends, is based on this principle: re-use and re-think, while being proudly African. In Vrygrond, Litha finds platforms to develop his talents. The gangs in the township often prevent youngsters from taking part in activities at night, but luckily fashion shows can be organised during the day.



### Nolukhanyo Zibaya

Age: 21 years

From: Vrygrond

Quote: "There are a lot of challenges you face here in Vrygrond, especially when you are a teenager. You need to have a lot of self-control. There's drugs, alcohol and violence that our society has come to accept. Society views you as being weird when you don't participate in these things. I find happiness in singing. I need to be different and I need to shine my light to inspire others."

Bio: Nolukhanyo is the first soprano singer in the Lisedi Art School choir, as well as being a singer in her church choir. She encourages the youth to start singing to keep them busy and away from the streets. She is also the lead singer of a new group called Voices of Africa, that promotes the spirit of "One Africa". She started studying marketing this year in Cape Town, but comes home every evening to reduce costs.



BEST AIRLINE -  
AFRICA &  
INDIAN OCEAN



MOST ON-TIME  
AIRLINE IN THE  
WORLD TWICE  
IN A ROW



TRUSTED  
DOMESTIC  
CARRIER  
OF THE  
SPRINGBOKS



5X BEST LOW-  
COST CARRIER  
ACSA FEATHER  
AWARDS

INFLIGHT

30

INFLIGHT

31

INFLIGHT

32